

# NCDA&CS

## Division of Soil and Water Conservation



# Personnel

- **New Hires (1):**
  - Env. Specialist I (StRAP) – J.D. Jorgensen, starts 5/26
- **Vacancies (7):**
  - Regional Coordinator (Nicolai Solomon) – Interviews Complete
  - Engineer III (Vivien Zhong/Demico Guy) – Posting closed 5/15, awaiting referred candidates
  - Engineering Specialist I (Justin Webb) – Submitted for posting
  - Engineer II (2 newly established positions) – Submitted for reposting
  - Engineer II (Kori Higgs) – Evaluating options prior to posting
  - Engineer II (Matt Berens) – Resignation effective June 14



# USDA Block Grant (signed 9/5)

- Application extended thru June 12
- \$221,236,071 approved, \$122M budgeted for infrastructure losses/repairs
- 377 applications involving roads/culverts/bridges as of 5/18
  - 158.9 miles of roads
  - Over 1,000 culverts
  - Over 90 bridges
- Technical Training scheduled for June 9
- Includes TA/engineering funding for districts & Division
- Considering requesting assistance from district staff from across the state



# State Ag Disaster Crop Loss Program

- \$150M+ remain for farm infrastructure losses (including roads/ponds, potentially streambank stabilization/debris removal)
- Block Grant application includes an opportunity for producers to submit new applications for infrastructure losses
- 337 applications may qualify for State assistance
  - 256 also applied for road/bridge/culvert repairs
- Handling similar to Block Grant applications



# 2026 Fundamentals of Conservation Planning

- May 11-15, Mountain Research Station, Haywood Co.
- 33 participants
  - 24 SWCDs
  - 5 NRCS
  - 4 DSWC
- 24 Mentors
  - 10 SWCDs
  - 2 NRCS
  - 11 DSWC
  - 1 district supervisor



# Upcoming Training

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- June 9, USDA Block Grant Technical Training - Virtual
- June 11, EWP Training – Bertie Co.
- July 15-16, Applied Nutrient Management Training – Piedmont Research Station, Rowan Co.
- October 5-8, Conservation Employees' Training, Greensboro



# 2026 Commission meetings

- July 29, Raleigh (Virtual WS 7/21)
  - Potential Commission Retreat afternoon of 7/28
- September 16, Orange Co. (Virtual WS 9/8)
- November 18, Location TBD (Virtual WS on 11/10)

