



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

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The Talbot SCD office is still **CLOSED** to the public and staff is available by appointment only until further notice.

NEW Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Submittal Process

As of July 1, 2021, our longtime secretary, Dale Willson, will be retiring from the Talbot SCD. In an effort to provide uninterrupted service, the Talbot SCD will be altering the submittal process for Erosion and Sediment Control plans before her retirement.

Effective April 1, 2021, all E&S control plans should be submitted electronically in PDF format to shawn.smith@maryland.gov. Project data and MDE transmittal sheets, along with the review fee, can still be dropped off at the SCD office. Please make sure the project name is the same on the Project Data Sheet and email. For more information, please contact the Talbot SCD at 410-822-1577 x 5.



Final 2020/2021 MACS Program Cover Crop Numbers

Despite the unusually wet fall conditions in 2020, **86** Talbot County farmers were able to plant **35,808.8 acres** of cover crops, enrolled through the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program (MACS). Please remember to report your spring kill down dates within 7 days of termination to the District office.

Should you have any questions, please contact Levin Schwaninger at levin.schwaninger@maryland.gov.



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



State Cost-Share Opportunities for Conservation Drainage

Conservation drainage practices help reduce the movement of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus into surface waters from agricultural land that is artificially drained. Agricultural practices and components commonly used in Maryland include subsurface denitrifying bioreactors, saturated buffers, created wetlands, water control structures, underground outlets, and subsurface drains.

- ◇ **Subsurface Denitrifying Bioreactor**—A buried trench filled with a carbon source, usually wood chips, and installed at the edge of a field to remove nitrate nitrogen from subsurface agricultural drainage water.
- ◇ **Saturated Buffer** - A biological treatment system used to divert subsurface drainage water to a vegetated area for treatment.
- ◇ **Wetland Creation** - A wetland is constructed at the edge of a field to treat and filter drainage water on a site that was not previously a wetland. Wetlands remove sediment, nutrients, organic matter and other pollutants from subsurface ground-water associated with farming operations.
- ◇ **Water Control Structure** - Used in conjunction with the above practices or as a stand-alone practice to help prevent gully erosion, manage water to improve crop production, and reduce the movement of nitrates to downstream waters.
- ◇ **Subsurface Drain** - An underground pipe used to collect and convey subsurface drainage water to a buffer, wetland, or bioreactor.
- ◇ **Underground Outlet** - Tubing, tile or pipe installed to move surface water from a treatment practice to a designated outlet.



Denitrifying bioreactor | USDA-NRCS <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Contact one of our planners for more information at 410-822-1577 ext. 5.

What is a Soil Conservation & Water Quality Plan and why should I have one for my farm?

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQP) or Conservation Plans are a valuable tool for farmers and landowners to manage resources and improve profitability.

A conservation plan is a working document designed to fit each individual farmer's needs while protecting and conserving their soil and water resources.

A conservation plan folder contains:

- Aerial photo of the farm which includes property boundaries, topography, current and proposed BMPs, and possibly other resource items;
- A written record of the landowners decisions regarding cropping sequences, residue management, and nutrient management, with a plan for implementation and;
- A map showing soil types and boundaries along with descriptions and capability classes showing suitability for cropland, forestland, and wildlife habitat.



Recently completed grassed waterway during the fall of 2020

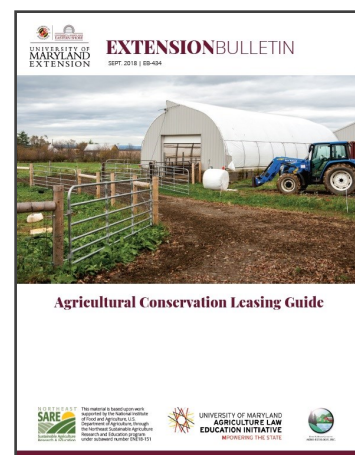
Conservation plans are not mandatory unless all or part of the farm falls within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, or you are applying for or currently participate in an agricultural land preservation program, or participate in any state or federal cost share programs.

If you are interested in developing a conservation plan for your farm, please contact one of the conservation planners to set up an on-farm visit. The planner will need to walk the farm and take notes on current farming practices and identify any resource issues which may need to be addressed. These plans are free and should be updated at least every 10 years.

Agricultural Conservation Leasing Guide

If you are landowner who leases your land to a farmer you should download the free **Agricultural Conservation Leasing Guide** developed by the University of Maryland Agricultural Law Education Initiative (ALEI) and the Hughes Center. This guide is meant to help farmers and landowners use leases as a tool to not only protect their business interests but to also implement stewardship planning and conservation practices on leased land.

For more information and to download the guide, visit <https://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol/educationoutreach/agricultural-conservation-leasing>.



NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Forestry

Conservation Stewardship Program



Your stewardship goals. *OUR ASSISTANCE*

The health of private lands has always been important to society. That's why the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers public conservation assistance to private landowners. We want to draw your attention to the opportunity to receive financial assistance under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), a program for conservation-minded landowners like you. Private landowners who participated and completed forest stand improvements under our other program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), are great candidates for CSP.



CSP provides an annual payment for the current environmental benefits on your forestry 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 private forestland operation. Financial assistance is provided to help you install and adopt the additional activities. These additional activities may be found in your existing forestry management plan, and you may already be considering adding some of the practices to your operation. A list of activities for forest land is available on our website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/md/programs/financial/csp/>.

NRCS accepts CSP applications throughout the year, but you must submit your application by April 2, 2021 to be considered for funding this year.

If you are interested in learning more about CSP and to see if this would be a great opportunity for your forestry operations, please contact Laura Eddy at 443-477-0057 or laura.eddy@usda.gov.

Annual NACD Poster Contest Theme: Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

For 30 years the Talbot SCD has sponsored the Land Stewardship Poster Contest. Each year we provide poster boards and a theme to public and private schools in Talbot County. The 2021 theme is ***Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities***.

For the County Wide Land Stewardship Poster Contest each school sets up a panel of judges and provides 1st place winning posters in four age groups (grades K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) to the Talbot SCD for County wide judging that coincides with Earth Day Celebrations. 1st place winners receive a \$50 Check, 2nd and 3rd place winners receive \$25 checks.



All first place winners will be submitted for judging at the 2021 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts held in August. Good luck to all the students!

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

GREAT LOCATION AT THE TALBOT AGRICULTURAL SERVICE CENTER
IN THE TALBOT COMMERCE PARK OFF OF GLEBE ROAD IN EASTON, MD



LEASE PRICE
\$10 / sq. ft.

Premier Office Space, Currently Available
Suite 5—1,575 sq. ft.



Rent Features:

- ◆ ALL UTILITIES (EXCEPT TELEPHONE AND INTERNET)
- ◆ GRASS CUTTING & LANDSCAPING
- ◆ SNOW REMOVAL
- ◆ DAILY CLEANING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SHAWN
443-746-4308 OR EMAIL
shawn.smith@maryland.gov

CURRENT TENANTS

Talbot Soil Conservation District USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA—Farm Service Agency
Maryland Department of Agriculture University of Maryland Extension Teddy Bear Fresh Produce, LLC

Welcome to our new technician, Nathan Hoffman



The Talbot SCD is pleased to welcome our newest employee, Nathan Hoffman. Recently Nathan served as an *Earth Team Volunteer* through NRCS during the fall of 2020. As a technician, Nathan will be surveying and designing conservation practices for Talbot County landowners and farmers.

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.

Appointments are made by the following groups, which each term five (5) years:

- Talbot County Government
- Talbot County Farm Bureau
- Talbot County Cooperative Extension
- Two supervisors are appointed by the SSCC from among residents of Talbot County.

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



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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CONNECT WITH US

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Talbot Soil Conservation District Field Staff

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

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Soil Conservation Associates

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Nathan Hoffman—nathan.hoffman@maryland.gov

Brandon Zinter—brandon.zinter@md.nacdnet.net

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

Laura Eddy, Soil Conservationist—laura.eddy@usda.gov

Kim Reynolds, Program Support Specialist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—kimberly.reynolds@usda.gov

Annie Rossi, Soil Scientist (*Eastern Shore*)—annie.rossi@usda.gov

Shantel King, Area Resource Conservationist—shantel.king@usda.gov

Heath Miller, Area Engineer (*Eastern Shore*)—heath.miller@usda.gov