

COLUMBUS COUNTY BEAVER BOUNTY PROGRAM

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION

- **Landowner calls the Soil and Water Conservation District office to schedule an appointment for a site visit.**
- **Absentee landowner contacts the Soil and Water Conservation District office to request form to participate in Beaver Bounty Program. (See "Absentee Landowner" form -- optional)**
 - a. **Landowner completes the form or the District mails the form to the absentee landowner.**
 - b. **District staff schedules appointment for a site visit with the person that the landowners gives permission to act on their behalf.**
- **Staff evaluates site according to ranking form to determine the public health and safety issues. (See "Ranking" form. To be completed by District staff.)**
- **Landowner purchases tags and the landowner's name is written on the tags. A receipt is given to the person purchasing tags with tag numbers listed, the amount paid and the date that their tags are due back to the committee. A maximum of 15 tags will be issued per landowner. After those tags are filled, a new evaluation will be needed of the site and approval of the Beaver Management Committee will be necessary in order to receive additional tags.**
- **A list of participating trappers is given to landowner. (See list of participating trappers)**
- **If a trapper is not the landowner they must obtain written permission with landowner's signature on it and carry this with them when checking traps. (Written permission to trap on someone else's property from the landowner to the trapper is required by state law whether the trapper participates in the bounty program or not. Please see the pocket size permission card. This card is small enough that it can be laminated and carried in the trapper's wallet.)**
- **The landowner has an option to assign payment to someone other than themselves. Possibly a relative or their trapper. (See "Assignment of Payment" form -- optional)**
- **Landowner or assigned representative brings tagged part(s) to Beaver Management Committee on the Second or Fourth Monday of the month. These collection times may be changed when a holiday falls on the regularly scheduled collection dates.**
- **After verification that these beaver were properly collected, (see program "Certification Form" -- required form) a warrant is completed and forwarded to County Finance office.**
- **If the client is not a vendor with the county, a W-9 form is completed. (One time document unless client's information changes -- required form)**
- **If the bounty exceeds \$200, a Purchase Order is completed. (required)**
- **Please note that payment may take up to 6 weeks.**
- **The County Finance office mails the check directly to the landowner or assignee.**

COLUMBUS COUNTY BEAVER BOUNTY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. The title "Trapper" in this document refers to anyone using a legal means of Beaver management in accordance with the local laws of Columbus County and the laws of the NC Wildlife Commission for Beaver control.
2. Licensed trappers that reside in Columbus County or landowners removing Beaver on their land located in Columbus County will receive \$40 for each set of tagged beaver ears.
3. Tags will be numbered and color coded (Blue) to represent the Beaver Bounty Program.
4. Tags will be as evenly dispersed as possible by the Beaver Management Committee throughout the county. When tag distribution is low in a District, tags may be distributed across other Districts at the discretion of the Beaver Management Committee.
5. Trappers/Landowners must pay a refundable deposit of \$2 per tag. No less than 5 and no more than 15 tags will be issued to a trapper/landowner at a time. This deposit will be refunded to the trapper/landowner along with the bounty according to the request for payment guideline number 16 below. All tags will expire on the date noted on the tag purchase receipt. In order to be reimbursed the deposit, tags must be returned to the Beaver Management Committee on or before this date.
6. Licensed trappers may request the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to add them to a Trapper's list. The Trapper's list will be available to landowners through the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.
7. Landowners will contact individual trappers and contract with them using form CC BBP-1 (Landowner – Trapper agreement form).
8. Trappers must obtain landowner signature on the permission forms produced and provided by the Columbus County Beaver Management Committee before tags can be purchased. This landowner permission must be valid for one year.
9. A completed Landowner – Trapper certification form will be kept by the trapper for each landowner and shall be turned in to the Beaver Management Committee when tags are returned for the bounty.
10. This certification form verifies by the landowner and trapper that the tagged beaver ears were properly taken on property located in Columbus County. Landowner and Trapper understand that spot checks and/or follow-up phone calls will be performed randomly.
11. Landowners and/or trappers making false statements of locations of where beavers were taken will be subject to criminal prosecution and will be banned from participation in the Columbus County Beaver Bounty Program.
12. The Beaver Management Committee will collect both beaver ears; frozen, tagged and placed in zip sealed bags only on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. (Holiday's falling on these days will change this schedule. Please check with the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District at 910-642-2196 ext. 3 for rescheduling.) The collection site will be at the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District office located in the Agriculture Service Center at 45B Government Complex Road, Whiteville, NC. Collection of tagged beaver ears will begin at 6:00 PM.
13. Tagged beaver ears will only be received in lots of three (3) or more unless a request for payment has been made for all other tags received by the trapper/landowner.
14. A trapper/landowner must use the tags that were previously issued to him/her before receiving additional tags.
15. All trappers/landowners participating in the program must obtain a vendor number with Columbus County Finance office.
16. Request for payment to the trapper/landowner will be made through the Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District to the Columbus County Finance Department. Checks will be paid according to Columbus County Finance policy and procedures. Please allow up to 6 weeks for payment.
17. By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand these guidelines for the Columbus County Beaver Bounty Program.

Signature

Date