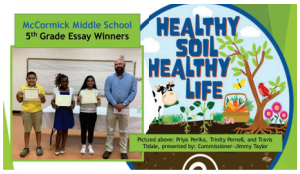
Marion
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

David B. Owens grew up on a farm in the Gapway Community of Mullins, SC. David has implemented conservation practices and enhancements across his operation for over two decades on more than 1,600 acres of cropland. Some practices include conservation crop rotation, nutrient, pest, and residue management, no-till/strip till, soil and energy management, cover crop with multiple species, cover crop systems, and wildlife enhancement with standing grain. All of these have had both measurable and immeasurable impacts on water quality, soil quality, soil health, improved farming operations, and lowered impacts from management, also benefits to wildlife. This has helped improve infiltration and runoff, benefited management inputs, increased the flexibility of crop management, and improved the overall quality of the land. David also grows and sells rye, wheat oats, and pumpkin seeds. David is living by example as a conservation farmer carrying out conservation practices every day and sharing his knowledge with other local farmers while preserving the land here in Marion County.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Each year the district reaches many students in 5th-8th grades with the Annual Essay Competition. Awards are presented by commissioners. This year the topic was: Healthy Soil, Healthy Life!

Conservation by the Numbers

• 1,437 acres planted through rentals of the district's no-till drills and Brillion seeder

• $1,000 awarded with the James F. Huggins, Sr. Scholarship

• 1,200 litanies, bookmarks, and activity placemats distributed for Soil Stewardship Week

• Conservation Essay Competition and Banquet for all Marion County 5th – 8th grade students

2023 District Plans

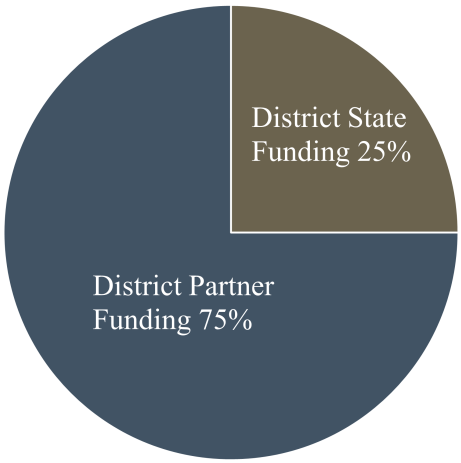
• Use additional state appropriated funds to host 2 workshops and provide a cost-share program for tree planting/site prep for landowners on conservation topics

• Attain 10 additional affiliate memberships

• Participate in NACD Poster Contest, assist with new school agriculture programs, double our James F. Huggins, Sr. Scholarship to $2,000

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

State FY23 Conservation District Funding



For every $1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, $3 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 FY22.

More than 72,000 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 1.3 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 44,000 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 took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, 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.