



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

June 2021

Volume 21, Issue 2

**The Talbot SCD office
is now OPEN to the
public**



NOTICE

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.



**2021/2022 COVER CROP
SIGN-UP INFORMATION**

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Longtime Secretary, Dale L. Willson, Retires from the Talbot SCD



Pictured from left to right: Lewis Smith, Lemmie Swann, Dale Willson and John Swaine III

After 36 years and 3 months of service to the Talbot Soil Conservation District, our longtime District secretary Dale Willson will retire on June 30, 2021. Having started in 1985, Dale has worked with 3 District Managers, 3 District Conservationists, 16 Board Members and hundreds of Erosion & Sediment Control applicants. Not only did she handle most of the financials, she helped manage the District's Erosion & Sediment Control workload.

On May 19th, a retirement party was held to celebrate Dale and her service to the citizens of Talbot County. The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors and staff would like to congratulate Dale Willson on her retirement and wish her well on her future endeavors.



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](#)



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 wet-lands, 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.



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

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

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.

Recently completed wetland restoration from spring 2021

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 our 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.

2021 NACD Poster Contest Winners Announced



For 30 years the Talbot Soil Conservation District has sponsored the Land Stewardship Poster Contest. Each year Talbot SCD provides poster board and a theme to public and private schools in Talbot County. The 2021 theme was **Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities.**

K-1st Grades - No submissions

2nd-3rd Grades

- 1st Place - Ava C. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 2nd Place - Tripp N. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 3rd Place - Sydney G. (Saints Peter & Paul)

4th-6th Grades - No submissions

7th-9th Grades

- 1st Place - Matthew G. (St. Michaels High)
- 2nd Place - Mia M. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 3rd Place - Danielle S. (Saints Peter & Paul)

10th-12th Grades

- 1st Place - Bradley D. (St. Michaels High)
- 2nd Place - Carleigh R. (St. Michaels High)
- 3rd Place - Julie I. (St. Michaels High)



1st place winners of the county-wide contest are now entered in the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's Poster Contest held in July 2021. If entries are winners at the State contest they will be entered in the National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest held in January/February 2022. To view all of the winners visit our website at <http://www.talbotscd.com/>.

Annual Coloring Contest Winners

The Talbot Soil Conservation District, in partnership with the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, was pleased to provide a coloring contest to students K-5 in Talbot County. Several students from Chapel District Elementary School, White Marsh Elementary School and Saints Peter & Paul Elementary schools participated in this event.

1st place county winners will be judged at the summer Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's meeting in August, 2021. *Congratulations to all of the winners!*

Class A - Kindergarten & 1st Grades

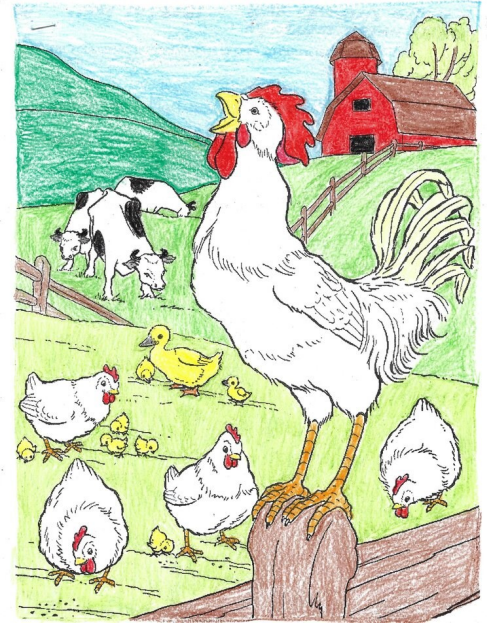
1st Place - Ella L. - SSPP
2nd Place - Jonathan F. - SSPP
3rd Place - Rebecca R. - SSPP

Class C - 4th & 5th Grades

1st Place - Madison M. - SSPP
2nd Place - Maggie B. - Chapel
3rd Place - Brooke M. - SSPP

Class B - 2nd & 3rd Grades

1st Place - Aurora D. - SSPP
2nd Place - Gunnar D. - White Marsh Elementary
3rd Place - Raegan C. - SSPP



Class C 1st Place Winner - Madison M.

2021/2022 Cover Crop Sign-Up Announced

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to apply for grants to help offset seed, labor, and equipment costs to plant cover crops in your fields this fall to protect water quality and build your soil's health. Our grants can make planting cover crops very affordable!

- Enrollment will be conducted entirely by mail.
- Applications will be mailed to farmers who participated in last year's cover crop program and can be downloaded here from July 1 through July 16, 2021.
- Completed applications must be mailed to the local soil conservation district and postmarked between July 1, 2021 and July 16, 2021.
- The base payment for incorporated seed has been raised to \$45/acre.
- The base rate for aerial/aerial ground seeding is \$50/acre.
- Incorporated seed qualifies for a \$10/acre early planting incentive.
- Farmers who aerial seed or aerial ground seed cover crops into standing corn on or before September 10, 2021 qualify for a \$10/acre incentive payment.
- Farmers who terminate cover crops after May 1, 2022 may be eligible for an Extended Season
- incentive payment of up to \$10/acre.
- Incentives are available to plant rye or a multi-species cover crop.
- Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum tobacco, vegetables, hemp and millet.
- There is a five acre minimum. Total enrolled acres may not exceed acreage managed under the farm's current Nutrient Management Plan.



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.

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

Website <http://www.talbotscd.com>

[Twitter @TalbotSCD](#)

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Talbot Soil Conservation District Field Staff

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Shawn D. Smith, District Manager—shawn.smith@maryland.gov

L. Dale Willson, Secretary—**(RETIRED!)**

Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialists

Rocky Donovan—rocky.donovan@maryland.gov

D. Scott Nordhoff—david.nordhoff@md.nacdnet.net

Levin Schwaninger Jr.—levin.schwaninger@md.nacdnet.net

Steve Spielman—steve.spielman@md.nacdnet.net

Soil Conservation Associates

Ray Geist—raymond.geist@md.nacdnet.net

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