

Colleton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Essay Contest Winners

6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade

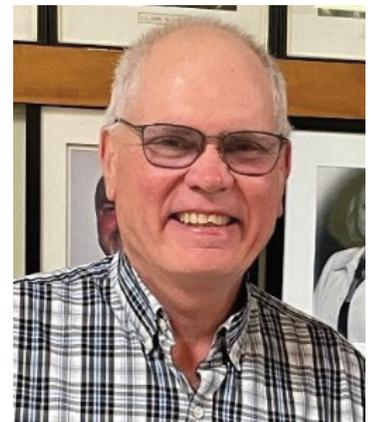


Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual Affiliate Membership and Awards Banquet at the Elks Lodge in Walterboro. Winners of the 2023 poster and essay contest, "Turtle Travels, The Life of a Loggerhead Sea Turtle", were recognized and presented their awards at the banquet. The poster contest is a class project and the winning teachers were presented a \$50 award for their class. The essay contest is an individual project for students in grades 6th-8th with 1st-3rd place winners in each grade level. The winning students attend the banquet with their parents to receive their awards. Winners of the essay contest are pictured above: Olivia Hunt, Isaac White, Lillie Fillers (pictured left); Christopher Heatley, Shelby Benton, Presley Smoak (pictured center); Jackson Hallman, Dylan McDaniel, Fayann Rentz (pictured right).

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district recognized Fredric K. Tritapoe for his 32 years of service to Colleton County as the NRCS District Conservationist. Mr. Tritapoe is a graduate of Clemson University and began his career with NRCS right after graduation.

Mr. Tritapoe's service to the farmers and landowners of Colleton County made a lasting impact!



Conservation by the Numbers

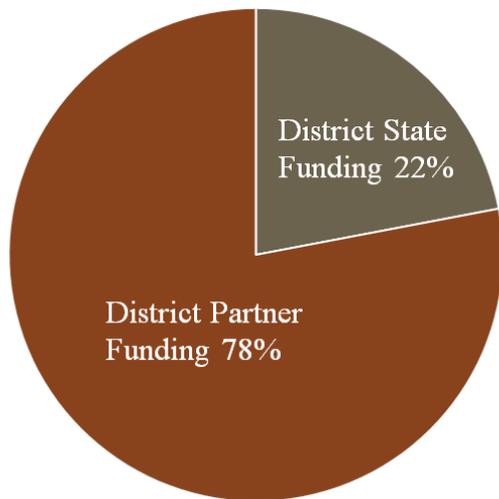
- 8,860 acres in Colleton County enrolled in conservation programs
- 35 farmers/landowners assisted with new EQIP and CSP applications resulting in 10 EQIP and 9 CSP contracts
- More than 650 children and adults reached through conservation programs

2024 District Plans

- Increase District Affiliate Memberships
- Promote Agriculture Scholarship for Colleton County students
- Recognize a Conservation Farmer/Landowner of the year at Annual District Affiliate Membership and Awards Banquet

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2023 Impact

State FY24 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3.40 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY23.

More than 190,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 2 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 10,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions from Spartanburg Day School represented South Carolina at the 2023 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, Singapore and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.