



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

December 2023

Volume 23, Issue 4

NRCS TO UTILIZE ACT NOW FUNDING



EQIP ACT Now is a new way of conducting business that reduces waiting time for funding approvals. ACT Now allows NRCS to process applications in the order they are received, which can bypass the traditional batching process. Applications must meet specific eligibility requirements and achieve a ranking score at or above a predetermined threshold. Below are the ACT Now Ranking Pools:

- High Tunnel
- Oyster Restoration
- Organic Initiative
- Beginning Farmer
- Socially Disadvantaged
- On-Farm Energy
- General EQIP ACT Now

ACT Now Applications will be taken until May 17, 2024. For more information on how you can benefit from ACT Now, please contact or visit the Talbot Service Center.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. Board Meeting** Jan 17 @ 7 PM
New Years Day (1/1) - Office Closed
MLK Jr. Day (1/15) - Office Closed
- Feb. Board Meeting** Feb. 14 @ 7 PM
President's Day (2/19) - Office Closed
- March Board Meeting** ... Mar. 13 @ 7 PM
Maryland Day (3/25)

To keep up with our all of our local conservation efforts, follow us on social media channels:



Like us on Facebook "Talbot Soil Conservation District"



Follow us on X at @talbotscd



Follow us on Instagram at @talbotscd

TALBOT COUNTY: HOST TO MANY IN 2023

During 2023 Talbot County became a prime destination for many NRCS International, National Teams and Maryland State Agencies. Talbot County's variety of agriculture enterprises make our county ideal to showcase how progressive the ag industry truly is. The Talbot State, District and NRCS Staff welcomed several key groups to the county for agricultural tours.

FRIENDSHIP FARMS- OYSTER OPERATION

January 2023

Bobby Leonard, Talbot Waterman discusses the importance of Oyster Habitat in the Chesapeake Bay with Eric McTaggart, NRCS National Conservation Planning Lead. Mr. McTaggart was in Maryland as Acting State Conservationist with NRCS.



Bobby Leonard with Eric McTaggart

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NEWSLETTER

From Page 1—Talbot County: Host to Many in 2023

May 2023

Talbot NRCS met with the FPAC-NRCS National Programs Policy Branch at Mr. Bobby Leonard's farm in Royal Oak to discuss a variety of Programs Policy including Oyster Restoration.



HUTCHISON BROTHERS

September 2023

September brought members of the Southern Cone *FPAC-NRCS National Programs* group visiting an oyster operation in Royal Oak. Climate Change Program to Talbot County, which included a visit with Richard Hutchison, Hutchison Bros. The group consisted of representatives of the Ag Industry from Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Good discussion was had about Climate Smart practices, also the general differences and similarities in farming.



Members of the Southern Cone Climate Change Program visiting the Hutchison Brothers in Cordova, Maryland.

FRIENDSHIP FARMS

December 2023

Kasey Taylor, NRCS Acting Regional Conservationist, Suzy Daubert, Maryland NRCS State Conservationist, Kevin Atticks, Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary, Steve Connelly, Maryland Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary, and others came for a visit to explore the Oyster Industry and the value Oysters have to the Bay.



Left: Bobby Leonard discussing challenges for the oyster industry with Kevin Atticks.

Right: Kasey Taylor, Shawn Smith and Suzy Daubert touring a local oyster lease in the Choptank River.



2023 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONSERVATION PLANNING

Acres 9,046.1 acres
 Total Plans 72

Conservation Reserve Program /

Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program

New 37.4 ac.
 Re-enrolled 202.8 ac.
 Participating farms 15



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STRUCTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INSTALLED

Wetland Restoration 34.7 ac.
 Watering Facility 4 no.
 Lined Outlet 232.5 ft.
 Diversions 64 ft.
 Grassed Waterway 3.9 ac.
 Critical Area Planting 0.6 ac.
 Stream Crossing 1 no.
 Fencing 3,027 ft.
 Grade Stabilization Structure 2 no.
 Structure for Water Control 4 no.
 Subsurface Drain 1,279 ft.
 Waste Storage Facility 1 no.
 Access Road 97 ft.

Total 46 BMPs

Cooperators Served 19

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

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STAY CONNECTED

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