



## 2007—2008 COVER CROP FALL CERTIFICATION:

**W**ithin one week of planting the cover crop but no later than the dates listed below, the applicant must certify that they are in compliance with the eligibility requirements of the Cover Crop Program.

### FALL CERTIFICATION DATES:

*MACS \$ 10/Acre Incentive - October 9th*  
*MACS \$ 10/Acre Incentive - October 23rd*

*MACS \$ 30/Acre Base Payment - November 13th*

Please bring in the following information to be submitted with the fall certification form:

- FSA maps showing fields planted
- Seed tags and signed invoices for purchased seed or seed tests for home grown seed

If you are planting dates occur on more

than one planting tier, you can call in to certify the acres you have planted. When you are done planting, then come in to our office and fill out the fall certification form. If you have any questions contact Levin Schwaninger.



## SERVICE CENTER GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

**O**n the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 13th, the Talbot Soil Conservation District broke ground on the new Talbot Agricultural Service Center located in the Talbot Commerce Park in Easton. Construction will begin soon and hopefully the completion of the building will be done by early April.

From left to right in the picture: John Swaine III, Chairman of the Talbot Soil Conservation District's Board of

Supervisors, Joe Kramer of Delmarva Pole Building Supply, Inc., Del. Jeannie Haddaway, R-37B-Talbot,

Sen. Richard Colburn, R-37-Mid-Shore, and Robin O'Brien of the Talbot Bank.

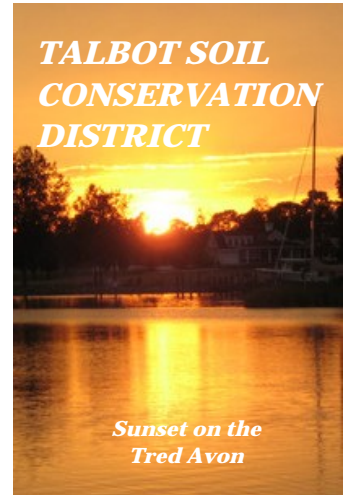


Photo courtesy of Soilman from [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

Our office will be closed on the following holidays:

October 8th—Columbus Day

November 12th—Veteran's Day

November 22nd—Thanksgiving Day

November 23rd—Day After Thanksgiving

December 25th—Christmas Day

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## GOT CRP & WEEDS?

**A**s a participant in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP), **there are several annual requirements that must be adhered to in order to retain eligibility for the program.**

According to FSA, one requirement is to annually report the CRP/CREP acreage, land uses, and any other crop(s) planted on your farm(s). If just reporting CRP/CREP acreage and land uses, these must be reported by **July 15<sup>th</sup>** of each crop year.

Another major requirement for CRP/CREP participation is the annual maintenance of your CRP/CREP acreage. The land enrolled in CRP/CREP ***CAN NOT*** be mowed between April 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> for wildlife nesting reasons. Also, the land can not be mowed for aesthetic reasons. Annual mowing should only be done to maintain the desired growth according to your Conservation Plan pre-

pared by NRCS and approved by you. The only exception to the non-mowing dates or annual mowing is during the first year of cover establishment. During this time you may mow more often to help control native weeds. Along this same line, control of Maryland State listed noxious weeds must be controlled ***at all times***. It is suggested that you contact your County Weed Control Specialist to help you in developing a plan to control these weeds if they exist on your CRP/CREP acreage. Also, please contact the Farm Service Agency office ***BEFORE*** you begin any maintenance during the restricted maintenance timeframe on CRP ground for the control of noxious weeds. **Maintenance penalties range from \$75 per acre to loss of annual rental payments.**

CRP filter strip in need of maintenance



CRP filter strip properly maintained



## 2008 WHIP & EQIP Sign-up to Start!

**T**he Maryland sign-up period for 2008 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program conservation programs is scheduled to begin October 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.



EQIP is the primary program available to provide financial assistance for agricultural conservation practices, while WHIP provides for wildlife habitat improvement projects. These financial assistance applications will be accepted and ranked on a continuous basis throughout the year. All applications meeting the minimum score following the monthly ranking will be eligible for funding. Other applications will be deferred until funds are available.

As with past sign-ups you must have USDA eligibility on file at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) before you can submit an application for EQIP or WHIP. The necessary eligibility

paperwork can be completed at the NRCS office. To be fully eligible for EQIP; the applicant must produce a minimum of \$1,000.00 in agricultural products produced and sold on the applicant's farming operation. Horse boarding operations that do not also produce crops, livestock, or timber products for sale probably do not meet this criterion.

Maryland NRCS is offering a special Feed Management Program to dairy farmers that work with a certified nutritionist. This program pays dairymen a 3 year incentives payment for formu-

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lating their rations more accurately to reduce the percentage of nitrogen and phosphorous excretion in their herds manure.

Some of the practices EQIP and WHIP have provided financial assistance for in previous years include: Prescribed rotational grazing which includes; fencing,

seeding, waterlines & troughs, water wells, stream crossings, heavy use areas. Reforestation, field borders, shallow water management areas, warm season grass buffer areas, poultry house vegetative environmental buffers, poultry house heavy use area pads, Phragmites control, pest and nutrient management through the use of precision agriculture technologies and more. Check out more on our

Maryland NRCS website [www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov) and click on programs.

If you are interested in finding out more these programs and what they could offer you or investigate the application process, please call or stop in and talk with Teresa Kampmeyer or Mark Mason.

## ZINTER FAMILY UPDATE

**A**s many of you are aware, the Zinter family tragically lost their home to a fire last February. Since many of you have been asking, we wanted to update you on what's been going on.

Following the aftermath of the fire, the Zinter's have been staying in a rental house in Easton while they wait for their new house to be built. Construction has

begun recently and they hope to be in by next March.

They wanted to sincerely thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers as they continue to adjust following the devastating fire.



The new house currently being built in Cordova, MD.

## NATIONAL ENVIROTHON RESULTS

**T**he Canon Envirothon was hosted by Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY from July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>. Overall there was a great participant turnout of 53 total teams, comprising of 44 State and 9 Province teams. Canon Envirothon is a competition comprising five testing stations and an oral presentation component. At the testing stations and the oral presentation, each team's performance is evaluated and scored by individuals with field expertise. Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and the fifth issue make up the testing stations. The fifth issue this year was Alternative Energy, i.e. wind, solar,

hydro, methane, etc. At the conclusion of the competition, scores are combined for final ranking and award/prize distribution.

Connecticut took home the top prize outscoring the second place team of Pennsylvania by 11.5 points. Delaware, Missouri and New Jersey round out the top 5 teams. Maryland came in at 30<sup>th</sup> this year.

Next year the Canon Envirothon will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. Good luck to all teams next year!

## LEGISLATIVE TOUR 2007



**T**his year's Upper Shore Legislative Tour was held on August 30 and hosted by Dorchester Soil Conservation District. The purpose of these annual events are to keep our legislative delegates and representatives informed on issues that will effect agriculture and/or conservation.



**Talbot Soil Conservation District**  
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## **2007 FALL NEWSLETTER**

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Dave Wilson—Soil Conservation Engineer Technician  
Shawn Smith—Soil Conservation Engineer Technician (Grant)  
Levin Schwaninger—Soil Conservation Planner  
Steve Spielman—Soil Conservation Planner  
Jim Brewer—Soil Scientist  
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Check out our website at  
[www.talbotscd.com](http://www.talbotscd.com) for  
more information!

