



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING **65** YEARS OF CONSERVATION
1958-2023

October 2023

Volume 23, Issue 3

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS CAN NOW APPLY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

NRCS is committed to helping farmers with financial and technical resources to plan and implement sustainable conservation practices through our programs such as EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) and AMA (Agricultural Assistance Management).

Using conservation practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soils that lead to resiliency in droughts, effective utilization of nutrients to reduce costs of inputs and reduction of contamination from agricultural sources.



Some of the conservation practices we cost-share include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Grazing
- ◆ Riparian Buffers
- ◆ Pollinator Habitat
- ◆ High Tunnels
- ◆ Oyster Restoration
- ◆ Conservation Crop Rotation
- ◆ HUA Pads
- ◆ Organic Incentive
- ◆ Energy Audits
- ◆ Air Quality Incentive
- ◆ Nutrient Management
- ◆ Conservation Cover
- ◆ Irrigation Practices
- ◆ Upland or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management



EQIP & AMA applications are accepted on a continuous basis, stop by our local office in 28577 Marys Ct, Easton 21601 or call 443-746-4323 and ask about which practice fits your operation best and a member of our team will be happy to help you.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. Board Meeting** Oct. 11 @ 7 PM
Columbus Day (10/9) - Office Closed
- Nov. Board Meeting** Nov. 8 @ 7 PM
Veterans Day (11/10) - Office Closed
Thanksgiving Day (11/23) - Office Closed
American Indian Heritage Day (11/24) - Office Closed
- Dec. Board Meeting** ... Dec. 13 @ 12 PM
Christmas Day (12/25) - Office Closed

Enhance your Land for Wildlife Workshop

Point Pleasant Foundation
2300 Wells Point Lane, Bozeman, MD

Thursday, November 9, 2023
8:40 AM—1:30 PM

This is a one-stop-shop for farmers, foresters, landowners, and land managers interested in learning more about a diverse array of practices to enhance your land for wildlife. You will have a chance to meet and converse with the speakers to get advice from and to learn about funding available to improve natural resources.

Complimentary breakfast and lunch included.

Use the QR code to register —>



To keep up with our all of our local conservation efforts, follow us on Social Media



Like us on Facebook "Talbot Soil Conservation District"



Follow us on X at @talbotscd



Follow us on Instagram at @talbotscd

RECENT STAFF CHANGES AT THE DISTRICT

Congratulations are in order for Levin Schwaninger on his retirement from the Maryland Department of Agriculture! Levin assisted Talbot County farmers for 23 years out of the Talbot Soil Conservation District office. He started his career as a grant funded technician out of the Dorchester SCD office and moved to Talbot in 2000.



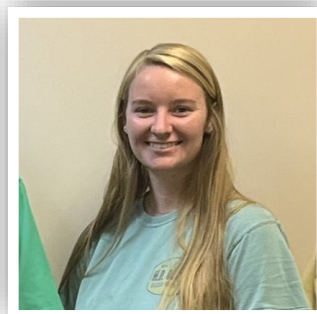
Talbot SCD Chairman John Swaine III presenting a certificate of appreciation to Lemmie Swann.

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors and field staff wish to thank Lemmie Swann for his 22+ years of service as a supervisor! We thank him for his support, dedication and time over all of these years!

We welcome our newest Board member, Hannah Harrison as well as Trevor Mitchell and Yohel Velazquez. Both gentlemen recently joined the staff, Trevor as an MDA Soil Conservation Associate and Yohel as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS.



Levin Schwaninger (MDA)



New board member Hannah Harrison.



MEET OUR FALL INTERNS

Joycelyn Moritz (left), from St. Michael's Middle/High School is currently a senior, interested in studying geology at Towson University and Caroline Wilson (right), a student at Chesapeake College studying Ag Business, both are interning at the Talbot SCD for the fall semester. Both interns will be assisting planners & technicians with fall BMP construction.



CONSIDER CERTIFYING YOUR FARM THROUGH #MarylandBFF PROGRAM

During the MASCD summer meeting held in August, 2023, the former FSCAP program (Farm Stewardship Certification Assessment Program) was announced to the membership as **Bay Friendly Farms** program. Rebranding the program to highlight the importance of good stewardship on farmland in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Farmers can now work with the Districts to certify their operation as "**Bay Friendly**" and receive recognition on their website, bayfriendlyfarms.com, and with a sign for their farm headquarters. To learn more about the program, visit bayfriendlyfarms.com, or stop in the District.





A TAX BREAK FOR FARMERS— INCOME TAX SUBTRACTION FOR CONSERVATION EQUIPMENT

The Maryland Income Tax Subtraction Modification for Conservation Equipment helps farmers offset costs associated with buying certain types of conservation equipment to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Eligible equipment includes a **no-till planter or drill, manure injector or spreader, deep no-till ripper, vertical tillage** (to incorporate manure), **global positioning system/device** and **optical sensing & nutrient application system**.

The subtraction modification allows farmers to subtract eligible equipment purchases from taxable income on Maryland individual and corporate tax returns.

Forms can be found online at <http://www.talbotscd.com/conservation-equipment>.

COVER CROPS PROTECT YOUR FARM

Fall-planted cover crops provide many benefits. Cover crops add organic matter to your soil, control weeds and pests, and protect local streams from sediment and nutrient runoff over winter.

- ◆ Plant cereal grains by **November 5, 2023**. Some species have earlier deadlines.
- ◆ Terminate cover crops between March 1 and June 3, 2024.
- ◆ Late-planted cover crops must be planted by November 15 using an incorporated planting method and one of the following cover crops: rye, triticale, or wheat to receive \$45/acre. Late-planted cover crops may not be terminated before May 1, 2024. They are not eligible for the delayed termination incentive.



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)*
- Hannah Harrison, *Member (UMD Extension)*
- Colin Jones, *Member (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

STAY CONNECTED

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

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TALBOT SCD FIELD STAFF

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

Rebecca Brown, District Conservationist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—rebecca.brown@usda.gov

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Conservation Planners

Rocky Donovan—rocky.donovan@maryland.gov
D. Scott Nordhoff—david.nordhoff@md.nacdn.net
Julianna Burns—julianna.burns1@maryland.gov
Anna Hutchison—anna.hutchison@maryland.gov

Technicians

Brandon Zinter—brandon.zinter@md.nacdn.net
Ray Geist—raymond.geist@md.nacdn.net
Brandon Dudrow—brandon.dudrow@maryland.gov
Trevor Mitchell—trevor.mitchell@maryland.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Patrick Titus, Soil Conservation Technician—patrick.titus@usda.gov
Kim Reynolds, Program Support Specialist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—kimberly.reynolds@usda.gov
Annie Rossi, Soil Scientist (*Eastern Shore*)—annie.rossi@usda.gov
Heath Miller, Area Engineer (*Eastern Shore*)—heath.miller@usda.gov
Heather Beaven, Area Resource Conservationist—heather.beaven@usda.gov

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