

**North Carolina State University / USDA-NRCS
Wildlife and Water Quality on NC Farms Workshop**

Executive Summary

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Event Summary

The NCSU/USDA-NRCS Wildlife and Water Quality on NC Farms Workshop was held on August 16, 2006 at Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County, NC (see agenda). During the morning, participants were bused to the nearby Holmes Complex Farm, Ammon, NC, owned and operated by Murphy Brown, LLC. Topics covered in the field included NWSG establishment, vegetation management with herbicides, riparian buffers, field border shape and landscape context, and cost-share programs. Lunch, served at Jones Lake State Park, was catered by Smithfield Bar-BQ and sponsored by Quail Unlimited. Topics for the afternoon classroom presentations included old-field habitat management, maximizing success of field border implementation, riparian buffer basics, cost-share program implementation, and landscape-level quail management. The field day would not have been possible without the financial and logistical support from many contributors (see acknowledgements section).

Attendance

Just less than 100 natural resource professionals and private landowners attended the workshop. Displays and educational materials were present from Quail Unlimited, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and North Carolina State University. Personnel from NRCS and local SWCD made up 42% of the workshop attendance.

Attendance by Classification

NRCS Personnel	27
Private Landowners/Farmers	16
Soil and Water Conservation District Staff	14
University Faculty and Staff	13
Quail Unlimited	10
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	9
County Cooperative Extension Agents	3
NC Dept of Agriculture	3
US Fish and Wildlife Service	2
Total	97

Materials

Each workshop attendee was provided with a packet of handouts, including materials from most presenters. In addition to speaker handouts, packets included:

Developing Wildlife-Friendly Pine Plantations
NC Extension Publication WON-38

Enrolling in North Carolina's Forest Stewardship Program
NC Extension Publication WON-23

Using Fire to Improve Wildlife Habitat
NC Extension Publication AG-630

A Landowner's Guide to Native Warm-Season Grasses in the Mid-South
Univ. of Tenn. Extension Publication 1746

The Upland Gazette, Winter 2006/Volume 10, Issue 2
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Six Basic Elements for a Successful Native Grass and Forb Establishment
Roundstone Native Seed, LLC

Why Should I Reforest with Longleaf Pine?
NC Division of Forest Resources Forestry Leaflet FM-28

Increase Farm Income and Restore Bobwhite Quail Habitat: A Conservation Practice for Agricultural Producers
A pamphlet explaining CP-33 to landowners

Web Sites

<http://www.ncwildlife.org>

<http://www.smithfieldfoods.com/Understand/Family/murphy.asp>

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wild>

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest>

<http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov>

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

<http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp>

http://www.ncwildlife.org/pg07_WildlifeSpeciesCon/pg7f2c_seed.pdf

Evaluation

All attendees were asked to complete an evaluation form that was included in their packets (see attached form). Fifty-one of the 97 attendees actually returned a completed form.

	Attendance	Returned Forms	Response Rate
NRCS/SWCD staff	41	23	56 %
Private	16	10	63 %
Other	40	18	45 %
Total	97	51	53 %

Attendees were asked to rank the overall value of the workshop in increasing their knowledge of the topic. On a scale from 1 to 5 (5 is highest), participants gave the workshop an average score of 4.32.

Percentage of participants ranking overall workshop value from highest to lowest.

	NRCS/SWCD	Private	QU	University	Other
High	35	20	67	75	38
	65	80	17	25	38
	0	0	17	0	25
	0	0	0	0	0
Low	0	0	0	0	0

Attendees were asked if the workshop format was suitable, if the information would be useful in their work, and if they would like to attend more NCSU/NRCS workshops.

Percentage of participants that answered “YES”.

Format Suitable	Information Useful in Work	Attend More Events
100	98	100

Attendees were asked by which means they would like to receive information about future NCSU/NRCS project results.

Percentage of participants preferring future information in various formats.

Workshop	Newsletter	Email	CDRom	Fact Sheet	Other
59	61	47	20	45	2

Samples of general recommendations for workshop improvement follow:

- Have landowners make presentations during the workshop
- Include landowner testimonials
- Discuss the benefits to farmers so those points can be used to market conservation programs to farmers
- Hold workshop on a cooler day
- Have afternoon portion of workshop in the AC
- Include more information on forest management and prescribed fire
- Fewer bar graphs
- Have handouts from all speaker presentations
- Provide estimates of walking distances prior to workshop

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Acknowledgments

Benjy Strope and Terry Sharpe with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission helped plan and organize the workshop. Bill Edwards with NRCS helped get the word out to field staff. Dr. Craig Harper and John Gruchy drove all the way from Knoxville to share what they've learned from their studies in Tennessee. Quail Unlimited sponsored the lunch and Murphy Brown, LLC sponsored breaks throughout the day. Several other agencies and organizations helped make this workshop a success. They are:

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

North Carolina State University, Dept. of Forestry and Environmental Resources

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

USDA-NRCS/MSU Bobwhite Restoration Project

Murphy Brown, LLC

North Carolina Department of Justice

Jones Lake State Park

Quail Unlimited

University of Tennessee, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries

WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY ON NC FARMS
Jones Lake State Park, NC
August 16, 2006

Agenda

- 9 AM** Check-in
9:30 Bus/Vans leave Jones Lake State Park for field tour
- Welcome – Don Butler and Terry Sharpe**
Tour will consist of 5 stations (15 minutes/station):
1. NWSG Management – *Benjy Strope*
 2. Field Border Shape and Landscape Context – *Jason Riddle and Chris Moorman*
 3. CP33/Quail Ecology – *Bill Edwards and Terry Sharpe*
 4. Managing Vegetation with Herbicides – *John Gruchy and Craig Harper*
 5. Riparian Buffers and Water Quality – *Scott King*
- 11:45** Bus/Vans return to Jones Lake State Park
- Noon** Lunch at the Pavilion
- 1 PM** Managing Native Vegetation for Quail and Other Wildlife – *Craig Harper, University of Tennessee*
- 1:30** Maximizing Impacts of Field Borders for Birds – *Jason Riddle and Chris Moorman, North Carolina State University*
- 2:00** Break
- 2:20** Cost Share Practice Implementation – *Bill Edwards, NRCS*
- 2:40** Riparian Buffers: The Latest Research in NC – *Scott King, North Carolina Cooperative Extension*
- 3:10** Roland CURE Cooperative – *Tom Padgett, NCWRC*
- 3:30** Visit Woodland Burn Site at Jones Lake State Park – *Terry Sharpe*
- 3:55** Evaluation and Dismissal

Sponsors

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Murphy Brown, LLC
Quail Unlimited
North Carolina Department of Justice
USDA-NRCS/MSU Bobwhite Restoration Project
Jones Lake State Park

WILDLIFE AND WATER QUALITY ON NC FARMS

Jones Lake State Park, NC

August 16, 2006

Workshop is FREE (Lunch and refreshments included)

Pre-registration required by August 9, 2006

To pre-register, contact Jean Pittman

Phone: 919-515-5638; Fax: 919-515-6883

jean_pittman@ncsu.edu

Attendance limited to first 100 pre-registrants

Who Should Attend?

Natural resource professionals, NRCS district conservationists, SCWCD field staff, extension agents, wildlife biologists, foresters, farmers, landowners, and quail enthusiasts.

Agenda

9 AM	Check-in
9:30 AM	Bus leaves Jones Lake State Park for field tour
Noon	Lunch
1 PM	Classroom presentations
4 PM	Adjourn

Topics

- › Establishing Native Warm-Season Grasses
- › Establishing and Maintaining Cropland Field Borders
- › Landscape Influence on Success of Local Habitat Management
- › Using Herbicides to Control Unwanted Plants
- › Protecting Water Quality on Farms
- › Agricultural Cost Share Programs
- › Using Prescribed Fire to Improve Habitat

Directions: Jones Lake State Park is located in Bladen County 4 miles north of Elizabethtown on Highway 242



Murphy-Brown INC.



Field Day Evaluation Form

North Carolina State University, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission,
and
USDA-NRCS/MSU Bobwhite Restoration Project

As part of our continuing effort to improve dissemination of research results from USDA-funded studies to resource professionals and the general public, we request your assistance in evaluating the usefulness of this Field Day. Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. Your input is greatly appreciated and will be used to improve future events. Thank you.

What agency do you work for (e.g., NRCS, FSA, State, Private, etc.)? _____

If you work for a resource management organization, what is your job title and primary responsibilities? _____

How did you learn of this Field Day? _____

Was the format of the Field Day suitable (topics covered, sites visited, timing, etc.)? Yes No

Will the information presented in the Field Day be useful to you in your work? Yes No

By what other means would you like to receive information about the results of this study (circle all that apply)?

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| Workshops | newsletters | Internet (email) |
| CDROM | Fact Sheets | Other: _____ |

Please rank the overall value of this workshop in increasing your knowledge of the topic presented:

(low) 1 2 3 4 5 (high)

Would you like NC State University and USDA-NRCS to hold more of these events? Yes No

Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve this Field Day?

Are there any other topics that should have been covered?

Do you have any other comments? (Use back of form for additional space)
