

Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District



FY 2020 Annual Accomplishments Report

Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use of our soil, water and related natural resources through education, public information, leadership, technical assistance & development of innovative programs.

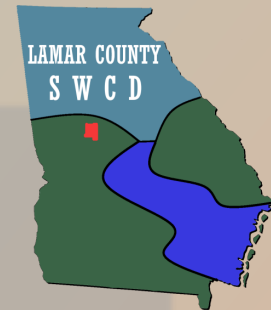


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District Supervisors and Staff

Chad Thompson, *Chairman*

Lynn Parker, *Treasurer/Secretary*

Josh Sappington

Russ Walters, *Vice Chairman*

Andy Bush

Wesley Doyle, *District Program Coordinator*

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Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District Fiscal Year at a Glance

185.5 square land miles covered within the District

7 conservation-centered field days conducted

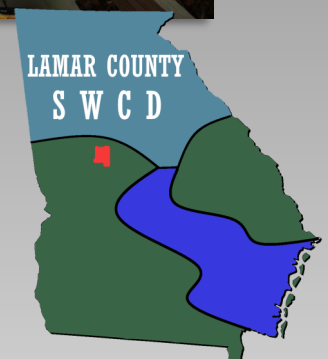
4 watershed dams inspected annually for safety and quality assurance

4 seasonal newsletters distributed amongst 1,600+ subscribers including Lamar County citizens, conservation partners and local agencies

4 Erosion & Sedimentation control plans ratified for construction development sites in Lamar County

194.5 acres planted through no-till planting program

\$90,000+ secured through funding opportunities for conservation education/ outreach and locally-led Conservation District projects



Beef Cattle 101

Educational Workshop Series

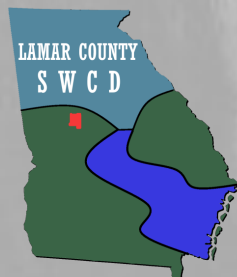
Program Summary

In the late spring/early summer of 2019, several partner organizations convened to plan the details of a comprehensive, “back to basics” course for beginning farmers or as a way to ‘refresh’ on the basics for cattle farmers in the area. These coordinators, including the Lamar County SWCD Board, USDA—NRCS and the Lamar County UGA Cooperative Extension Service, created a monthly workshop series. These monthly programs were to be held on the third Thursday of every month, and they would include topics relevant to soil health, grazing system options and cattle nutrition.

With these principles in mind, the Lamar County Soil & Water Conservation District applied for the ‘Conservation Innovation Grant’ opportunity from the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding from this opportunity would financially assist the Conservation District with program materials, advertising and fully committing to the series for the next 11 months (August 2019—June 2020). Technical assistance for the program was provided by the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service (Carmen Westerfield, USDA—NRCS District Conservationist) and the Lamar County UGA Cooperative Extension Service (Hailey Robinson, Upson/Lamar Counties’ Ag Extension Agent). These partners were invaluable in assessing the needs of the farmers in the Lamar County area.

The series successfully presented 7 monthly programs between August 2019—February 2020. Each program was capped with a meal to series registrants, and each program had a corresponding “program evaluation” to accompany other final results to be summarized and released upon the completion of the Conservation Innovation Grant with USDA—NRCS. Although the series was cut short due to public health concerns related to the historic COVID-19 global pandemic, the Lamar County Conservation District is committed to providing quality conservation education for its citizens and partners alike. As we continue to navigate the uncertainties surrounding public programming for our citizens, the District is working to find innovative ways to host hands-on and digital education presentations for its citizens.

Program presented by:



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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This material is based upon work and funding supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number NR194310XXXXC018.

Beef Cattle 101



Educational Series Sponsors

A special “Thank You” to our pilot program’s sponsors! Without their partnership, ‘Beef Cattle 101’ would not have been possible. These local businesses and organizations are respected leaders in the agricultural and conservation sectors throughout the central Georgia area. Again, we thank you for your contributions and invaluable partnership throughout the series!



Two Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

100 Ridley Avenue, LaGrange, GA 30240
(706) 885-0101; tworiversrcd@hotmail.com



AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA

620 N. Church Street, Thomaston, GA 30286
(706) 647-8991; cthompson@agsouthfc.com



WF Equipment @ Walters Farms

176 Walters Road, Barnesville, GA 30204
(404) 444-0274; russwaltga@yahoo.com



Country Oaks Farm & Home Supply

659 Veterans Parkway, Barnesville, GA 30204
(770) 358-1454; info@countryoaksbarnesville.com



Pennington Seed, Inc.

1280 Atlanta Hwy, Madison, GA 30650
(706) 612-8534; ddenman@central.com



Thompson Veterinary Services

505 Rose Avenue, Barnesville, GA 30204
(470) 223-8387; thompsonvetservices@gmail.com



Rocking Chair Ranch Cattle

Grass-fed, Grass Finished Beef Available; Forsyth, GA
(478) 731-6262; rockingchairranchcattle@gmail.com



USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

231 Hwy 41 N, Suite B, Barnesville, GA 30204
(770) 358-0787 ex. 3; carmen.westerfield@usda.gov

Other Lamar County Soil and Water Conservation District Projects

Lamar County Wetland Nature Trail

The Lamar County SWCD continued its work on the local wetland nature trail, a unique outdoor experience for all kinds of citizens in Lamar County. This trail was constructed 20+ years ago, but gems such as these must be continually maintained, and we thought it was time for the first phase of some renovations! Many supervisors took part in a District “work day” on the trail, working to install new signage, repair cable along the trail path and other wooden structures along the trail. These new materials were purchased as part of the “Lamar Gives 365” community grant from the Barnesville-Lamar Community Foundation. New phases of the trail are being planned, but there is still plenty to enjoy along the trail now; take a family trip and check out during this beautiful springtime weather!



Lamar County Watershed Dams Inspections FY 2020

Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, in partnership with local and state governments as well as USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service, are charged with the safety and quality inspection of local watershed dams in the respective areas. Watershed structures no. 78 and no. 103 are located in Lamar County, and these structures are inspected annually by the Lamar County government, USDA—NRCS Barnesville Field Office and Lamar County SWCD. Noted repairs and maintenance are taken care of by the Lamar County Roads and Public Works Dept.



Thank you to the Barnesville NRCS Field Office for another year of successful partnership and technical assistance to the citizens of Lamar County!



Pictured left to right: Wesley Doyle: Lamar Co. Conservation District Program Coordinator, Brenda Logan: USDA—NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Lisa Minick: Lamar County Soil Technician, Carolyn Toman: Monroe County Soil Technician (now retired), Carmen Westerfield: USDA—NRCS District Conservationist, and William Pitts: Pike County Soil Technician

Thank you to our partners in conservation!

Public education and technical assistance are two of the most significant conservation initiatives taking place in agriculture today. We'd like to once again thank our partners for their continual support in assisting our citizens, farmers and landowners.



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