

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

120 HOSPITAL AVENUE NW., LENOIR NC 28645

**Monday, June 22, 2026****NCDSWC****Commission Meeting**

Dear Soil & Water Conservation Commissioners,

Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District is writing to request post approval of contract number 14-2026-801 for \$9,724.00. Caldwell SWCD contracted with these landowners for an AgWRAP water supply well for irrigation in 2023. The cooperators own a high tunnel operation providing locally grown organic vegetables sold at multiple farmers markets in Caldwell and surrounding counties. During the spring months of 2026 Caldwell County, along with much of NC, dealt with extreme draught. Due to the drought, the AGWRAP well had gone almost dry leaving the farmers with little to no water for their crops. They were in immediate need of assistance and contacted the district. The request was evaluated and another contract was necessary to assist in their water shortage. District staff submitted an AgWRAP supplemental allocation request.

Due to the well drillers' schedule and to avoid losing their crops, the producers were at the mercy of the well company. The driller's timeline meant that the second well would be installed before the contract could be approved by the division. Due to the crucial timing of the needed repairs which were no fault of the cooperator, Caldwell SWCD request the Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners approve contract 14-2026-801 for the Hedge Family Farm.

Russel Dellinger

Board of Supervisors Chairman Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District