

The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District News Briefs

District Honors Conservationist of the Year



The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to announce that Mack (Mackie) A Beard Jr. was awarded the 2014 Clarendon Conservationist of the Year Award.

Mackie farms approximately 1400 acres in Clarendon, Williamsburg, and Florence counties, with his farm headquarters in Barrineau, SC. Farm outputs include sweet potatoes, cabbage, collards, turnips, squash, cucumber, small grain and corn. Mackie sells his produce locally and is a pillar of the community, always willing to donate produce to local organizations and churches for meetings that aim to educate the community on agricultural life.

One of Mackie's greatest strengths is not being afraid to try new and improved methods of farming. "Years ago there was no soil sampling or precision agriculture" Mackie said, "but it is something that has proven to be a more efficient way of farming to the new generation. It tells you what you need, where you need it, and how much you need." Mackie is a conservative farmer who owns and rents the land that he farms. He says that he treats all the land as if it was his own and manages it conservatively so that it will be viable for future generations to continue farming.

The greatest challenge facing Mackie, as well as all farmers in the area, is the economy. Mackie said, "We are still paying what we were paying 3 years ago to sell \$15 soybeans, we are putting the same input in this crop but the output price is cut in half." This is why it is so important to introduce conservation practices into your farming routine, not only will it preserve the natural resources that are there, but it will also prove to be cost effective in the long run.

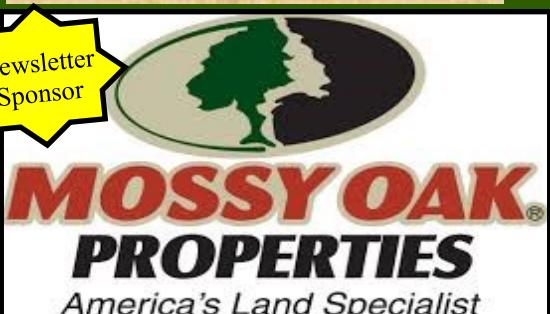
The Conservation District is again very proud to have Mackie as our 2014 Conservationist of the Year. We thank him for his hard work and dedication to preserving our natural resources.

The district would like to thank all of our Affiliate Members who came to the Annual Banquet on June 5, 2015. It is because of your support each year that we are able to provide Clarendon County with the various educational programs that promote wise use and care of our natural resources.

2015 Affiliate Membership Banquet



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No-Till: A Better Way to Farm

The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss here in our county by renting our No-Till Drill for your planting needs. We have **two** Great Plains No-Till Drills (one with small seed attachment) available for rent. The drills are available to rent for \$7 an acre plus an affiliate membership fee for non-members.

For additional information please call the office at 435-2612 ex 3.



Well-designed watering systems protect soil and water quality while improving livestock health and productivity.

Many well-placed watering facilities means that manure and urine are more evenly spread across a pasture, enhancing grass growth and avoiding runoff of nutrients into surface waters. Multiple watering points also keep livestock from overgrazing the area around any one tank and prevent soil erosion caused by livestock trailing habitually to and from the same spot.

Well-planned livestock water systems are especially important in riparian areas — i.e., in or near stream corridors and around lakes or ponds. They reduce sediment and nutrient loading in streams and lakes by preventing bank and shore erosion and limiting the amount of livestock urine and feces deposited directly in the water. Livestock are also less likely to contract foot disease because they are not continuously standing in the streams or on the stream banks.

If you would like to know more about Watering Facilities for your livestock, you can contact the USDA/NRCS staff at 803-435-2612. 3.



The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District is partnering with Clemson Extension's County 4-H Agent to hold a 4-H2O camp in Clarendon County.

4H2O is a water-based science camp that allows students an opportunity to learn and experience the state's water resources first-hand. Some of the activities will include: dip netting, microscope viewing, EnviroScape presentation, fishing, swimming, a boat tour, and fish tasting.

Date: July 28-30, 2015

Time: 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Ages: 9-14 years old

Cost: \$75

For additional information please contact Casey Blackmon at 803-435-2612 ext 101.

Conservation Practice Spotlight

Watering Facility

A watering facility is a permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock. Watering Facilities improve water quantity and quality by providing a clean, reliable, easily accessible water supply for animals away from water bodies. Watering facilities are often implemented in conjunction with several other practices (pipeline, heavy use areas, water well, cross fence) that make up a watering system.

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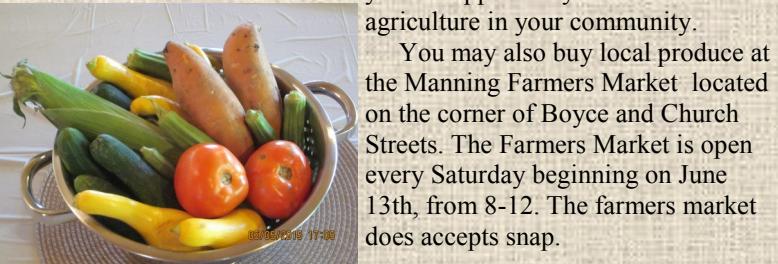
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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS!

Locally grown and marketed products taste better and are more nutritious for you. By supporting local farmers today, you can help ensure that there will be farms in our community tomorrow, and that future generations will have access to nourishing, flavorful and abundant food.

There are many farmers that sell produce and vegetables at their own roadside stands throughout the county. When you buy direct from the farmer, you are re-establishing a time-honored connection between the eater and the grower. A connection that gives you the opportunity to learn about agriculture in your community.



Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
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