

# Florence

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Biggest Achievement of 2023



Florence Soil and Water Conservation District continued its emphasis on conservation education during 2023. The district provided assistance and funding to the Florence Montessori School for a chicken coop and run (pictured above). The project provides conservation and agricultural education to students as to where food comes from and how it is grown.

The district also supported the Commissioners School for Agriculture at Clemson by sending Caden Crawley, a rising senior, to the week long workshop. Caden gained valuable insight into conservation measures available to producers and land users. The district supported the SC Conservation Districts Foundation as well in its efforts to promote conservation of natural resources statewide.

### Other Notable Accomplishment

The district oversees two Watershed Districts in South Carolina providing support to Watershed Directors on an as-needed basis.

The Salem Community Watershed District provides 42 miles of drainage canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.

The Lynches Lake-Camp Branch Watershed District provides 21 miles of canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.



### Conservation by the Numbers

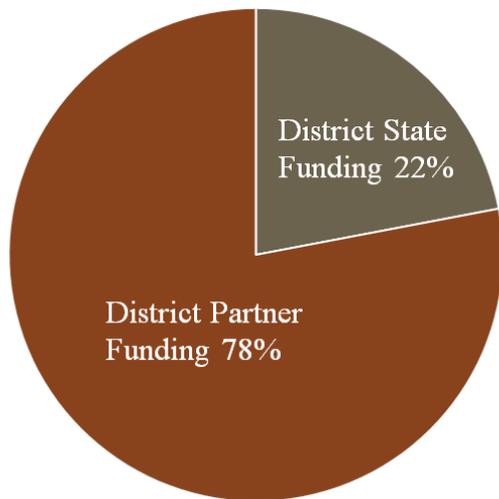
- Assisted with implementation of 15 EQIP contracts to put \$354,160 in conservation practices in Florence County
- Assisted with implementation of 15 CSP contracts to put \$349,147 in conservation practices in Florence County

### 2024 District Plans

- Provide locally led conservation measures for landowners and users in Florence County
- Host a Local Work Group Meeting
- Provide conservation programs to Florence School Districts
- Provide mini-grants to schools and organizations that provide conservation education programs

# 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.**

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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.