

SWAIN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 1831 – Bryson City, NC 28713
www.swaincountync.gov/SWCD.html

Press Release and Calendar Listing - For immediate release: January 16, 2013

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Help Protect Agriculture in Swain County on January 31

Swain County farmers, landowners, and other interested individuals are all invited to attend a public meeting to provide input on a new plan to support agriculture in Swain County. The meeting will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2013, at the Swain County Senior Center, 129 Brendle Street in Bryson City. A free dinner will be provided.

“With this new plan, we want to take positive action to protect, maintain, and enhance the future of agriculture in Swain County,” said Cam Carson, Chairman of the Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District. “This plan will address all forms of agriculture in the county – crops, livestock, trout, Christmas trees, forestry, agritourism, restaurant sales, and more. We hope that anyone interested in any aspect of local agriculture will attend and share their ideas.”

The meeting will focus on receiving public input to help guide the new Swain County farmland protection plan. Meeting organizers will ask attendees to share their ideas on the greatest challenges facing agriculture in Swain County today and what strategies might help secure a strong farming future, such as conservation easements to protect farmland from development, a community kitchen to produce value-added farm products, or new marketing initiatives. Farmers, forest landowners, chefs, agency staff, non-profit staff, and other interested individuals and groups are all encouraged to attend.

“Farming isn’t just for farmers,” added Carson. “Agriculture provides fresh, healthy food. It opens up those grand scenic views for tourists. It diversifies our economy. We need to work together to maintain and grow our agricultural potential.”

Funding to create the Swain County farm plan has been provided by the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. To reserve your spot or to learn more, please contact the Swain Soil and Water Conservation District, (828) 488-8803 x. 3.

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Calendar Listing

Thursday, January 31, 2013 – Swain County Farm Protection Plan Meeting – 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Swain County Senior Center, 129 Brendle Street, Bryson City. Help plan the future of agriculture in Swain County. A free dinner will be provided. Sponsored by Swain County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. To reserve your spot or to learn more, please call (828) 488-8803 x. 3.