



SUMMER EDITION



TRADEWINDS

Volume 11, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- 2006-07 Cover Crop signup begins June 12 - ends July 28.
- Maryland Envirothon June 20-22
- Talbot County Fair July 12-15
- Canon Envirothon July 23-29

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2006 Conservation Security Program a Success

Teresa Kampmeyer– District Conservationist

2006 Conservation Security Program Sign-up

The 2006 Conservation Security Program Signup for the Choptank Watershed ended on March 31, 2006. This program has been a huge success in Talbot County because the farmers here do such a great job implementing good environmental farming practices on their land. Last year we had the CSP signup in the Chester-Sassafras Watershed and ended up with 22 contracts. This spring we interviewed over 120 people for the Choptank watershed and have 110 applications waiting for funding. CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing stewardship of cropland and pastureland with financial incentives for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. CSP identifies and rewards farmers who are currently meeting high standards of conservation and environmental management on their land. CSP is offered on a watershed basis with all of Maryland's watersheds becoming eligible over the next 8 years.

While we are waiting funding from Washington we wanted to thank everyone who applied for and participated in this unique program. It's been great to have this program here and our staff did a great job handling the demands of the program. Once we know about the funding all applicants will be contacted to review their contract and decide if they wish to continue on as a contract. Payments could be made as early as mid-June. Hopefully we will hear something very soon on funding.



Cover Crop Signup To Begin- -Levin Schwaninger MDA Soil Conservation Planner

MD Cover Crop Program 2006/2007

The Talbot County Soil Conservation District will be accepting applications for 2006/2007 MD Cover Crop Program on a first come first serve basis beginning on Monday June 12, 2006 and ending on Friday July 28, 2006. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

New to the program this year is a 1500 acre limit and Commodity Cover Crop. A maximum of 500 acres can be signed up for the Commodity

Cover Crop for harvest and a maximum of 1000 acres for the Cover Crop for kill down. No fertilizer can be applied before March 1, 2007 for either Cover Crop. There is a \$20.00 per acre payment rate for the Commodity portion with no incentives. The remaining Cover Crop has a base payment of \$30.00 with early planting incentives up to a total of \$50.00 per acre. Stand-by acres can be submitted for the Cover Crop for kill down only and will be prorated according to available funding after initial requests have been approved. Applicants must have either a new plan on

file with the Nutrient Management Program or have submitted an Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to be approved for the Cover Crop Program. Contact Levin Schwaninger or Dave Wilson at 410-822-1577 ext. 3 for more information.



MDA Manure Transport Program - David Wilson-MDA Soil Conservation Eng. Tech



Did you know :
 -It takes 500 years to form 1 inch of top soil.
 -NRCS Maryland has identified 300 different types of soils in the state.
 -Earthworms in 1 acre can digest 36 tons of soil in 1 year.

Do you have manure you can't use or need manure you don't have? Perhaps the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Manure Transport Program could help you. To be eligible, the manure must come from a farm which cannot use the manure and go to a farm which can use the manure as documented by a nutrient management plan. Either the manure producer or the manure user can apply for transport money. A farmer can

apply to transport manure within his/her operation if poultry litter is transported greater than 7 miles and if other source manure is transported greater than 1 mile. The cost of transporting poultry manure is split evening by MDA and the manure producing farm's integrator. MDA pays 87.5% of the cost of transporting all other manure with a \$7500 per year cap for each manure producing operation. MDA operates a manure matching

service which can be accessed at www.mda.state.md.us or by calling 1-877-7manure. Be sure to start the application process early as funding is limited and the application must be approved by MDA prior to moving any manure. For more information contact David Wilson.

Office Closures:

SCD & NRCS offices will be closed the following holidays:

Tuesday July 4 – Independence Day

Monday Sep. 4 – Labor Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Talbot County Fair

July 12-15, 2006

Talbot Ag Center,
 10659 Hiners Ln,
 Easton MD 21601

USDA Program Reminder:

If you have been approved for a USDA/NRCS program, just a reminder, you cannot start that practice until a contract has been signed. You will be responsible for the "up-front" cost. When the practice is complete to NRCS specifications, you will get the cost share money.



No-Till Innovator Award Nominations-



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No-Till Innovator Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding no-till farming efforts? Give them an opportunity to be honored at the 15th-annual National No-Tillage Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Syngenta Crop Protection and *No-Till Farmer* urge you to nominate an exceptional individual or group for the 11th-annual No-Till Innovator Awards. Individuals or organizations can be nominated in each of the following categories: consulting, crop production, organization, and research and education.

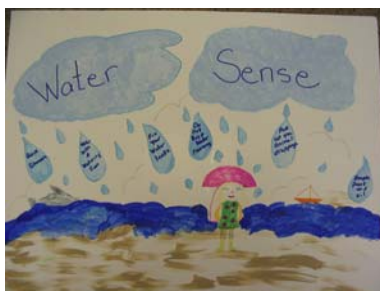
Any person who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of no-till farming in the United States or Canada is eligible to win, regardless of the crop grown or the brand of equipment or crop protection products used. Self-nominations are also accepted.

Deadline for nominations is July 14, 2006. Enter online at www.syngentacropprotection.com/notill. With questions, call (847) 519-9150. Or call Teresa Kampmeyer-District Conservationist at the Easton NRCS office at: (410)-822-1577 ext.3

2006 Talbot County Land Stewardship Poster Contest

Craig Zinter - MDA District Manager

The 2006 Talbot County Land Stewardship Poster Contest sponsored by the Talbot County Soil Conservation District was held between March and April of the year. This year's theme is "Water Wise". The posters are entered into groups based on grades. The groups are: 1-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The posters are first judged on a school level. The 1st. Place winners in each age group are entered into the county-wide contest. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place school winners received a soil and water goody bag. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place county-wide winners will receive a U.S. Savings Bond.



This poster from Gillian Lewis of St. Michaels Elementary School is one of three 1st place posters to be sent to the MASCD Poster Contest held in July 2006

County-Wide Winners

1-2 Grade

- 1st. Elijah Hardesty— St Peter & Paul Elem.
- 2nd. Destiny Christopher— St Peter & Paul Elem.
- 3rd. Riley Deter— St Peter & Paul Elem.

3-5 Grade

- 1st. Gillian Lewis— St. Michaels Elem.
- 2nd. Zack Clifford— Tilghman Elem.
- 3rd. Ross Wojcik—Chapel District Elem.

6-8 Grade

- 1st. Matthew Burns— St. Peter & Paul Middle
- 2nd. Russell Hinkle— St. Peter & Paul Middle
- 3rd. Madelyn Granger— St. Peter & Paul Middle

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Mark Mason-Soil Conservation Technician
Buddy Pinder-Soil Conservation Engineering Tech.
Dave Wilson-Soil Conservation Engineering Tech.
Levin Schwaninger-Soil Conservation Planner
Corey Spies-EPA 319 Grant Planner
Jim Brewer-Soil Scientist
Charlie Hanner-Soil Scientist
Dale Foxwell– Erosion Control Reviewer

Board of Supervisors

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Dan Palmer-Member
Shannon Potter-Extension Service Secretary
Norman Fike-Honorary Member
Jane Ward-Assoc. Supervisor
Phil Foster-Assoc. Supervisor
Vicky Sump-Assoc. Supervisor

Internet Links

NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service
><http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
><http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

MDA, Maryland Department of Agriculture
><http://www.mda.state.md.us>

DNR, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
><http://www.dnr.state.md.us>

MDE, Maryland Dept. of the Environment
><http://www.mde.state.md.us>

NACD, National Assoc. of Conservation Districts
><http://www.nacdnet.org>

AND DON'T FORGET

*Were on the web @
www.TalbotSCD.com*



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Mark Mason– NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

EQIP is a USDA program through the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), which can provide agriculture producers funding to assist with conservation practices to eliminate or reduce soil and water quality problems. The basic eligibility to apply for EQIP is that the applicant must: **1.** be able to show an IRS Schedule F on file; showing gross sales of agricultural products produced & sold of \$1,000.00 or greater for two of the last five years, land rent or animal boarding does not count. **2.** Have a financial interest in the farming operation. **3.** Have control of the land being offered. **4.** Compliance with the USDA Farm Bill have a Highly Erodible and Wetlands Certification on file at the FSA (Farm Service Agency). **5.** Adjusted Gross Income Certification, no more than \$2.5 million/year income. A signed contract is a legal and binding contract between NRCS and the participant. At least one practice must be started within 12 months of signing. Changes can not be made without plan/design/contract modification, must be approved in advance and in writing.

Funding for EQIP is obtained through a competitive application process that awards funding to proposals that show a high level of benefits to the environment while factoring in the cost of the proposals.

EQIP provides 50% cost sharing of eligible expenses needed to install structural practices. Examples of structural practices that have been funded in Talbot County include: Intensive Rotational Grazing (includes the Grazing Plan, fencing, watering pipelines and troughs, pasture planting, stream crossing if needed), Pasture & Hayland Plantings, Manure Storage Structures, Heavy Use Areas

in Barnyards (curbed concrete feedlot areas) and Poultry House Cleanout Pads, Animal Mortality Structures, Composters and Incinerators, Reforestation tree plantings, Poultry House Windbreaks, and Grassed Waterways. A typical EQIP contract gives a producer 3 to 5 years to install an implement the items included in their contract.

There are practices that are not structural by nature and have an incentive payment paid to the producer for the implementation of the practice. Examples of these practices include CNMP - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (this is required before any waste facility can be cost shared), Prescribed Grazing Plan and its implementation, Early Fall Cover Crop (not available in 07), Nutrient Management a tier practice that is applicable to manage the amount, source, placement, form, and timing of nutrients and soil amendments. A current year Nutrient Management Plan is required at the time of application. And Pest Management, also a tiered practice applicable to utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression strategies to manage all plant, insect, disease, and animal pests. This practice is intended to encourage the implementation of advanced Integrated Pest Management Techniques.

The 2006 EQIP signup period ran from December 5th 2005 to February 24th 2006. There were a total of 18 applications made, 16 of those application were awarded a contract. These applications included (6) Rotational Grazing, (1) Poultry House Windbreak, (2) Poultry House Cleanout Pads, (3) CNMPs, (1) Pasture/Hayland Plantings, (2) Reforestation Tree Plantings, (1) Nu-



"EQIP can help pay for the re-establishment of pasture grasses". Incentives are provided for the development and implementation of Prescribed Grazing plans. Other practices EQIP helps to cover the cost of are Cover and Green Manure Crop, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, Waste Storage Facilities and Roof Runoff.

If you would like to like to find out more about EQIP and the application process, this summer would be a good time to contact the Service Center to discuss ideas and to develop a plan to accurately determine what is needed (components, quantities and dollars), and start the USDA Producer eligibility paperwork. The 2007 EQIP Signup will be in the late fall, exact dates will be announced at a later date.

