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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Henderson County Solid Waste Department Uses Natural Alternative to Mowing

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**Hendersonville, NC - May 22, 2014**

The Henderson County Solid Waste Department has recently contracted with Wells Farm of Horseshoe, North Carolina to employ a herd of twenty-five goats to manage grasses on a steep slope at the Convenience Center located on Stoney Mountain Road. The female and male goats are a crossbreed of Boer and Kiko. They will help manage the tall grasses on 3.4 acres of land directly overlooking the county's recycling center. The slope is very steep and dangerous for staff to mow. The herd will graze the slope for one month. The goats are protected twenty-four hours a day by Reba, a fluffy, white Kangal/Great Pyrenees dog.

Ron Searcy, owner of Wells Farm, has been contracting out his herds around the western North Carolina region for 7 years to help private and public organizations safely and naturally manage steep, hard to access areas. Goats are naturals at navigating difficult terrain and can help ecologically manage invasive plant species more easily than other conventional methods. According to Searcy, these goats can eat between 15-18% of their body weight per day.

The Henderson County Solid Waste Department is excited to work with a local business that provides a natural and safe alternative to gas-powered mowers. For more information on Wells Farm Goat services, visit [www.wellsfarmgoats.com](http://www.wellsfarmgoats.com).

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