



# TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

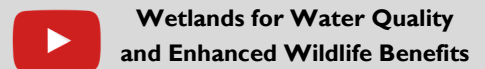
# NEWSLETTER

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**FROM THE MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



**Wetlands for Water Quality  
and Enhanced Wildlife Benefits**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=z38a7r\\_iurA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z38a7r_iurA)

Or visit [www.talbotscd.com](http://www.talbotscd.com)



## OUR MISSION

*To provide leadership and support to agriculture and the citizens of Talbot County by conducting regulatory, service, and educational activities that assure consumer confidence, protect the environment, and promote agriculture.*

## NRCS OFFERS CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

***Did you know NRCS offers a continuous sign-up period for USDA programs?***

We are available to assist producers throughout the year with technical or programs related assistance. Early fall is the perfect time to set up a meeting to learn more about our programs which include Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Management Assistance, and the Wetland Restoration Easement. Along with the Talbot Field Office Staff, we have access to a Biologist, Grazing Specialist, and other staff to evaluate and assist your needs. Call the office and ask for Jack King, District Conservationist 443-746-4323 or Becky Brown, Soil Conservationist. 410-924-0908.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13—October Board Mtg.  
November 9-11—Waterfowl Festival  
November 10—November Board Mtg.  
December 8—December Board Mtg.

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



Like us on Facebook "[Talbot Soil Conservation District](https://www.facebook.com/TalbotSoilConservationDistrict)"

Follow us on Twitter at [@talbotscd](https://twitter.com/talbotscd)



# Annual Conservation Tour & 2021 Cooperator of the Year Presentation

The Talbot SCD is pleased to recognize the 2021 Cooperator of the Year Award to the Burns family of West Sherwood Farms. During our annual conservation tour in September, staff, local officials, and board members witnessed the 2021 Cooperator of the Year presentation.

Throughout the morning the group also visit Lostock Farm of Bozman, and Wind Rush Farm of Royal Oak, showcasing recently constructed Best Management



2021 Cooperators of the Year, the Burns Family, left to right: Halina Burns, Esther Burns, Ernie Burns, Julianna Burns, John Swaine III—Chairman, Shawn Smith—District Manager



Living shoreline on Wind Rush Farm in Royal Oak.

number of projects, including wetland restoration, pasture improvements in 2010, and most recently a pasture expansion project which is ongoing. Ernie is a wonderful steward of the land, and is a joy to work with. Ernie is also an Agricultural teacher, which allows him to spread his knowledge to the next generation. The Talbot Board of Supervisors and field staff congratulate West Sherwood Farms on being named the 2021 Cooperator of the Year!

Practices (BMP) within the Bay Hundred and Choptank River watersheds. The highlighted BMPs consisted of wetland restorations, livestock pipeline, fencing, waterers and heavy use area pads. We also looked at a recently completed living shoreline project. Most of the projects were cost-shared through the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS) and the USDA-NRCS farm bill conservation programs.

Ernest (Ernie) Burns of West Sherwood Farms in St. Michael's Maryland has been a longstanding and outstanding cooperator with the Talbot Soil Conservation District for many years. West Sherwood Farms raises sheep on 7 acres of pasture, and also manages over 40 acres of cropland. Ernie has worked with us on a



Lostock Farm hosted the group and showcased two recently construction wetland projects.



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



## 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.*

**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.*

### CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Grassed waterways, diversions, grade stabilization structures and rock lined outlets are some of the most common best management practices (BMPs) landowners & farmers install to address gully erosion. This recently completed project consists of a 170 ft. long diversion, a grade stabilization structure and 48 ft. rock lined outlet, on a farm located near the Tuckahoe River.

More photos can be found on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/talbotscd>.



## Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors

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)
- VACANT (Farm Bureau)
- Shannon Dill (Extension Service), Secretary
- Billy Foster, Associate
- Raymond Harrison III, Associate
- Norman Fike, Honorary Member

#### **INTERESTED IN SERVING?**

Contact Shawn Smith at 410-822-1577 x 3 or [shawn.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:shawn.smith@maryland.gov) for details.



## TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### CONNECT WITH US

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

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## TALBOT SCD FIELD STAFF

Shawn D. Smith, District Manager—[shawn.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:shawn.smith@maryland.gov)

### Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialists

Rocky Donovan—[rocky.donovan@maryland.gov](mailto:rocky.donovan@maryland.gov)  
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Julianna Burns—[julianna.burns1@maryland.gov](mailto:julianna.burns1@maryland.gov)

### Engineering Technicians & Soil Conservation Associates

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