

Brunswick County Pesticide Collection – a short story about a long history. (1980-2021)

With Brunswick Co Solid Waste now opening their new permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility (that includes pesticide collection), the NCDA&CS takes a moment to reflect on the long and storied history of NCDA&CS involvement in the development and assistance provided for Brunswick County and the surrounding counties.

In 1980, the NCDA&CS started the Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP) as the FIRST Program of its kind in the entire nation. Between 1980 and 1998, the NCDA&CS assisted with random requested pickups moving from site-to-site all across North Carolina and including Brunswick County.

For the past 22 years, the NCDA&CS - PDAP has had an on-going partnership of extended efforts to work with Brunswick Co Solid Waste and Brunswick Co Cooperative Extension to assist the Cape Fear Region.

The first Brunswick County Pesticide Collection Day event was held by NCDA&CS – PDAP along with Brunswick County Cooperative Extension on Tue, March 24, 1998. A grand total of 567 pounds was collected at the event. A modest but encouraging beginning. Many contacts and partnerships were established and grew from that humble beginning, benefitting future efforts tremendously and quickly.

The very next year, on Sat, October 30, 1999, the NCDA&CS - PDAP assisted multiple Brunswick County partners with relief efforts for Hurricane Floyd, a Category 2 hurricane making landfall in the heart of the Cape Fear region on Sept 16, 1999, with torrential rains and damaging winds for the entire eastern half of North Carolina. The Hurricane Floyd relief efforts by NCDA&CS-PDAP saw a total of well over 2 TONS of pesticides collected just from Brunswick County alone!

Since 2003, the NCDA&CS continued our mutually beneficial partnership with Brunswick Co Solid Waste requesting the PDAP to sponsor the collection of pesticides from their Single-Day HHW events, along with several Brunswick Co Pesticide-Only events when requested by the Brunswick Co Cooperative Extension Service. Partnerships have made all of our Programs more effective and cost-efficient!

And now, with Brunswick Co Solid Waste opening their Permanent HHW site (that includes pesticide collection), the NCDA&CS-PDAP is proud to continue our partnership efforts by assisting Brunswick Co in providing its citizens with a safe and environmentally proper disposal option.

Since 1998, the PDAP has collected and properly disposed of 46,289 pounds of pesticides from Brunswick Co resulting from collections through pesticide-only events, pesticides from several Hurricane Response and Relief events, and pesticides from single-day AND the new Brunswick County Permanent HHW facility. The multiple partnerships and contacts developed at those modest early events have blossomed into an excellent system to assist Brunswick County and the entire area.

The NCDA&CS is proud of the long history of efforts and assistance with our many Brunswick County partners. Congratulations to Brunswick County on opening the new Permanent HHW program and facility! We look forward to working together in the future to benefit, not only the citizens of Brunswick County, but all of our Programs and the entire Cape Fear region!

The first collection of pesticides from the Brunswick County permanent HHW facility on Wed, February 10, 2021, was completed by the Brunswick Co Solid Waste-HHW, the NCDA&CS-PDAP, and our mutual HazMat Contractor. A grand total of 429 pounds of pesticides was collected. Again, a modest but encouraging beginning to a new chapter.