



GENERAL SESSION
2020 Conservation Employee Training
Tuesday, August 25, at 10:00am

- 10:00** **Welcome**
Vernon Cox, Director, NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation
- 10:05** **Working Lands supporting North Carolina’s Resilience**
From the National to State Perspective: Michelle Lovejoy, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation
Conservation Practices as a Tool for Flood Mitigation: Dr. Barbara Doll, NCSU CALS Biologic and Ag Engineering
The California Story of Carbon Farm Planning: Anne Coates, Thomas Jefferson SWCD, Virginia
The Future of Agriculture Resilience: Keith Larick, NC Farm Bureau Federation
This session builds off the Agriculture Resilience Panel at 2019 CET by exploring current trends in soil health, regenerative agriculture, and weather resilience. We will consider corporate, national, and state government actions that apply soil health tools to increase natural disaster and long term weather resilience as a backdrop to North Carolina pilot projects underway currently. Dr. Doll will provide highlights of a watershed level study in Wayne County focused on addressing inner coastal plain riverine flooding with conservation. Ms. Coates will give us the back story to how California Resource Conservation Districts grew the Carbon Farm Planning concept into a reality and how this story translates to the east coast. Mr. Larick will wrap up the discussion by linking current trends to what this can mean to our state’s agricultural community.
- 11:05** **JAA Update**
Jeff Young, Chief - Technical Services, NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation
This session will cover an introduction to Commission Job Approval Authority (JAA) through the NC Farm Act of 2019-2020; the adoption of rules related to JAA; JAA Policy; the recognition of NRCS JAA; and an implementation timeline for Commission JAA.
- 11:25** **Mutual Aid Agreement**
Bryan Evans, Executive Director, NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
This session will cover the basis for the MAAs and ways the agreements can assist Districts with accessing personnel resources for disaster response and training assistance. We will discuss how access will be made available and procedures to request and receive assistance.
- 11:35** **Emergency Watershed Protection Program**
David Williams, Deputy Director, NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Mary Waligora, Assistant State Conservation Engineer – NRCS
Todd Kelly, District Technician, Carteret SWCD
Brian Loadholt, Easements Coordinator – NRCS
This session will feature updates on the USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program. 39 local sponsors are now actively working on EWP restoration projects

with NRCS and NCDA&CS funding. Mary Waligora, the new Assistant State Conservation Engineer for NRCS, will describe the progress to date and lessons learned on the restoration following Hurricane Florence. We hope to include a district representative to describe their experience working on the program. Then Brian Loadholt, NRCS Easements Coordinator, will provide an update on the EWP Easements aspects of the program. Deputy Director Williams will wrap up the session describing the soon-to-be-signed Contribution Agreement between NRCS and the Division that will engage and compensate districts and the Division staff for evaluating potential sites for EWP and developing Damage Survey Reports for sites determined to qualify for assistance.