

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS MONTH

2012

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first soil and water conservation district in the nation was established in North Carolina on August 4, 1937, by passage of NC General Statute 139 and was known as the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District whose boundary is now Anson County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, there are now 96 soil and water conservation districts which cover all of North Carolina and are led by 492 elected and appointed North Carolina citizens known as soil and water conservation district supervisors who lead local soil and water conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized soil and water conservationist, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolina native from Anson County, dedicated his life to soil and water conservation and brought national attention to soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bennett recognized that a national soil and water conservation program with local leadership would be the most successful model for working with local private landowners in addressing erosion problems; and

WHEREAS, at Dr. Bennett's urging, President Franklin Roosevelt promoted sample state legislation that would create local soil and water conservation districts across the United States to lead and direct soil and water conservation programs at the local level; and

WHEREAS, since 1937, North Carolina soil and water conservation districts have been instrumental in improving the state's natural resources through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, and continue to be the primary voice for the protection, wise use, and conservation of all of the state's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the actions of soil and water conservation districts improve the lives of all North Carolina citizens, both rural and urban, through the implementation of programs that protect and improve water quality and other natural resources of the state, on agricultural and non-agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's 96 local soil and water conservation districts deliver effective conservation education programs to over 85,000 school children and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, August 4, 2012, marks the 75th anniversary of the first soil and water conservation district in North Carolina and the nation and represents a significant milestone in natural resource conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 2012, as "SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and encourage citizens to support their local soil and water conservation district.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

