

# Edgefield

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Biggest Achievement of 2022



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

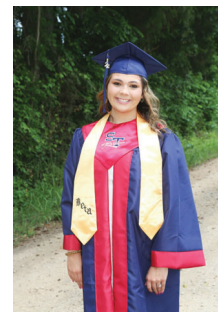
The Edgefield Soil and Water Conservation District (ESWCD) hosted the Southeast Regional Conservationist of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), James Tillman, for a round table with Edgefield County landowners and producers. Discussions were centered around NRCS technical service issues within Edgefield County. More than 30 local landowners, congressional delegations, soil and water conservation district representatives, and partners attended the round table. Input was provided first hand from landowners who had experienced service issues and proposed resolutions were provided by Mr. Tillman.

Since this meeting, the Edgefield Soil and Water Conservation District continues to work towards improving NRCS service issues through advocating on behalf of producers, landowners, and constituents.

### **Other Notable Accomplishment**

This year, ESWCD was excited to continue the Annual Bob Bowie Scholarship by providing funds to a student pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field of study.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Bailey Hyler, an Edgefield resident pursuing her degree in AgriBusiness at Clemson University.



### **Conservation by the Numbers**

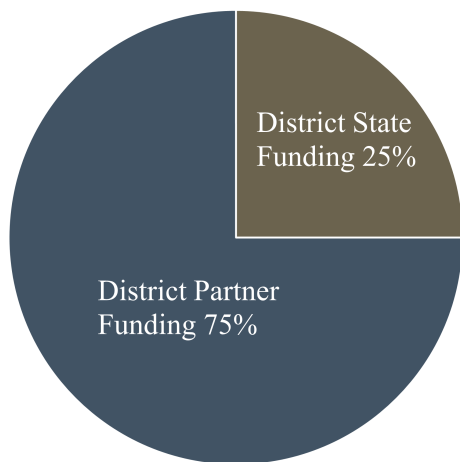
- District Affiliate Drive was very successful with ESWCD having more than 35 Affiliate Members
- Education outreach to more than 400 students
- Served 100 landowners with conservation technical assistance

### **2023 District Plans**

- Advocate for enhanced NRCS service to Edgefield County
- Promote SC Envirothon in the high schools
- Increase landowner workshops using additional state appropriated funds
- Offer and grow awareness for the Bob Bowie Scholarship

# 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.**

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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.