



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Volume 22, Issue 1

Update on Maryland Agriculture's WIP for the Chesapeake Bay Clean Up

Article modified from the Maryland Department of Agriculture—https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/tmdl_wip.aspx



A grassed waterway installed in 2019 to address field erosion and nutrient loading to the Tuckahoe River Watershed.

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Clean Water Act established pollution limits for the Chesapeake Bay called the Total Maximum Daily Load. These limits represent the maximum amount of nutrients and sediment that the Bay can receive and still meet water quality standards. The six Bay states and the District of Columbia are required to follow

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) outlining specific actions and strategies that they will take to achieve these pollution limits by 2025. To ensure that the Bay cleanup stays on track, a series of two-year commitments called milestones were established. The most recent model shows that while Maryland is on track to meet its phosphorus and sediment reduction goals, additional focus is needed to reduce nitrogen levels in the Bay.

In 2019, Maryland completed the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan to address remaining nutrient reductions for the final phase of the cleanup. The MDA along with its conservation partners, provides a number of financial and technical resources to the agricultural community to adopt conservation practices. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS) is the primary state program that provides farmers with grants to help cover the cost to install BMPs on their farms to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20—Talbot SCD April Board Meeting
April 22—Earth Day and deadline for Poster Contest

May 2—Deadline for scholarship applications for Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship Program
May 12—Talbot SCD May Board Meeting
May 14—Coloring Contest entries due
May 25—Kayak Tour
May 30—Office CLOSED for Memorial Day

June 9—Talbot SCD June Board Meeting
June 20—Office CLOSED for Juneteenth National Independence Day



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

These selected 20 Best Management Practices (BMP) specifically address water quality.

If interested, contact a conservation planner at 410-822-1577 x 3.

* 100% based on local Talbot County flat rates

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



WEED TO WATCH OUT FOR: PALMER AMURANTH

What is Palmer Amaranth?

Palmer Amaranth is a summer annual plant that is native to south-western United States. This noxious weed can regularly reach 6 to 8 ft. tall and has been known to grow higher than 10 ft., growing up to 2 to 3 inches per day. Palmer Amaranth can cause a corn loss of up to 91% and soybean loss of 79%.

This noxious weed is very difficult to control and has resistance to multiple herbicide families.

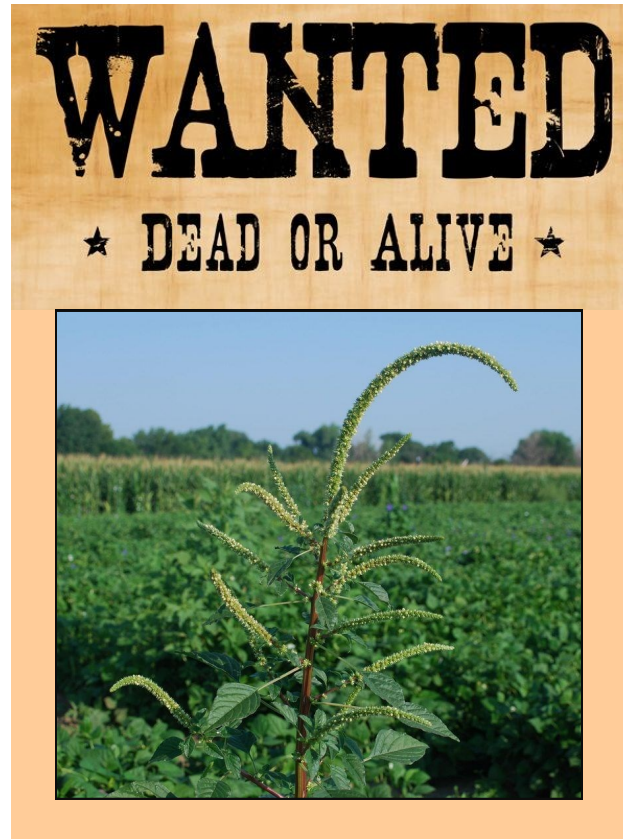
Palmer Amaranth has been declared a noxious weed in the State of Maryland. This weed must be controlled by anyone owning or managing land within the State. Seed can be transported by farm equipment and moving contaminated feed and seed.

Control practices include treatment with an approved herbicide, cultivation, and/or mowing at appropriate plant stages.

If you think you have Palmer Amaranth on your property, please contact our local weed control specialist, J.D. Nater at 410-770-8157 or jnater@talbgov.org.

For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture or the University of Maryland Extension office in Easton.

Information above provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Palmer Amaranth flyer.



TALBOT COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL DEPARTMENT

To report an infestation or inquire more about our services:

JD Nater, Weed Control Coordinator, jnater@talbgov.org or 410-770-8157

Talbot County Roads Litter Program

With the assistance of the Talbot County Roads Department through the Talbot Litter Control (TLC) program, the Talbot SCD spent time on January 26, 2022 picking up trash along Belleuve Road and Ferry Neck Road for a total distance of 2 miles.



Follow us on [Instagram.com/TalbotSCD](https://www.instagram.com/TalbotSCD)



Connecting poultry growers that have litter, a locally-sourced, organic and slow-release fertilizer with those who need it – from grain farmers to mushroom growers to alternative users and everyone in between.

Connect through simple messaging and notification features. Register today to start selling, buying, moving and applying.

More information, visit <https://littr.io/>

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Cecil County

March 5, 2022

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Federal laboratory testing has confirmed a case of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (HPAI) on a Maryland poultry farm. Following an investigation by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed a Cecil County sample tested positive for HPAI. The Maryland case comes one week after a HPAI positive in Delaware.

Following the Delaware case, Maryland and its federal and state partners have greatly expanded their surveillance sampling and testing regimen to better protect the poultry industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. To prevent the spread of the virus, depopulation of the affected birds has begun in Cecil County; nothing from the facility will enter the supply chain. The index farm is under a strict quarantine; only authorized personnel will be allowed on the premise.

Avian influenza is a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among birds through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. This virus affects poultry, like chickens, ducks, and turkeys, along with some wild bird species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors. It has appeared sporadically over the last several decades in bird populations throughout the globe. Wild birds can carry the virus without becoming sick, while domesticated birds can become very sick. HPAI is not a public health concern.

To keep up with ongoing HPAI updates, follow Maryland Department of Agriculture on Twitter [@MdAgDept](https://twitter.com/MdAgDept)

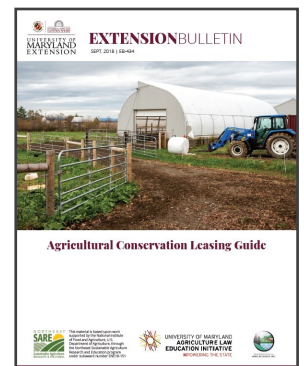


Photo taken from <http://mda.maryland.gov/avianflu>

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>.





Install a Buffer On Us

Your land can benefit

Envision the Choptank can help cover the cost of installing conservation buffers on your property. In addition, buffers can also address resource concerns by:

- Reducing soil and nutrient loss from wind and water erosion
- Generating income from otherwise unprofitable acreage
- Squaring off oddly shaped fields that are hard to work efficiently

How and where they work

Installing a forest or grass buffer between bodies of water and adjoining agricultural operations improves water quality by filtering — even treating — pollutants and by reducing soil erosion and sediment delivery. Buffers are particularly cost effective when they are matched to your farm’s site-specific needs. Some places to consider locating a buffer for both conservation and production benefits include:

- Seasonal wetlands and the borders of intermittent waterways
- Eroding creek, stream and river banks
- Streamside pastures, in combination with stream exclusion practices

Envision the Choptank works with citizens and organizations to find collaborative solutions to improve and maintain water quality and habitat in a way that best meets the needs of surrounding communities.

What we can offer...

If your property is located in the Choptank River watershed, receive funds to install/implement:

Grass Buffers¹:

- \$900 - \$1300/acre to cover:
 - plant material
 - one-time payment

Buffers can be flexible widths (10 ft +) and program offers no mowing restrictions.

Forest Buffers²:

- \$1000/acre in your pocket:
 - planting costs are covered
 - one-time payment

Funds cover trees planted near streams, ditches and in inoperable nooks

BONUS!

An additional \$500/acre for properties in “priority area*”

¹ Grass buffer program cannot be combined with federal or state cost-share programs.

² This information reflects a program change made April 2021. Forest buffer program can be combined with federal or state cost-share programs.

* Priority areas include locations, throughout the watershed, identified as having increased water quality benefits according to landscape analyses performed by Envision the Choptank.

Get Started by Contacting -

Whitley Gray
Landowner Assistance Coordinator
443.385.0511 ext. 202
wgray@shorerivers.org

ACT NOW! grant funds are limited



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.

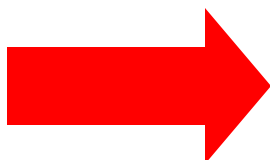
Our Board also consists of associates. Associates are nonvoting, volunteer members who actively contribute to developing and implementing the district’s programs.

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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<http://www.talbotscd.com>