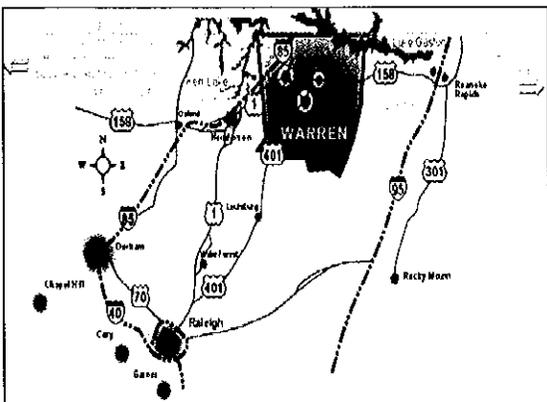


Warren County is located in northeastern North Carolina along the Virginia state line. The county has an area of 443 square miles or 283,520 acres and lies entirely in the Piedmont Plateau.

Warren County has two major lakes, Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston. The county's two major river basins are the Tar-Pamlico and the Roanoke. The Tar-Pamlico basin comprises two-thirds of the county's land mass. Main streams in the Tar-Pamlico include Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek, Sandy Creek and Little Fishing Creek. In the Roanoke basin, there is Smith Creek, Ellington Branch, Songbird Creek, Cabin Branch and Newman's Creek, to name a few.

In 2000, the Tar-Pamlico River basin was categorized as nutrient sensitive waters by the N.C. Division of Water Quality. As a result, agricultural operations in the river basin were required to reduce and maintain nitrogen input by 30 percent. That goal has been met.



as beef operations, dairy operations, swine operations and poultry houses. The main crops grown within the area are tobacco, soybeans, cotton, small grains and vegetables.



Farmers utilize no-till technology to minimize erosion from fields.

One of the water quality concerns in the Smith Creek Watershed is the loss of soil. The sediment that leaves the field impacts the biological community within the streams. Farmers are actively addressing the problem by installing best management practices. Such practices include filter strips, fencing cattle out of the streams, grassed waterways, and planting their crops using no-till technology.

The Warren Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical assistance to the farmers to ensure that the water quality concerns are addressed and the practices are installed properly.



Fencing cattle out of streams helps prevent erosion of soil and reduce the level of nutrients that enter the stream.

What can I do to improve my watershed?

Did you know that stormwater is the number one source of water pollution in North Carolina? When it rains, storm drains carry untreated water and everything the water picks up directly to creeks, lakes and rivers. If you like to fish, swim or boat, do your part to keep North Carolina's water clean.

Septic Tanks

- Inspect systems annually.
- Repair leaking faucets, toilets and pumps.
- Use water efficient appliances and equipment.

Test your Soils

- Conduct soil test prior to fertilizing your lawn. Over fertilization can harm creeks and rivers, as well as increase costs.
- Do not apply fertilizer before or during rain.

Pet Waste

- Clean up after your pets—their waste contains bacteria and viruses that can cause swimming areas to be closed.

Landscaping

- Select plants that have low requirements for water, fertilizers and pesticides.
- Bare areas of your yard should be reseeded or mulched to decrease erosion.
- Select lawn care service companies that are trained and follow practices that minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

