

CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Our 70th Year

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



RICHLAND FARM

*PROVIDING INFORMATION,
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION IN CONSERVING
THE COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES*



2015 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Cecil Soil Conservation District is located in the northeast corner of the state; bounded on the west by the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay. Commercial agriculture is the county's largest industry, with dairy and beef cattle, horses, swine, poultry, corn, soybeans, small grain, hay, mushrooms, nursery stock and orchards as the primary products. Developing Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans outlined in Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan to protect the Chesapeake Bay, and providing surveys and designs to install best management practices (BMPs), are major functions of the District. Locally the District administers the Maryland Agriculture Cost-Share Program, the Low Interest Loan for Agricultural Conservation Program, and assists with the delivery of numerous USDA cost-share programs channeling millions in revenue into the Cecil County economy. These responsibilities are mutually shared with the County, State and Federal agency partners represented within the District. The District reviews and approves erosion and sediment control plans for grading and storm water management plans for environmental site design as an integral part of Cecil County Government's permit process. Other activities include agricultural land preservation planning assistance, stream bank stabilization, small pond approvals, drainage systems maintenance and extensive educational programs. The District plays a major role in the Economic Development of Agricultural Businesses and assisting with the growth and development of the County's leading industry and land use. The District provides education and outreach to schools, civic groups, and local municipalities, the general public and county departments through a dynamic and diverse delivery system. Additionally, the District handles agricultural pollution complaints and the resolution of County right to farm ordinance issues.

AG CONSERVATION PRACTICES

BMP'S INSTALLED FY 2015	AMOUNT
Animal Trails & Walkways	854 ft
Channel Bed Stabilization	360 ft
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	2
Conservation Cover	27.4 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	707.4 ac
Cover Crop	18239ac
Critical Area Planting	6.9 ac
Fencing	6,489 ft
Filter Strip	6.3 ac
Forage Harvest Management	214 ac
Grade Stabilization Structures	5
Grassed Waterway	3.4 ac
Heavy Use Area Protection	1 ac
Lined Waterway or Outlet	436 ft
Mulching	2.6 ac
Nutrient Management	1735 ac
Obstruction Removal	.3 ac
Pasture Management	24.4 ac
Pipeline	1661 ft
Pond	3
Pumping Plant	2
Residue & Tillage Management	19 ac
Riparian Forest Buffer & Herbaceous Cover	5.2 ac
Roof Runoff Management Systems	1
Spring Development	1
Storm water Runoff Control	5
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	360 ft
Stream Crossing	2
Strip cropping	89.1 ac
Structure for Water Control	6
Subsurface Drain	690 ft
Tree & Shrub Establishment	.3 ac
Underground Outlet	644 ft
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	18.8 ac
Vegetated Treatment Area	.1 ac
Waste Facility Closure	2
Waste Storage Structure	4
Waste Transfer	3
Watering Facility	5
Waste Recycling	55 ac
Wetland Creation	.5 ac
Well	2
TOTAL BMP'S INSTALLED	227

URBAN CONSERVATION

URBAN PRACTICES	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Reviewed	312	
Forest Harvest Plans Reviewed	22	
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Approved	223	2,260 ac
Forest Harvest Plans Approved	20	455 ac

The community drainage ditches in the County are maintained by the District and are located in and around incorporated towns or populated areas. The District is responsible for over 11 miles of community ditches located in 14 drainage project areas. The annual operation and maintenance program includes inspection, mowing, spraying and structural repairs.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

FEDERAL PROGRAMS with USDA NRCS and FSA

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	\$9,389
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	\$337,597
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	\$879,859
Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	\$0
USDA/FSA (DCP, MILC, ACRE, LOANS, DISASTER)	UNDIS- CLOSED

MACS REPORT 2015

	COMPLETED	PAYMENT
Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program	6	\$66,590
2014-2015 Cover Crop	68	\$1,030,851
Manure Transport	3	\$13,630
Manure Injection/Incorporation	7	\$20,748
2015-2016 Cover Crop	76 APPLIED	\$1,350,000

CONSERVATION PLANNING AND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

	COMPLETED
New Conservation Plans	10,415 acres
New Conservation Plans	62 total
New Cooperators	13
Agricultural Storm Water Management/ E&S	22

OUR COMMUNITY IN 2015

2015 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR . . .

The 70th Annual Cooperator's dinner held January 15, 2016 honored Richland Farm. The David Reisler Sr. and David Reisler Jr. families reside in Calvert, Maryland and operate Richland Farm as a crop and beef operation. The farm has a long history of conservation practices since they signed their first conservation plan in 1946. Some of the more recent practices include Maryland's first cattle feeding and waste storage facility with component practices of heavy use area protection., filter strip, roof runoff, waste storage and fencing to create an enhanced pasture management system. The Reislers have added multiple waste storage structures for liquid and dry systems, stream fencing, watering troughs, stream crossing, cover crops, and prescribed grazing. The farm has protected wetland and wildlife habitat, and created a shallow water wildlife area which compliments the contoured strip cropping system and prescribed grazing. The Reiler's farm has recently been certified under the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program by the Maryland Association of Conservation Districts. The Reislers have participated in a Bermuda grass planting pilot program in partnership with the Cecil Soil Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Reisler families are participating in Maryland agricultural preservation to protect this farm rich with natural resources for future generations to enjoy. The Reisler families of Richland Farm are committed to the sustainability of their family farm with the wise use and conservation of their natural resources.

Outstanding Cooperator of the Year

COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR VIDEOS . . . Visit us at www.cecilsd.com/agriculture.htm to view current and past videos displaying outstanding conservation and interesting family history in the County..



CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE CECIL COUNTY FAIR



Children of all ages participated in a hands-on activity at the 2015 Cecil County Fair Kid's Day. Participants learned about plant identification in a fun creative way by playing a game of "Memory". Home gardens, and methods for simple plantings were shared with the children. Small temporary tattoos are always a huge hit with the kids.

PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- ◆ American Farmland Trust - Nutrient Management
- ◆ Cecil County Agricultural Advisory Board
- ◆ Cecil County Board of Education – Outdoor Classrooms
- ◆ Cecil County Community Drainage/Operation and Maintenance
- ◆ Cecil County Fair Board—Ag Showcase Day/Youth Day
- ◆ Cecil County Department of Public Works—Technical Assistance and Outreach
- ◆ Cecil County Forestry Board – Natural Resource Camp Partnership/Tree Planting Program
- ◆ Cecil County Watershed Implementation Plan Advisory Committee
- ◆ Cecil County Watershed Stewardship Academy
- ◆ Cecil Land Trust - Ag Preservation
- ◆ County/MD-Agricultural Preservation Education/Outreach/Soils Inventories/Planning
- ◆ DNR—Shoreline Protection Education/Outreach
- ◆ Eastern Shore Land Conservancy - Ag Preservation
- ◆ Fair Hill Nature Center—Education Programs/Technical Assistance, Outdoor classroom/Wetland
- ◆ Octoraro Watershed Association—Outreach
- ◆ University of Maryland—Ag Update Day/Education

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION

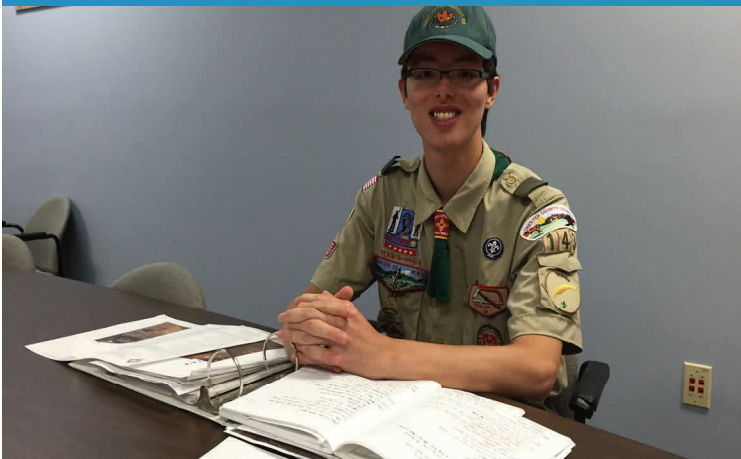
- ◆ Agricultural Preservation & Estate Planning
- ◆ Boy Scouts of America
- ◆ Cecil County “Wade In”
- ◆ Cooperator of the Year Video
- ◆ District’s 4th Grade Soil and Water Education Program (2000 + students)
- ◆ District Coloring & Poster Contests
- ◆ Earth Day at NEMS with Student Wetland Restoration
- ◆ Elementary Conservation Education Programs
- ◆ Envirothon/County and State
- ◆ Fair Hill Nature Center
- ◆ From My Backyard to Our Bay - Resident’s Guide
- ◆ Holly Hall Elementary School
- ◆ Octoraro Watershed Association

NORTH EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL



Next generation conservationists attend Earth Day 2015. . . NRCS and Cecil Soil Conservation partnered once again, to teach North East Middle School 7th graders about the importance of wetlands and wetland species. Aspiring future conservationists had fun with hands-on activities while receiving an introduction to soil components - soils, vegetation, and hydrology, necessary for a functioning wetland.

ASSISTING AN EAGLE SCOUT



SPONSORSHIPS

- ◆ Agricultural Update Day
- ◆ Ag Showcase Day/County Fair
- ◆ Cecil County 4th Grade Soil & Water Program
- ◆ Cecil Envirothon Program
- ◆ Districts BMP Demonstrations
- ◆ District Intern Program
- ◆ District Scholarships
- ◆ Farmer Workshops
- ◆ L.E.A.D. Maryland Student Scholarships
- ◆ University of Maryland Soils Judging Team

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Agricultural Presentation Programs
- ◆ Annual Cooperator’s Banquet
- ◆ Cecil County Fair – Display Booth & Ag Showcase Day
- ◆ Community Drainage Maintenance/Outreach
- ◆ Conservation Farmer Trainings
- ◆ District’s Website Opportunities
- ◆ District Nitrogen Use Efficiency Program & Farmer Workshops
- ◆ Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program
- ◆ Field Days and Demonstration Projects
- ◆ MASCD/NACD Meetings - Activities
- ◆ Nutrient Applicators Voucher Training
- ◆ Shoreline Protection Education
- ◆ Watershed Implementation Plan Development

CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT & FRIENDS VISITED 3 FARMS





2015 First Place Team—Rising Sun

ENVIROTHON 2015...

Cecil Soil Conservation District sponsors and hosts the annual Cecil County Envirothon. Envirothon is a series of trainings and competitions in which students from area high schools solve real-life, interactive, environmental problems in a natural setting. This event encourages the spirit of competition to educate high school students about natural resources. Topics students learn about and compete in are aquatics, wildlife, soils, forestry, and the 2015 current issue Sustainable Agriculture. Nine teams competed from four Cecil high schools. Rising Sun High School earned first place in the county competition, which advanced them to the Maryland State Competition where they competed against other county's winning teams.

YOUTH and PUBLIC EDUCATION...

Cecil County's 6th Annual Wade-In took place at North East Beach in June. The cloudy weather did not deter over 400 people from attending to peruse exhibits about topics including the Chesapeake Bay, water quality, natural resources, and citizen action. The exhibits containing live animals were especially popular, and every attendee received a t-shirt. To cap off the event, people waded into the river, using retired Maryland Senator Bernie Fowler's "sneaker index" to measure water quality.



Cover Crop...

Cover crops are plants seeded into agricultural fields over winter to primarily improve and or maintain ecosystem quality. The cover crop uptakes nutrients and prevents soil erosion.

Sixty-eight farmers planted in excess of 18,241 acres of cover crop in 2015 as traditional cover crop and commodity grain. The 2015-16 sign-up exceeded \$1.35 million dollars of State cost share.



2nd GRADE VISIT HOLLY HALL ELEMENTARY

The District went to Holly Hall Elementary School and did a soils presentation in the spring and to teach the 2nd graders about the advantage of rain gardens for storm water management. Roof runoff from the school will be directed into a rain garden to facilitate clean water infiltration into the ground water. Returning later in the year to help the same students evaluate 5 different areas on the schools grounds to see which would be an appropriate area to build the rain garden. Using a soil auger the students dug 3 foot holes and textured the soil to see what its clay and sand contents were.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING - BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)...

One of the various District priorities is the promotion of the conservation of natural resources through dynamic information and education outreach programs. The District works diligently with Cecil farmers/land owners to provide technical assistance, planning, and guidance in the implementation of voluntary conservation practices. This includes survey, design engineering and the administration of cost-share programs for the installation of Best Management Practices. The District works with partnering agencies and the private sector to educate the public and provide diverse information and technical assistance. This may include agricultural preservation assistance, agricultural business growth, and farm site planning utilizing conservation practices to address the resource concerns on the property.



Sediment Control Pond



Watering Facility



Roof Runoff Structure

OUR MISSION STATEMENT, HISTORY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

J. Bruce Yerkes, Chairman
William Ewing, Vice-Chairman
Van Funk, Treasurer
Sean McCandless, Associate
Victor Priapi, Member
Jonathan Quinn, Member

COUNTY STAFF

Charles Hayes, District Manager
Chris Brown, Soil Conservationist
Mari Markkula, Soil Conservationist
Sandy Richardson, Financial Coordinator
Patty Pierce, Administrative Assistant

MDA STAFF

Mitch LeMueix, Ag Resource
Conservation Specialist
Dan Polite, Engineering Technician

USDA, NRCS STAFF

Tim Clippinger, District Conservationist
William Metcalf, Soil Conservationist
Rachel Yeatman, Soil Conservationist
Christopher Davidson, Civil Engineering Tech

DISTRICT STAFF

Ronald Davis, Jr., Resource Conservationist
Emily Harakal, Ag Resource
Conservation Specialist
Laura Beimfroh, Technician

Cecil Soil Conservation District provides services and programs on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital or family status.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to provide information, technical assistance, and education in conserving the county's natural resources.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to continue to be the proven and recognized leader in natural resources conservation in Cecil County.

The Cecil Soil Conservation District (CSCD) was formally organized on June 26, 1945 under a charter signed by Maryland's Secretary of State. On August 27, 1945, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into between CSCD and USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now, the Natural Resources Conservation Service). Since that time, the CSCD has expanded its primary conservation partners to include Cecil County Government and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The District's services facilitate the implementation of structural and agronomic best management practices (BMP's) on agricultural, residential and commercial developing lands. BMP's can protect water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance farm efficiencies, and have many positive economic and environmental benefits. The District promotes wise land use planning, environmental site design, erosion and sediment control, smart growth, economic development, agricultural land preservation and the protection of Cecil County's primary industry through sustainable agriculture.

The District offers Soil Conservation & Water Quality Plans which are custom developed to provide farmers and landowners with a blue print for protecting their natural resources while seeking to keep their agricultural operation sustainable.

The District administers and provides technical assistance for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Programs and many other USDA Farm Bill Programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.



**CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CHESAPEAKE CORPORATE CENTER
105 CHESAPEAKE BLVD. SUITE B-3
ELKTON, MD 21921
PHONE: 410.398.4411 EXT.3**

Visit our website:
www.cecilscd.com