Broad River
Soil and Water Conservation District

FY-2013 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

District Objectives

Soil Resources:

Objective: Control soil erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality by emphasizing highly effective conservation practices.

Action Items:

1. Review with city and county authorities' local soil erosion and sediment control ordinances for needed revisions and to encourage enforcement.
2. Encourage each county to promote and encourage use of soil survey in land use planning.
3. Convene local work groups to set priorities for the EQIP program under the new farm bill.
4. Carryout the district responsibilities under the new farm bill.

Water Resources:

Objective: Promote land uses to reduce flood damages and encourage good water management for sustained quality and quantity.

Action Items:

1. In watersheds where the county has responsibility for operation and maintenance, the supervisors will contact local governments to encourage them to perform the necessary maintenance. Supervisors will be a part of the inspecting team to inspect the watershed structures.
2. Work with city, county and state officials in developing an adequate water supply to meet anticipated future needs.
3. Encourage the use of dry hydrants to improve rural fire protection.
4. A designated district supervisor from each county will be responsible for working with the NRCS on the disposition of watershed structure and other planned improvements, problems and opportunities.

Forestry:

Objective: Promote wise use of forest resources and attempt to increase forest landowners' profits through good management for maximum wood production and soil conservation.

Action Items:

1. Invite local Georgia forestry representatives to attend district meetings.
2. Review memorandum with Georgia Forestry Commission.
3. Obtain information on latest research on reforestation.
4. Encourage participation in forest stewardship programs.

Education and Information:

Objective: Develop and carryout effective information program that will improve district visibility.

Action Items:

1. Send notice of meeting to a newspaper in each county.
2. Invite county school superintendents and county commission chairperson to attend at least one district meeting to discuss conservation education.
3. Promote conservation education through the Resources Conservation Workshop. Establish and emphasize programs through the district to recognize the highest scoring (top student) from the Broad River District. Co-sponsor each student by paying $100 toward the tuition of $150 for the workshop held in June at ABAC in Tifton, Georgia.
4. Invite news media to attend district meetings especially the annual meeting.
5. Arrange and conduct functions like banquets, luncheons and cookouts to recognize individuals for their contributions to soil and water conservation and promote greater participation.
6. Publish a newsletter quarterly for affiliate members.

Soil, Water and Air Stewardship:

Objective: Observe Soil, Water and Air Stewardship Week throughout Georgia during the National Week of observance and promote soil, water and air stewardship every day of the year.

Action Items:

1. Order soil stewardship materials to distribute in each county. Each county will only order what it needs. Ask the extension director in each county to help publicize soil stewardship week and to serve on the county committee for soil stewardship.

Legislature:

Objective: Keep legislators well informed on conservation needs.

Action Items:

1. Encourage the county commission to support the district with funds to employ a county employee in the NRCS offices.

Farm Bill for 1985, 1990 and 1996 (Food Security Act):

Objective: Meeting requirements of 1985, 1990, 1996, 2002 and 2006 Farm Bill.

Action Items:

1. The district will use all means possible to be sure all landowners are aware of the provisions of the Farm Bill.

Finances

1. Prepare an annual budget.
2. Submit a written financial statement to the Board monthly.
3. Manage district financial and material resources to meet district goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines.
4. Manage and expend funds made available through private, local, state and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education.
5. Seek outside sources of income to strengthen and support district activities and programs.

District Business Meetings and Operations:

Objective: To conduct district business in accordance with district law and policy.

Action Items:

1. The supervisors in counties without an NRCS office will work to establish and maintain a District Office in their county.
2. Prepare an annual budget for state funds and for district funds.
3. Comply with all state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
4. Supervisors in each county will work to implement their plan of work as listed in the attached plan of work supplement.

Banks County

Objective 1: Seek greater involvement and improve relationships with all agricultural agencies and groups to ensure adequate resource information.

Goal 1: Educate public of District activities.

Action:

1. Encourage and provide local teachers with agricultural resources materials for use in public education.
2. Work with FFA and 4-H to deliver Soil and Water Stewardship materials to local churches.

Goal 2: Maintain cooperation and support of other groups.

Action:

1. Obtain assistance from county in maintaining the sixteen watershed structures in Banks County.
2. Remain alert to any potential permanent structures being built within easement area of local structures.
3. Seek to raise affiliate members by two during this calendar year.
4. Work with county to continue providing office space for a Broad River District.

Elbert County

Objective 1: Work closer with all groups and other agencies to make sure that they are getting adequate conservation information about all of the programs such as EQIP, FLEP, CRP and all the rest of our programs.

Goal 1: Involve the public more in district functions.

Action:

1. Encourage and provide local teachers with agricultural resource materials for use in public and home school education.
2. Arrange a tour with the district for the local producers.
3. See that the time and place of each Broad River District monthly meeting is published in the local paper.
4. Get articles to the local newspaper emphasizing programs that the district is sponsoring or have input.
5. Try to get at least 2 to 4 local students to attend the Natural Resource Conservation Workshop at Cochran.

Goal 2: Working to keep the support and cooperation of other groups.

Action:

1. Invite as many people as possible to become affiliate members of the Broad River District. Seek two new affiliate members and maintain those we have.
2. Get the county to maintain the watershed dam in Elbert county to a passable stage.
3. See that all erosion and sedimentation control plans from Elbert County and the City of Elberton are developed and reviewed by the district.
4. Encourage all of the local agencies within the county to attend local work groups and other meetings that are held in the county during the year.
5. Do a workshop on Erosion & Sediment Control in Elbert County with all local officials and contractors.

Objective 2: Make sure that all resources within Elbert County are utilized, including human and financial.

Goal 1: Get private industries and local units of government to help the district carryout their programs.

Action:

1. Work with the CED from FSA, the County Agent from the Extension Service, FSA committee and the Georgia Forestry Commission to secure funds for EQIP for Elbert County and also 319 funds from the State Conservation Commission or RC&D.

Objective 3: See that water quality and quantity are improved and that soil erosion is reduced.

Goal 1: Implement and support activities that will install conservation systems on at least 1000 acres.

Action:

1. Meet with the Beef Cattle Association about installing more heavy use areas.
2. Help landowners implement BMP's through programs for critical area treatment to protect 100 acres.

Franklin County

Objective 1: Seek greater involvement and improve relationships with all agricultural agencies and groups to ensure adequate resources information.

Goal 1: Educate public of District activities.

Action:

1. Encourage and provide local teachers with agricultural resource materials for use in public and home school education.

2. Provide timely articles to local newspapers emphasizing the activities of the district.
3. Plan and arrange tour or program for district meeting in the county.
4. Notify all minorities, women and low-income producers of opportunities to participate in USDA programs.

Goal 2: Maintain cooperation and support of other groups.

Action:

1. Obtain assistance from county in maintaining the twelve watershed structures in Franklin County.
2. Remain alert to any potential permanent structures being built within easement area of local structures.
3. Invite other local agencies or government officials to attend at least one-district supervisors meeting a year.
4. Seek to raise affiliate members by two during this calendar year.
5. Assist cities and EPD with erosion and sediment control plan reviews.
6. Work with local NRCS office to obtain funding for EQIP, WHIP and WINGS incentive funding.

Objective 2: Utilize financial and human resources as obtained to assure effectiveness and efficiency of the District program in Franklin County.

Goal 1: Work with local units of government, private industries and other individuals in carrying out the district program.

Action:

1. Work jointly with federal and local governments to maintain office space for NRCS in Franklin County, which is accessible to the handicap, and provide adequate space for employees.
2. Work with Farm Service Agency county committee and Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete implementation of programs and provide direct assistance to producers on an equal basis.
3. Assist Natural Resources Conservation Service with implementation of FSA plans by reviewing revisions and new plans once written and approved by operator.
4. Convene local work group for Franklin County to set priority resource concerns for USDA program funding so recommendations may be made to entire district.
5. Encourage all minorities, women and low-income producers to participate in available USDA Programs.

Objective 3: Remain actively involved in the overall program to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality and quantity.

Goal 1: Support activities, which will implement conservation systems on 2500 acres in Franklin County.

Action:

1. Treat 1500 acres under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program as funds become available.
2. Encourage local operators to protect 30 acres of critical areas, which are eroding at excessive rates.
3. Encourage local operators to continue using no-till and conservation tillage systems to protect some 300+ acres of cropland.
4. Encourage one or more landowners to develop Forest Stewardship plans.
5. Assist the State Conservation Commission with implementation of the Upper Broad River 319.

Goal 2: Assist in obtaining funds for Agricultural Programs and be aware of local program needs and operation.

Action:

1. Serve as a part of the EQIP application assessment committee.
2. Support initiatives to obtain funding for special projects and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).
3. Support local efforts by businesses and private groups who are seeking to implement a sound agricultural initiative.

Goal 3: Provide assistance in review process of agricultural programs.

Action:

1. Participate in the operation and maintenance reviews of local watershed structures immediately following severe flooding.
2. Participate with the assessment of damages received due to natural disasters.
3. Participate in the annual Conservation Review Group activities.

Hart County

Objective 1: Seek greater involvement and improve relationships with all agricultural agencies and groups to ensure adequate resource information.

Goal 1: Educate public of District activities.

Action:

1. Provide timely articles to local newspapers emphasizing the activities of the district.

2. Encourage two (2) young women and/or men to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.

Goal 2: Maintain cooperation and support of other groups.

Action:

1. Obtain assistance from county in maintaining the six watershed structures in Hart County.
2. Invite other local agencies or government officials to attend at lease one district supervisors meeting a year.
3. Seek to raise affiliate members by two during this calendar year.
4. Encourage county to support the County Employee Program in Hart County.

Objective 2: Utilize financial and human resources as obtained to assure effectiveness and efficiency of the District program in Hart County.

Goal 1: Work with local units of government, private industries and other individuals in carrying out the district program.

Action:

1. Convene local work groups to establish criteria for USDA funding.
2. Work with FSA county committee and Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete implementation of cost share programs.
3. Assist Natural Resources Conservation Service with implementation of FSA plans by reviewing revisions and new plans once written and approved by operator.
4. Encourage minorities, women and low-income producers to participate in USDA programs.

Objective 3: Remain actively involved in the overall program to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality and quantity.

Goal 1: Support activities, which will implement conservation systems on 3500 acres in Hart County.

Action:

1. Treat 2000 acres under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program as funds become available.
2. Treat 2500 acres through 319 programs and other programs in Hart County as funding becomes available.
3. Encourage local operators to protect 15 acres of critical areas, which are eroding at excessive rates.

4. Encourage local operators to continue using no-till and conservation tillage systems to protect some 1500+ acres of cropland.

Goal 2: Assist in obtaining funds for Agricultural Programs and be aware of local program needs and operation.

Action:

1. Serve as a part of EQIP application assessment committee.
2. Support initiatives to obtain additional funding for special projects.
3. Support local efforts by businesses and private groups who are seeking to implement a sound agricultural initiative.
4. Marking of watershed easement areas for local landowners as requested.

Goal 3: Provide assistance in review process of agricultural programs.

Action:

1. Participate in the operation and maintenance reviews of local watershed structures immediately following severe flooding.
2. Participate with the assessment of damages received due to natural disasters.
3. Participate in the annual conservation review group activities.

Madison County

1. Sponsor at least two (2) students to Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at Cochran, Georgia.
2. Will distribute soil stewardship material to schools.
3. Administer EQIP and other programs under new farm bill.
4. Increase the number of affiliate members.

Oglethorpe County

Objective 1: Work closer with all groups and other agencies to make sure that they are getting adequate conservation information about all of the programs such as EQIP, FLEP, CRP and all the rest of our programs.

Goal 1: Involve the public more in district functions.

Action:

1. Make sure the local Cattlemen and Farm Bureau in Oglethorpe County have access to soil stewardship materials.
2. Work with teachers and the principles at elementary schools to do one conservation program per year. The district supervisors and the district conservationist will put on the program.

3. Arrange a tour with the District for the local farmers to see a conservation practice that other farmers have installed.

4. See that the time and place of each Broad River district monthly meeting is published in the local paper.

5. Get articles to the local newspaper emphasizing programs that the district is sponsoring or have input.

6. Arrange a Rotary Program related to Ag Business.

Goal 2: Working to keep the support and cooperation of other groups.

Action:

1. Invite as many people as possible to become affiliate members of the Broad River District.

2. Get the county to maintain all of the watershed dams in Oglethorpe County to a passable stage on a bi-annual inspection schedule.

3. See that all erosion and sedimentation plans from Oglethorpe County and its cities are reviewed by the district.

4. Get all of the local agencies within the county to attend EQIP and other meetings that are held in the county during the year.

Objective 2: Make sure that all resources within Oglethorpe County are utilized including human and financial.

Goal 1: See that at least 2 to 4 students are sent to the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop in June.

Goal 2: Get private industries and local units of government to help the district carryout their programs.

Action:

1. Get one of our dairy farmers in Oglethorpe County to give a lagoon pump-out demonstration.

2. Work with the CED and FSA, the county agency from the Extension Service, FSA committee and the Georgia Forestry Commission to secure funds for EQIP for Oglethorpe County and also, 319 funds from the State Conservation Commission.

Objective 3: See that water quality and quantity are improved and that soil erosion is reduced.

Goal 1: Implement and support activities that will install conservation systems on at least 1500 acres.

Action:

1. Talk with poultry farmers in Oglethorpe County about installing compost house for their operations. Also, help them to obtain Cost share from EQIP or 319.
2. Help landowners secure funds for critical area treatment to protect 15 acres.
3. Work with all of the local fire departments and the county commission of Oglethorpe County to see that the dry hydrants are utilized and maintained.
4. Make sure that all soil disturbing activity in Oglethorpe County that disturb more than 1.0 acres have an erosion and sediment control plan in place before any land disturbing work.

Wilkes County

Soil Resources:

Objective: Control soil erosion and sedimentation, and improve water quality by emphasizing highly effective conservation practices.

Action:

1. Review with city and county authorities local soil erosion and sediment control ordinances for needed revisions and encourage enforcement.
2. Support resources and development projects and participate in RC&D council meetings.
3. Encourage Wilkes County to promote and encourage use of soil survey in land use planning.
4. Manage no-till equipment available through the RC&D area of the Central Savannah River RC&D to seed the highest number of acres possible in the county.
5. Work with NRCS to ensure that all request for services are acted upon in a timely manner.

Water Resources:

Objective: Promote land use to reduce flood damages and encourage good water management for sustained quality and quantity.

Action:

1. Encourage renovation and management of farm ponds as a high priority for NRCS in Wilkes County.
2. Encourage units of government to assume responsibility for controlling development in floodplains.
3. Work with local governments to acquire HUD floodplain maps for the county.

Forestry:

Objective: Promote wise use of forest resources and attempt to increase forest landowners' good management for maximum use and conservation.

Action:

1. Invite local Georgia Forestry Commission Representatives to attend district meetings.
2. Obtain information on latest research on reforestation and make it available to land users.
3. Work with Georgia Forestry Commission to encourage local land users and timber harvesters to utilize Best Management Practices.

Education and Information:

Objective: Develop and carry out effective information program that will improve district visibility.

Action:

1. Promote conservation education through the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop. Have two students attend workshop with District paying $100.00 for each student.
2. Help with implementation of Farm Safety Camp.

Soil, Water & Air Stewardship:

Objective: Observe Soil, Water and Air Stewardship Week throughout Georgia and promote stewardship throughout the entire year.

Action:

1. Place stories in local paper on soil and water stewardship.

Legislature:

Objective: Keep legislators well informed on conservation needs.

Action:

1. Take notices of any legislation affecting conservation and make contact with legislators aware of district opinion.

Farm Bill for 2008:

Objective: Assist NRCS in meeting all requirements of the Farm Bill as they pertain to the district.

Action:

1. The district will provide technical assistance to landowners to complete compliance plans to comply with all of the Farm Bills.
2. The district supervisors in Wilkes County will use all means possible to be sure all landowners are aware of the provisions of the Farm Bills.

Note: The annual plan of work will be reviewed quarterly during the year to note progress in meeting goals. Reports will be given to the district on a regular basis.

Revised May, 2012