

The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

# The District Current

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## Working from Behind Closed Doors

The Henderson Soil & Water Conservation District has adjusted to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Our District Board is hosting public meetings via teleconference to continue to conduct business. The office is closed at this time for in-person visits, however the front foyer is open to drop off paperwork or sign documents. Please call our office at (828) 697-4949 to schedule an appointment. To schedule an appointment with the Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please call (828) 693-1406.

While these changes have presented challenges, they have also presented new opportunities. Our Education Coordinator, for example, is able to reach a broader audience with her newly created online content for students and teachers. Additionally, videos are being created to show some of our current restoration projects.

Continued services include field visits and technical assistance. Additionally, our cost share programs are still helping landowners make needed improvements to their properties. While the guidelines for health and safety have required adjustments on everyone's part, the Henderson SWCD is continuing to meet the needs of Henderson County citizens. For information on any of our programs, please contact the office at (828) 697-4949.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Online Lessons  
High Tunnel  
Creek Transformation  
CFAP 2 Available  
2020 Sponsors



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Betsy Gerwig, Conservation Engineer  
Caroline Wicker, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Nelson, NRCS Soil Conservationist

61 Triple Springs Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792

(828) 697-4949

[www.hendersoncountync.gov/soilwater](http://www.hendersoncountync.gov/soilwater)

## HCSWCD Offers Online Educational Lessons

“Pivot and proceed!” That is what the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District Education Coordinator, April Hoyt, has done to meet the demands for virtual content in light of COVID-19. As teachers adapt to new teaching styles amidst these challenging times, April has created online presentations, called “Prezis”, to freely share.

A “Prezi” is an online presentation with visuals and audio. These presentations are similar to PowerPoint, but allow the user to zoom in and out to dynamically experience the content. Prezis can be accessed through the internet or can be printed, used as stand-alone presentations or incorporated into a teacher’s lessons. They contain a combination of text, slides, and videos. Instructions for hands-on activities are also included. Live stream Question and Answer sessions can be scheduled in addition.

Currently, the following materials are available:

“We All Live in a Watershed” for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & Exceptional Children  
Soil Lessons for 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Mini Activities/Experiment Demos (live stream option) for grades K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Exceptional Children  
Educational Contest Material for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup>

April Hoyt is available to tailor these lessons to meet teacher’s needs and allow all students (whether in class or out) to participate. Lessons are aligned with NC Essential Standards and are offered free of charge.

To inquire as to the use of these and other educational materials, please contact April Hoyt at (828) 697-4949 or [april.hoyt@usda.gov](mailto:april.hoyt@usda.gov). Or, check out our website at

<https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/soilwater/page/education>.



## Zimmerman High Tunnel

Have you ever wondered what a high tunnel is or how to construct one on your property? This short video by the Veteran's Healing Farm will answer these questions and more. The 30' x 46' Zimmerman high tunnel featured in the video was funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and a grant from the New-  
man's Own Foundation. The structure was erected at the Veteran's Healing Farm in Hendersonville and serves as a season-extension tool for the myriad of produce grown to benefit local veterans. Emily Nelson, the NRCS Soil Conservationist for Henderson County, is featured!

Please click the link below to watch:

[https://www.facebook.com/veteranshealingfarm/videos/high-tunnel-construction-workshop/619357335443635/?\\_so=\\_permalink&\\_rv=\\_related\\_videos](https://www.facebook.com/veteranshealingfarm/videos/high-tunnel-construction-workshop/619357335443635/?_so=_permalink&_rv=_related_videos)

To apply for EQIP or other NRCS programs, an on-site visit will be conducted by a Soil Conservationist and a Conservation Plan will be written. Upon availability of funding, NRCS will review all eligible program applications and rank those applications based on the greatest environmental impact the application will have related to natural resource conservation. Applications ranked highest will receive priority for funding; others will receive funding in ranking order until funds are exhausted.

For more information, please contact Emily Nelson via phone at (828) 693-1406, extension 3 or email her at [emily.nelson3@usda.gov](mailto:emily.nelson3@usda.gov).



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Contributed Article from Resource Institute:

### Restoration Radically Transforms Reedy Patch Creek

Resource Institute recently completed construction of a stream restoration project in Edneyville, NC, partnering with landowner Mark Hill, Ph.D., and other members of Far Afield, LLC, to restore a section of Reedy Patch Creek, a tributary of the Broad River.

Reedy Patch Creek flows through the Far Afield, LLC property, a former cattle farm, now transitioning to a tree farm. The property experienced several severe floods, including a 2018 event that washed away several bridges nearby. The streambanks suffered critical erosion due to limited stabilizing vegetation. As a result, the creek widened excessively and was not adequately transporting sediment, causing significant downstream silt deposits.

Dr. Hill and other members of the Hill Family had been searching for a solution to Reedy Patch's issues after they purchased the property in early 2017. NRCS District Conservationist Emily Nelson recommended a "natural channel design" approach to improve stream stability and habitat functions. She suggested that they apply for assistance from Resource Institute, a Winston-Salem based nonprofit, working predominantly in North Carolina to restore streams, rivers, and wetlands. Far Afield was able to qualify for federal and state funding through Resource Institute's Western Initiative Stream Restoration program.

Resource Institute, as the project manager, assembled a team of stream restoration specialists; [Jennings Environmental, LLC](#) completed the assessment, design, and engineering plans, [North State Environmental](#) constructed the project, and [Henderson Soil & Water District](#) provided additional support. The project was funded through grants from [USDA NRCS](#) and the [North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund](#).

Dr. Hill was especially impressed with North State Environmental during the project construction phase. North State was mindful of the existing Far Afield forestry plan and worked with Dr. Hill to cut at-risk trees for incorporation into the stream restoration project as bank and instream structures to create fish habitat.

Dr. Hill says, "This was a gratifying partnership, and Reedy Patch Creek has undergone an amazing transformation. The construction phase of the project just finished, and we already see minnows. The willows that were transplanted are sending out branches, and the goldfinches are back."

The project is nearly complete. Instream construction wrapped up the week of July 12, and riparian buffer planting is scheduled to begin this Fall. The project team will continue to work with Dr. Hill and Far Afield to plant native species to enhance stream habitat and augment their forestry plan and existing pawpaw plantings. In particular, the team will plant additional trees along the stream to create a shade canopy to reduce water temperature and improve aquatic habitat.

Alan Walker, Resource Institute's project manager, has high expectations for Reedy Patch Creek. "It's incredible to work with such a willing landowner like Dr. Hill. Areas upstream of this project are also in distress, suffering the same severely eroding streambanks and lack of habitat. Many of the upstream landowners took a keen interest in this project, indicating there is potential for more of Reedy Patch Creek to be restored and stabilized."

Article obtained from: <https://www.resourceinstituteinc.org/news> on July 29, 2020



## Restoration Radically Transforms Reedy Patch Creek, continued



An aerial view of the Reedy Patch Creek stream restoration project prior to construction, November, 2019



Prior to construction Reedy Patch Creek's streambanks showed critical erosion due to limited stabilizing vegetation.



Reedy Patch Creek instream structures looking upstream, July 2020



An aerial view of the Reedy Patch Creek stream restoration post instream construction, July 2020

## Farm Service Agency Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2)

**WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, 2020** – President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.

“America’s agriculture communities are resilient, but still face many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump is once again demonstrating his commitment to ensure America’s farmers and ranchers remain in business to produce the food, fuel, and fiber America needs to thrive,” said Secretary Perdue. “We listened to feedback received from farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations about the impact of the pandemic on our nations’ farms and ranches, and we developed a program to better meet the needs of those impacted.”

### Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs. CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

### Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

### Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning Sept. 21, 2020. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). For additional questions, please contact the Henderson, Polk, Transylvania, and Rutherford Farm Service Agency at (828)693-1406, extension 2.



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Vice President

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 609  
Horse Shoe, NC 28742  
Physical Address:  
331 Banner Farm Road  
Mills River, NC 28759

Toll Free: (866) 721-7988  
Office: (828) 890-3630  
Ext. 237  
Fax: (828) 890-1019  
Mobile: (828) 329-8622  
Email: kirbyj@flavor1st.com



**FARM CREDIT**

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Commercial Ag/Consumer Loan Officer

EMAIL brooks.owenby@carolinafarmcredit.com

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**MANY THANKS TO  
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**Our mission:**

To provide educational, technical and financial assistance to conserve soil, improve water quality and enhance the natural resources of Henderson County.

