**News Release**

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Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Herman Wheatley, District Board Chair Jan. 14, 2012

 Media Contact: Michael Wald

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cell: (706) 612-6394

Athens, Georgia 30603 Email: mwald@gaswcc.org

**Help for small and new farmers in Banks, Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, Oglethorpe and Wilkes counties**

**ATHENS, Ga. –** The Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded a new $19,250 grant to assist small and new farmers in its seven county district, which includes Banks
Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, Oglethorpe and Wilkes counties.

The Broad River District will partner with other conservation groups and producers to promote sound conservation practices and highlight what assistance is available to producers.

“We recognize the need to promote sound conservation practices to protect our natural resources.” said Herman Wheatley, District Board Chair. “We are very excited to be able to offer environmental educational opportunities to the citizens of Georgia.”

The district will hold four targeted outreach programs and one small farm conference during the coming year. Topics will range from farm tax and accounting principles to organic farming, water efficiency and product marketing practices. The funding comes from a grant awarded to the district by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

If you would like additional information on attending or participating in one of the upcoming events contact Robert Amos at 706-552-4479 or ramos@gaswcc.org.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts were created in 1937 by the Georgia General Assembly to protect the state's soil and water resources following the Dust Bowl of the 1930's.  Districts provide a way for citizens to set local resource priorities for state and federal assistance programs. At the state level, the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) supports locally led soil and water conservation districts through education, technical, financial and planning assistance and through program oversight.

Local conservation project funding is provided by the State of Georgia, along with grants from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, USDA-NRCS and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

More information is available at [www.gaswcc.org](http://www.gaswcc.org) or by calling (706) 552-4470.

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