

CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2011

ANNUAL REPORT

- * *District
Conservationist's
Message*
- * *Engineering
Accomplishments*
- * *Annual Cooperators'
Dinner*
- * *4-H Club*
- * *New Equipment*
- * *Farm Tour*
- * *Conserving Our
Resources*
- * *Cooperator of the Year*



Message from the District Conservationist

Calvert Soil Conservation District continues to work hard every day to help strengthen the agricultural economy here in Southern Maryland. Despite the difficult economic climate of the past years, our efforts and the hard work and resilience of Calvert County farmers are helping agriculture lead the nation's recovery. By providing technical assistance and utilizing cost-share programs such as EQIP, CREP, WHIP, and MACS, we have been able to help producers implement Best Management Practices on their land, which has reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, and reduced damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. There are also programs to assist the producer's transition to organic farming. For more information on the various programs or how we can assist you with your agricultural production, including livestock operations, please contact our office at 410-535-1521, ext. 3. We look forward to assisting you.

Gary L. Wynn, Sr.



Former St. Mary's District Conservationist Al Stewart is the new Southern Maryland RC&D Executive Director. Here he is inspecting the shoreline at Solomons Recreation Center.



Janet Hall and Bill Clark are recognized by the Board of County Commissioners for 25 years of service to Calvert County. Bill is the District Manager and Janet is the Administrative Aide for Calvert Soil Conservation District.



Student intern Ben Clark on site with Engineer Glenn Gass at the Naval Research Shoreline Project in Solomons.



Gail Myers, NRCS Area Engineer, participating in construction inspection training.



Janet Hall stops by the Spider Hall Farm stand in Barstow to purchase locally grown products.

2011 ENGINEERING AND PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Landowners Assisted.....	778	
Conservation Plans Completed.....	2,323	acres
New Cooperators	10	each
<u>Best Management Practices Installed:</u>		
Diversion.....	200	feet
Fencing.....	11,400	feet
Lined Waterway Outlet	70	feet
Pipeline	1,816	feet
Conservation Cover	40	acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	747	acres
Cover Crop.....	3,846	acres
Field Border	10	acres
Forage Harvest Management	122	acres
Forage Stand Improvement.....	256	acres
Nutrient Management	1,678	acres
Pasture and Hayland Planting	101	acres
Prescribed Grazing.....	271	acres
Residue Management, Mulch-Till	436	acres
Residue Management, No-Till.....	88	acres
Residue Management, Seasonal.....	419	acres
Riparian Forest Buffer	5	acres
Stripcropping.....	3	acres
Upland Wildlife Management.....	34	acres
Waste Utilization.....	19	acres
EQIP.....	16	each
Grade Stabilization.....	1	each
Pond	1	each
Roof Runoff Structure.....	3	each
Waste Storage Facility	1	each
Watering Facility.....	9	each
Well.....	3	each

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW

Site Plan Reviews (all types)	776
Commercial/Subdivision Plans Reviewed.....	62
Commercial Preconstruction Meetings.....	36

District Happenings



USDA-NRCS State Conservationist Jon Hall presents a Citation to the Spicknall Family

2011 Annual Cooperators' Dinner

Calvert Soil Conservation District held its tenth Annual Cooperators' Dinner on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. Thompson's Catering served a delicious buffet for a group of 270 people. During the dinner the district acknowledged our 2011 "Cooperators of the Year," Mark and Bonnie Spicknall, for their conservation efforts. During the evening Bill Clark gave a PowerPoint presentation on soil health, district activities, and the equipment rental program. To show our support for Calvert County farmers and watermen, our door prizes were all purchased by the district from Calvert County producers and included fresh eggs, beef, honey, oysters, and wine from two local wineries. Everyone had an enjoyable time. We look forward to seeing our cooperating farmers again in 2012 to share a good meal and information on conservation programs.



Charlie Cox was thrilled to win a set of longhorns during the dinner raffle

District Supports 4-H Club at 2011 Calvert County Fair

Each year Calvert SCD supports the 4-H Club by purchasing animals and donating them back to the club at the 4-H Livestock Auction held during the Calvert County Fair. The 4-H is one of our favorite organizations and we take delight in supporting these young livestock producers.



Sarah Manning
Second Place
Sheep, 105 lbs



Jordan Mister
Fourth Place
Swine, 239 lbs



Tyler Sewell
First Place
Swine, 239 lbs



Terrell Neale
Goat, 82 lbs

Proverbs 27:23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

District Purchases New Equipment

Root Crop Harvester



The Root Crop Harvester is used for harvesting potatoes, sweet potatoes, and other root crops. It has a pin hitch and requires rear hydraulic hose connections and PTO. A 40 horsepower tractor is recommended. The rental fee is assessed at \$50 per day of rental. Funds to purchase the equipment were provided by a grant from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. For further information contact Calvert Soil Conservation District at 410-535-1521, ext. 3.

Farm Tour 2011

On November 17 the District hosted its Annual Farm Tour. This year we visited the Vulcan Materials Company in Havre de Grace. The Vulcan Materials Company is the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates, primarily crushed stone, sand, and gravel. We also visited Strawberry Hill Farm owned by the Schenning Family. In addition to their dairy operation, they manage about 600 acres of cropland, primarily corn and alfalfa for silage.

Our staff and guests thoroughly enjoyed this informative trip to Harford County, which included a lunch at the Epic Buffet. We would love to have you join us next year. **Give us a call, and we will add your name to our invitation list.**



Overlooking the rock quarry at the Vulcan Materials Company.



Pictured center is Bill Tharpe, District Manager of Harford Soil Conservation District, discussing the farm operation at Strawberry Hill Farm.



Tempi Chaney greeted by a baby calf.

Conserving Our

Pond Repair/Excavation and Cattle Ramp for Drinking Access



*Repair Work on Pond
(Before)*



Excavation Repair Work



Dam and Principal Spillway Repair



Pond Clean-Out



Dam and Outlet Repair



Outlet

Resources



Excavation Repair Work for Cattle Ramp



Excavation for Cattle Ramp



Dam Work Grading and Seeding



Seeding



Finished Pond



Cattle Ramp and Fence Around Pond

National Association of Soil Conservation Districts Directors' Conference

This year's National Association of Soil Conservation Districts meeting was held in Solomons. Bill Clark, District Manager, arranged a boat tour aboard the Never E-Nuff to observe shoreline erosion control measures that the district has installed along the Patuxent River. Pictured in the left photo is Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance with the captain of the boat. In the center photo is State Conservationist Jon Hall of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with his wife Sharon. The photo to the right is Tommy Zinn, President of the Calvert County Watermen's Association, explaining oyster growth.



Calvert County Watermen's Association

Under a pilot program, the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is being used to implement and fund the "Restoration and Management for Rare or Declining Habitat," specifically "Oyster Bed Restoration and Management." The Calvert County Watermen's Association has planted nearly four-million oysters on its lease this year. Bagged shell is put into a tank with recirculating river water and oyster larvae are added. Once the spat have set on the shell and grown for a week in fresh river water they are removed from the tank, loaded onto work boats, and taken to the leased bottom. There the bags are cut open and the spat on shell is placed overboard.



Bagged Shell



Shell in Setting Tank



Unloading Tank



Loading Oyster from Trailer to Work Boat

2011 Cooperator of the Year

S.L. Brady grows tobacco, corn, soybeans, and small grain on nearly 500 acres in northern Calvert County. He and his family farm the Chaneyville area, where the Brady's High Hopes Farms is located. Since becoming a Cooperator with the District in 2001, S.L. has been active in several conservation programs and has incorporated many best management practices into his farming operation. S.L. conserves the natural resources on the farms he works by minimizing erosion and the amount of nutrient and pesticides runoff. S.L. maintains a cover on fields over the winter either by leaving crop residue or by growing winter small grain. He has also increased the portion of land that he no-tills and the amount of high-residue crops in his cropping rotations, which increase soil quality. Improving the soil minimizes erosion and reduces the amount of fertilizer and pesticides needed. Leaving field borders and using stripcropping has also reduced erosion and runoff. Being one of the first renters of the district's Turbo-Tiller, S.L. decreases the amount of cultivation, which is usually necessary when crop residue is too thick or tough for a no-till drill to function effectively.



*S.L. and Mandi Brady
Liana, Travis, Rebekah*

Envirothon

On April 6, 2011 students from Calvert County high schools arrived at Kings Landing Park in Huntingtown for the 20th annual County “Envirothon” competition. Each year Calvert Soil Conservation District helps sponsor the County Envirothon with funding, training, and participation. To prepare for the competition, students work with environmental professionals to gain knowledge and skills in aquatic resource management, soil conservation, wildlife management, forestry conservation, and current natural resource issues. The county team with the highest cumulative total wins the local or regional competition and advances to the Maryland Envirothon, which was held June 15-16, 2011 at St. Mary’s College in historical St. Mary’s City. This year’s county Envirothon winning team was from Calvert High School.



Students examine the soil horizons to determine the drainage class of the different layers.



A team member measures slope.



The winning Envirothon team from Calvert High School.
From left to right: Jordon Elford, Jessy Cockrell, Shannon McCloskey, Makayla Ladd, and Chuck Gustin (Teacher).

Quality Assurance Review

A Quality Assurance Review of the district office was held in September. Both MDA and USDA-NRCS sent representatives to check the quality of our work. The group reviewed a pond repair, a heavy use protection area, and a drop structure all installed within the last few years.



MDA Conservation Technician Jen David, NRCS Area Engineer Gail Myers, and MACS Administrator Norman Astle inspected several Calvert County farms during the Calvert Soil Conservation District's Quality Assurance Review.



Heavy Use Area Protection and Animal Feeding Facility.



Watering Trough



Inspecting the surface inlet of a recently completed Grade Stabilization Structure.

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E&S Control Specialist

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Conservation Planner

Paula F. Mask
Conservation Planner

Cooperating Agencies

Calvert County

Calvert County Commissioners
Department of Public Works
Department of Planning & Zoning
Economic Development
Inspections and Permits
Marine Museum
Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and
Development Board

State of Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maryland Department of the Environment
MD Department of Natural Resources
MD Forest, Parks & Wildlife Service
State Soil Conservation Committee
MD Cooperative Extension

United States Government

USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Rural Development
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Protection Agency

Others

Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Com.
MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Maryland Farm Bureau
National Association of Conservation Districts

All district programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Calvert Soil Conservation District's Annual Report is published regularly to provide information to the land user.
