



Craven County



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By :
Environmental Health Dept.



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www.CravenCountyNC.gov



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Environmental Health Mission Statement

To safeguard life, promote human health, and protect the environment through the practice of modern environmental health science, the use of technology, rules, public education, and above all, dedication to the public trust.

The Craven County Health Department - Division of Environmental Health seeks to build upon the history of public health and to assist in maintaining a healthy environment in which it is pleasant to live and work. This Division strives to respond to the dynamics and growth of our county and the changing priorities of Public Health. This is accomplished through the development and implementation of programs designed to assist in the promotion of healthy living and the mitigation of adverse environmental factors.

The Division protects public health and safety through preventive measures designed to identify and control the spread of disease. This is accomplished primarily by the promotion of environmental health through education of the general public and through the enforcement of state and local public health regulations.



Management Support

This section's goal is to ensure that citizen's requests, data and other information are distributed in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel or program. Researching and providing documents such as older septic permits upon request by citizens.

This section is responsible for, but not limited to:

- Accounts receivable and accounts payable
- Purchasing
- Accounting support for the Animal Shelter and voucher program
- Receive samples for water analysis
- Process applications and permits for septic tanks, food, lodging and institutional plan reviews
- Generate reports
- Ensure documents are completed, processed and maintained
- Assist with various needs of staff and with special projects
- Log complaints or inquiries from citizens, and
- Various other requests for service



FINANCE

Environmental Health Management Support receives funds from several sources.

Fees for Services:

- Permits & Approvals for Septic Tank Systems
- Private Drinking Water Well Permits
- Water Sample Analyses

- Plan Review for Food Service Establishments
- Temporary & Limited Food Establishment Permits
- Plan Review and Annual permits for Swimming Pools
- Annual Tattoo Artist Permits
- Manager Food Safety Training

LOCAL TAX SUPPORT: \$1,217,023

Craven County support is provided to the Environmental Health Division, however not as revenue, and it's handled through the Health Department's Administrative Program.

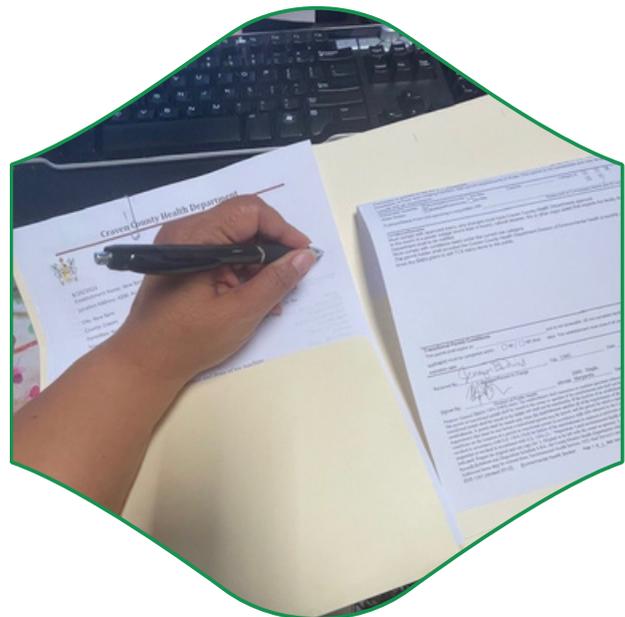
STATE AID TO COUNTY: \$34,261

Annual permit fees collected by the state for FLI establishments are shared with the counties based on the percentage of required sanitation inspection completed. We received \$22,035

A portion of the State Health Aid to County was allocated for Environmental Health in the amount of \$12,226.

2023-2024 REVENUES FROM SERVICES: \$131,921

- Onsite Application Fees \$87,221
- FLI: \$8,998
- Plan Review \$3,125
- TFE \$3,998
- ServSafe Courses \$1,875
- ENV Lab: \$35,702





FOOD, LODGING AND INSTITUTIONS

This program's goal is to ensure excellent food safety and sanitation in regulated establishments.

The FLI program conducts unannounced inspections in a variety of facilities including:

- Restaurants
- Push Carts and Mobile Food Trucks
- School Cafeterias
- Nursing Homes
- Day Care Centers
- Hotels
- Bed & Breakfast Inns/Homes



All inspection reports for these facilities can be found on the Craven County website at: <https://www.cravencountync.gov/1363/Environmental-Health> (click on the Sanitation Inspections Report link on the left side, blue column) or by googling "craven establishments" without the quotes in your internet search engine.

FLI staff work to ensure compliance with all sanitation laws through routine inspection, education, construction plan review and complaint investigations.

3 INSPECTION TYPES

Sanitation

- 1-4 inspections per year based on risk hazard analysis of food preparation.
 - Unannounced
 - Grade card is posted. 90-100=A; 80-89.5=B; 70-79.5=C.
- Establishments receiving a score below 70 will be closed.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments.

Compliance

- Verify violations are corrected, generally within 10 days.
- Investigate complaints.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments

Permit or Opening

- Permits - new establishments or new owners of existing establishments. Plan review is required.
- Opening - facilities permitted by other agencies and inspected by our FLI program.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments.



IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24:

1431 Total Inspections conducted

1176 Sanitation Inspections

1266 Compliance Inspections

44 Permit Inspections health regulations



ONSITE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM



The Onsite program is responsible for protecting the public's health by ensuring safe subsurface treatment and disposal of wastewater and the attainment of clean, potable water from private drinking water wells in our county.

There are significant portions of Craven County that are served by septic tank systems. This program is responsible for the permitting and inspecting of all onsite septic systems installed in the county. This includes new systems, repairs and flow increases for septic systems for residences, places of business and places of public assembly.

To determine the suitability of land parcels to accommodate new septic systems, detailed soil and site evaluations are performed by Onsite staff. Based on these evaluations, either a permit or a denial is issued.

Documents Issued

- Improvement Permit (IP): The first permit issued for a parcel of land if it is determined usable for a subsurface septic system. It is needed prior to Planning Board approval of subdivisions or mobile home parks.
- Construction Authorization (CA): Required before any construction on a new or malfunctioning septic system or structure begins.
- Operation Permit (OP): Issued after the septic system has been properly installed and inspected. It is needed prior to release of final electrical power and occupancy of a structure.
- Approval: Issued when additional structures are added or replaced on parcels with existing septic tank systems.
- Denial: Issued when the parcel cannot support a septic tank system for the type of structure applied for.



ONSITE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM CONTINUED



- Onsite staff review & inspect large and/or complicated septic tank systems (those with pumps, pre-treatment technology, electronic components, etc.) to ensure they are being properly maintained and operated. This is known as the System Review Program (SRP) within the Onsite program.
- Installation inspections are performed by EHS's during the construction of each system installed in the county to ensure compliance with state rules and regulations.
- Migrant Labor Camps are checked to ensure the septic systems and drinking water sources are usable for individuals utilizing the camps.
- A site visit and evaluation for an Approval for an existing septic system is performed when any building addition, structure replacement, swimming pool, or detached structure is proposed.
- Onsite staff evaluates failing septic systems and issue permits for repair.
- Onsite staff investigates various complaints and respond to requests for services, such as water sampling, consultation, permit queries, educational representation, etc.

IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24:

Total Applications Received **687**
Improvement Permits Issued **190**
Construction Authorizations Issued **233**
Operation Permits Issued **219**
Complaint Investigation **53**
Authorizations for Existing Systems **112**
Requests for Services **672**
Migrant Housing Inspections **4**



DRINKING WATER WELL PROGRAM

The Onsite Water Protection Program is responsible for overseeing the permitting, construction, repair, sampling and abandonment of private drinking water wells (not irrigation wells) via our Private Drinking Water Well program. Sites are visited by EHS's to confirm the suitability of each proposed location for a well and to identify potential sources of contamination. Water sampling is performed to test for bacteriological, inorganic and nitrate/nitrite indicators of water contamination. Water samples from newly-installed wells are tested at the State Laboratory of Public Health in Raleigh, NC. Samples from existing wells may be tested at our Environmental Health Lab, depending on the parameters desired.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB

The goal of the Environmental Health Laboratory is to protect the public from waterborne diseases by providing bacteriological testing of public water systems, private wells, new construction plumbing, ground water, and recreational surface waters.

The Environmental Lab is certified by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Laboratory Certification. Certification includes, Total Coliform/E. Coli and Heterotrophic Plate Count testing using EPA approved Colitag and SimPlate methods. The Environmental Lab is State approved for submitting public water compliance samples using NC Lab Data Submittal (LDS) and EPA Compliance Monitoring Data Portal (CMDP). The Environmental Lab provides testing services to comply with regulatory programs and requirements such as:

- NC Public Water Supply Section
- Environmental Protection Agency - Safe Water Drinking Act
- NC Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- US Veteran Affairs (VA Home Loans)
- City/County Building Inspections
- Federal Governmental contracts

Bacteriological Testing includes:

- Total Coliform and E. coli Presence/Absence (Qualitative)
- E. Coli MPN/100 ml (Quantitative)
- Enterococcus MPN/100ml (Quantitative)
- Heterotrophic Plate Count MPN/ml (Quantitative)



CHEMISTRY TECH, PAMELA FRENCH PERFORMING TOTAL COLIFORM/ECOLI TESTING OF DRINKING WATER USING ENZYME SUBSTRATE AND EPA APPROVED COLITAG.



IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24:

Public System Compliance Samples **1042**

Total Coliform & E. Coli Drinking Water **1205**

Heterotrophic Plate Count Samples **101**

Well Water Analyses **29**

New Potable Water Line Construction **45**

Special Water Samples **89**

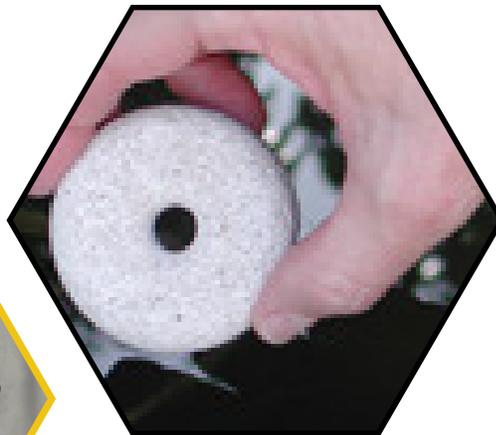
Quantitative E. Coli for Recreational **0**

VECTOR SURVEILLANCE



The vector surveillance program consists of individuals in the department who collect and count mosquitoes June through October. Mosquito traps are set up around the county to collect specimens for identification by genus and species. We continue to collaborate with East Carolina University to identify and count mosquitos collected in Craven County. This information is uploaded to the NCDHHS mosquito surveillance database. This establishes baseline mosquito prevalence data for our area.

Our main objective is to ensure our department is prepared in case of a public health emergency.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

- **FLI Team Achievement Report: Fiscal Year 2023/2024**
- **Inspections Excellence:**
 - Conducted a total of 1058 inspections, achieving 100% compliance—an unprecedented milestone since 2018.
 - Our commitment to rigorous standards ensures public safety and trust.
- **Grant Funding Success:**
 - Secured \$46,500 in grant funding through collaborative efforts with the FDA NEHA and the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance.
 - These funds will enhance our capabilities and support ongoing initiatives.
- **National Impact and Mentorship:**
 - Mentored five jurisdictions across the country, sharing best practices and fostering professional growth.
 - Hosted a successful mentorship conference, promoting knowledge exchange and networking.
 - Traveled to Washington State and Massachusetts to provide remote support for mentees unable to attend in person.
- **Self-Assessment and Standards:**
 - Completed self-assessment period 3.
 - Currently meeting standards 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7.
 - Actively working toward meeting standards 2, 5, 8, and 9.
- **Professional Development:**
 - Attended the AFDO conference in Michigan and the NEHA conference in Pennsylvania, gaining valuable insights and training.





MORE EH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Congratulations:**

- o Applause to Sanda Oo for achieving FDA Standardized Officer status—an outstanding accomplishment!

- These achievements reflect our team’s dedication, collaboration, and continuous pursuit of excellence. We look forward to building upon this success in the coming year.

- Collaborated with the CDC in an insecticide resistance study for local mosquitoes. On Aug 28 CDC provided bottle bioassay test training to staff. On 8/24/2023 they set up traps on a residential lot in Fairfield Harbor. The project involved collecting nuisance mosquitoes that become abundant after Hurricanes and testing them for 3 active ingredients commonly recommended for emergency aerial spraying, naled, deltamethrin and sumethrin.



- Congratulations to Greg Hodges on his much-deserved retirement. Greg was the Onsite Water Protection Supervisor and served Craven County for 33 years in the Onsite Water Protection Section. Greg started with Craven County as part of the Controlled Demonstration Program that explored new and innovative methods of onsite wastewater disposal. His dedication to protect surface waters, ground waters and the community’s health was exemplary.