

# **Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**

## **2009 Annual Report**



***Serving:  
Bleckley, Dodge, Emanuel, Johnson, Laurens,  
Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen,  
Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox***

## **Introduction**

Pine Country RC&D Area was authorized for operations in 1968. In the beginning, the RC&D Council established their primary objective of helping people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that will improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards. It provided a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their area a better place in which to live. Pine Country's commitment to its citizens and the desire to conserve, preserve, and develop the natural resources of the RC&D area, remains the same today.

### **VISION**

**Local people working together to develop, enhance, and protect our human and natural resources for the betterment of our economy and environment**

### **MISSION**

**To lift the economy and improve the living conditions of the area**

### **Council Membership and Sponsors**

#### **Sponsor**

Bleckley County  
Dodge County  
Emanuel County  
Johnson County  
Laurens County  
Montgomery County  
Pulaski County  
Telfair County  
Toombs County  
Treutlen County  
Washington County  
Wheeler County  
Wilcox County

#### **Members**

Paul English, Mike Polsky, Wayne Dykes  
Dan McCranie, James McCranie, Don Ross  
James Canady, Jerry Fagler, Carl Tankersley  
Jimmy Jackson, Brent Allen, Bruce Veal  
Danny Hogan, Johnny B. Hall  
Mark Burns, James Castleman,  
Bobby Lancaster, Brooks Bailey, Ronnie Barentine  
Travis Cook, Charles White, Thomas Anderson  
Skeeter Toole  
Bill Barrett, Will Peterson, Gerald Hooks  
Glenn Waller, Byron Sanders  
Lynn Johnson, Roy Gilder,  
Al Crenshaw, Bobby Holliday, Milton Whittle

#### **Executive Committee**

Bill Barrett, President  
James Castleman, Vice President  
Will Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Danny Hogan, Laurens County  
Travis Cook, Telfair County

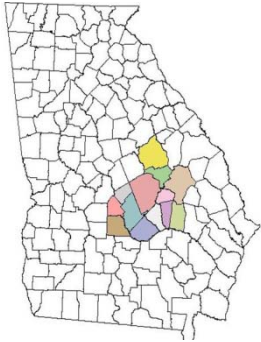
#### **Staff**

Kim Thompson, RC&D Coordinator  
Donna Shurling, Administrative Assistant  
Thomas Barrett, RC&D Forester

#### **Contact**

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## Area of Operations



The Pine Country RC&D Council encompasses thirteen counties in the central Georgia area. They include: Bleckley, Dodge, Emanuel, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington, Wheeler, and Wilcox. Total land area consists of 3.5 million acres or 9.1 % of Georgia's land mass.

## Types of RC&D Assistance

The Pine Country RC&D Council offers both technical and financial assistance for the eleven county RC&D area. Assistance includes natural resources protection and enhancement, land and water conservation, erosion and sedimentation control, community development, environmental education outreach, etc. Professionals with the USDA-NRCS, other state and federal agencies, and the private sector provide project design and technical expertise. Financial assistance typically involves cost-sharing of state, federal, and private grant funds for project implementation. Participants consist of local units of government, federal and state agencies, environmental groups, farmers, developers, planners, agricultural producer groups, faith-based groups, and individual homeowners.

## Council Activities

The following list of projects and programs implemented by the Pine Country RC&D Council helped contribute to meeting our local and national RC&D program goals for 2009. Specific activities for projects and programs are listed in section below.

### Land Conservation:

- No-till drill rental program.
- Governor Environmental Stewardship Award

### Water Management:

- Master Equine Management Workshops
- Better Back Roads MBP Manual
- Turkey Creek BMP Watershed Project
- Williamson Swamp Creek Watershed Project
- Ohoopsee/Little Ohoopsee Watershed Project
- Poultry Litter Spreader Rental
- Portable Logging Bridges

### Land Management:

- Biodiesel Production Workshops
- On-farm biodiesel Facility
- Envirothon
- Silvopasture Demonstration

### Community Development:

- Improved ISO Ratings
- Wheels to Work



## Major Projects and Activities

- ✚ Biodiesel Workshops were held in Eastman and Swainsboro. Participants learned about the technical aspects of biodiesel production and heard from three individuals who are producing biodiesel.
- ✚ Co-sponsored the installation of an on-farm biodiesel facility in Laurens County. The purpose of this project was to demonstrate the potential for area farmers to make their own fuel.
- ✚ Completed a contract with GA EPD to identify and report on activities undertaken in support of the TMDL Implementation Plans previously completed for four stream segments in Washington County.
- ✚ Hosted South Georgia Regional Envirothon Competition at Little Ocmulgee State Park. This academic competition for High School students demonstrates their knowledge of soils, forestry, water quality, and wildlife.
- ✚ Completed two Master Equine Management Training Workshops. Topics covered include water and pasture management, manure management, facilities construction, horse health, legal and liability issues, nutrition, and economics.
- ✚ Initiated efforts in Montgomery, Laurens, Toombs and Treutlen Counties that has resulted in a lower Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating. A lower rating means more effective fire fighting services and lower homeowner insurance premiums. Homeowners in these areas could save \$200-500 per year.
- ✚ Developed and published the first Best Management Practice Manual for dirt and gravel road maintenance. The book was designed to provide county road department employees with knowledge about best management practices that can be applied to unpaved roads and protect water quality in the State.
- ✚ Nominated a Bleckley County Farmer for the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award. The purpose of the award is to honor farmers who are good stewards of all aspects of the environment in their farming practices.

- ✚ Rent-A-Drill program continues to be a successful method of promoting conservation tillage with 4,750 acres of small grains planted using RC&D drills this year. Drills are available in Bleckley, Emanuel, Laurens, Montgomery, Wilcox and Washington Counties. In addition, a Pasture Renovator is available for rent in Laurens County and surrounding areas.
- ✚ Purchased and placed a Poultry Litter Spreader in Hawkinsville for use in area counties. This equipment gives farmers the opportunity to incorporate the benefits of poultry litter into their farming operation.
- ✚ Wheels to Work continued to address the transportation needs associated with employment. To date, 349 no-interest loans for vehicles have been made to individuals lacking transportation to work.
- ✚ Established a Silvopasture demonstration site in Montgomery County. Silvopasture systems are designed to produce a high-value timber component while providing short-term cash flow from the livestock component. Additional sites are planned for Bleckley County and Johnson County.
- ✚ Implemented an incentive program which demonstrates portable logging bridges as an option for temporary stream crossings. The use of portable bridges is a preferred Best Management Practices because the bridges minimize land disturbance and stream sedimentation.

**Successfully completed the following watershed projects:**

- ✚ Turkey Creek Best Management Practices Project - This project paid \$420,000 to 38 livestock growers in the Turkey Creek Watershed in Laurens County.
- ✚ Williamson Swamp Creek Best Management Practices Project - 32 agricultural producers utilized \$351,000 to install BMP's throughout the watershed in Washington County.
- ✚ Ohoopsee/Little Ohoopsee Best Management Practices Project—grant funds totaling \$531,000 were used to install Best Management Practices on 54 farms throughout Emanuel, Johnson, and Washington Counties.

<b>Council Impacts</b>
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The Pine Country RC&D Council continues to be a leader in the area for watershed protection and environmental education. Through water quality related projects and programs, stakeholders are educated about locally EPD listed impaired streams and the negative effects of agricultural animal wastes, erosion and sedimentation, and adverse impacts to aquatic life on streams and rivers. Through cost-share assistance programs, landowners have benefitted from the installation of traditional and low impact Best Management Plan practices that resolve water quality problems.

The Pine Country RC&D Council continues to use an innovative approach to help reduce fecal coli form levels in watersheds inside the thirteen county Council area. The Council partnered with local agencies to complete three EPA Section 319 TMDL Implementation projects, including the Turkey Creek, Williamson Swamp Creek and the Ohoopsee/Little Ohoopsee Project. These projects included contracts with over 125 landowners to establish long term BMP practices for local water quality improvement.

**2009 Program Income and Expenses**

<b>Pine Country Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Grant Revenue	\$ 216,747.00
Dues	\$ 3,900.00
Office Rent	\$ 9,100.00
Drill Rental	\$ 25,888.00
Sponsorship	\$ 1,150.00
WTW Auto Payments	\$ 7,057.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 21,286.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 285,128.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Better Back Roads BMP Manual	\$ (44,984.00)
Alternative Energy	\$ (6,000.00)
Silvopasture	\$ (37,973.00)
Environmental Education	\$ (7,862.00)
No-till equipment	\$ (20,436.00)
Wheels to Work	\$ (33,164.00)
Watershed Projects	\$ (74,296.00)
General and Administrative	\$ (60,413.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (285,128.00)</b>

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

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