



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Elkton, Maryland 21921

# District Manager Message

2023 has been an exciting year for the Cecil Soil Conservation District. Staff have been busy developing Conservation Plans, implementing Best Management Practices, and providing support for federal and state conservation grant programs. The opportunities and assistance available to implement local conservation have never been greater, and Cecil county's farmers are taking advantage! It seems each day we receive calls from individuals and organizations seeking guidance and discussing projects to enhance soil and water quality. At the same time, District staff are eager and excited to assist those who wish to be the best stewards of the land that they can. Voluntary conservation remains the vision of CSCD, and we may only find success with willing and educated landowners. The District relies on partnerships and the valued relationship that we hold with each cooperator. The individual goals of each cooperator cumulatively add up to tell the story of conservation and preservation of the natural resources of Cecil County.



# Best Management Practices Installed

## 124

Access Road	125 FT
Agricultural Stormwater Management	3.4 AC
Comprehensive Nutrient Management	1 NO
Conservation Cover	33.5 AC
Conservation Crop Rotation	348.4 AC
Contour Farming	15.3 AC
Contour Orchard & Other Perennial	18.5 AC
Critical Area Planting	72.6 AC
Diversion	203 FT
Grade Stabilization Structure	3 NO
Grassed Waterway	2.9 AC
Heavy Use Area Protection	0.9 AC
Herbaceous Weed Control	15.2 AC
Lined Waterway or Outlet	283 FT
Livestock Pipeline	1,526 FT
Non-Streamside Fence	1,589 FT
Pumping Plant	1 NO
Residue and Tillage Management (Reduced Till)	348.4 AC
Residue and Tillage Management (No-Till)	35.9 AC
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	16.7 AC
Roof Runoff Structure	4 NO
Roofs and Covers	4 NO
Solid/Liquid Waste Separation	1 NO
Spring Development	1 NO
Stormwater Runoff Control	4 NO
Streamside Fence (10'-34')	118 FT
Streamside Fence (35'+ Trees)	4,262 FT
Structure for Water Control	5 NO
Subsurface Drain	3,584 FT
Underground Outlet	1,349 FT
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	8.3 AC
Waste Facility Closure	1 NO
Waste Recycling	34.5 AC
Waste Storage Facility	5 NO
Waste Transfer	198 NO
Water Control Structure	1 NO
Watering Facility	2 NO
Wetland Creation	0.2 AC

# Agricultural Conservation

## MDA MACS Annual Programs 2023

MACS Applications (Structural Practices)	13
MACS Application Funding Requested	\$203,004
MACS BMP Funding Granted (claims)	\$548,656
2022-2023 Cover Crop Applications	87
2022-2023 Cover Crop Approved Funding	\$1,905,253
2022-2023 Cover Crop Acres	24,140
Manure Transport	\$47,266
Manure Injection/Incorporation	\$96,119

## Federal Conservation Financial Assistance

Federal Statewide Funding	\$15,768,328
Number of Contracts	11
Federal Funding for Cecil County	\$659,434

## Conservation Planning & Agricultural Practices

Conservation Planned Acres	2353
Conservation Plans	30
New Cooperators	23



## Technical Assistance

In 2023, CSCD received **51** technical assistance requests serving **5,175 acres.**

## Urban Conservation

Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Reviews	325
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Approved	193
Forest Harvest Plans Reviewed & Approved	20
Impacted Acres	2,428

## Agricultural Farmstead Development

Agricultural Pre-Construction Meetings	6
Agricultural Storm Water Management and/or E & S Inspections	41

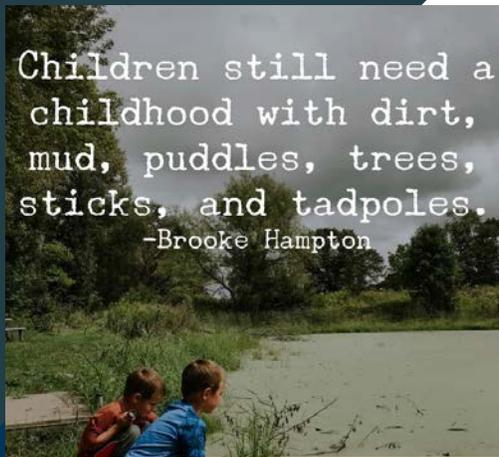
# Fair Hill Nature Center and Envirothon

## SOILS PROGRAM

For many years Cecil Soil Conservation District has partnered with the Fair Hill Nature Center to provide the Fourth Grade Soils Program. This past year over 1,100 children visited the Nature Center to experience this hands-on environmental education.

## WILDLIFE EDUCATION

This year our employee, Sean McCandless volunteered to share a presentation regarding popular birds and birding locations in Cecil County. Over 40 people, from all ages, attended this event at the Nature Center.



## ENVIROTHON

The Cecil County Envirothon is increasing in numbers for student participation. This year's competition had over 30 participants representing five county high schools, and many more students attended the training days.

**1st Place - Bohemia Manor HS**

**2nd Place - Elkton HS**

**3rd Place - Rising Sun HS - Team I**

The success of this program is due to support from the Department of Natural Resources, Fair Hill Nature Center, and all of our Sponsors!



**2023  
CECIL COUNTY  
ENVIROTHON WINNERS**

**1st Place  
Bohemia Manor**

**2nd Place  
Elkton**

**3rd Place  
Rising Sun Team I**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL CECIL COUNTY  
SCHOOLS WHO  
PARTICIPATED**

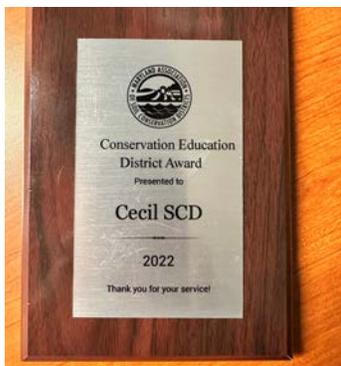
# Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts



The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts held its Annual Meeting in Cambridge, MD in August of this year. During the event, the Cecil Soil Conservation District proudly received five out of fourteen awards available throughout the state. Awards are granted based upon service provided to each district's respective community.

The awards received by CSCD are as follows:

***Conservation Education District of the Year (2nd year in a row)***  
***Outstanding Leadership Award - Bruce Yerkes***  
***Supervisor Special Achievement Award - Robert Van Funk***  
***Employee Special Achievement Award - Jessica Zebley***  
***Farm Credit Outstanding District Award (3rd Place)***





UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION



## What is LEAD Maryland?

The LEAD MD Program awards two-year fellowships to selected participants, creating classes of just over 20 developing leaders. The program takes pride in identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Cecil Soil Conservation District is very proud to have had our very own, Chris Brown move through the 2022-2023 program. Jessica Zebley, MDA Engineer Technician will start her two year journey in Class XIII beginning in 2024.



CECIL CO.  
**Chris Brown**  
District Manager, Cecil Soil  
Conservation District



Yay!  
Class XIII Fellow!  
(2024-25)



# Education and Outreach

Cecil Soil Conservation District is pleased that the desire for conservation education is spreading through Cecil County. This year the District experienced an increase in local elementary schools and partnering agencies reaching out to the office to attend new events and communicate the importance of conservation.



In March, CSCD hosted the Nutrient Management Meeting at the Calvert Grange. This event gives farmers a chance to keep up to date on Nutrient Management guidelines and receive ongoing educational credits.

In March of 2023, the District and Natural Resources Conservation Service arranged a two day soils training for staff within Cecil County's Department of Public Works and Development Plans Review Division. Topics included soil infiltration, textures, and soil horizons.



# Education and Outreach (continued)

## 2021 Annual Cooperator of the Year Honoring Dividing Farm, LLC

In January 2023, CSCD continued honoring cooperators. Dividing Farm was recognized as the CSCD Cooperator of the Year. Dividing Farm implements Conservation Tillage, Critical Area Seedings, Wildlife Plantings, and Critical Area Buffers, and developed a Shallow Wildlife Area. Dividing Farm also plants Cover Crops annually to improve soil quality and health. Cecil County and the District thank the Jeanes family for their commitment to conservation.



## Cecil County Fair

Ag Showcase Day provides CSCD opportunities to communicate program schedules and to provide other updates to local farmers. The event yields time to network with farmers, equipment dealers, and service providers.

## Children's Day

Staff members also participated in Children's Day and provided a recyclable craft to over 60 children.



# A Project with Positive Impact

## Long Green Farms

Cecil Soil Conservation District has a long history of working with many farmers in Cecil County to implement practices that contribute to soil and water quality, but in 2023 one farm stands out: Long Green Farms. Long Green Farms is a family farm that has a passion for the environment and is eager to implement sustainable practices. The Cecil Soil Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Services worked alongside Team Ag, Inc. in a collaborative effort to assist Long Green Farms with the installation of several Best Management Practices intended to mitigate the environmental impacts of their dairy operation and improve the health and happiness of their animals.



# A Project with Positive Impact

## Long Green Farms ( continued)

As champions of conservation, the Crothers family chose to install a Roofed Heavy Use Walkway, Roofed Feeding Area, Waste Storage Facility, Sand Separation Facility, and a substantial roof runoff system. The new Roofed Heavy Use Areas ensure that wastewater is contained while moving and feeding animals awaiting milking. The waste from these areas is then transferred to the new 822,469 gallon Waste Storage Tank. A series of gutters, collection boxes, and underground outlets convey clean runoff to a stable rock outlet. In addition, the family was also interested in finding a way to recycle the sand bedding that they use for their animals. They decided to install a Sand Separation Facility so they could reduce the volume of bedding material that entered their existing waste storage lagoon. The facility will utilize the wastewater from the milking parlor as dilution water, reducing the need for use of fresh water, subsequently providing a 90% recovery rate of sand bedding. In 2024, the family will continue their conservation efforts by installing a manure digester that will reduce pollutants and convert manure to energy in the form of bio-gas.





Willie Ewing  
Vice- Chairman



Van Funk  
Treasurer



Bruce Yerkes  
Chairman

**CECIL SOIL  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

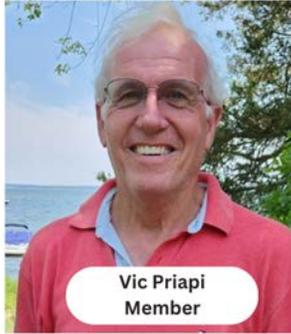
**BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**



Alice Crothers  
Associate



Jonathan Quinn  
Member



Vic Priapi  
Member



## County Staff

Chris Brown, District Manager  
Gerry P. Powell, M. CE., P.E.  
Mari McNinch, Soil Conservationist  
Ryan Fisher, Soil Conservationist  
Tracey Rach, District Coordinator  
Patty Pierce, Administrative Assistant

## MDA Staff

Dan Polite, Engineering Technician  
Jessica Zebley, Engineering Technician  
Andrew Sipe, Soil Conservation Technician  
Josh Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Technician  
Lauren Gilbert, Soil Conservation Technician  
Sean McCandless, Soil Conservation Planner  
Ivan Tokash, Soil Conservation Planner  
Cherish Warner, Soil Conservation Planner



## USDA/NRCS Staff

Rob Weaver, District Conservationist  
William Metcalf, Soil Conservationist  
Elizabeth Jamison, Program Support Specialist  
Christopher Davidson, Civil Engineer Technician