

Saluda

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In conjunction with Saluda County Clemson Extension Service, the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District held a Pesticide Safety and Proper Pesticide Storage Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The meeting was held at T & S Farm Banquet Hall in Leesville, SC.

This was a very informative meeting focusing on the importance of proper handling, storage, and disposal of all pesticides, including herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

This was a very successful event with 110 landowners in attendance. Everyone had a great time, learned a lot of valuable information, and earned credit towards their pesticide license.



Other Notable Accomplishments



Saluda High School Ag students utilized funds from the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District to plant raised garden beds.

2022 Tomato Project Winners



The Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with Saluda County 4-H to help youth learn about growing tomatoes.

Conservation by the Numbers

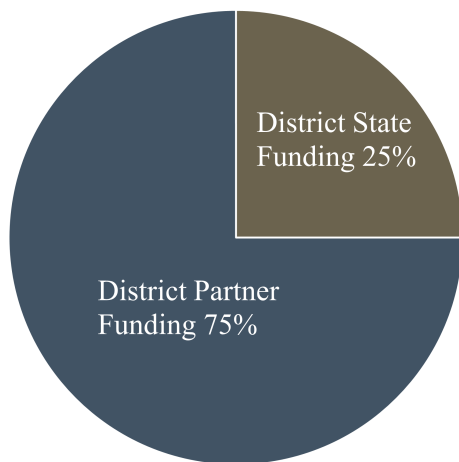
- 12 FFA students participated in the Raised Garden Bed Project; 100 4-H students were given five tomato plants to learn how to grow tomatoes; 10 FFA students attended the Outdoor Adventure Camp; 258 students received educational materials for Soil Stewardship Week at local schools
- 2 district employees assisted NRCS with EQIP contracts and check-outs

2023 District Plans

- Provide health insurance for our full-time Conservation District Manager
- Host an Annual Banquet and Pesticide Safety and Proper Storage Meeting
- Use increase in state appropriated funds to sponsor FFA Projects, 4-H Projects, Woodland Clinic, and SC Commissioner's School of Agriculture at Clemson University

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

State FY23 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY22.

More than 72,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 1.3 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 44,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.