



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Volume 21, Issue 4

The Talbot SCD office is OPEN to the public

By entering this facility, I agree that I am not currently experiencing any of the following NEW symptoms:

- Cough or sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Fever or chills
- Loss of taste or smell

The wearing of masks in state facilities is voluntary.

Unvaccinated persons are highly encouraged to wear a mask.

The **Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS)** is now offering **100% cost-share** on Best Management Practices (BMP) that help to improve water quality. If interested, contact a conservation planner at 410-822-1577 x 3.



Fall cover crop planting season is over, but the plants are still capturing excess residual nitrogen and phosphorus left behind. To



learn more, visit <https://youtu.be/SQS8khhRvcA>

Upcoming Application Deadlines for 2022 NRCS Conservation Programs

The deadline to submit applications for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is January 7th, 2022. The January 7th application deadline also includes EQIP initiatives such as Beginning Farmers, Organic, the National Water Quality Initiative, Working Lands for Wildlife, and Historically Underserved producers. EQIP is the primary program available to Maryland farmers and landowners for basic farm and forestland conservation work, with payments for over 110 conservation practices. AMA offers assistance for high tunnels and water management systems. The primary RCPP initiative in Talbot County is the "Taking Soil Health to the Next Level" project, where landowners can receive assistance for soil health related conservation practices, such as cover crop.



The general Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application deadline is April 1st, 2022. CSP provides an annual payment for the current environmental benefits on your operation. To earn this annual payment, you must improve your conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities as well as maintaining and managing existing activities on your property. Financial assistance is provided to help you install and adopt the additional activities.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) application deadline is February 18th, 2022. ACEP is a voluntary conservation program that protects agricultural land from conversion to non-farm uses and conserves and restores wetlands. Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) are a program enrollment option that keep working lands available for agriculture by protecting the farming uses or protecting grazing uses of grasslands and related conservation values. Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to protect and restore wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture.

Landowners should contact Laura Eddy, NRCS Soil Conservationist, at 443-477-0057 or laura.eddy@usda.gov for more information on these programs.



To keep up with our all of our local conservation efforts, Like & Follow!

Like us on Facebook "[Talbot Soil Conservation District](#)"

Follow us on Twitter at [@talbotscd](#)



Talbot SCD Staff Introduce Soils and Basic Soil Formation Concepts to Chapel Elementary 2nd Graders

Talbot SCD staff recently visited with second grade students at Chapel District Elementary School and introduced them to soils and basic soil formation concepts. After the quick lesson, the students completed the always fun "Soil Profile" M&M tube activity.

The "Soil Profile" consist of colored M&M's which were used to represent soil horizons, such as topsoil, sub soil and parent material.



The students enjoyed the lesson and activity, staff plan on visiting the same students in the spring to go outside and conduct a soils investigation.

The Talbot SCD is very thankful to the Talbot County Public Schools for partnering on this project. We hope to expand on these types of educational activities to all Talbot County Public Schools within a few years.



Conservation Project Spotlight: Grassed Waterway

Through funding from the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS), the Talbot SCD provided assistance for a large conservation project recently completed in October 2021. This project consists of two sections of grassed waterways, forming a "Y", which empty into a large rock lined outlet, which drains approximately 140 acres. Located in Queen Anne, Maryland, the project was designed by our SCD technicians. **Fun fact- this BMP was designed to handle at 10-year storm event, which is the equivalent of 132 cubic feet per second of water.**



Annual Conservation Tour & 2020 Cooperator of the Year Presentation

The Talbot SCD is pleased to recognize the 2020 Co Cooperator of the Year Awards to both the Shortall and Beaven families. During our annual conservation tour in October, staff, local officials, and board members visited the Beaven Farm along Kingston Landing Road to witness the 2020 Cooperator of the Year presentation. Local COVID-19 restrictions delayed the presentation by over a year.

Throughout the morning the group visited several farms, showcasing recently constructed Best Management Practices (BMP) within the Tuckahoe River watershed. The highlighted BMPs consisted of grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, rock lined outlets, wetland restorations, livestock pipeline, fencing, waterers and heavy use area pads. These projects were cost-shared through the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS) and the USDA-NRCS farm bill conservation programs.



*2020 Co Cooperators of the Year—Beaven Family
Pictured from L to R: Ben Beaven, Mark Beaven,
John Swaine III, District Chairman, and Andy Beaven.*

ABOUT OUR CO COOPERATORS OF THE YEAR

The Shortall family, which consists of Henry and Shirley Shortall and their son Mickey, operate a 211.3 acre cash grain farm outside of Easton. In the fall of 2019, after waiting patiently for assistance, they were able to establish a grassed waterway with a lined outlet which addressed massive amounts of soil erosion from leaving the farm. They also have other land enrolled as grassed buffers through the Conservation Reserve Program.



Conservation Tour participants listen to Brandon Zinter, MDA technician, describe the engineering design and installation process for a large erosion project that was recently installed on a farm located in Cordova.

Brothers Mark and Andy Beaven recently acquired their family farm when their father, William “Bill” Beaven, passed away in 2019. The farm is located just outside of Easton along the Kingston corridor. In the fall of 2019, they were able to restore a wetland and installed grassed waterways which addressed massive amounts of soil erosion from leaving the farm. They enrolled the land into the Conservation Reserve Program. Their father was a pioneer in the no-till field who worked for many years for the Soil Conservation Service, and also served as a member on the Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors.



Follow us on [Instagram.com/TalbotSCD](https://www.instagram.com/TalbotSCD) for more information and photos!

Recent Hires at the Talbot SCD—Welcome!



Patrick Titus

Technician

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Bozman, MD



Ray Geist

Technician

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Trappe, MD



Nathan Hoffman

Technician

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Feddersburg, MD



Steven Micheal

Technician

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Easton, MD



Brandon Dudrow

Technician

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Easton, MD



Julianna Burns

Planner

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St. Michaels, MD

MDA Announces 2022 Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative

Applications accepted January 10—February 18, 2022

Back by popular demand, Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative provides farmers with attractive incentive payments to plant streamside buffers on farms to protect water quality.

New this year, farmers can receive up to \$4,500 an acre to install riparian forest buffers with pasture fencing. Financial assistance is also available to install deer fencing next to grass buffers. Other features include a buffer option for field ditches, flexible site management, and shorter contract terms.

Three types of buffers are eligible for funding and free technical assistance from local soil conservation districts: riparian forest buffers, grass buffers planted next to waterways or field ditches, and watercourse access control areas adjacent to pastures.

Payment rates range from \$500/acre for an existing grass buffer to a maximum of \$4,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing. Financial assistance is offered to install deer fencing next to grass buffers. Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not. Farmers receive a one-time payment for enrolled land; contracts are for 5 or 10 years. All work must be completed by June 30, 2023.



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts FSCAP Certification Program

The **Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD)** has established the **Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP)** to acknowledge those farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and to encourage and reward farmers to put more conservation **best management practices (BMPs)** on the land.

The project has established the **Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard (ACSCS)**, which measures compliance with state requirements for the farm’s nutrient management plan plus a level of conservation BMPs that prevent any significant sources of pollution from leaving the farm.

Through FSCAP, MASCD will establish a collaborative process to recognize good stewardship by farmers that will be acknowledged and respected by both the environmental and agricultural communities. By “setting the bar”, it will encourage other farmers to achieve certification and participate in new conservation programs that will put more conservation on the land and reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

When a farmer volunteers to be evaluated, FSCAP works through the local soil conservation district to visit the farm to review the existing nutrient management plan, soil conservation and water quality plan and other pertinent documents to determine if the farmer meets the Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard (ACSCS).

If you are interested in learning more about the program for your farm, contact on our Conservation Planners at 410-822-1577 x 3.

For more information, visit <http://mascd.net/fscap/>.



Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors

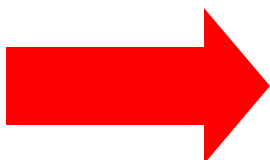
About the Board

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors provides overall supervision and sets policy assuring that the district performs tasks required by law and memorandums of understanding. Supervisors are appointed to represent farming, forestry, wildlife, suburban/urban interests, and other natural resource interests in a district.

Our Board also consists of associates. Associates are nonvoting, volunteer members who actively contribute to developing and implementing the district’s programs.

Supervisors

- John Swaine III, Chairman (County Appointee)
- Lewis Smith, Vice Chairman (At-large)
- Kyle Hutchison, Treasurer (At-large)
- Lemmie Swann, Member (UMD Extension)
- Sarah Everhart (Farm Bureau)
- Shannon Dill (Extension Service), Secretary
- Billy Foster, Associate
- Raymond Harrison III, Associate
- Norman Fike, Honorary Member



Erosion & Sediment Control Review Fee Schedule has been updated for 2022.

Visit <http://www.talbotscd.com/erosion-sediment-control/> for more information.



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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CONNECT WITH US

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TALBOT SCD FIELD STAFF

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Steven Micheal—steven.micheal@maryland.gov
Brandon Dudrow—brandon.dudrow@maryland.gov

John (Jack) L. King Jr., District Conservationist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—jack.king@usda.gov
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