NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Yours for Life

2015-2016

Contests, Awards, & Workshops Handbook

SPONSORED BY
NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts,
Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts,
& NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Contests, Awards, Workshops Handbook

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JUDGING TIPS FOR THE POSTER, ESSAY & PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTESTS

Contest Rule Supplement

Introduction:
The following information is a compilation of advice from experts on how to coordinate judging for your District's poster, essay and public speaking contests. This supplement is to serve only as a guide. Please refer to the Contest Handbook for rules and official score sheets.

Titles/Theme:
See rules for Poster, Essay and Public Speaking contests.

Judges:
Select 3 or 5 individuals with backgrounds in soils, water and related natural resources such as conservation, agriculture, environmental science, English, art or speech. District Supervisors and staff, teachers, artists, journalists, librarians, artists, authors, media and advertising specialists, environmental scientists, Extension personnel, county commissioners, and Toastmaster members are good candidates. Above all, look for potential candidates who are familiar with soil and water resources and appreciate the learning skills and abilities of children.

Try to get a diversity of judges and avoid possible conflicts of interest with ties to students, school or community, etc. The contest rules make every provision for the contestant's anonymity; however this issue remains a concern, particularly in the public speaking contest.

Whether to use the same or different judges for each contest is up to the District. By selecting different individuals, you can capitalize on related skills and tailor the judging team to a specific contest, as well as avoid overuse of the same judges. When a District's volunteer pool is limited, using the same people for all contests may enhance judging consistency.

Orientation:
Prior to the event, judges should receive a copy of the rules and score sheets. During orientation, you should inform the judges of the overall contest objective - to introduce and make students aware of soil and water conservation in a positive manner. It's always helpful to cover the contest's background as well as the awards program and succeeding levels of competition. You should cover the contest rules in detail including all definitions (current title, copyright restrictions, scoring categories, essay versus report, etc.), scoring emphasis, point infractions, and score sheets. Finally, you may want to address specific areas of concern, show examples of winning entries, discuss predetermined procedures for selecting winners and addressing ties, and answer questions. A comprehensive orientation is your best insurance for a successful contest! It is recommended that Districts use the state score sheets for all entries. After the contest, score sheets can be returned to the contest coordinators and teachers for evaluation and critiquing purposes

Preparation:
Poster and essay entries should be numbered (post-it notes work great) with a corresponding number on the score sheet with all personal information concealed. Posters should be displayed at eye level. The room used for judging should be quiet with restricted access to avoid interruptions and to allow judges to discuss contest details openly and fairly.

Select a room suited for public speaking and with good acoustics for the public speaking contest. You should provide a podium. Microphones are optional. The contestants have the right to either use or not use a

microphone if one is provided. A monitor should be placed at the room entrance to restrict access during speeches. Appoint an official timekeeper and provide him/her with instructions, a stopwatch and recording sheets. Never utilize the timekeeper as a judge.

Judging:
It is recommended that judges first score each entry individually and then, as discussed in orientation, select the winner by the highest score or discuss their top three selections and reach a consensus on the winning contestants.

In the event of a tie, judges will make final selections through a discussion/consensus process.

Closure:
Good, informed judges are one of your most valuable resources in the poster, essay and public speaking contests. After completing the contest, ask your judges to evaluate the event. Their input will help you coordinate an even better event next year. Follow up with an acknowledgment for their service to your contest and your District or Area.

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONTEST

ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

See the website www.ncenvirothon.org

The Envirothon program is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There is both a State middle school and a State high school competition.

Participant Eligibility:
Open to teams of students in grades 9 – 12 for high school and in grades 5-8 for middle schools. Teams consist of five members. Each team must have an adult advisor and the team may have alternates. It is important for high school teams to have at least two alternates if you feel that your team may have a chance to win first place at the state competition. **See website www.ncenvirothon.org for official rules.**

Public schools, private schools, home school groups, school clubs, FFA groups, etc. are all eligible to participate in the Envirothon Program.

Team Sponsorship:
Teams must be sponsored by a Soil and Water Conservation District. To encourage maximum participation, the State Envirothon Committee will sponsor organized teams if Districts can't or do not wish to be sponsors.

Contest Cycle:
The Envirothon begins at the start of the new school year. There are eight Area Envirothons in the spring. A team must qualify at an Area Envirothon to advance to the State Envirothon.

By August 31, the State Envirothon Committee will set the date for the State Competition. The State Competition is normally held in mid to late April.

Area Registration:
Teams register for the Envirothon via an Area Envirothon Registration form. Each Area sets team registration deadlines. The top seven winning Area teams from both the high school and middle school divisions are allowed to travel and participate at the State Competition. The Area Envirothon Coordinators must send the State Envirothon Coordinators, copies of the registration sheets and medical consent forms and the video/photo consent forms for the top seven winning high school and middle school teams and the highest scoring high school FFA Team.

State Participation Fees:
The State Envirothon requires a participating team to pay a registration fee to help offset the costs associated with holding the State Event.

Contest Procedure:
The State Competition will be held on a Friday and Saturday. Friday is a training day with teams registering and picking up their registration packets. Friday is also the day of the high school Oral presentation. The oral presentation is conducted during the station rotation on Friday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon, there are seven high school resource stations set up. One for each of the five subject areas and one for each of the oral preparation and presentations components. The teams rotate from station to station and attend training sessions held by resource professionals at each station. Resource professionals may include some of the material presented Friday at their station on the state exam the next day.

The contest consists of five subject area resource stations:

- **Wildlife** - challenges teams on habitat knowledge, identification, foods, rules & regulations, birdcalls, diseases, management, animal signs.

- **Aquatic ecology** - ecology of water, non-point sources of pollution, wetlands, stream buffers, water chemistry, plants & animals living in or around water, pollution, conservation, macro invertebrate id, erosion problems.

- **Forestry** - tree identification, improvement of timber stands, forest ecology, insects, diseases, forest management, forest measurements, functions of trees.

- **Soils/land use** - classification, erosion, soil surveys, site suitability, current issues, profiles, soil characteristics, Best Management Practices, erosion.

- **Current Environmental Issues** - any current or newsworthy environmental issue.

Teams will visit each resource station and be given a written test. Questions are answered as a team. After finishing one station, and at a set time, teams will rotate to the next station.

Test answers are graded and scores tallied to select the winner. The high school team with the highest score will be declared the state winner and will be eligible to compete in the North American Envirothon competition.

Competition Preparation:
Once a team has pre-registered for the Area Envirothon, information will be sent by the sponsoring District to each advisor listing the source of materials that will be needed for study. The resource study materials can be found on the Envirothon web site (www.ncenvirothon.org). Questions will be developed from resource materials or from information supplied during the events' station trainings.

Area Competitions:
Each of the eight Areas of the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts holds an Area Envirothon competition. This is to give the teachers an opportunity to evaluate the progress of their team's study efforts and to get a feel as to how the state Envirothon operates. These Area Envirothons are also qualifying events. The top seven scoring teams from the Area Envirothons, in both the middle school division and the high school division, are eligible to attend the State Envirothon Competition. The highest scoring FFA high school team is also eligible to go to the state Envirothon Competition, even if they are not part of the top seven teams. The FFA uses the NC Envirothon as the state qualifying event for the national FFA Environmental Awareness event. All competing FFA teams must have FFA in their team name.

Community Service Learning Projects
The State Envirothon Committee sponsors a voluntary Community Service Learning Project competition for the teams. This project can be a data sharing project, a physical project or a service project. The project is a team project, is voluntary and a great opportunity for the Envirothon team to show what they have learned about our natural resources from studying the Envirothon resource materials.

The teams must prepare a write up of their project and give a fifteen-minute oral presentation to a public body. They must film this presentation and send it with the written report to the State Envirothon Coordinator by March 1. See the website www.ncenvirothon.org for more information.

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Eligible Titles:
A set of five titles has been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. The approved title and rotation schedule is as follows:

2015-2016	We all live in a Watershed
2016-2017	Soil & Water….Yours for Life
2017-2018	Water…the Cycle of Life
2018-2019	The Living Soil
2019-2020	Wetlands are Wonderful

Participant Eligibility:
Open to 6th-grade students.

Contest Cycle:
Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts. Districts and Areas set their own deadlines for entries.

Contest Procedure: District First Place winner in local contests will be eligible to enter the Area contest. Each Area First Place winner will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications and judging criteria.

All essays entered into District sponsored competitions become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these essays for promotion of the Conservation District essay program.

For clarification, the difference between an essay and a report, as applied to this contest, is as follows:

Essay - A short composition dealing with a single subject from a personal point of view; facts may be interwoven into the essay, which stimulates thinking.

Report - A formal presentation of facts in a report style.

Judging Criteria:
The Association has adopted a standard score sheet to be used for all contest levels. Essays will be judged on content and writing skills as described on the score sheet.

- Essays must be the work of the individual student.
- Essays may be either handwritten or typed on the computer.

Specifications:

Essays must:

- Bear the current title of the essay contest.
- Be limited to 300 – 500 words. All words will be counted to reach the limit.
- Be presented on standard 8 ½" X 11" paper.
- Be properly identified on the back using the following format:

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Address/Parents' Email, Phone: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____ District: _____

Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Incorrect Length 5 points
- Current title not on essay 5 points
- Wrong paper size 2 points

Conservation District Contest:

- Teachers will ask students to prepare an essay on the current topic.
- According to the local District's guidelines, each school will select one or more winning essays to represent the school at the District's Annual Essay Contest.
- The District will select one winner to compete in the Area contest.
- District contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined before the Area deadline. The original copy of the winning essay from the District must be sent to the Area Chairman.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.
- Each word is counted as a word regardless of number of letters in the word.

Area Contest:

- Each Area Chairman will appoint a judging committee to select the Area winning essay from submitted District entries.
- The winning essay from each Area must be sent to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation on or before April 1. Retain a file copy of the winning essay and send the original.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:

- The Association, with assistance from the Division will select a date and place for the State Contest.
- The State contest will be held no later than May 15. Winners will be announced within 20 days.
- State prizes as determined by the Associated will be:
  - First Prize: $200 cash or check
  - Second Prize: $100 cash or check
- Certificates will be given to all state-level participants.

ESSAY CONTEST
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

JUDGE: _____ **GRADE: 6**

DATE: _____

Essay Entry Number:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CONSERVATION MESSAGE & ORIGINALITY: 50 points Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource. Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.								
WRITING STYLE: 20 points Innovative style (keeps your interest); correct use of grammar, spelling, punctuation; readability (clear message, easily understood by reader)								
ORGANIZATION: 20 points Proper paragraph transitions; opening-closing tie-in; sticks to theme								
NEATNESS: 10 points								
SUBTOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS:								
PERFECT SCORE: 100 points **TOTAL:**								

INFRACTIONS: INCORRECT LENGTH: 5 POINTS CURRENT TITLE NOT USED: 5 POINTS INCORRECT PAPER SIZE: 2 POINTS

(Adopted January 2014)

POSTER CONTEST

The poster Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Theme:
A set of five themes have been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. These themes rotate on a yearly basis. The theme does not have to be written on the poster. The approved theme and rotation schedule is as follows:

2015-2016	We all live in a Watershed
2016-2017	Soil & Water….Yours for Life
2017-2018	Water…the Cycle of Life
2018-2019	The Living Soil
2019-2020	Wetlands are Wonderful

Conservation Districts are urged to make students aware of the following definitions to ensure that the posters display content relevant to the nature of conservation.

- **"Conservation" --** the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

- **"Soil Conservation" --** to protect soil from erosion, to keep it productive and out of waterways: to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

- **"Water Conservation" --** to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts of harmful elements; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

- **"Best Management Practices" (BMPs)–** agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants. Often called Best Management Practices.

Participant Eligibility:
Separate contests will be held for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at District, Area and State levels. Districts determine which grade level(s) for their individual poster contests.

Contest Cycle:
Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts as each determines.

Contest Procedure:
Contests will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter the Area contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications, copyright and judging criteria.

All posters entered into District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these posters for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Specifications:
Posters should be designed along the following specifications.
See **Poster Pointers** for tips.

- Posters should be **no larger than** 24 X 36 inches.
- Pictures or other materials may be mounted on the posters, if mounted securely. Only materials that are flat or create a two-dimensional effect may be used. **Mounted materials cannot stick out more than 1/8 of an inch from the paper.**
- Any coloring materials available to students and suitable for poster work may be used.
- Posters must be the **original work** of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of **copyright protection**. (See Copyright section.) Hand drawn pictures are preferred over computer-generated drawings.
- Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled.
- Posters that are also submitted in bookmark contests are allowed if all other specifications are met.
- The NACD theme may be written on the poster if that theme may be linked convincingly to the annual approved theme for this contest.

Posters must be identified on the back using the following format:

Student's Name: _____Grade: _____

Student's Address/Parents' Email, Phone:_____

_____

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____District: _____

Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard poster score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Posters will be judged on the following points
(Refer to **Poster Pointers** and the score sheet for tips):

- Conservation Message 50%
- Visual Effectiveness 30%
- Universal Appeal 10%
- Originality 10%

Infractions:
Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the size limit - 5 points

Copyright:
Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.

Example: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

District Contest:

- According to the local District's guidelines, each school may submit one or more winning posters from each of the grade levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- The District will select one winner from each grade level to compete in the Area Contest.
- District Contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined by the deadline set by its Area. First place winning posters should be sent to the Area Chairman.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.

Area Contest:

- Each Area Chairman will appoint a judging committee and arrange a date and place to hold the Area Poster Contest. The Area Chairman will notify all Districts 30 days in advance of the Area contest. Students do not have to be present at this contest.
- The First Place winning poster from each grade level from each Area must be sent to the Division of Soil & Water Conservation on or before **April 1**.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:

- The Association with assistance from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation will select a date, place and judges for the State Poster Contest.
- The State Contest will be held no later than **May 15**. Winners will be announced within 20 days.
- State prizes, as determined by the Association, for each grade level will be:

First Prize:	$200 cash or check
Second Prize	$100 cash or check

- Certificates will be given to all state-level participants.

Poster pointers -- how to make your conservation message into a design more readable and attractive

What makes a good poster?

- A brief, catchy message; one theme that can be read in 10 seconds or less
- A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
- Use of colors and white space to get and hold attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped

Avoid these poster faults:

- More than one theme
- Too busy -- too many and/or too scattered pictures or words
- Material not relevant to topic
- Message becomes lost

Other tips to remember:

- Margins should be larger at the bottom and equal on the other three sides
- Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following lettering heights for readability from 10 feet:

Easiest to read	1 inch
Easy to read	3/4 inch
Fairly easy to read	½ inch

- **Boldness** makes a difference
- Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering
- R e m e m b e r s p a c i n g Rememberspacingrememberspacing

NCASWCD Poster Contest

OUR GOAL: The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors a poster contest at District, Area and State levels to provide third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students an opportunity to become aware of and share their concerns for soil and water conservation through poster art.

DO:

☺Become familiar with the judging criteria on the 'Poster Contest' score sheet.

☺Be aware of the following definitions:

"**Conservation"-** the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

"Soil Conservation"- to protect soil from erosion; to keep it productive and out of waterways, to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

"Water Conservation"- to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

"Best Management Practices" (BMPs)– agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants. Often called BMPs.

☺Be aware of copyright protection. Posters must be your original work.

☺Follow the specifications for size and materials for poster work.

☺Ask yourself the following questions about your poster:

Has the theme been clearly addressed?
Does the work demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter?
Is the work neat, organized and grammatically correct?

Do any mounted items stick out more than 1/8 of an inch?

☺Be sure you have identified your poster on the back using the correct format.

☺Contact your local SWCD office if you have any questions about participating in the poster contest.

DON'T:

☹Don't roll your poster. Posters should be submitted flat.

☹Don't miss the deadline for turning in your poster

☹Don't let your parents or someone else do it for you.

POSTER CONTEST

N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

GRADE LEVEL: 3, 4, 5, 6

JUDGE: _____

DATE: _____

Poster Entry Number:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CONSERVATION MESSAGE: 50 points Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource.								
VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS: 30 points readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which poster will you remember next year?)								
UNIVERSAL APPEAL: 10 points easily understood by the general population								
ORIGINALITY: 10 points Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.								
SUBTOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS:								
PERFECT SCORE: 100 points **TOTAL:**								

INFRACTIONS: Violates Copyright: 5 points Exceeds size limit:5

Adopted January 2014

COMPUTER DESIGNED
SLIDE SHOW CONTEST

The Computer Designed Slide Show Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Theme:
A set of five themes have been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. These themes rotate on a yearly basis. The theme does not have to be written on the slide show. The approved theme and rotation schedule is as follows:

2015-2016	We all live in a Watershed
2016-2017	Soil & Water….Yours for Life
2017-2018	Water…the Cycle of Life
2018-2019	The Living Soil
2019-2020	Wetlands are Wonderful

Conservation Districts are urged to make students aware of the following definitions to ensure that the slide shows display content relevant to the nature of conservation.

• **"Conservation" --** the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

• **"Soil Conservation" --** to protect soil from erosion, to keep it productive and out of waterways: to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

• **"Water Conservation" --** to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts of harmful elements; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

• **"Best Management Practices" (BMPs) –** agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these, that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants. Often called Best Management Practices.

Participant Eligibility:
The contest will be held for **6th grade students** at District, Area and State levels.

Contest Cycle:
Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

Contest Procedure:
Contests will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter the Area contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications, copyright and judging criteria. All slide shows entered into the District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these slide shows for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Specifications:
Slide shows should be designed along the following specifications. See **Slide Show Pointers** for tips.

- The slide show shall contain no more than 15 slides of content. Fewer slides are allowed.
- The slide immediately following the slide show (slide number 16 if 15 slides are used) should be blank. The slide immediately following the blank slide (slide number 17 if 15 slides are used) should contain identifying information (see below). The correct order for the slide show should be
    - Slide Show (up to 15 slides)
    - Blank Slide
    - Identifying Information Slide
- **Slide shows must be created using Microsoft PowerPoint software or they must be viewable as a slide show on a PC computer**. (Files shall be saved so that they are compatible with PowerPoint 2003 - ppt file. Do not save as a pptx file.)
- The use of audio (sound) is allowed.
- The use of slide animation is allowed.
- The use of video is prohibited. Slide shows using video will be disqualified.
- Slide shows shall not exceed a maximum of 5 minutes in length.
- The slide shows shall be submitted electronically.
- All slide shows will be judged electronically.
- Slide shows must be the **original work** of the individual student. Original work is created by the Student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of **copyright protection**. (See Copyright section.)

Slide shows must be identified by containing the following information on the final slide of the slide show:

Student's Name: _____Grade: _____

Slide Show Title: _____

Slide Show File Name: _____

Student's Address/Parents' Email, Phone:_____

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____District: _____

Judging Criteria:
The NCASWCD has adopted a standard slide show score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Slide shows will be judged on the following points (Refer to **Slide Show Pointers** and the score sheet for tips):

• Conservation Message 50%
• Visual Effectiveness 30%
• Universal Appeal 10%
• Originality 10%

Infractions:
Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the maximum number of slides (15) - 5 points
- Exceeding the maximum time limit (5 minutes) - 5 points
- Use of video - Disqualification

Copyright:
Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.
Example: You can make a slide show using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

District Contest:

- According to the local District's guidelines, each school may submit one or more winning slide shows. The method of electronic slide show submittal will be determined by each District.
- The District will select one winner to compete in the Area Contest.
- District Contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined by the Area deadline. First place winning slide shows should be sent to the Area Chairman.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.

Area Contest:

- Each Area Chairman will appoint a judging committee and arrange a date and place to hold the Area Slide Show Contest. The Area Chairman will notify all Districts 30 days in advance of the Area contest. Students do not have to be present at this contest.
- The First Place winning slide show from each Area must be sent to the Division of Soil & Water on or before **April 1**.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:

- The Association, with assistance from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, will select a date, place and judges for the State Slide Show Contest.
- The State Contest will be held no later than **May 15**. Winners will be announced within 20 days.
- State prizes, as determined by the Association, will be:
- First Prize: $200 cash or check
- Second Prize $100 cash or check
- Certificates will be given to all state-level participants.

Slide Show Pointers -- examples of how to make your conservation message into a design more readable and attractive

What makes a good slide show?

- Follow a logical order: start with a title/introductory slide; have the slides progress so that they build on previous slides; end the slide show with a conclusion slide.
- A catchy message; use one theme
- A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
- Good use of colors and backgrounds to get and hold attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped
- Good use of pictures and illustrations

Avoid these slide show faults:

- More than one theme
- Too busy -- too many and/or too scattered pictures or words
- Text too small to read easily
- Text is difficult to read due to not enough color contrast with background
- Material not relevant to topic
- Message becomes lost

Other tips to remember:

- Balance the placement of text and photos/illustrations on the slide
- Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following font sizes for readability from 20 feet:
  Easiest to read: 36 to 44 point font size (Good for titles)
  Easy to read: 28 to 34 point font size
  Fairly easy to read: 24 to 26 point font size
- **Boldness** makes a difference
- Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering

COMPUTER DESIGNED SLIDE SHOW CONTEST

N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

GRADE LEVEL: 6

JUDGE: _____

DATE: _____

Slide Show Entry Number:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CONSERVATION MESSAGE: 50 points Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource.								
VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS: 30 points Readability (use of white space, type choice, neatness); originality; effect on audience (which slide show will you remember next year?)								
UNIVERSAL APPEAL: 10 points Easily understood by the general population								
ORIGINALITY: 10 points Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.								
SUBTOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS:								
PERFECT SCORE: 100 points **TOTAL:**								

INFRACTIONS: Violates Copyright: 5 points Exceeds slide limit (15 slides max): 5 points Exceeds time limit (5 minutes): 5 points Uses video: Disqualification

(Adopted January 2014)

COMPUTER DESIGNED POSTER CONTEST

The Computer Designed Poster Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Theme:
A set of five themes have been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. These themes rotate on a yearly basis. The theme does not have to be written on the poster. The approved theme and rotation schedule is as follows:

2015-2016	We all live in a Watershed
2016-2017	Soil & Water….Yours for Life
2017-2018	Water…the Cycle of Life
2018-2019	The Living Soil
2019-2020	Wetlands are Wonderful

Conservation Districts are urged to make students aware of the following definitions to ensure that the posters display content relevant to the nature of conservation.

• **"Conservation" --** the wise use and management of natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) to fulfill human needs now and in the future.

• **"Soil Conservation" --** to protect soil from erosion, to keep it productive and out of waterways: to use and manage soil wisely now to ensure a rich soil resource for future generations.

• **"Water Conservation" --** to protect water quality by keeping water clean from sediment, chemicals, oil and animal wastes; to protect water quantity by using smaller amounts of harmful elements; to use and manage water wisely now to ensure good water quality for future generations.

• **"Best Management Practices" (BMPs) –** agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; an engineered structure or management activity, or combination of these that eliminates or reduces adverse environmental effects of pollutants. Often called Best Management Practices.

Participant Eligibility:
The contest will be held for **9th grade students** at District, Area and State levels.

Contest Cycle:
Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

Contest Procedure:
Contests will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter the Area contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications, copyright and judging criteria. All posters entered into the District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these posters for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Specifications:

- Posters should be designed along the following specifications. See **Poster Pointers** for tips.
- Posters shall be designed so that if they were to be printed on paper they would be no larger than 24 X 36 inches.
- Poster orientation may be portrait or landscape.
- Posters may be created using any software of the student's choice.
- **The poster should be submitted electronically ONLY in one of the following approved file formats.**

GIF Graphics Interchange Format
JPEG File Interchange Format
PDF Adobe Acrobat File
PNG Portable Network Graphics Format
PPT Microsoft PowerPoint File
PUB Microsoft Publisher File
TIFF Tag Image File Format

- All posters will be judged electronically. There is no requirement for them to be printed.
- Posters must be the **original work** of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of **copyright protection**. (See Copyright section.)

Posters must be identified by submitting the following information on the second page of the poster document:

Student's Name: _____Grade: _____

Poster Title: _____

Poster File Name: _____

Student's Address/Parents' Email, Phone: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____District: _____

Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard poster score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Posters will be judged on the following points (Refer to **Poster Pointers** and the score sheet for tips):

- Conservation Message 50%
- Visual Effectiveness 30%
- Universal Appeal 10%
- Originality 10%

Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the 24" X 36" size limit - 5 points

Copyright:
Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.
Example: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

District Contest:
- According to the local District's guidelines, each school may submit one or more winning posters. The method of electronic poster submittal will be determined by each District.
- The District will select one winner to compete in the Area Contest.
- District Contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined by the Area deadline. First place winning posters should be sent to the Area Chairman.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.

Area Contest:
- Each Area Chairman will appoint a judging committee and arrange a date and place to hold the
- Area Poster Contest. The Area Chairman will notify all Districts 30 days in advance of the Area contest. Students do not have to be present at this contest.
- The First Place winning poster from each Area must be sent to the Division on or before **April 1**.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:
- The Association, with assistance from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, will select a date, place and judges for the State Poster Contest.
- The State Contest will be held no later than **May 15**. Winners will be announced within 20 days.
- State prizes, as determined by the Association, will be:
- First Prize: $200 cash or check
- Second Prize $100 cash or check
- Certificates will be given to all state-level participants.

Poster pointers -- how to make your conservation message into a design more readable and attractive

What makes a good poster?
- A brief, catchy message; one theme that can be read in 10 seconds or less
- A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
- Use of colors and white space to get and hold attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to make them quickly grasped

Other tips to remember:
- Margins should be *larger at the bottom and equal on the other three sides*
- Illustrations add emphasis and attract attention
- Small lettering is hard to read at a distance. Consider the following font sizes for readability from 10 feet:
  Easiest to read: 1 inch (font size 115 or greater)
  Easy to read: 3/4 inch (font size 88)
  Fairly easy to read: ½ inch (font size 60)
  Possible to read: 1/4 inch (font size 26)
  Cannot be read: 3/16 inch (font size 18)
- **Boldness** makes a difference
- Plain lettering is more readable than fancy lettering
- R e m e m b e r s p a c i n g Rememberspacingrememberspacing

COMPUTER DESIGNED POSTER CONTEST
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

JUDGE: _____ **GRADE: 9**

DATE: _____

Computer Poster Entry Number:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CONSERVATION MESSAGE: 50 points Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource.								
VISUAL EFFECTIVENESSE: 30 points Readability (use of white space, type Choice, neatness); originality; effect on Audience (which poster will you remember next year?)								
UNIVERSAL APPEAL: 10 points Easily understood by the general Population								
ORIGINALITY: 10 points Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.								
SUBTOTAL:								
INFRACTIONS:								
PERFECT SCORE: 100 points **TOTAL:**								

INFRACTIONS: **Copyright violation: 5 POINTS**
Exceeding the 24" X 36" size limits: 5 POINTS

(Adopted January 2014)

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The Public Speaking Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Eligible Titles:
A set of titles has been selected by the Association's Education Committee and adopted by the Association. The approved titles and rotation schedule is as follows:

	2015-2016	We all live in a Watershed	
	2016-2017	Soil & Water….Yours for Life	
	2017-2018	Water…the Cycle of Life	
	2018-2019	The Living Soil	
	2019-2020	Wetlands are Wonderful	

Participant Eligibility:
Seventh grade competition is open to 7th grade students. The eighth grade competition is open to 8th grade students.

Contest Cycle:
Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

Contest Procedure:
Contest will be conducted on the District, Area and State levels. District First Place winners will be eligible to enter Area Contests, and Area First Place winners will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on contest and judging criteria.

The contents and videotapes made of all speeches entered into District sponsored competition become the property of the respective District, Area or the Association. These entities are entitled to use the contents and video of these speeches for promotion of the Conservation District program.

Time Limit:
The speech is limited from 4 to 6 minutes. If any speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, then 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges. An official timekeeper will be appointed for all contests.

Judging Criteria:
There is a standard score card to be used for all contest levels. Students will be judged on content and speaking skills as described on the score sheet. Visual aids may not be used. Contestants shall identify themselves by their assigned number only or not at all. Personal information such as name, school and hometown cannot be given.

Infractions:
Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Use of visual aids 5 points
- Over or under the time limit 5 points
- Giving personal information 5 points

District Contest:

- Teachers should ask students to prepare a speech and then select several speeches for presentation at school.
- According to the local District's guidelines, each school may select one or more contestants from each grade level for grades 7 and 8 to represent the school at the District's Annual Speech Contest.
- At the District's Annual Speech Contest, contestants will draw numbers to determine their order of speaking.
- The Districts' three or five member judging team will rate the contestants and privately confer to select one winner from each grade level to compete in the Area contest.
- District contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined by the Area deadline. Names of District winners must be sent to the Area Chairmen.
- District many present awards they deem appropriate.

Area Contest:

- Each Area Chairperson will select a date and place for the Area Speech Contest and should notify all Districts in that Area at least 30 days before the date of the contest. Contestants should be notified immediately so they can arrange their schedules.
- The names of each Area winner must be sent to the Division of Soil & Water Conservation on or before **April 1**.
- Areas may present awards they deem appropriate.

State Contest:

- The Association with assistance from the Division of Soil and Water Conservation will select a date and place for the State Contest and notify Area Chairmen at least 30 days before the contest.
- The State contest will be held no later than May 15.
- State awards, as determined by the Association, will be presented at the State Contest when feasible:
- First Prize: $200 cash or check
- Second Prize: $100 cash or check
- Certificates will be given to all state –level participants via the District.
- Within 20 days after state judging, state winners for each grade level will be announced to all Districts.

OUR GOAL: North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors a public speaking contest at District, Area and State levels in order to give seventh and eighth grade students an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of soil and water conservation while developing leadership and speaking skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

DO:

☺Become familiar with the judging criteria on the 'Public Speaking Contest' score sheet

☺Memorize your speech. Use of note cards is acceptable for back up.

☺Dress appropriately (no costumes, logos or anything that would identify your school, hometown or county).

☺Arrive early so you can relax and become comfortable with the microphone and podium.

☺Make eye contact with the audience during your speech.

☺Speeches may be video taped at the state contest; and area and district contests may also be recorded for use in Soil and Water Conservation District educational programs. Your parent will be asked to sign a form giving permission for videotaping and/or photographing during the event.

☺Be sure to stay in range of the podium microphone while making your speech.

☺ Contact your local SWCD office if you have any questions about participating in the speech contest.

DON'T:

☹ Don't go under or exceed the time limit of 4-6 minutes. If any speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges.

☹ Don't use visual aids. 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges if visual aids are used. If you have questions about what constitutes a visual aid, please ask.

☹ Don't give personal information: 5 points will be subtracted from final score by the judges if personal information is given.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

JUDGE: _____ **TITLE:** _____ **DATE:** _____ **GRADE: 7 8**

*.

*Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

*Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points
Use of visual aids: minus 5 points
Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

*A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time.

CONTENT CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. CONSERVATION MESSAGE: 20 Points *Message shows clear understanding of why this natural resource is important & explains how people can & should conserve this natural resource.*								
B. ORGANIZATION 15 Points *Presented in meaningful order, shows continuity of ideas, uses orderly flow of thoughts, uses good transitions between thoughts*								
C. ORIGINALITY 5 Points *Entry expresses the contest theme in a fresh, inventive, or novel way of using independent thought and creative imagination, and using the unexpected to full advantage.*								
D. SKILLFUL USE OF FACTS, EXAMPLES, DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALOGIES 10 Points *Good choice of material, makes sense, factual, accurate, quotes are correct and appropriate. Elements of the speech flow together well and contribute to the quality of the presentation. Facts, examples, descriptions and analogies add to the quality of the presented message*								
CONTENT SUB-TOTAL								

January 2014

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST (Page 2 or 2)

North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

JUDGE: _____ **TITLE:** _____ **DATE:** _____ **GRADE: 7 8**

*Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins

*Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

*Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points
Use of visual aids: minus 5 points
Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

*A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time.

SPEAKING SKILLS CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. VOICE AND DICTION **15 Points** *Quality and variety (not monotone), inflection, enunciation, pronunciation, proper emphasis, projection and control, appropriate volume*								
B. STYLE **20 Points** *Rapport with the audience, word selection, no distracting mannerisms, appealing presentation*								
C. BODY LANGUAGE **15 Points** *Eye contact, posture and poise, hand gestures used with restraint and good taste*								
SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL								
STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TIME *(must be within 4-6 minutes)*								
FINAL SCORING SECTION								
CONTENT SUB-TOTAL								
+ SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL								
= TOTAL								
- INFRACTIONS (if any, subtract points)								
= FINAL TOTAL								

January 2014

BASIC TRAINING COURSE FOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

The Basic Training Course for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in cooperation with the School of Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Workshop Description:
The Workshop is designed to help new and incumbent supervisors gain a working understanding of their responsibilities as District Supervisors. Included is instruction on legal and program details supporting local District Operations in addition to current natural resources topics.

Workshop Dates:
The School of Government in cooperation with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation will issue upcoming dates not later than January 15. The Workshop will normally take place in February.

Participants:
The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission highly encourage all new District Supervisors to attend the workshop. On new Supervisor appointment forms, nominees are required to acknowledge their intention to, or not, to attend the workshop within one year of assuming their duties. Not attending may give the State Soil & Water Conservation Commission ample reason not to reappoint that person.

Workshop information will be given out during the Association's Annual Meeting in January. Information will also be posted on the Division's web page. Registration is on-line.

Participant Eligibility:
All Supervisors are eligible to attend the workshop. District Office managers and other District Employees are also encouraged to attend.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

(High School Rising Juniors and Seniors)

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the Division of Soil & Water Conservation and the Soil Science Department of NC State University. For detailed information visit the website http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html .

Workshop Description:
The Resource Conservation Workshop is a weeklong and involves study and hands on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. In order to achieve success, students should come prepared to meet the primary objective of the workshop -- learning about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.

Workshop Dates:
The Resource Conservation Workshop is usually held during the last two weeks in June. The Resource Conservation Workshop Planning Committee will issue the upcoming workshop dates and registration materials no later than October 1st of the year. Student registration opens November 1st.

Participants:
The Resource Conservation Workshop is designed to accommodate up to 104 students. The student slots will be filled on a first come first served basis as registrations with specific student's names are received. The eight Association Areas each nominate and financially sponsor two counselors who act as counselors and guides to a small group of students.

Participant Eligibility:
Students who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conservation and are nominated by their local soil and water conservation districts are eligible. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND**. The Districts should give priority to rising juniors and seniors. Students may participate only one time in this workshop.

Counselors:
Counselors are selected by Association Areas. Areas agree to pay Counselor registration fees and travel allowances. Area Chairpersons will forward counselor names and registration fees to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation not later than May 1st each year.

Suggestions for Selecting and Supporting Students:

1. Decide if the District intends to sponsor one or more students.

2. Appoint a committee to interview candidates. Your committee could be made up of District Supervisors, Extension personnel, Vo-Ag teachers, District Conservationist or other agency personnel.

3. Secure names of students from high school counselors, Vo-Ag teachers, scout leaders, Envirothon advisors, Extension 4-H leaders or other professionals in natural resources areas.

4. Contact your student nominee and secure his/her commitment to attend the workshop.

5. Complete the online application form and send registration fee **MADE PAYABLE TO: NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD)** to the Association Treasurer.

6. Provide, directly to your student, enough money for meals other than organized meals that are part of the weeks planned activities.

7. Arrange transportation for your student to and from Raleigh.

8. Arrange for local publicity in your District.

9. Ask your student to attend your District's board meeting both before and after the workshop to learn workshop objectives and report on his/her workshop experiences.

10. Students must have written permission from his/her parents to leave NC State University campus at any time except for planned activities, which are part of the workshop. Forms are provided in the Student and Parent package online. Please have the student bring these permission forms to registration on Sunday afternoon.

11. Students must have written permission from their parents to drive a vehicle while at the workshop.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AWARDS

S. Grady Lane Award: Amount of Award: $100 cash and $500 college scholarship*

The prestigious S. Grady Lane Award is the grand prize of the Resource Conservation Workshop. Each Counselor selects a student who is then interviewed by a panel and a winner is selected. Selected criteria include academic test score of 75th percentile or higher, counselor evaluation of student's high moral character and studious habits, financial need, and judging interview results.

Conservation District Employees' Association Award: Amount of Award: $1,000.00 college scholarship*.

This award is sponsored by the NC Conservation District Employee's Association.

Five other RCW Awards are presented. Winners are selected using academic scores (including the tie-breaker question.)

1st Place: Amount of Award: $100 cash and $500 college scholarship*
2nd Place: Amount of Award: $100 cash and $275 college scholarship*
3rd Place: Amount of Award: $100 cash
4th Place: Amount of Award: $75 cash
5th Place: Amount of Award: $50 cash

*Please note that scholarship funds are received when the student enrolls in college, and must be claimed within 5-years of the award date.

AUXILIARY – CLASSROOM GRANT

The Auxiliary – Classroom Grant is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Auxiliary. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to classroom teachers for projects to enhance learning using conservation and environmental practices. Grants of up to $500 are awarded.

RULES FOR PROCEDURES

- Eligible educators include teachers and principals in North Carolina schools serving grades K-12.
- Applications will be accepted for specific projects to enhance learning, using conservation and environmental practices.
- Application limit: One proposal per educator. An applicant for an individual grant may not apply as the leader for the project, and vice versa. However, an applicant for an individual grant may be part of a team project for which another educator is applying.
- Grants will not be awarded for educator salaries, time or expenses.
- Proposals may be approved for partial funding when the applicant's budget summary includes a figure for the minimum grant required to conduct the project on a smaller scale.

SELECTION CRITERIA

PROJECT MUST:

- Directly involve students.
- Use innovative and creative teaching methods.
- Seek to achieve clearly defined goals and learning objectives.
- Provide ongoing benefits to students.
- Be completed during the current school year.
- Feature measurable results that can be evaluated upon completion.
- Use the grant as a supplement to state and local funding.
- Be unavailable to students without funding from private sources.
- Be in keeping with schools overall objectives.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit the NCASWCD website, Auxiliary page, to obtain an application form and instructions; the direct link to the Auxiliary page is: http://ncaswcd.org/Auxiliary.htm

Deadline

The application is due by December 1st to the Auxiliary President. It may be mailed either by local Soil and Water Conservation District offices or by the schools.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

The Conservation Education Awards are sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The intent is to recognize those teachers doing a great job of teaching conservation and those Districts having developed a great education program.

Award Categories:
* Conservation District of the Year
* North Carolina Elementary Conservation Education Teacher of the Year (Grades K-6)
* North Carolina Secondary Conservation Education Teacher of the Year (Grades 7-12)

Deadline: September 1st

Judging Criteria:
Judging is based on documented information provided in the completed official entry forms and the narrative response to a list of specific questions/statements calling on the nominator to outline the accomplishments made which serve as the basis for the nomination. These forms and requirements follow.

Awards:
Plaques will be presented at the Association's Annual Statewide Meeting in January. State winner in each teacher category (K-6, 7-12) will receive $300.00 cash and an additional $150.00 to pay travel expenses.

TEACHER 0F THE YEAR - CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

Nominations Open for Elementary and Secondary Educators

Two educators will win first place awards and receive a plaque and cash at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Inside
*Entry Form
*Purpose and Eligibility
*Requirements
*Content of Narrative
*Judging Criteria
*Deadlines
*Recognition
*Sponsors
*Your Local district
* Need more Information?

***Participants* - Please remember to:**

- *Type double-spaced and only on one side of the Paper.*
- *Place materials in a three ring binder no larger than one inch.*
- *Identify item by number in upper right-hand comer of each page.*
- *Include supporting materials after each response.*
- *Be concise and write as you would speak.*

Reminder
Please read all of the following information carefully:

- We will not have a national Competition this year.
- Only first-place awards will be given out.
- Entries are not restricted to activities of the current year.
- Educators specializing only in environmental education are now eligible for the contest.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

Teacher of the Year Category

Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the Teacher of the Year contest is to recognize the outstanding conservation education efforts of our state's teachers. Elementary (grades K-6) and secondary teachers (grades 7-12) will be recognized in separate categories. All teachers in public, parochial and private schools in North Carolina are eligible.

To be eligible for the contest:

- Educators must be teaching full time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a conservation education program.
- A candidate's nomination must be endorsed by the Soil & Water Conservation District in which he or she is teaching.
- Teachers who are Conservation District officials are ineligible. But teachers who are Association officials are eligible.
- Team teachers are eligible, but awards will be made to the designated team leader.

Requirements

Any teacher who meets the eligibility requirements may enter the contest. Teachers may either nominate themselves or their peers may nominate them.

To enter the contest:

- Fill out the entry form on the adjacent page and have it signed by the chairman of the local Soil & Water Conservation District.
- Submit a typewritten narrative, which addresses the five items under "Content of Narrative."
- Place the entry form, narrative and all supporting documents into a standard, one-inch, three-ring binder. The binder does not need to be completely filled. Videos and CD-ROMs should not be included.
- Do not include more than two letters of recommendation.

Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of "8 1/2 x 11"paper. Type must <u>not</u> be smaller than 12 point. Narratives must address the five items listed. Every page should be identified by the number in the upper right hand corner corresponding to the item under content of narrative to which the response applies. Supporting materials should be located after each response.

1. Describe your program for involving students in the betterment of natural resources.
2. List and describe the areas of study incorporated in your conservation education program.
3. Describe any assistance received from community organizations or resource specialists from local, state or federal agencies or organizations.
4. Explain how the program is being extended to other grades, other areas and to people in the community.
5. Document how your students have applied their knowledge of natural resource conservation outside of your class to individuals, groups, schools and community projects.

Judging Criteria

Judging is based on data/information provided in response to items under "Content of Narrative" and on supporting materials. All materials should support the following question: How has the teacher shown concern, scope and originality in incorporating natural resource conservation into his/her curricula? Judges decisions are final.

Deadline

September 1--nominations must be submitted to NCASWCD, c/o Division of Soil & Water, 1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1614.

Recognition

The winning teacher/s in K-6 and 7-12 grades will be recognized for their conservation education programs at the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in January. We will recognize a winner in both elementary and secondary levels.

Each winning teacher will receive a plaque and $300.00 cash award and will receive up to $150.00 for expenses to attend the Annual Meeting of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts to accept their awards.

Sponsor

The North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts sponsors the North Carolina Conservation Education Awards Program.

Your Local District

Your Local Soil & Water Conservation District also helps to support this program. To find your local District, try http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/findyourdistrict.htmlor call 919-733-2302 for a contact number.

Need More Information?

Questions regarding the program should be directed to Sandra Weitzel (919-715-6680), one of your Regional Coordinators, or to Dick Fowler 919-715-6104

Return Completed Entries to:
NCASWCD, c/o Division of Soil & Water—1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699 -1614

TEACHER 0F THE YEAR

ENTRY FORM CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

(Please type all information and use this page as the cover sheet for your entry.)

Grade category (check one): _____ **Elementary (K-6)** _____ **Secondary (7-12)**

Name ofTeacher_____

School _____

School address_____

City_____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Department _____ Grade level(s) _____

County_____

Number of Students in your school _____

What is the school-allocated budget for your conservation education programs_____?

Please list the subjects that you teach_____

May we use all or part of your program in our educational program? _____

Home Address: _____

City _____State _____Zip Code_____

Telephone: Home (____)_____School (_____)_____

Entry will be returned to teacher's home address unless otherwise instructed here

_____

NOMINATING CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

District Name: _____

District Chairman's Name: _____

District Address_____

City _____State _____ Zip Code_____

District telephone: (____) _____

Is the above teacher a voting member of the Conservation District Board? _____YES _____NO

District Chairman's signature_____

Date_____

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

DISTRICT of the YEAR

Nominations Open for District Education Programs

One District will win the first place award and receive a plaque at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Inside

*Entry Form
*Purpose and Eligibility
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*Content of Narrative
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*Recognition
*Sponsors
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Participants* - Please remember to*:

- *Type double-spaced and only* on *one side of the Paper.*
- *Place materials* in a *three ring* binder no larger *than one inch.*
- *Identify item by number* in *upper right-hand* comer *of each page.*
- *Include supporting materials after each response.*
- *Be concise and write as you would speak.*

Reminder
Please read all of the following information carefully:

- We will not have a national Competition this year.
- Only first-place awards will be given out.
- Entries are not restricted to activities of the current year.

Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the District of the Year contest is to recognize the outstanding conservation education efforts of our state's Conservation Districts. All Districts in the North Carolina are eligible to participate in the program.

Requirements

To enter the contest, you must:

- Fill out the entry form on the adjacent page and have it signed by the District Board chairman.
- Submit a typewritten narrative, which addresses the ten items under "Content of Narrative."
- Include the entry form, narrative and all supporting materials in a standard, one-inch, three-ring binder. The binder does not need to be completely filled. Videos and CD-ROMs should not be included.

Content of Narrative

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of 8′ x 11" paper. Type must not be smaller than 12 point. Narratives must address the ten items listed on this page. The response for each item must not exceed two pages and should be treated as a separate section. On every page, identify by number, in the upper right-hand corner, the item to which the response applies. Supporting materials should be located after each response.

1. What do you consider the District's most important educational activity during the year? What were the benefits and effects?

2. Describe your conservation education assistance to schools, colleges and universities. Describe materials, technical help and other assistance provided; list projects completed or underway; list scholarships provided to students.

3. List any workshops, training sessions, conservation tours, scholarships or other activities provided for teachers and note District involvement in each.

4. State the District's involvement with youth groups and organizations. Name them and outline the most significant educational programs or projects.

5. Explain your adult soil and water conservation education program. Identify materials, instructors, technical help, tours or other services the District provided.

6. Name any local conservation organizations receiving District educational assistance. Describe the type of help, programs or projects provided by the District.

7. Describe District involvement with local, state or federal agencies in conservation education programs.

8. Describe the District's public information program. Include outstanding programs done with newspapers, radio and television and the effect on District programs and on the community.

9. Provide information about your newsletter. List circulation and how it is used for educational purposes. Please include a copy of your Annual Report.

10. Describe other educational activities or programs, which may not have been covered by the above items. Identify the District's involvement in the planning or implementation, the number of people affected and other details which indicate its value and scope.

Judging is based on data provided in response to items under the above "Content of Narrative" and on supporting materials submitted. Decisions of the judges are final.
Important considerations in selecting program winners include:

- Comprehensiveness, scope and quality of your conservation education program.

- Assistance generated by the District from organizations, agencies and individuals for accomplishing educational objectives.

- Extent of District input into the educational programs of other organizations, including providing motivation, advice, technical assistance and organizational leadership.

- Types and effectiveness of activities informing teachers, youth and other community members about conservation issues.

- Extent of youth and educator involvement with the District's educational program.

- Involvement in and quality of adult education programs.

Deadline

September 1-Conservation District nominations must be submitted to NCASWCD, c/o Division of Soil &

Water—1614 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1614.

Recognition

The winning Conservation District will be recognized for their conservation education programs at the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting.

Sponsor

The North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts is the sponsor of this Conservation Education Awards Program.

Need More Information?

Questions regarding the program should be directed to Sandra Weitzel, one of your Regional Coordinators or to Dick Fowler.

Return your entries to: NCASWCD, c/o Division of Soil & Water—1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

DISTRICT 0F THE YEAR

ENTRY FORM CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

(Please type all information and use this page as the cover sheet for your entry.)

Name of District_____

Chairman's name _____

Street address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip code _____ County_____

District telephone _____

Number of schools in your District _____ Number of students in your District _____

Our District is primarily: _____ Rural _____ Suburban _____ Urban

May we use all or part of your program in our educational and informational activities? _____Yes _____ No

District chairman's signature_____ Date signed _____

DISTRICT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

List the names and occupations of the District Education Committee members and indicate whether or not they are District officials.

Member Name **Occupation** **District Official**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Outstanding Accomplishments in Community Conservation

This award may be given annually by the NCASWCD to any individual, project, business, company or other entity outside of the NCASWCD (i.e. not a SWCD, district supervisor) that is worthy of recognition for natural resource stewardship and conservation accomplishments on non-agricultural lands. Local SWCDs are asked to submit nominations to Dick Fowler by September 1 of each year. The NCASWCD will review materials submitted and determine if recognition through the awards program is appropriate. There are no size limits (minimum or maximum) for the material submitted, but please recognize that these materials are what the NCASWCD will use to make their award determinations; make sure that the SWCD provides sufficient information to demonstrate why this nominee is exceptional.

1. Describe the individual, project, business, company or entity, which is being nominated for outstanding accomplishments in community conservation. Please provide contact information for an appropriate representative.

2. Describe why the nominee and/or project is unique and worthy of recognition. Include specific information that describes what was accomplished in terms of natural resource enhancement or protection, what innovative approaches were used, or how individual actions contributed to the protection of the state's natural resources.

3. Has your SWCD or other agency recognized this nominee locally? Please explain and provide any supporting materials, where applicable (i.e. press releases, newspaper articles).

4. Attach photos or other supportive materials (i.e. letters of support from others), where applicable.

5. SWCD sponsor; SWCD contact name, phone number and email address, for more information

Return your entries to: NCASWCD, c/o Division of Soil & Water—1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Hall of Fame Award

Visit the website for more information: http://www.ncaswcd.org/?page_id=883

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes District Supervisors and other conservation leaders with the Hall of Fame Award for superior contributions and outstanding leadership in promoting soil and water conservation in their home community, throughout the state, and elsewhere. Persons selected for recognition will be honored and formally inducted into the Hall of Fame during the Association's Annual Statewide Meeting.

Program Rules

Submission of the Nomination

Submit the completed nomination package not later than June 1 to the following address:

Franklin Williams, Chairman
NCASWCD Hall of Fame Selection Committee
7530 So. NC Hwy. 41
Wallace, NC28466

General Guidelines

- District Supervisors who have exemplary records of accomplishment in leading soil and water conservation programs and sustained successful leadership of the Districts and/or Association organization at various levels will receive priority consideration for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- Conservation leaders, other than District Supervisors, may be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame when their contribution has made a major impact on the condition of natural resources in the state or a larger area of the country and the Districts/Association organization has benefited long term from the leader's sustained efforts.
- Only North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation District Boards of Supervisors may nominate persons for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- In any year, one District Supervisor and one other person may be selected for induction. The "other person" may also be a District Supervisor. There is no requirement that an induction be made in any year if the Selection Committee so decides.

Nomination Procedures

- Nominations must be made using the approved format provided with these rules and guidelines.
- Nominations must address each of the eight evaluation factors listed on the approved format.
- Nominations must be postmarked <u>not later than June 1</u> to be eligible for consideration in that same year.
- Nominations must be sent to the address shown on the approved format.
- Supporting materials, if any, offered as part of the nomination packet must be limited to items that connect specifically to one or more of the eight evaluation factors listed in the approved format.

Evaluation of Nominees

- The Hall of Fame Selection Committee will evaluate the entire list of nominees each year during its annual Selection Committee meeting. After having been considered for at least two (2) years, all nominations not chosen for induction into the Hall of Fame will be returned to the nominating District. Districts may re-nominate candidates previously offered for consideration. In the case of re-nomination, new or added accomplishments or contributions by the nominee should be included to strengthen the nomination.
- All nominees will be evaluated using the points based system applied to each evaluation factor as shown below and in the approved nomination format.

Nominee Evaluation Factor	Maximum Points
Factor 1: Getting Soil and Water Conservation on the Ground	15
Factor 2: Leadership of local Conservation District Programs	20
Factor 3: Leadership of NCASWCD Organization and Programs	25
Factor 4: Leadership of NACD Organization and its Initiatives	10
Factor 5: Honors, Awards, and Recognition Received	10
Factor 6: Service to Conservation Districts and the Association	10
Factor 7: Leadership in Related Organizations	5
Factor 8: Miscellaneous other Leadership and Accomplishments	5

Selection and Induction of Nominees

- To be inducted into the Hall of Fame, at least six members of the Selection Committee must vote in the affirmative for induction of the nominee.
- When nominees have been selected, the Selection Committee will notify the nominating District. The District will need to designate a contact person to receive all correspondence from the Selection Committee and to perform the following tasks:
  1. Secure a portrait style black and white photograph (5 x 7 or 8 x 10) of the nominee for the Committee's use in preparing Hall of Fame plaques.
  2. Work with the Committee to draft the inscription to be used on the inductee's plaque.
  3. Work with the inductee or inductee's family to inspect the proof of the plaque for accuracy of inscription and artwork prior to the Committee's finalizing the order for plaques.
  4. Arrange for payment of plaques when invoiced by the Selection Committee.
  5. Determine and advise, in writing, the chairperson of the Selection Committee of the names of family members or others who will be present for the induction ceremonies at the State Association's Annual Statewide Meeting. This information is needed to facilitate the making of proper seating arrangements for family members and others in the inductee's party.
  6. Determine and advise, in writing, the chairperson of the Selection Committee of the names of people who will actively participate in the induction ceremony in support of their inductee.
- The inductee's home District is responsible for making any meal, travel, and room reservations needed for their inductee and family members in connection with induction ceremonies

Costs Associated with Induction of the Nominee

The inductee's nominating District is responsible for all costs incurred in the induction of a person resulting from their nomination. The usual and customary costs are as follows:

- One plaque (11" x 14") for the Hall of Fame at Jim Graham Building, State Fair Grounds, Raleigh (Approximately $300).
- One plaque (9" x 12") for the inductee or their family (Approximately $175). The District may order additional plaques at the same price. If the inductee's family wants additional plaques, they may order them along with the Committee's order and at the same price with the cost being paid by the family.
- Banquet meals for the inductee and family members/friends unless other arrangements are made between the nominating District and the inductee's family.
- Travel and room reservations for the inductee and immediate family for participating in the ceremonies unless other arrangements are made between the District and the family.

Selection Committee Organization and Operating Procedures

Committee Charge

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee is responsible for selecting and inducting District Supervisors and other conservation leaders into the Association's Hall of Fame. The Committee is also responsible for mounting the inductee's plaque in the Hall of Fame.

Committee Membership

The Selection Committee consists of 10 members. Four members will have a minimum of 15 years membership respectively in the Association. The remaining six members will have a minimum of five years membership respectively. Only active District Supervisors are eligible to serve as members of this committee. Membership is for a term of five (5) years. There shall be no limit to the number of terms a supervisor may serve. Officers shall be elected annually during the Committee's meeting where nominees are considered for induction into the Hall of Fame. Officer's terms of service will begin at the end of induction ceremonies each year.

The members of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee as of January 7, 2009 are:

Name	District	Position	Term Expires
Dr. Bill Davis, Jr.	Wilkes	Chairman	2014
Charles Davenport	Pitt	Member	2014
Bobby Stanley	Columbus	Member	2015
Ned Hudson	Cabarrus	Member	2015
Franklin Williams	Duplin	Vice-Chairman	2016
Carvel C. Cheves	Franklin	Member	2016
Manly West	Currituck	Member	2017
Bruce Whitfield	Person	Member	2017
Carlyle Ferguson	Haywood	Member	2018
I.H."Cokie" Jones	Davie	Member	2018

Committee Member Position Management

Nominations for all vacancies on the Committee, whether for expired or unexpired terms, are to be made by the President of the Association. All nominations are to be forwarded to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for consideration by the committee's members. To be a member of the Committee, each nominee must be approved by at least five of the remaining members of the current Selection Committee.

Committee Operations Schedule

Date/Deadline **Action**

January, Annual Statewide Meeting --- Issue call for nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame.
June 1 --- Deadline for nominations to be sent to the chairperson of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

June 30 --- Hall of Fame Selection Committee meets, determines nominees for induction in the Hall of Fame.

July 1 --- (a) Notify successful nominating District(s) of selections and local responsibilities, charge District contact person to collect information for drafting plaque details. (b) Return unsuccessful nominations to the respective nominating Districts after the second year's evaluation by the Selection Committee.

August 1 --- Forward draft materials and photograph(s) to the plaque manufacturing company for preparation of an artist's rendering of the plaque to be used for induction of the nominee into the Hall of Fame.

September 15 --- Receive proofs from plaque manufacturer and check inscription and artwork for accuracy with the inductee's family.

October 1 --- Return checked proofs to manufacturer for preparation of finished plaques.

November 1 --- Receive finished plaques from the manufacturer.

January, Annual Statewide Meeting --- Conduct Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

NCASWCD HALL OF FAME AWARD

Approved Nomination Format

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Nominating District: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Nomination: _____ District Person to Contact: _____

Nominee Evaluation Factors

Please respond to each item providing concise but complete information on applicable accomplishments of the nominee. In the interest of clarity throughout your nomination, please identify the evaluation factor and insert the information you want to have considered as evidence of the nominee's accomplishments relative to that evaluation factor. The evaluation factors with their potential points to be earned are as follows:

Evaluation Factor 1: Getting Soil and Water Conservation on the Ground (15 points)
Describe significant contributions of the nominee to the actual accomplishment of soil and water conservation in their community, county, the state, and elsewhere.

Evaluation Factor 2: Leadership of local Conservation District Programs (20 points)
List leadership roles and describe personal accomplishments of the nominee in advancing the local Districts soil and water conservation program.

Evaluation Factor 3: Leadership of NCASWCD Organization and Programs (25 points)
List leadership roles and describe personal accomplishments of the nominee in advancing the Association's area and statewide organization and programs.

Evaluation Factor 4: Leadership of NACD Organization and its Initiatives (10 points)
List leadership roles and describe personal accomplishments of the nominee in advancing the NACD organization and its initiatives.

Evaluation Factor 5: Honors, Awards, and Recognition Received (10 points)
List, describe the purpose, and note the date of honors, awards, and recognition received by the nominee for leadership and service rendered in support of conservation programs and the conservation district movement.

Evaluation Factor 6: Service to Conservation Districts and the Association (10 points)
List the beginning and ending dates and total length of service of the nominee to their conservation district. If the nominee is not a district supervisor, then list beginning and ending dates and total length of service in the conservation organizations/agencies served by the nominee.

Evaluation Factor 7: Leadership in Related Organizations (5 points)
List leadership roles and describe personal accomplishments of the nominee with related organizations that advanced the mission of conservation districts and the Association.

Evaluation Factor 8: Miscellaneous other Leadership and Accomplishments (5 points)
List and describe other activities, leadership, and accomplishments of the nominee not shown elsewhere in this nomination that should be considered by the Selection Committee.

Outstanding Conservation Farm Family

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Outstanding Conservation Farm Family award recognizes farmers/farm families who are taking the initiative to implement sound, innovative and cost-effective conservation techniques, and are actively involved in conservation education.

Award Category:
Outstanding Conservation Farm Family

Participant Eligibility:
Each Soil and Water Conservation District is eligible to nominate one individual or group of individuals involved in a single farming operation. This program is open to all farmers, including District Supervisors. Nominees must derive a substantial portion of their income from their farm business.

Procedures:
Entries for this award recognition will be judged on an Area, Regional and State level.
Area Competition: Districts will submit nominations as directed by their Area Chairman.
Regional Competition: Area Committees will submit their nomination by June 1 to Regional Coordinator:

State judging will be accomplished immediately following the regional judging. The state judging team will be made up of subject matter experts representing federal and state agencies, the NC State University, the Association and farm organizations.

Judging Criteria: The program emphasizes new and innovative conservation techniques as well as the application of sound traditional conservation practices. Another important focus of the program is conservation education. Selection is based upon.

- Conservation Activities---------- (60 points)
- Stewardship---------- (15 points)
- Community Leadership---------- (10 points)
- Education---------- (10 points)
- Conservation Knowledge---------- (5 points)

Factual evidence of effective conservation techniques must be available for review and fall within the following categories - soil resource management, water resource management, pollution impact management.

The entire operation, including livestock and property that is owned, rented, or operated by the contestant must be considered in the application.

State winners must agree to allow their farm to be used for demonstrational purposes to inform others of their outstanding conservation achievements.

State winners are not eligible to compete for five years.

Awards:
Regional winners will receive a plaque at the Annual Meeting. The district will prepare a power point presentation of the regional winner's farm to be shown at the Annual Meeting. It is a good idea to take some digital pictures during the year of your nominee's farm.

One of the regional winners will be selected by the state judging team to be the State Conservation Farm Family of the year. This will include a celebration in the winner's Conservation District. This celebration will usually take place on the winning family's farm.

Application:
I. Conservation Activities

A. Farm Plan-- How complete is the farm conservation plan, date the plan was developed and/or revised. Familiarity of the plan by the farmer. Is the plan current?
B. Number and complexity of Practices--The number and complexity of soil and water conservation practices planned. Do the practices work together as a system approach to solve the problems?
C. Application of Soil & Water Conservation Practices--knowledge of resource problems by farmer and why the practices solve the resource problems. This is the implementation of the farm plan.
D. Woodland and wildlife habitat plans--dates of woodland and wildlife plans. The forest management practices that are planned and carried out. How does wildlife habitat improvement complement the total conservation program?

II**. Education**

A. Educational use--Use of farm for education by school groups, tours, presentations to outside groups, Ag classes, legislative delegations, use of farm to influence neighbors. How is the farm being used for education of others or getting the conservation message out?

III. **Conservation Knowledge**

A. General knowledge--Knowledge of District and other Ag agencies and organizations. Use of/or knowledge of these agencies/organizations as well as conservation programs and activities.

IV. **Stewardship**

A. Stewardship--Judges will consider-- general appearance of farmstead, sheds and fences in accordance with current conservation practices. The use of chemicals including handling, storage, applications, and the recycling of containers. The storage of fuels and fuel products, use of alternative fuels, solar energy or new energy sources, conservation easements, and special farmland protection programs.

V. **Community Leadership Role**

A. Community participation--leadership activities at community, county, state and national level will be considered. This will include activities in church, farm organizations, civic organizations, and community development groups.

(**Farmer's Name)**

Mr._____

Mrs._____

Address: _____

_____

_____Soil & Water Conservation District YEAR _____

_____

name or names as it should appear on certificate

Affiliations in organizations, offices held and honors received:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Commodity Information:

Major Crops	Acres
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Rangeland/pasture……	_____
Woodland/forest……....	_____
Other_____	_____

Total # Acres……. _____

Livestock Information:

Type	# Head
Hogs ……..	_____
Dairy…….	_____
Beef Cattle…….	_____
Cow/calf…….	_____
Sheep…….	_____
Horses…….	_____
Others…….	_____

Total # Head……..._____

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION of SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

SCORE CARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY

I. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

(10 Pts.) **A. Farm Plan---**Completeness; date the plan was made or revised and knowledge of plan by farmer will be considered.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

(10 Pts.) **B. Number and Complexity of Practices---** The number and complexity of soil and water conservation practices planned.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

(30 pts.) **C. Application of Soil and Water Conservation Practices---**Give a brief explanation for each practice put in place on this farm.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

(10 pts.) **D. Woodland and Wildlife habitat plans---**Dates of plans and the forest management and wildlife conservation practices used.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

II. EDUCATION

(10 pts.) **A. Educational Use---**Use of farm for education by school groups, presentations to outside groups, farm tours, Ag classes, legislative delegations, and use of farm to influence neighbors.

_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

III. CONSERVATION KNOWLEDGE

(5 pts.) **A. General knowledge---**Knowledge of Districts, other Ag agencies and organizations and conservation activities.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

IV. STEWARDSHIP

(15 pts.) **A. Stewardship---**Judges will consider general appearance of the farmstead in accordance with current conservation practices. To include recycling, easements, solar use, special farmland protection programs and handling/use of chemicals. Also Use of alternative fuels and fuel storage.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

V. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLE

(10 pts.) **A. Community Participation---**Leadership activities at community, county, state and national level will be considered. This will include activities in church, farm organizations, civic organizations, community development groups, etc.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____ _____
Judges Score

Total Score _____

Conservation Technical District of the Year

A. General Information

1. Name:_____ SWCD

2. Address:_____

   _____

   _____

   phone: _____

3. List District Supervisors and Associate Supervisors
   A._____ Supervisor
   B. _____ Supervisor
   C. _____ Supervisor
   D. _____ Supervisor
   E. _____ Supervisor
   F. _____ Associate
   G. _____ Associate
   H. _____ Associate

4. List District Staff with job titles and certifications (Joe Smith—District Conservations-BS Forestry-Master 3)
   A._____
   B._____
   C._____
   D._____
   E._____
   F._____
   G._____

B. Outreach/Communication

1. Which groups do you target for outreach?

2. How do you try to reach diverse/minority audiences?

3. Do you have a District Newsletter? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many issues per year? _____
   B. Number of copies each issue? _____
   C. How many technical articles do you have each year? _____
   D. Do you post articles to other groups' newsletters about technical programs? _____ (yes/no) (Forestry Association, Cattleman's Association, etc.)

4. Do you place technical articles in your local newspaper? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many articles per year? _____
   B. Do you use other newspapers?_____ (yes/no)
   (Example: El Progreso Hispanic, Acento Latino, La Conexion, etc.)

5. Do you use television for outreach? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many times per year? _____

6. Do you use local radio for outreach? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many programs/year? _____

7. Do you use e-mail for outreach? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How often? _____

8. Do you use postal mail for outreach? _____ (yes/no)

8. Does your District have a web page? _____ (yes/no)
   A. Do you use your website for outreach on technical programs? _____ (yes/no)

10. Do you target new groups/potential new partners? _____ (yes/no)
   (Homeowners Association for CCAP, Minority Ag related businesses, etc.)

11. Other forms of outreach—Describe

C. Cooperators

1. How many District Cooperators do you have? _____

2. How many animal operations are in your District? _____

   A. How often does your staff visit/inspect each animal operation? _____
   B. Does the District pass along pertinent rule changes, new technology, etc to the animal operators? _____ (yes/no)

3. How many non-animal operations in your District? _____

D. Technical programs

1. Does your District participate in CCAP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many of your staff has had technical training for CCAP? _____
   B. How many contracts have you started and finished during this time period? _____
   C. How much money did you receive this year for this program? _____

2. Does your District participate in the ACSP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many staff members work on this program? _____
   B. How many contracts have you started and finished during this time period? _____
   C. How much ACSP money did your District receive? _____

3. Does your District participate in EQIP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many staff members work on this program? _____
   B. How much EQIP money did the District receive? _____
   C. How many EQIP Contracts? _____

4. Does your District participate in the CREP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many staff members work on this program? _____
   B. How many contracts? _____
   C. How much money did you receive for this program? _____

5. Does your District participate in the WHIP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many staff members work on this program? _____
   B. How many contracts
   C. How much money did you receive for this program? _____

6. Does your District participate in the CSP? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many staff members work on this program? _____
   B. How many contracts? _____
   C. How much money did you receive for this program? _____
   D. Did the District get money for assistance with this program?_____ (yes/no)
   E. If you got money-how much? _____

7. The total amount of cost share money you received during this time period? _____

8. Does your District work on stream restoration? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many projects? _____
   B. Do you write or use grants for this work?_____ (yes/no)
   C. How much money in grants did you use during this time period? _____
   D. Other funding sources and amounts_____

9. Does your District work on easements? _____ (yes/no)

   A. If so, how many and the acreage_____
   B. Does your District own easements?_____ (yes/no)
   C. How many and acreage? _____

10. Does your District own any land? _____ (yes/no)
   A. How many parcels and acreage? _____
   B. Do you use any of this land to promote Best Management Practices? _____ (yes/no)

11. Does your District do any watershed planning? _____ (yes/no)

E. Equipment

1. Does your District own any conservation equipment? _____ (yes/no)
   A. What type? _____
   B. Do you rent it out?_____ (yes/no)
   C. Approximately how many acres per year? _____
   D. Do you rent equipment to lease out to the farmers/general public? _____ (yes/no)

F. Education

1. Does your District have an education program? _____ (yes/no)
   A. Do you have any staff members dedicated to do education programs? _____ (yes/no)
   B. Do you have any adult technical education programs? _____ (yes/no)
   C. List any adult education programs with how many times per year and attendance at each event.

1._____
2._____
3._____
4._____
5._____
6._____

G. Miscellaneous

1. Please describe any other technical program that you do which has not been described before.

A._____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Due by September 1

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors the Length of Service Awards.

Awards Categories:
District Supervisors and District Employees Length of Service

Participant Eligibility:
District Supervisors and District Employees are eligible for Length of Services (LOS) awards upon successful completion of ten (10) years of active service and at five (5) year intervals thereafter.

The recipient must have completed the required number of years of service by December 31 of the current year. Active Service time is cumulative. A person with previous service time is credited for that time. For example: A Supervisor who serves from December 1970 to December 1990 has twenty years active service. If they leave service, then return in December 1994, on December 31, 1999 he will have earned a twenty-five year award.

Procedures:
Length of Service is now calculated via the online District Directory. A queried report listing those eligible for longevity awards will be circulated through the Regional Coordinators in late summer or early fall. Please take the time to confirm the length of service via your district records.
http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/districts/documents/District_Directory.pdf

Awards:
Recipients will be presented a plaque honoring their individual length of service. District Supervisors being recognized for twenty or more years of service may choose to receive either a mounted certificate or a lapel pin.

All ten, fifteen, and twenty year awards are presented at the Fall Area Meetings. All other awards will be presented at the Association's Annual Statewide Meeting unless someone asks to have theirs presented at the fall Area Meeting for their convenience.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Employee of the Year awards recognize those employees who have excelled within their job descriptions and have made significant contributions for the overall improvement and promotion of soil and water conservation in North Carolina.

Awards: Winners will be presented a plaque during the Association's Annual Statewide Meeting.

Award Categories:

- Outstanding District Employee - Administration
- Outstanding District Employee – Technical
- Outstanding Environmental Educator
- Outstanding Natural Resources Conservation Service Employee

Participant Eligibility:
The Employee of the Year can be any full or part-time employee with a minimum job service of two years that is employed either by:

- The Soil & Water Conservation District
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Nominations can be made by a District Supervisor, a District or NRCS employee other than the nominee. Specific eligibility requirements are:

- Outstanding District Employee - Administration
  Open to district employees that provide office support services for at least 60% of total work load. Office support services include District administrative functions, public relations and related duties, related to the day-to-day function of the District office. Employee may be involved in conservation education peripherally.

- Outstanding District Employee - Technical
  Open to District employees that provide specialized or technical service for at least 60% of total workload. This could include conservation fieldwork & planning, engineering, and education coordination.

- District employees with split job responsibilities may compete in either of the above categories. However, they would compete as a part-time employee for that category.

- Outstanding Environmental Educator
  Open to an employee who spends majority of time on Environmental Education

- Outstanding Natural Resources Conservation Service Employee
  Open to any federal employee hired by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Procedures: Send the completed nomination form later than September 1 to the following.
NCASWCD Employee of Year Award
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC27699-1614

Entries should be typed, but handwritten entries will be accepted if neat and legible. All materials submitted must be in one report cover or 3-ring binder for 8 1/2" x 11" paper. **Supporting materials are accepted only for the preceding year**. Nominations should include:

- Completed nomination form
- Nominator's cover letter addressed to the NCASWCD President
- 1-2 page narrative
- 1-3 letters of support
- 1-3 pages of supporting materials such as pictures, newspaper articles, newsletter, etc.

Outstanding Employee of the Year
Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____Date:_____

Nominee's Job title: _____

District & Address: _____

_____

_____

Employee Category (Check One):

_____District Administrative

_____District Technical

_____Environmental Educator

_____Natural Resources Conservation Service

Length of Service: From: _____ to: _____

Does nominee work full or part-time? _____

If part-time, hours per week. _____

Briefly describe the nominee's job responsibilities: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Highlight nominee's major job accomplishments starting with most recent:

_____

_____

_____

List examples that reveal how nominee excels within job description and / or exemplifies true dedication to his/her job and natural resources conservation:

_____

_____

_____

Describe special skills the nominee possesses beyond normal job requirements, which enhance performance:

_____

_____

_____

List professional improvements made by the nominee such as formal education courses, professional organizations and offices held, workshops, etc.:

_____

_____

_____

List honors or awards received starting with the most recent:

_____

_____

_____

Name, Title and Address of Nominator:

_____

_____

Notification and correspondence will be sent to **both** nominator **and** nominee unless otherwise instructed here:

_____

Mail completed form and supporting materials to the Division of Soil & Water Conservation by September 1.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors the Distinguished Service Award to honor individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation of our natural resources.

Award Category:
Distinguished Service Award

Participant Eligibility:
Open to all individuals other than District Supervisors.

Procedures:
Districts will submit nomination forms by September 1 to:

NCASWCD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
C/O DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
1614 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1614

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee:_____

Address:_____

Describe the Accomplishments of the Nominee:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Nominated by: _____

(District)

_____

(Chairman)

_____

(Date)

Use additional pages, if necessary

URBAN CONSERVATION AWARD

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors the Urban Conservation Award. The Urban Conservation Award recognizes individuals, organizations or corporations in the urban setting for outstanding conservation achievements.

Award Category:
Urban Conservation Award

Participant Eligibility:
Any individual, organization or corporation responsible for a conservation project in an urban setting.

Procedures:
Districts must submit nomination forms by September 1 to:

NCASWCD URBAN CONSERVATION AWARD
C/O DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
1614 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1614

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee:_____

Address: _____

Brief Description of Project: _____

_____

_____

_____

Conservation Practices Planned / Installed: _____

_____

_____

Nominated by: _____
(District)

_____
(Chairman)

_____
(Date)

USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors the President's Award.

Award Category:
The President's Award

Participant Eligibility:
All NC District Supervisors are eligible to win the award.

Procedures:
Only the Association President may present the President's Award.

Judging Criteria:
The award is presented to a NC District Supervisor that the Association President feels has made the most outstanding contribution during the previous year as a citizen, conservationist and Supervisor.

Award:
The winner is presented a plaque at the Association Statewide Annual Meeting

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

The NCASWCD Supervisor of the Year Award recognizes a District Supervisor who has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of North Carolina's natural resources. The key qualification is a keen interest in conserving our natural resources and record of outstanding contributions to the cause of conservation. The winner of the Supervisor of the Year Award will be submitted for the NACD Distinguished Service Award by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

I nominate the individual below for the award: Supervisor of the Year

Name: _____ _____
First Last

Address: _____
Street or PO Box

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Your Name: _____ _____
First Last

Your email address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Email completed form to: Dick Fowler, ncaswcd@gmail.com

or mail to:

NCASWCD

C/o Division of Soil and Water Conservation

1614 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699

Please tell us in 500 words or less how the person listed above is meeting the award criteria.

We Love Conservation

Words by Barbara Sink Myers
Tune: Aloutte (French Canadian Folk Song)

Chorus:
Conservation, We love Conservation.
Conservation is the thing to do.

Keep the soil upon the lands,
Water pure for our demands.
On the lands, our demands, Oooooh.

Chorus:

Plant a border ‘round your fields.
Keep the soil, increase your yields.
‘Round the fields, increase your yields, on the lands, our demands, Oooooh

Chorus:

Contour strips on sloping hills.
Stop erosion and fish kills.
On the hills, no fish kills, ‘round the fields, increase your yields, on the lands, our demands, Ooooh.

Chorus:

Plant your crops and use no-till.
Mud in rivers you’ll not spill.
Use no-till, no mud spill, on the hills, no fish kills, ‘round the fields, increase your yields, on the lands, our demands, Ooooh.

Chorus:

These are things that farmers do.
Now the rest is up to you.
Farmers do, up to you, use no-till, no mud spill, on the hills, no fish kills, ’round the fields, increase yields, on the lands, our demands, Ooooh.

Chorus: