



**Sullivan County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

Annual Report

FY

**20
25**

August 2025



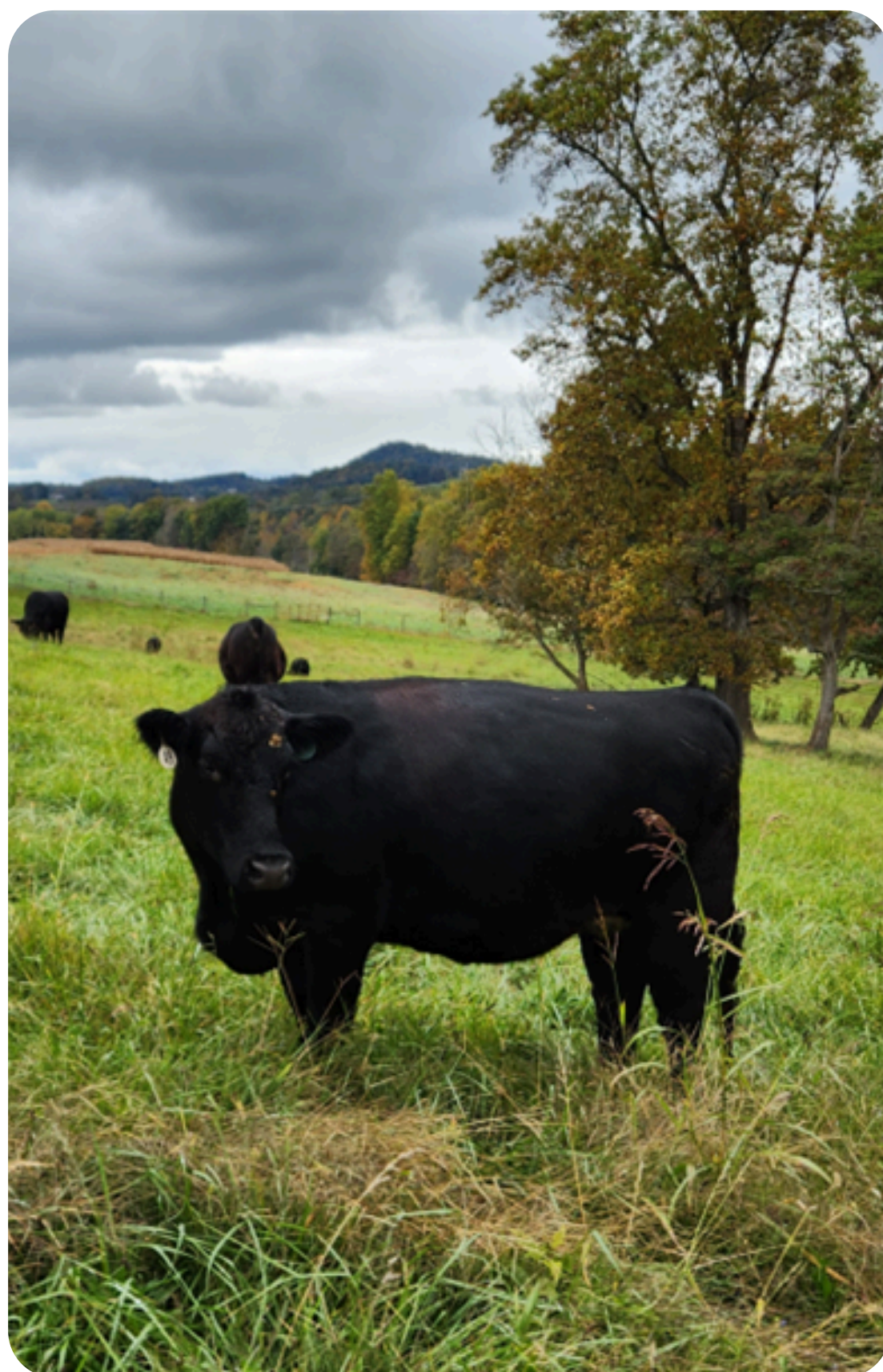
Table of Contents

- Who We Are
 - Partnerships
 - Highlights
 - Conservation Programs
 - Outreach & Education
 - Financial Overview
- 
- 
- 



Who We Are





The **Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District** (SCSWCD), has proudly served Sullivan County since its establishment on August 20, 1953. As a nonprofit organization formed under the Tennessee Soil Conservation District Act of 1939, SCSWCD is dedicated to supporting the county's farmers, landowners, and communities. We collaborate with a variety of agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to provide cost-share assistance, technical support, and conservation education across Sullivan County. Our mission is to promote proven conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, enhance water quality, and encourage sustainable land use throughout the region.

Board of Supervisors

Dwight King, Chairman
Chris Widener, Vice-Chairman
Zane Vanover, Secretary-Treasurer

Forrest Ramsey, Member
Maggie Malone, Member



Staff

SCSWCD

Kandice Ray, District Office Manager
Matthew Davis, District Technician

NRCS

Robbie Miles, District Conservationist



Partnerships

Partnerships



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Department of
Agriculture



UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



National Association of
Conservation Districts



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



APPALACHIAN
R&D COUNCIL



Sponsors & Affiliates

Acorn Electrical Specialists

Baker's Construction & Excavation Co.

Crumley Farms

Earhart Campground

Farm Bureau Insurance – Justin Hite

Hunigan Farms

Sullivan County Farm Bureau



Highlights

Impact



30+ contracts and projects across CSP, EQIP, ARCF, and NASDA



\$555,745 delivered in support

Education & Outreach



Numerous school visits, land & forestry judging competitions



Agriculture Day demos, guest speakers, and a community blood drive

Youth Recognition



4 NACD poster contest winners



2 Scholarships awarded to graduating seniors

Awards & Leadership



Hunigan Farms named Conservation Farmer of the Year



Charlie Phelps & Boone Lake Association honored for long term-conservation service

Looking Ahead



Continuing a legacy of stewardship through impact, innovation, and local partnership



Conservation Programs



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



5

**New contracts covering 68
acres**



\$135,532

Allocated Funding



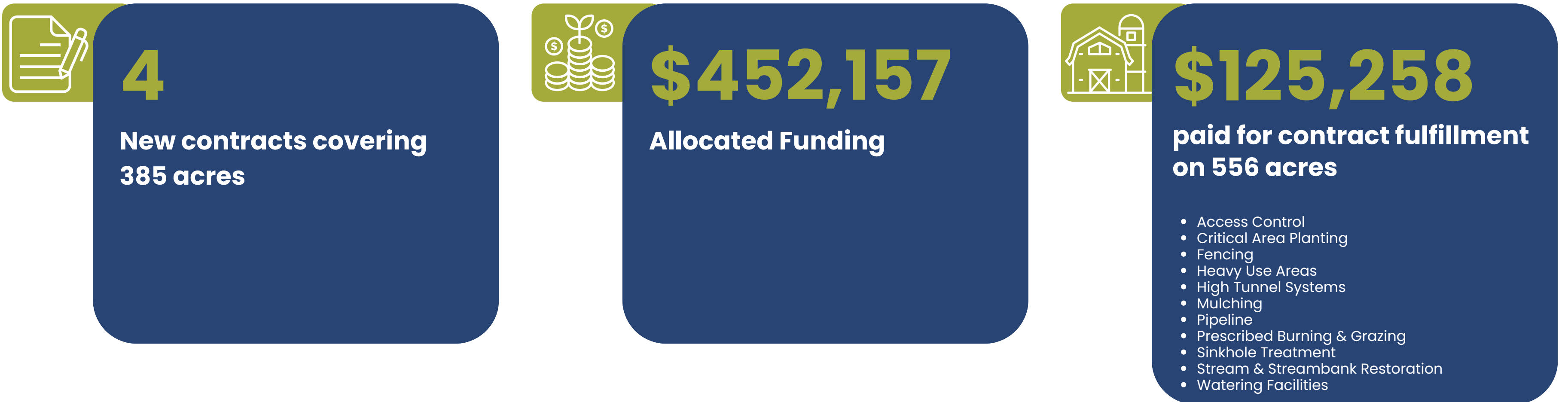
\$158,087

**paid for contract fulfillment
on 2,098 acres**

- Brush Management
- Firebreak
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Monarch Butterfly Habitats
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Short-interval Burns

CSP is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting additional conservation activities and maintaining their baseline level of conservation. CSP is for producers who are passionate about conservation and environmental stewardship.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF)



14

**Projects covering 488
acres**



\$105,525

**Additional Approved
Funding**



\$152,082

**paid for completed
practices**

- Fencing
- Heavy Use Areas
- Pipeline
- Planting & Conversion
- Roof Runoff Structures
- Sinkhole Treatment
- Underground Outlets
- Various Water Focused Practices

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) ARCF provides cost-share assistance to Tennessee landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce agricultural water pollution.



National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)



10

Projects covering 117 acres



\$180,000

Approved Funding



\$33,107

paid for completed practices

- Fencing
- Heavy Use Areas
- Pasture & Hay Planting
- Pipeline
- Roof Runoff Structures
- Various Water Focused Practices

NASDA, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), helps underserved farmers steward natural resources and improve water quality and habitats to benefit the Gulf of Mexico Watershed ecosystems.



Outreach & Education



NACD Poster Contest

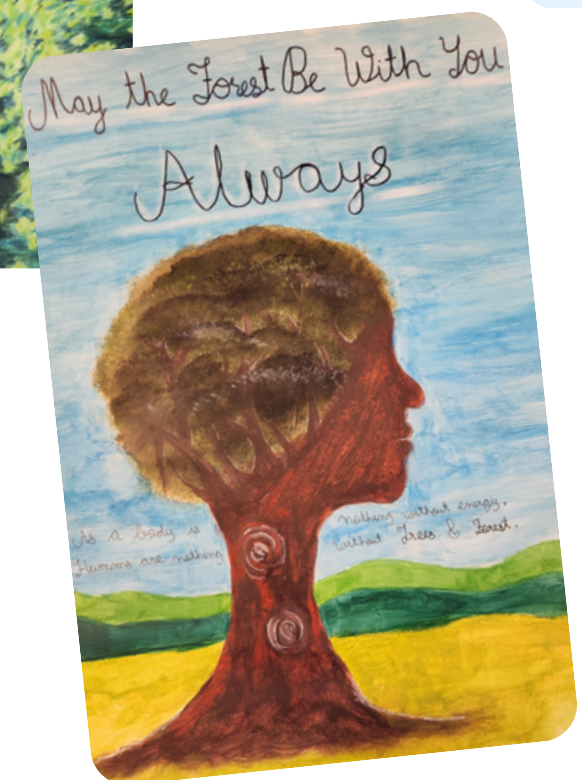
Each Year, SCSWCD invites students across Sullivan County to get creative in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest. Our Board members carefully review the entries, selecting standout designs that reflect the year's conservation theme. Winners are announced during our Annual Conservation Awards Banquet. Top students are awarded prizes, celebrating both creativity and conservation awareness. Congratulations to this year's winners for their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment to conservation awareness!

1 **Emma Salyer**
(7th – 9th)

1 **Ved Patel**
(10th – 12th)

2 **Eva Rabideau**
(7th – 9th)

2 **Ju'Tana Hickman**
(10th – 12th)



Scholarships

Each year, SCSWCD proudly awards the Charles Earhart and Joe K. Thomas Memorial Scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Sullivan County who plan to attend college or technical school. These scholarships are designed to support students as they become the next generation of community leaders. Congratulations to this year's recipients for their dedication, drive, and commitment to making a difference!

1 Addison Holly
Sullivan East High School

2 Victoria Browder
West Ridge High School

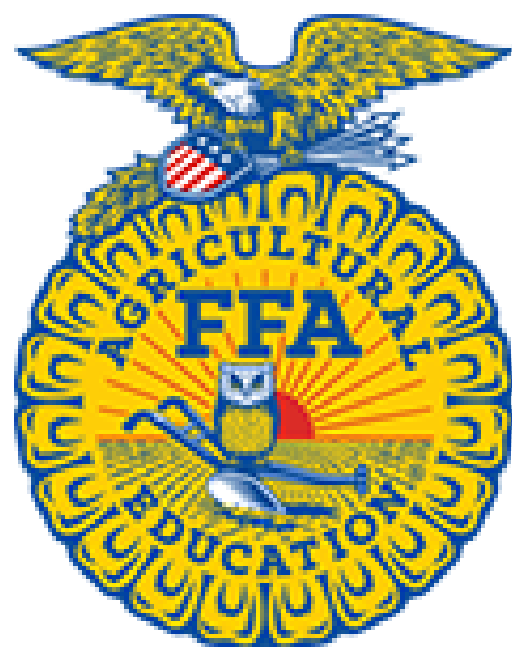
Educational Events

SCSWCD brings conservation education directly to students through fun, hand-on learning experiences. Students learn about topics like soil health, water conservation, and environmental stewardship in an engaging and memorable way. These visits are designed to spark curiosity, promote awareness, and encourage young learners to take an interest in protecting natural resources.



Land and Forestry Judging

SCSWCD partners with neighboring districts, NRCS, and the Tennessee Department of Forestry to host annual Land and Forestry Judging competitions. Local Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H Clubs compete in hands-on events that promote conservation knowledge and environmental stewardship. Each district takes turns hosting and supporting the students – making it a fun and educational day for all!



Agriculture Day

Sullivan County Agriculture Day brought the community together to celebrate local farming, conservation, and education. Held at the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center, the event featured food trucks, vendor booths, student fundraisers, and a lineup of expert guest speakers covering a wide range of topics focused on conservation, farming, and rural life. Proceeds supported the memorial scholarships. With hands-on demos, giveaways, and a community blood drive, it was a day of learning, fun, and giving back!



CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION • SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT • UT EXTENSION

SULLIVAN COUNTY AGRICULTURE DAY

Saturday, October 19
10 am - 4 pm

Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center
140 Spurgeon Lane
Blountville, TN 37617

FOOD TRUCKS
Baked and Loaded
Shane's Place
Smashed Tri-Cities
FFA will be selling mums
4-H will be selling baked goods

Proceeds will provide scholarships to graduating seniors in Sullivan County that plan to attend college or technical school

GUEST SPEAKERS
10:00am - Venomous Snakes - Steele Creek Nature Center
10:30am - Cattlemen's Association (Mike Blevins)
10:45am - Master Gardener Program (Ben Hunter)
11:00am - US National Weather Service in Morristown
11:30am - Drone Demonstration (Appalachian Aerial Solutions)
12:45pm - Farm Service Agency (Jessica Blevins)
1:00pm - Drone Demonstration (Appalachian Aerial Solutions)
1:30am - Canning Safety - UT Extension (Lydia Hoskins)
2:00pm - Rainfall Simulator - SWCD/NRCS

BLOOD DRIVE
Sponsored by Farm Bureau Women's Group
DUNKING BOOTH AT 1 PM
Dwight King (District 5 Commissioner)
Hershel Glover (District 5 Commissioner)
LIVE AUCTION AT 3 PM

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
A & I Trash Disposal
Abigdon Equipment Co.
Acorn Electrical Specialists
Appalachian RCAD
Appalachian Sustainable and Development
ASMA Ag Services, LLC
Blountville Hardware, LLC
Cavender's
Compass Construction Services, LLC
Cracker Barrel
East TN ATV & Tractor
East TN Distillery
Eastman
Farm Credit
Farm Supply Co. (Elizabethton)
First Bank and Trust
Green Cube Solutions, LLC
Kerwin's Volunteer Motors
Masterwrenches Auto & Cycle Repair
Meade Tractor (Johnson City)
PF Towing & Recovery
Progressive Tractor
Rodeo in the Valley
Ron Ramsey & Associates
Rural King (Bristol)
Scott Co. SWCD
Sullivan Co. Farm Bureau
Sunbelt Rental (Blountville)
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tractor Supply (Bristol)
Tractor Supply (Johnson City)
Tractor Supply (Kingsport)
Volunteer Stockyards
Washington County CO-OP
Women's Farm Bureau

(423) 323-7431 ext. 3
kathy.morgan@tn.nacdn.net
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, lender.
Contact us for special accommodations

Conservation Awards Banquet

Every Fall, SCSWCD brings the community together for a night of celebration and recognition at our Annual Awards Banquet. From spotlighting creative young minds in the student poster contest, to honoring our scholarship recipients and Conservation Farmer of the Year, it's an evening full of inspiration. We also introduce the year's TACD Category winners, thank our dedicated sponsors and affiliates, and keep things exciting with door prizes and guest speakers. It's our way of celebrating those making a real impact in conservation – one award at a time!

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Zella Hunigan and her family operate **Hunigan Farms**, a fifth-generation farm recognized for its outstanding commitment to conservation and sustainable agriculture. With support from NRCS and SCSWCD, the Hunigan's have implemented a wide range of conservation practices, including rotational grazing, stream crossings, fencing, and water infrastructure improvements. Their efforts have improved pasture health, protected natural resources, and enhanced overall farm productivity. The Hunigan family's leadership in conservation serves as a strong example for others, proving that stewardship and successful farming go hand in hand.



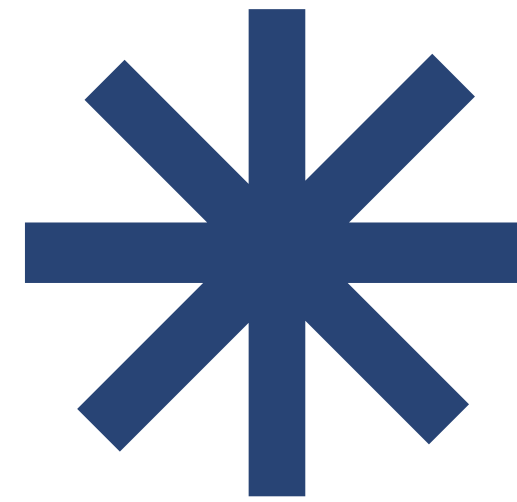
TN Association of Conservation Districts – Category I



Charlie Phelps, owner of Country View Farms in Bluff City, has been a dedicated conservation leader for over 30 years. A retired SCSWCD Board Member, he actively partners with NRCS and the SCSWCD to implement best management practices such as cover cropping, rotational grazing, streambank stabilization, and herbaceous weed control. His commitment to improving soil health and water quality through programs like EQIP, CSP, and ARCF has made a lasting impact on both his farm and the broader community. Charlie's leadership and advocacy continues to inspire others in the agricultural and conservation fields.



TN Association of Conservation Districts – Category II



The **Boone Lake Association** (BLA) has worked to improve water quality in Sullivan County for over 40 years. Established in 1983 as a homeowner's association, BLA is now one of Tennessee's oldest environmental nonprofits. It operates as a 501(c)(3), funded through member dues and sponsor contributions. The organization is led by a board of directors supported by additional board members and technical advisors dedicated to its conservation mission.



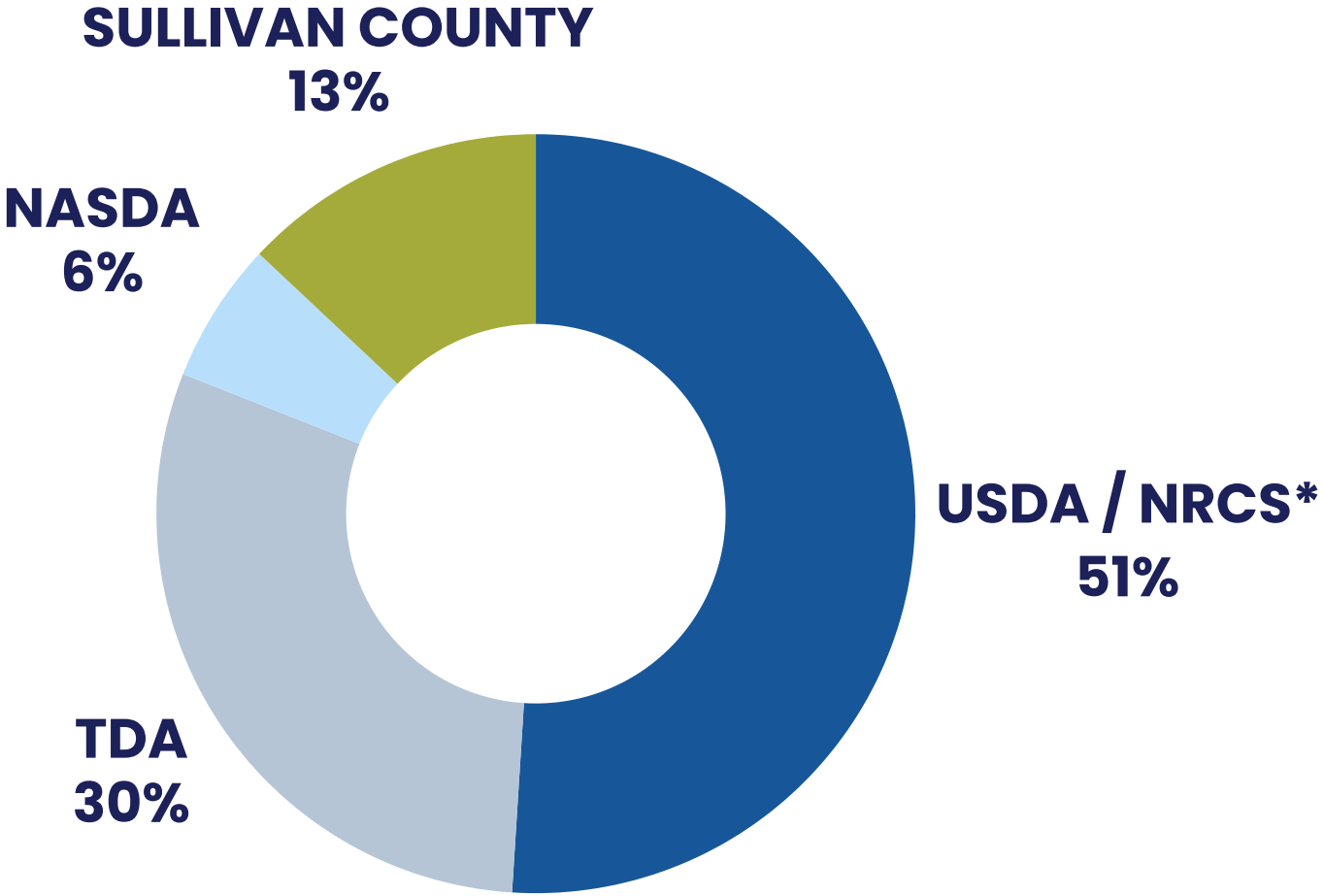


Financial Overview



USDA / NRCS*		\$283,345
CSP		158,087
EQIP		125,258
TDA		\$164,780
BMPs		152,082
Operational Funding		4,000
Contribution Agreement Employee		7,498
Supervisor Per Diems		1,200
NASDA		\$33,107
Cost-Share Funding		33,107
SULLIVAN COUNTY		\$74,513
Operational Funding		74,513

*Federal fiscal year ends September 30



**Total Benefit to Sullivan County
Landowners, Residents, and Farming
Operators through the Sullivan
County Soil & Water Conservation
District:**

\$555,745



Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District

2942 Highway 394, Suite 1
Blountville, TN 37617

(423) 323-7431 Extension 3
sullivancountyswcd905@gmail.com

Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
SCSWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact



@sullivancountysoilandwaterconservationdistrict