



TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

June 2022

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2022/2023 COVER CROP PROGRAM

Sign-up starts July 1 and ends on July 18, 2022

MDA will be mailing applications to those who have participated over the past 3 years. Applications can also be downloaded at https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/cover_crop.aspx.

Please be sure to submit your application by July 18th or have it postmarked by July 18th.

The base rate has increased to \$55/acre and \$60/acre for aerial seeding, while rye and multispecies mix have also increased to \$15/acre. There are still incentives for early aerial seeding, no-till/conventional/broadcast light tillage by October 1, and for late termination (after May 1, 2023).



2021/2022 COVER CROP Highlights

- 81 applications
- 41,831 traditional acres certified
- Acres up 16% from previous year

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4—CLOSED for Independence Day

July 13—July Board Mtg.

August 11—August Board Mtg.

August 28-31—MASCD Summer Meeting

September 8—September Board Mtg.



INTRODUCING Cover Crop Plus+, a new pilot financial incentive program for soil health farmers. Cover Crop PLUS+ offers higher incentive payments and more perks for farmers who plant cover crops to improve soil health.

Farmers sign a contract to grow cover crop mixes on the same field for 3 consecutive years. You agree to maintain a living root system in enrolled fields for most of the year and manage the cover crop to achieve maximum soil health and water quality benefits.

The base payment for this premium incentive program is \$115/acre per year. Optional add-on practices can increase the reimbursement rate to \$160/acre. To qualify for payment, optional add-ons must be new practices (not used in the previous 3 years) for an enrolled field. Contact the district for more information.



Laura Eddy with Jack King,
NRCS District Conservationist

LAURA EDDY HEADS BACK TO NRCS STATE OFFICE

The Talbot County Field Office and Board of Supervisors wishes Laura Eddy the best of luck on her next adventure with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Laura was our Soil Conservationist over the past 2 1/2 years. Staff and producers will miss her passion for conservation, and knowledge of Farm Bill programs, but we all are grateful that she is only a phone call away! Good luck Laura!

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



Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship Recipient Announced

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors is pleased to congratulate our 2022 Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship recipient Pippa Milhollan. Started in 2021, the Talbot SCD provides an annual scholarship to a local student who pursues a career 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>.



L to R: Shawn Smith, District Manager, Pippa Milhollan, John Swaine, Chairman

Spring Education Outreach

Each spring Talbot SCD staff spend time promoting soil conservation at several events around the county. This year events included participating in *Ag Day*, which was sponsored by the Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore at the Talbot Agricultural Center, *Career Day* at White Marsh Elementary and a visit to Chapel Elementary School to finish up our fall/spring session with 2nd graders.



4th grade students from around Talbot County attended "Ag Day" on May 19, 2022



Soils investigation with an auger by 2nd grade students at Chapel District Elementary.



Talbot SCD manager Shawn Smith demonstrates soil health principles.

Annual Coloring Contest Winners

The Talbot Soil Conservation District, in partnership with the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, was pleased to provide a coloring contest to students K-5 in Talbot County. Several students from Chapel District Elementary School, White Marsh Elementary School, the Country School and Saints Peter & Paul Elementary schools participated in this event.

1st place county winners will be judged at the summer Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's meeting in August, 2022.

Class A - Kindergarten & 1st Grades

- 1st - Lizbeth M. - Saints Peter & Paul
- 2nd - Mia H. - Chapel Elementary
- 3rd - Hazel W. - Chapel Elementary

Class B - 2nd & 3rd Grades

- 1st - Austin C. - Saint Michael's Elementary
- 2nd - Ella L. - Saints Peter & Paul
- 3rd - Emma D. - Chapel Elementary

Class C - 4th & 5th Grades

- 1st - Lillian L. - Saints Peter & Paul
- 2nd - Brooke M. - Saints Peter & Paul
- 3rd - Taylor H. - The Country School



Class B 1st Place Winner - Austin C.

2022 NACD Poster Contest Winners Announced



For 31 years the Talbot Soil Conservation District has sponsored the Land Stewardship Poster Contest. Each year Talbot SCD provides poster board and a theme to public and private schools in Talbot County. The 2022 theme was **Healthy Soil, Healthy Life.**

2nd-3rd Grades

- 1st Place - Ella L. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 2nd Place - Leighton W. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 3rd Place - Sophia H. (Saints Peter & Paul)

4th-6th Grades

- 1st Place - Ava C. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 2nd Place - Anna S. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 3rd Place - Carter L. (Saints Peter & Paul)

7th-9th Grades

- 1st Place - Lizzy A. (Saints Peter & Paul)
- 2nd Place - Annie A. (Saints Peter & Paul)

10th-12th Grades

- 1st Place - Yarivel M. (St. Michaels High)
- 2nd Place - Kate L. (St. Michaels High)
- 3rd Place - Tucker K. (St. Michaels High)



7th-9th Grade Winner—Lizzy A.

1st place winners of the county-wide contest are now entered in the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's Poster Contest held in August 2022. If entries are winners at the State contest they will be entered in the National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest held in January/February 2023. To view all of the winners visit our website at <http://www.talbotscd.com/>.

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

Selected Best Management Practices (BMP) specifically address water quality.

** 100% based on local Talbot County flat rates*



L to R: Projects completed this spring, a grassed waterway with rock lined outlet (BMP Code 412, 468) and a blind inlet (BMP Code 620). More photos can be found on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.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.



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.

INTERESTED IN SERVING AS AN ASSOCIATE?

Contact Shawn Smith at 410-822-1577 x 3 or shawn.smith@maryland.gov for details about joining the Talbot SCD board.

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

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

Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialists

Rocky Donovan—rocky.donovan@maryland.gov
D. Scott Nordhoff—david.nordhoff@md.nacdnet.net
Levin Schwaninger Jr.—levin.schwanger@maryland.gov
Julianna Burns—julianna.burns1@maryland.gov

Soil Conservation Associates & Engineering Technicians

Brandon Zinter—brandon.zinter@md.nacdnet.net
Ray Geist—raymond.geist@md.nacdnet.net
Nathan Hoffman—nathan.hoffman@maryland.gov
Brandon Dudrow—brandon.dudrow@maryland.gov
Anna Hutchison—anna.hutchison@maryland.gov

John (Jack) L. King Jr., District Conservationist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—jack.king@usda.gov
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

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