

SPRING 2013

PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM CHAIRMAN R. CALVERT STEUART

Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts are leading the charge to meet the State's pollution diet (WIP II) for the agricultural sector. At the local level, the District is working with landowners to update existing soil and water quality conservation plans (SWQCP) and continues to provide quality technical expertise in the implementation of a wide variety of best management practices (BMPs).

Under WIP II, Maryland's counties have individual two-year milestone goals. These goals have been calculated to reach the desired level of nitrogen and phosphorus reductions prescribed in the "diet" by 2017. Both agricultural and urban sectors have goals to meet. Local county agencies are responsible for the urban goals. Districts are responsible for the agricultural goals. To date, Prince George's County farmers are ahead of the mandated two-year milestone goals.

MDA's revised nutrient management regulations became effective October 2012. These regulations prohibit spreading manure on fields during the winter months as well as establish stream "set back" limits for all livestock. District staff are actively reaching out to the community to inform them of these new changes and to offer technical assistance on solutions. MDA and USDA-NRCS both have cost share money available for eligible participants and practices.

In an effort to further protect the State's waters, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has made recent changes to stormwater management and soil erosion and sediment control regulations. After participating on the Technical Workgroup for the December 2011 Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, the District urban staff has been busy updating the Prince George's Soil Conservation District Soil Erosion and Sediment Control-Pond Safety Reference Manual. The manual is a reference guide for engineers, developers, plan reviewers and inspectors who will be involved in the coordinated three phase review process of Concept Plans, Site Development Plans and Final Plans.

In the spirit of supporting the County's new Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), the District anticipates opening a full service satellite office co-located with DPIE. This will allow the District to fully serve the needs of the development community and property owners from both office locations. The District has been recognized by the County as a leader in providing service excellence to the development community.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

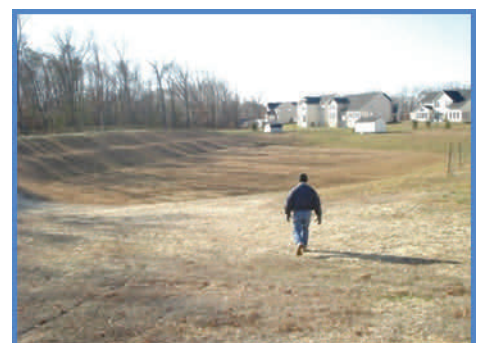
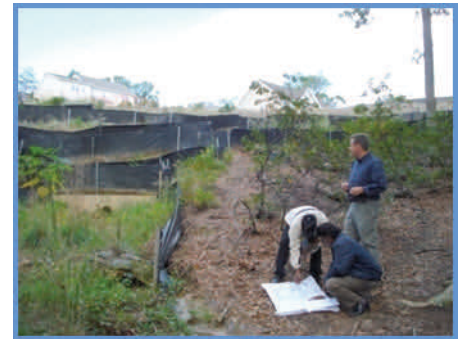
URBAN UPDATES	2-3
COVER CROP CREP	4
COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR	5
EDUCATION	6
LAND PRESERVATION OUTREACH	7
RENTAL EQUIP. NUTRIENT MGMT.	8
NRCS	9
AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS	10

Urban Conservation Accomplishments – 2012

Urban Statistics

BY SUPREET REKHI

<u>Soil Erosion and Sediment Control</u>	<u>Plans</u>	<u>Acres Protected with BMPs</u>
Residential Sites	273	24,717.2
Commercial Sites	135	4,803.4
Governmental Projects	60	1,554.7
Standard Plan Sites	11	11.0
Forest Harvest Sites	8	184.6
Mining and Fill Sites	8	1,562.3
Rough Grading Permits	12	595.3
Green Stamp Plans	40	-
Waiver Letters	24	-
Subdivision Plans	1	-
Pond Plans	169	-
Pond As-Builts	7	-
Exempt Pond Plans	138	-
Total Plans	886	Acres 33,428.5
Total Number of Plan Reviews		1,378.0
Average Review Time in Days		2.0



Members of the District Staff in the field working to ensure efficiency of Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Plans.

BY GENE WHITEHEAD

The urban staff has been diligently preparing for the January 2013 implementation of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)'s 2011 Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications.

Though the general program remains the same, Maryland's approach to confronting erosion and sediment-derived pollution continues to evolve. Key changes in store include:



1. The increased integration of stormwater and sediment control plans.
2. The incorporation of a 20 acre maximum grading unit for active construction sites resulting in less barren soil exposed to soil erosion.
3. More aggressive stabilization requirements will be enacted for disturbed areas, allowing only seven days to pass before graded slopes must be temporarily seeded or protected (3 days for steep slopes and some perimeter BMPs).

A new three-step process for sediment control review requires District involvement and approval of construction designs at two additional stages of plan development, with parallel steps occurring for storm water management plans. Ideally, this means any serious flaws or discrepancies in plan designs will be identified much earlier in plan review than previously possible, allowing engineers, developers, and owners to save valuable time and resources. A significant thrust of this new approach is to ensure better integration of smaller environmental site design (ESD) practices with the erosion and sediment controls, such that both may operate at maximum effectiveness.



MDE inspector with District staff visit site in Hyattsville

To better address these and other changes, the urban staff is currently updating the District's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control/Pond Safety Reference Manual. Throughout this transition in State regulations, urban staff has maintained its responsiveness to the development industry. Engineers working in the County were solicited for their input during the manual revision process, with many suggestions being incorporated. Likewise, discussion with Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) staff allowed for uncommon transparency and insight into District procedures.

With changes in plan design and approval procedures, the District has taken the initiative to ensure County inspectors are equipped technically for proper enforcement. Our continued meetings with inspectors not only allow for necessary conveyance of information but encourage an open, constructive dialogue between the two staffs that enable a more effective erosion and sediment control program.

The District maintained its support of the County inspection program this November by once again participating in MDE's review of the County's delegated authority. Urban staff accompanied MDE inspectors dispatched to the County to directly address questions regarding approved grading, erosion and sediment control plans.

The many challenges presented by this series of changes are being met and embraced as we proceed towards the most effective sediment control program possible in protection of our State's waterways.

2012-2013 COVER CROP

BY DIANA LAGUNES

One of the many ways the State of Maryland is helping to improve water quality is through Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Cover Crop Program. Farmers are encouraged to grow a small grain cover crop behind corn, soybeans, vegetables or tobacco. Roots of the small grain cover crop absorb nutrients left in the soil by the previous crop and prevent these nutrients from entering the ground water during the winter.

Following the crop harvest of 2012, farmers in Prince George's County planted a record 3,355 acres of cover crop. The warm fall germinated seeds quickly, creating a lush stand of small grains to cover the fields for the winter. This could potentially reduce nitrogen loading to groundwater by 24,250 pounds.



Program Statistics:

- 35 farmers signed up 5160 acres
- 5 farmers cancelled
- 30 farmers participated and fall certified that 3,355 acres were planted
- 85% of the farmers who signed up for the program planted cover crop in the fall
- 65% of the signed up acres were planted in the fall



CREP - Shallow Water Area

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

BY STEVE DARCEY

CREP can help landowners retire highly erodible and sensitive cropland while providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality and providing substantial income.

There are numerous best management practices (BMPs) to choose from. Grassed buffers, riparian forested buffers and shallow water areas for wildlife are the most popular BMPs installed. Contracts range between 10 and 15 years.

Annual payments are per acre and the dollar amount is based on the soil type. The average soil rental rate (SRR) in Prince George's County is \$56-\$60 per acre.

There are various incentive payments associated with different BMPs. These incentives can increase the annual per acre payments significantly. In some cases doubling the annual soil rental rate. There are also signing bonuses. These are "one time" per acre bonuses that are paid up front in addition to the first year's rental payment.

Whether you are interested in new CREP contracts or may be considering re-enrollment of expiring contracts, the District can guide you through the process and answer all of your technical questions.

For the latest information please visit:

<http://www.mda.state.md.us/> Search CREP



CREP—Warm Season Grass Buffer
Hagner Mister, Past Maryland Secretary
of Agriculture

BILLY AND JAY ADDISON - PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2011 COOPERATORS OF THE YEAR

Billy and Jay Addison are 11th generation Prince George's County landowners. The farm where they were raised was located in Bowie, Maryland, where cattle and tobacco were the main commodities. After pursuing their respective careers, both brothers had the desire to once again live on a farm. In 2003, they purchased the 111 acre "Duvall" farm where brothers, Billy and Jimmy Duvall, had actively farmed for over 50 years. The Duvall Brothers were named Cooperators of the Year in 1979.

Recognizing the need to bring the farm up to current standards, Billy and Jay contacted the Soil Conservation District in 2004 and the task of revitalizing the BMPs on the farm began.

Since then, a variety of BMPs have been installed to minimize soil erosion and reduce nutrients to improve water quality. Erosion control BMPs include four acres of grassed waterways with rock lined outlets and 2,000 feet of sub surface drainage. Water quality BMPs include a stream crossing, 2 acres of grass field borders, 3 acres of grass filter strips and 3,300 feet of access road with associated structures to control water flow



during rain events. Mr. Paul Duley raises grain on 80 acres of the farm and follows a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan as well as an approved Nutrient Management plan. All tillage and planting operations for grain production are performed using no-till methods.

Both brothers are avid upland game hunters. In addition to the numerous BMPs that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality, they also plant 5-10 acres of wildlife food plots. These areas are sown annually to sorghum and other seed bearing plants to benefit quail and wild turkeys.

Through their hard work and dedication, the Addison Brothers have transformed the 1970's era conservation farm into a modern 21st century conservation farm thus earning them the title:

Prince George's Soil Conservation District
2011 Cooperators of the Year



Oxon Hill High School won the 2012 County Envirothon.

EDUCATION

BY DEBBIE SANDLIN

The District and the Prince George's County Public Schools co-sponsor the annual Prince George's County Envirothon. This high school level event combines "hands on" experiences, testing and teamwork on environmental issues. The local event, held annually at the William Schmidt Outdoor Education Center in Brandywine, Maryland, was held April 25, 2012. The winning team from Oxon Hill High School represented Prince George's County at the state competition held at St. James School, St. James, Maryland, June 20-21. Teams from across the state participated, and the top team from Carroll County advanced to the national competition. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2012, the event was held in the founding state of Pennsylvania at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, July 22-28. At this level, the top ten teams earn scholarships. Each year we are challenged with reaching more students than in past years. If you wish to participate in this program, please contact our office at 301-574-5162 x3.

T. HOWARD DUCKETT DAM TOUR

BY STEVE DARCEY

District, MDA and NRCS staff were treated to an in-depth tour of WSSC's "Duckett Dam" in Laurel, Maryland. The concrete structure was built in 1952 and creates the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. With a contributing drainage area of 132 square miles, a surface area of 773 acres and an average depth of 74 feet, the reservoir holds an estimated 5.5 billion gallons of water. This impressive engineering marvel provides drinking water to both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.



Soil Conservation District staff with Kimberly Knox, Customer Outreach Coordinator with WSSC.



A view of the Duckett Dam concrete spillway system.

LAND PRESERVATION

BY JEANINE NUTTER

As of December 31, 2012 a total of 41 properties for 4,048 acres have been permanently preserved under the District's administration. We expect continuing to preserve 500 acres a year. Many landowners continue to patiently wait for funding to preserve their farm. At this time we have 28 property owners with 2,240 acres that have applied and are awaiting an offer. The lack of funding from the State and County continues to be a major issue. We continue to work with landowners to keep their interest in these programs. The fact that development pressure is very low at this time has helped to keep these farms available for preservation. No one knows how long this lack of pressure will continue.

Program	Number of Easements Purchased	Preserved Acres	Number of Pending Applications	Acres Awaiting Preservation
HARPP	25	2,534	23	1,499
MALPF	15	1,379	4	479
Rural Legacy	1	135	1	260
Total	41	4,048	28	2,238

OUTREACH FOR 2012

The District has participated in many events this year. Some of them include:

- Sponsoring the annual Come Celebrate Arbor Day event held this year at Brandywine Elementary School on April 20th.
- Second year sponsor of a Summer Internship Program, which resulted in hiring a full time grant technician.
- Steve Darcey, Senior Ag Engineer, spoke on Water Management to Reduce Soil Erosion at the University of Maryland Horse Pasture Management Seminar.
- Urban staff provided quarterly training for the County Sediment Control Inspectors.
- Participated in the County Fair distributing District information and answering questions for County constituents and hosted the Beautiful Baby Contest.
- Hosted MDE Public Meeting on Maryland's Growth Offset Policy on September 18th.
- Sponsored the Maryland Horse Council Farm Stewardship meeting at Edgewood Farm in Upper Marlboro on October 8th.
- FSCAP Certification—three farmers received certification this year:
Michael Heller, Milly Welch and Steve Darcey.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

- **6' Great Plains No Till Drill**
\$6.00/Acre and \$25.00/ Day
 - **10' Great Plains No Till Drill**
\$6.00/Acre and \$25.00/ Day
 - **Lime spreader**
\$6.00/Acre and \$25.00/ Day
 - **Wheathart Post Pounder**
\$100.00 1st Day and \$50.00/ Day each additional day
 - **3 point Vicon Pendulum fertilizer spreader**
\$50/day
 - **Single shank Subsoiler**
\$50/day
 - **Aer-Way Pasture and Hayland Renovator**
\$6.00/Acre and \$25.00/ Day
- Contact Jim Cary at james.cary48@gmail.com

New Nutrient Management Regulations Announced by the Maryland Department of Agriculture

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) issued new guidelines for farmers and wastewater treatment operations outlining immediate actions necessary to comply with Maryland's newly revised nutrient management regulations which took effect October 15, 2012. The revised regulations redefine how a farm nutrient management plan is developed and implemented while changing the way organic nutrient sources and other materials are managed. They are designed to help Maryland meet nutrient reduction goals spelled out in its Watershed Implementation Plan to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

"MDA has implemented a transitional approach to the revised regulations which will allow the 6,000 farmers and hundreds of wastewater treatment operations time to secure the financial and technical resources necessary to comply with the most immediate nutrient management provisions," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance.

New Manure Spreader For Rent



In May of this year the District received a grant for \$7272.00 from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to purchase a new manure spreader. The idea was to provide a medium sized spreader that could handle all types of manure for small and medium sized farmers. With changes in nutrient management regulations, most operators with animals, including horse owners will have to be conscious about when and how they spread their manure.

The Manure spreader is a Pequea 125. It holds approximately 125 bu. and can be easily pulled with a 30hp tractor with a 540 PTO. Double beaters and a fine material spreading gate allow all types of manure and compost to spread efficiently and effectively. The unit is pulled with a pin and can be transported with a pick-up truck. It rents for \$75.00 a day and can be scheduled by contacting Jim Cary at PGSCD.

The new guidelines issued by MDA address the implementation requirements affecting the remainder of the 2012-2013 season which is now well underway. The guidelines address three broad areas of nutrient management:

- Nutrient Management Plan Updates
- New Timing Requirements for Fall Nutrient Applications
- Manure Injection or Incorporation Requirements for Winter Applications

For more detailed information please contact your Nutrient management advisor or go to:

www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/finalnmregs.pdf




2013 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

Do you want to improve your farm

Program Description

Anne Arundel and Prince George’s agricultural producers are encouraged to contact their local soil conservation district to learn more. **2013 EQIP application cutoff dates are January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19 & May 17.**

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps farmers and owners of agricultural land, including forest landowners, reduce pollution and improve natural resources. EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to help people plan, install and implement structural, vegetative and/or management conservation practices. Limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers are encouraged to participate in these programs. EQIP contracts are generally one to three years up to a maximum term of 10 years. Contracts are limited to \$300,000 per individual. Practice installation will start during the first year of the contract.

Resource Concerns	Description	Sample Practices
	<p>National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative:</p> <p>NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops and address resource concerns.</p> <p>System is only eligible on land with crop history. Area zoned as "urban" or "residential" may meet program eligibility requirement. Maximum practice extent 2178 sq. ft.</p> <p>Participants must meet minimum definition of agricultural producing operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops -Critical Area Stabilization -Nutrient Management
	<p>Organic Farming Initiative:</p> <p>NRCS assists eligible producers installing conservation practices related to current certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic farming.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conservation Crop Rotations - Cover Crop - Fence -Residue & Tillage Management - Nutrient Management (Organic)- - Seasonal High Tunnel
	<p>Conservation Activity Plan (CAP):</p> <p>NRCS provides funding for development of Conservation Activities Plans. Certified Technical Service Providers (TSP) are available for developing the activity plans. Conservation practices identified may be eligible for EQIP cost-sharing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Management Plan - Irrigation Water Management Plan - Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition - Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
	<p>Grazing Land:</p> <p>Assistance to plan and implement rotational grazing systems, establish riparian buffers and apply nutrients more efficiently. For prescribed grazing payments, all components of the prescribed grazing plan must be in place and livestock managed according to the plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pasture & Hayland Planting -Access Control & Fencing -Prescribed Grazing -Nutrient Management -Water Troughs & Pipelines - Heavy Use Area Protection

For more information please visit www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip.html or contact Joseph A. Haamid, NRCS District Conservationist, at 410-571-6757 (Anne Arundel) and 301-574-5162 (Prince George’s); or email Joseph.haamid@md.usda.gov
 USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS
January 1-December 31, 2012

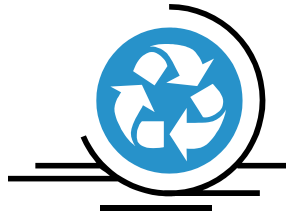
PLANNING ACTIVITIES	CONSERVATION APPLICATION
New Cooperators (4) 105 ac	Farmers Applying BMPs 75 ea
New Farm Plans (16) 1295 ac	BMPs Installed on Farms 165 ea
Revised Farm Plans (38) 2968 ac	Acres Receiving Treatment 4870 ac
Total Plans (54) 4263 ac	Estimated Tons of Soil Saved 1903 tons

BMP Funding Sources	FUNDING SOURCE	BMPs INSTALLED
	MACS Capital Projects (5 Agreements)	5
	MACS Cover Crop (31 Farmers)	3355 ac on 87 tracts
	USDA-EQIP (3 Contracts)	5
	USDA-CBWI (1 Contract)	1
	Private funding	123
	TOTAL BMPs Applied	165

Equipment Rental Program	EQUIPMENT TYPE	FARMERS	ACRES
	No-till Drill (10')	15	528
	No-till Drill (6')	19	259
	Pasture Aerator	1	20
	5 ton Lime Spreader	4	110
	Post Pounder (acres fenced)	6	9.5

Best Management Practices Applied

PRACTICE	AMT APPLIED	PRACTICE	AMT APPLIED
Winter Cover Crop	3355 ac	Critical Area Stabilization	6 ac
Heavy Use Area Protection	2.4 ac	Filter Strips	1.75 ac
Nutrient Management	1090 ac	Prescribed Grazing	3.2 ac
Pasture/Hay Land Planting	145 ac	Field Border	4,140 ft
Waste Storage Structure	1.0 st	Residue & Tillage Management	46.0 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	766.5 ac	Forage Management	285 ac
No Till	1135 ac	Underground Outlet	730 lf
Grassed Waterway	0.5 ac	Ponds	1 ea
Fence	5488 ft	Pond sealing or lining	1 ea
Brush Management	1.0 ac	Grade Stabilization Structure	2.0 st
Pipeline	900 lf	Access Road	1635 lf
Roof Runoff Management	10 ea	Watering Facility	2 ea
Lined Waterway or Outlet	10.0 ft	Field Strip-Cropping	15 ac



Soil Conservation District Recycle Update

In 2012 we recycled 7,050 lbs of paper and nearly 50 cubic feet of plastic. Without recycling efforts, this would have been sent to the County landfill. Good job staff.

Goodbye

This year we said goodbye to long time district employee James Whisonant. James was employed with the District for 29 years. He retired as an Urban Engineer IV. Congratulations and the best of luck.



Welcome

We welcome Terry Hampton, our new Administrative Aide. Terry began work with us on January 28, 2013. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

Updates

Our new website is up and running; www.pgscd.org. Please provide feedback.

In an effort to better serve you, please provide your current email address to Prince George's Soil Conservation District either by calling 301-574-5162 X 3 or by emailing Terry Hampton at TAHampton@co.pg.md.us.

Our Annual Cooperator of the Year Dinner will be held Friday April 19, 2013 at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department Hall. Look for an invitation sometime in early to mid March. For more information contact our office.

DISTRICT STAFF

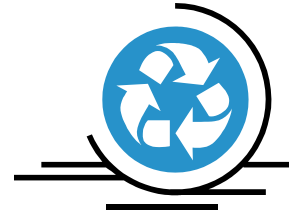
David G. Bourdon, District Manager
Joseph Haamid, NRCS, District Conservationist
Lance Gardner, District Engineer
Brenda Sanford, Urban Engineer
Supreet Rekhi, Urban Engineer
Eugene Whitehead, Urban Engineer
Steven E. Darcey, Conservation Engineer
Robert Yates Clagett Jr., District Planner
Jeanine Nutter, District Planner
Debra Sandlin, Administrative Assistant/Editor
Teresia Arnold, Administrative Aide
Rita Jones, Administrative Aide
Terry Hampton, Administrative Aide
Diana Lagunes, MDA Planner
Eileen Beard, MDA Planner/Regional Equine Outreach Specialist
Joseph Kontgias, MDA Associate
Jim Cary, Technician, MDA Grant Technician
Joseph Gaetano, MDA Grant Technician



Check out our new website at:
www.pgscd.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

R. Calvert Steuart, Chairman
James Edelen, Vice Chairman
Raymond Watson, Treasurer
James "Pete" Parreco, Supervisor
Reverend Robert Slade, Supervisor



In an effort to conserve paper, our future annual report and newsletters will be distributed electronically. Please provide your updated email address to our office by calling 301-574-5162 X 3 or emailing tahampton@pg.co.md.us. On behalf of the District, thank you for assisting us with our conservation efforts.

Prince George's Soil Conservation District
5301 Marlboro Race Track Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772