

## **INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2011-145, and became effective on July 1, 2011. This program, herein referred to as AgWRAP, was established to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

AgWRAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The Commission is required to meet with stakeholders annually to gather input on AgWRAP's development and administration. This year the AgWRAP Review Committee was created, and numerous agencies, organizations, and partners that participate in this committee met regularly to develop recommendations for Commission consideration for this program. AgWRAP was allocated \$1,000,000 in FY2012 and \$500,000 in FY2013 in non-recurring state appropriations, of which up to 15% of funds can be used by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and districts to provide technical and engineering assistance, and to administer the program.