

# PRESS RELEASE

## North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Funds are Available

**Franklin County, August 4, 2008:** The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District has received its annual cost share allocation from the state for nonpoint source pollution control from agricultural activities. These funds are available to assist landowners in installing conservation practices which help decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals and other pollutants from reaching the surface and ground water of the county.

The District received approximately \$59,083 in its first allocation for the program year 2009 which began July 1, 2008. \$5,101 of this allocation is designated for use only in the Upper Sandy Creek Watershed Area.

Landowners and operators of existing agricultural operations may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices such as grass planting in their tobacco rotation, grassed waterways, fencing out riparian areas, wells and water tanks for animal operations, cropland conversion to trees or native warm season grasses, long term no-till and many more. The District has 53 conservation practices that allow flexibility on each farm, down to each field.

### Prioritization Process

1. Applications are received in the Soil & Water office beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> for the new Program Year 2009.
2. Each application is considered individually by the District Board based on the adopted prioritization form.
3. Applications are given a resource score based on that resource need and ranked against other application resource scores. An application score between 100 and 125 will be Highly Eligible. Between 50 and 99 will be considered Eligible. 49 or less will be ineligible.
4. Highly Eligible applications will be considered at each board meeting August thru December. Eligible applications will be considered at each board meeting January thru May.

If you would like more information or wish to apply for funds, call the District office at 496-3137 ext. 3. The office will send a conservation specialist to visit you on your farm and discuss solutions for protecting nearby creeks, streams and rivers in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins.

*Franklin County Government is committed to effective and innovative public services for all Franklin County citizens and businesses.*