

Lee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Lee Soil and Water Conservation District was successful in assisting with implementation of conservation planning on over 17,000 acres of cropland, pastureland, and forestland in 2023. Conservation practices were applied to over 12,000 acres of land to improve water quality, soil health, livestock health, forestland health, and wildlife habitat. The district enjoys working with local producers, farmers and ranchers in Lee County to provide technical support.

Christy McCormack, a five and a half year district employee, transferred to the local NRCS office as a Field Technician. She is a well known face to all of the producers in Lee County and her transition to the local NRCS as a Field Technician was smooth. Byron Knox from Georgia joined the county as its new NRCS District Conservationist. The district is supportive of these changes and is excited to see how it will benefit the district going forward.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 4,000 acres planted in cover crops and trees; 6,500 acres in residue management completed to enhance carbon sequestration and improve soil health on cropland
- 50 children educated on NRCS and FSA programs and career options during a Career Day workshop
- 275 individuals assisted in the office with conservation

Other Notable Accomplishment



The district supported the use of pollinator habitats which are beautiful for landscape, key to ecosystem success, and provide community engagement through a large number of learning opportunities.

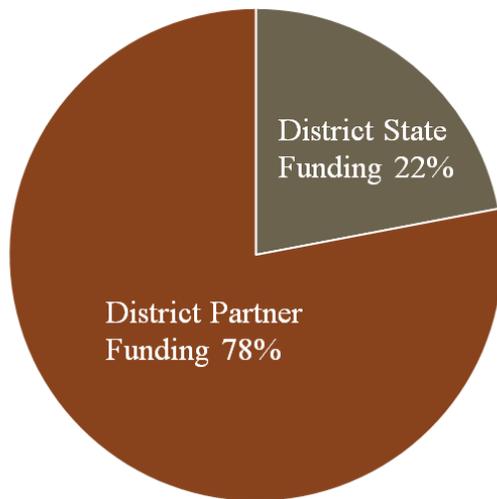
Pollinator habitats can also aid in the production of fruits, seeds, vegetables, and the development of new varieties of commodities. Healthy insects are one of the most beneficial conservation tools to support.

2024 District Plans

- Expand outreach efforts to Lee County farmers and ranchers by hosting a high tunnel workshop
- Participate in the 4H20 Camp hosted by the Clemson Extension Service
- Increase carbon sequestration practices by 1,000 acres to lower Lee County's carbon footprint

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.