



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

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The Talbot SCD office is 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.



Aerial seeding is an effective planting method for the establishment of Cover Crops in Maryland. To learn more about this planting method, visit



<https://youtu.be/ogawLLlg-Fw>

MACS is now offering 100% Cost-Share for over 20 Conservation Practices



The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that over 20 high-priority agricultural conservation practices are now eligible for cost-share funding of up to 100% through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Installation of these practices by farmers will help Maryland meet its 2025 Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals. Earlier this year, Governor Larry Hogan signed a new law that authorizes MDA to provide farmers with cost-share assistance that covers up to 100% of eligible costs to install certain high-priority best management practices on farms.

Qualifying practices must have at least a 10-year maintenance life; provide environmental benefits that are consistent with Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan; and focus largely on in-field or edge-of-field practices that protect local waterways from nutrient runoff associated with crop production. In addition, these practices are required to be implemented as part of a current Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan developed by the Talbot Soil Conservation District.

Practices now eligible for up to 100% cost-share funding and free technical assistance include:

Conservation drainage practices, conservation cover, critical area planting, diversion, field border, filter strip, grade stabilization structure, grassed waterway, lined waterway or outlet, riparian forest buffer, riparian herbaceous cover, tree and shrub establishment, wetland restoration or creation

For more information, please contact a the Talbot Soil Conservation District at 410-822-1577 x 5.



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



Inaugural Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship Recipient Announced

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors is pleased to congratulate our 2021 Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship recipient Brandon Dudrow, seen here with our chairman, John Swaine III. Started in 2021, the Talbot SCD provides an annual scholarship to a local student who pursues a careers in the agricultural engineering and/or science fields.

To learn more about Outreach and Education opportunities through the Talbot SCD, visit <http://www.talbotscd.com/educational-programs>.



MDA Reminds Rural Marylanders to Expect an Increase in Low-Flying Planes Due to Fall Cover Crop Planting

ANNAPOLIS, MD – September 9, 2021 – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds citizens in rural areas to expect an increase in low-flying airplanes or helicopters through Oct. 10, 2021, due to aerial seeding for fall cover crop planting. This time of year, farmers enrolled in Maryland’s Cover Crop Program are planting wheat, rye, barley, and legume seeds onto their fields to help protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and improve soil health.

“Maryland’s Cover Crop Program is one of the most popular agriculture conservation programs in the state and recognized across the nation,” said Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. *“During the fall, farmers participating in the program plant cover crops to ensure runoff from fields does not enter local waterways. People living in rural Maryland should expect to see an increase in low-flying aircraft over the next month while aerial seeding is taking place.”*

Farmers enrolled in the program can plant cover crops by incorporating seeds into newly harvested fields or aerially seeding them into standing corn, soybeans, or sorghum. Once established, cover crops work all winter long to provide a living, protective cover against erosion and nutrient runoff while building the soil’s organic matter for the next year’s crop. While planting cover crops, no pesticides or fertilizers are applied. For aerial seeding, small planes will take off from local airports serving the county or region.

Maryland’s Cover Crop Program is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. The program is administered by MDA and the state’s 24 soil conservation districts through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. For more information, please contact the Talbot SCD.

Did you know?

The Talbot Soil Conservation District, which formed in 1958, is a sub-division of state government and is one of 24 Conservation Districts throughout the State of Maryland.

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 associate positions. Associates are nonvoting, volunteer members who actively contributes to developing and implementing the district's programs and responsibilities.

If you are interested in serving as an Associate on our Board, contact Shawn Smith to

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

28577 Marys Court, Suite 3
Easton, Maryland 21601

Phone: 410-822-1577 x 5
E-Mail: talbotscd@gmail.com

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

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TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT FIELD STAFF

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

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

Soil Conservation Associates

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

Nathan Hoffman—nathan.hoffman@maryland.gov

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

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

(410) 822-1577 x 5

<http://www.talbotscd.com>