

2021 Vol. 77

Cecil Soil Conservation District (CSCD)

Annual Report

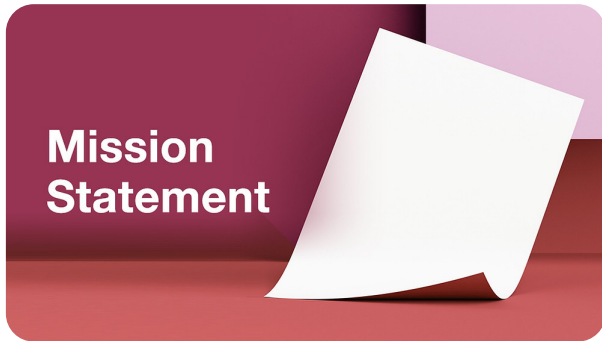
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District Manager's Message



The year 2021 has proven to be an exciting year for CSCD. As farmers and residents have seen life begin to return to normal, the District has witnessed our Cooperators emerge with the continued desire to expand their conservation footprints. In 2021, we have broadened our existing partnerships and forged new relationships with various agencies, groups, and individuals with the goal to amplify the promotion of conservation. Close partnerships such as these have resulted in increased funding opportunities for on the ground conservation as well as provided focused learning experiences for students and the public. Steps have been taken to reinvigorate our education and outreach programs to be more inclusive and utilize partnerships to bring about a common goal. I personally want to thank all of the District's Cooperators and Partners that have made 2021 a successful year. We are welcoming and excited to see where these relationships take us in 2022.



*The **mission** of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to provide the community with information, education and technical assistance in conserving the county's natural resources.*

"A MISSION DEFINES PURPOSE AND A VISION EXTENDS YOUR MISSION TO AN IDEAL FUTURE STATE"

*The **vision** of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to provide exceptional customer service while being the recognized leader in promoting voluntary conservation and sustainable land use in Cecil County*





Best Management Practices Installed - 89

Animal Trails/Walkways	1629 Ft.
Conservation Cover	109.2 Ac.
Cover Crop	18,349 Ac.
Critical Area Planting	2.1 Ac.
Critical Area Planting Construction	1.0 Ac.
Fence	16,884 Ft.
Filter Strip	11 Ac.
Forest Management Plan	1 No.
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 No.
Grassed Waterway	0.1 Ac.
Herbaceous Weed Control	19.1 Ac.
Lined Waterway or Outlet	52 Ft.
Livestock Pipeline	3,082 Ft.
Pasture & Hay Planting	67.1 Ac.
Prescribed Grazing	40 Ac.
Pumping Plant	1 No.
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	16 Ac.
Roof Runoff Structure	325 No.
Sediment Control Pond	1 No.
Shallow Water Development	8.4 Ac.
Storm Water Runoff Control	18 No.
Streamside Fence (Grass & Trees)	8,126 Ft.
Stream Habitat Improvement	0.2 Ac.
Streambank Protection	425 Ft.
Structure for Water Control	2 No.
Subsurface Drain	580 Ft.
Tree/Shrub Establishment	2 Ac.
Underground Outlet	3,572 Ft.
Waste Storage Structures	20
Watercourse Access Control	154,000 Ln Ft.
Watering Facility	7 No.



Agricultural Conservation

MACS Annual Programs 2021

Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Capital (Structural Practices) \$232,100.00

2020-2021 Cover Crop Applications	77
2020-2021 Cover Crop Claims	\$862,208.50
Manure Transport	\$52,215.00
Manure Injection/Incorporation	\$102,200.00

Technical Assistance

In 2021 the CSCD received 94 technical assistance requests, servicing 10,737 acres.



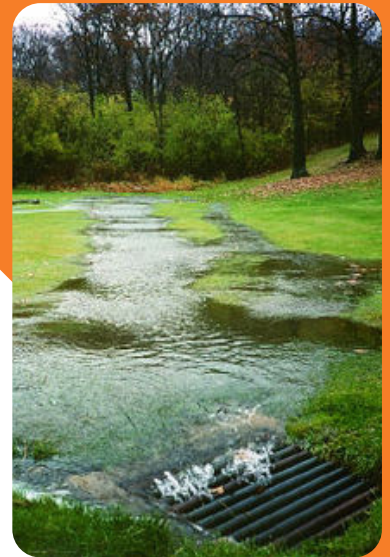
Cover Crops are seeded into agricultural fields over the winter to primarily improve and/or maintain ecosystem quality. Cover Crops lock nutrients into the plant to make the nitrogen available to the new crop to follow in the spring as well as preventing soil erosion. Seventy-seven Cecil County farmers planted in excess of 18,349 acres of crop in 2021 as traditional cover.

Conservation Planning & Agricultural Practices

Conservation Planned Acres	664
Conservation Plans	7
New Cooperators	13

Urban Conservation

Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Review	346
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Approved	249
Acres Impacted	3,449
Forest Harvest Plans Reviewed & Approved	25
Pre-Construction Meetings	9
Agricultural Storm Water Management and/or E & S Inspections	37



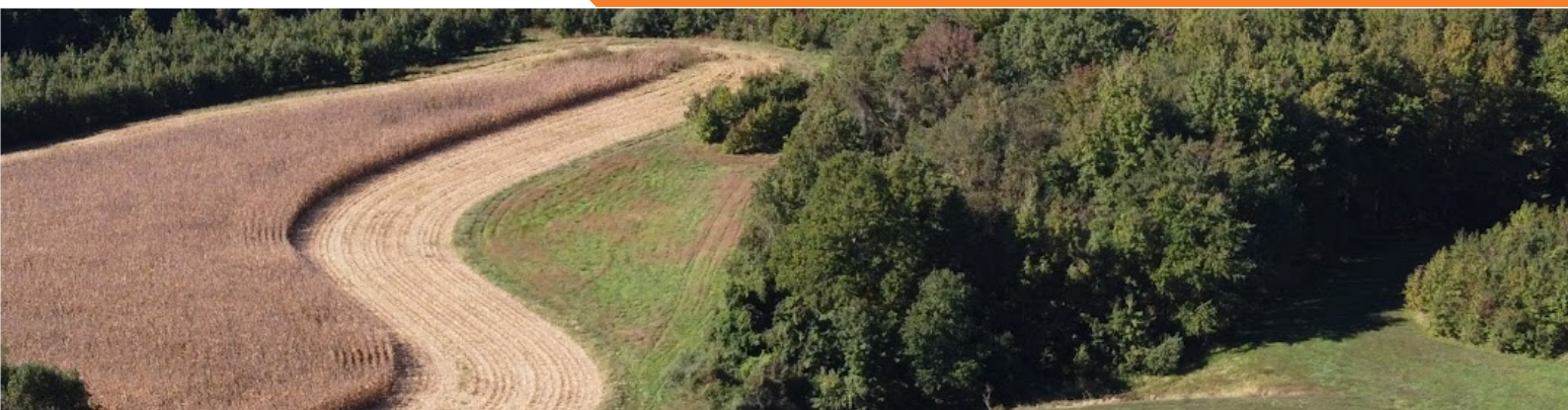
Federal Conservation Financial Assistance

Federal Statewide Funding	\$11,893,990.02
Federal Funding for Cecil County	\$ 1,060,562.57
Number of Contracts	13
Federal Funds for Structural Practices	\$119,593.80

The Maryland Department of Agriculture provides conservation grants and loans to help farmers offset the cost of installing best management practices on their farms to protect natural resources and comply with federal, state and local environmental requirements.

CSCD YouTube Channel

The Cecil Soil Conservation District YouTube channel, Facebook page, and website are important tools in reaching out to the community and providing information and education to the public. This year, the Cecil SCD's YouTube channel and website were expanded to include additional "*Best Management Practice*" spotlights. Each month staff worked closely to prepare a short educational slide show about each BMP and the benefits of installation on the land. In addition, the District continues to maintain our past "*Cooperator of the Year*" videos which recognize our local farmers and their contributions to the land.



Cecil SCD
12 subscribers

CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL

MANAGE VIDEO

HOME

VIDEOS

PLAYLISTS

CHANNELS

ABOUT



Uploads

≡ SORT



Stream Stabilization

1 view • 1 month ago



Dupont Cover Crop 9 29 21

4 views • 3 months ago



Amish Dragline

17 views • 3 months ago



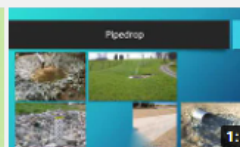
Soil Health

2 views • 4 months ago



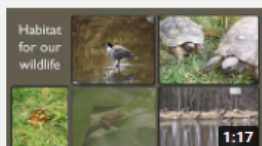
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

3 views • 5 months ago



Pipe Drop, Waterways & Rock
Outlet presentation

No views • 6 months ago



Shallow Wildlife areas
presentation

2 views • 6 months ago



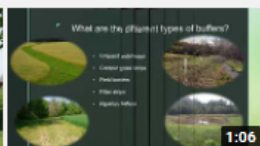
Stream Crossing, Fencing,
and Watering Troughs

1 view • 6 months ago



AG Day at the Dupont Farm
April 28, 2021

8 views • 8 months ago



Buffer Presentation

7 views • 10 months ago



Cecil SCD 75th Anniversary
Preview

13 views • 11 months ago



Heavy Use Area Presentation

11 views • 11 months ago



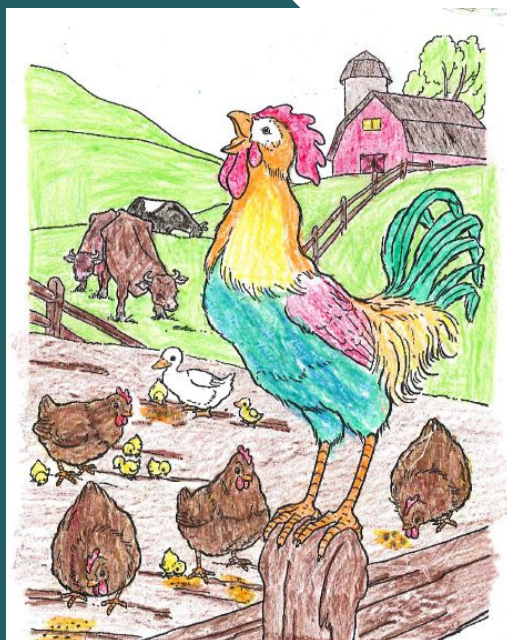
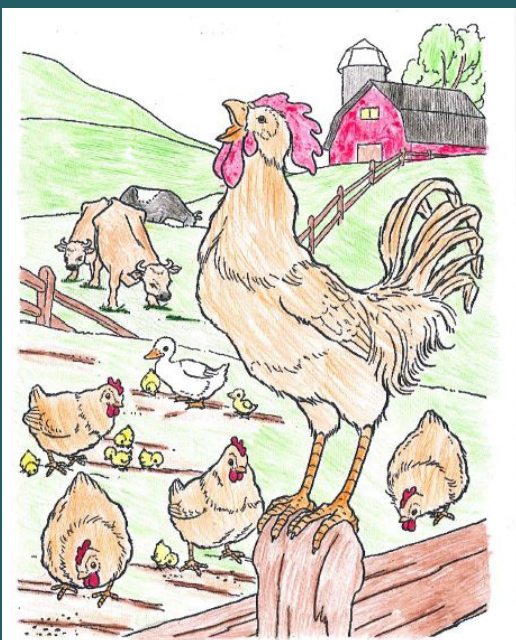
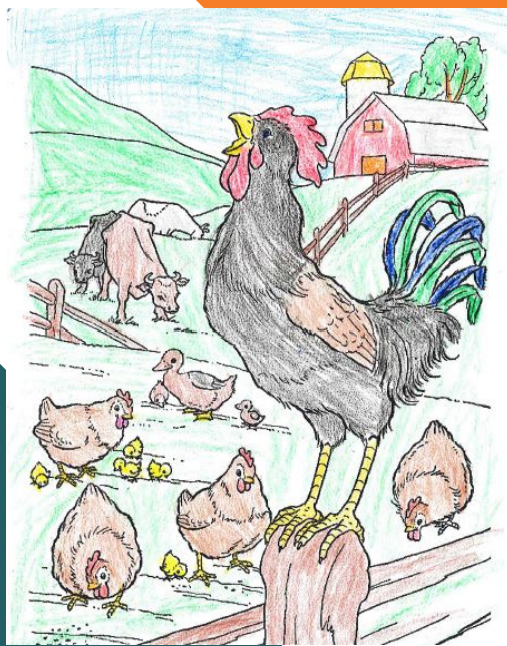
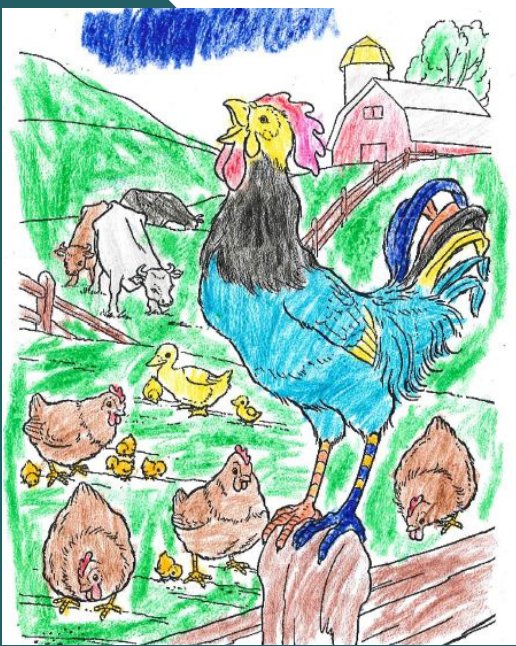
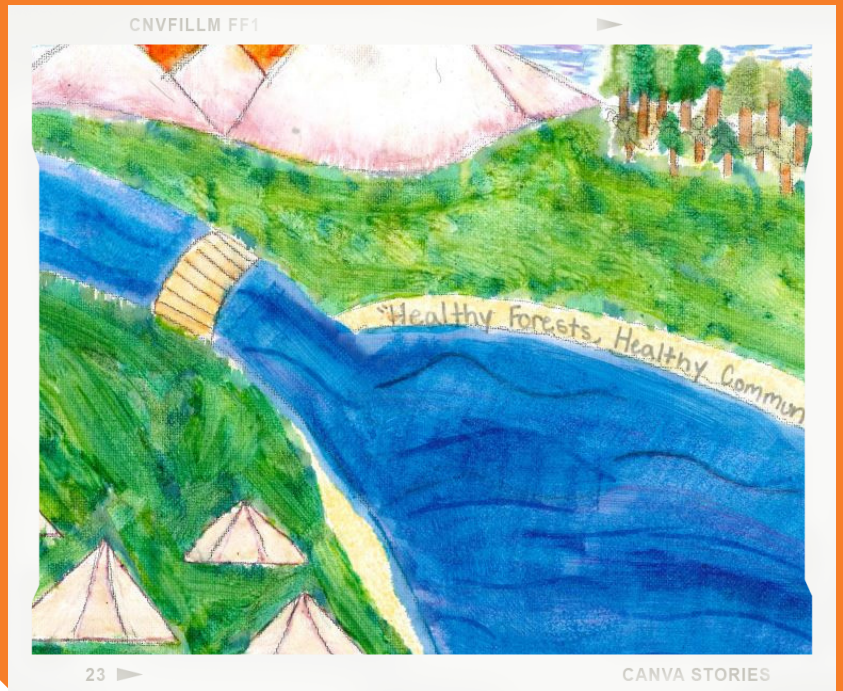
Education and Outreach

Each year the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) holds a poster contest with an agricultural theme.

This years theme was:
"Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities".

CSCD holds a county wide contest to choose a winner to compete on the National level.

Congratulations to Katilyn Hahn for representing Cecil County!



The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) host a coloring contest for elementary school children.

The Cecil Soil Conservation District ranks local entries and chooses winners to compete at in an event held at the annual MASCD Meeting.

The District winners received a gift certificate to Kilby Farms for a yummy treat.

Cecil County Fair and the Ag Showcase

CSCD coordinates with many partnering agencies as well as State and County Administrations to share important information with local farmers. Agricultural leaders have an opportunity to speak on different programs available and showcase new equipment that demonstrates how farming and conservation are moving forward together.



Partnerships - Cecil Land Trust

Cecil Soil Conservation District, Cecil Land Trust, Ewing Brothers, and the Dupont Farm have partnered to plant annual cover crop demonstration test plots. CSCD released a narrated video describing the four mixes planted in the plot fields. In the spring of 2022 CSCD and the Cecil Land Trust will host an event with various speakers to educate farmers on the outcome of the test plots and highlight the benefits of cover crop variety mixes.



In October CSCD was invited to observe a horse drawn Drag Line used to evenly spread manure in accordance with a farmers Nutrient Management Plan. The unit reduces soil compaction and improves soil health. A video highlighting the demonstration was released on the district's YouTube and Facebook page.



Partnerships - Fair Hill Nature Center

CSCD partners with the Fair Hill Nature Center to administer the Fourth Grade Soils program. The soils program provides environmental education to all elementary school students throughout the county. In 2021 the program served over 1,000 fourth grade students educated through the program.



Fall Envirothon Training Fair Hill Nature Center

This year the CSCD was very pleased to hold the annual fall Envirothon training for high school students at the Fair Hill Nature Center. Envirothon is an environmental competition for students interested in environmental issues. Students learn and compete at the county, state, and North American level. The four learning components include soils, forestry, wildlife and aquatics as well as a rotating fifth topic for the competition which is to be held in early 2022.



Big Project, Big Impact

Streambank Stabilization in Elkton

A Streambank Stabilization project was installed in Elkton, Maryland along a section of the Big Elk Creek. In this project, 419 linear feet of the streambank was stabilized with bio-engineering and 813 tons of stone. Tree root-wads and log deflectors were imbedded along the creek in order to decrease water velocity and stop erosion. In addition, a riparian buffer was planted to stabilize the area above the rock and work as a buffer to filter nutrients. With the assistance of the landowner and diverse CSCD Staff, the project was a huge success!



New Staff

Andy Andrews MDA Soil Planner



Andy Andrews is a Conservation Planner with the Cecil Soil Conservation District. In this role, Andy assists farmers in addressing resource concerns on their land through the use of Conservation Plans and provides assistance with the implementation of best management practices. Andy began his career in agriculture in 1997 as an Ecoforestry/Organic Farming apprentice in Nova Scotia. He spent the next several years working on farms in New Hampshire and New York. In 2003, Andy moved back to Maryland and started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) providing produce and pastured poultry. In 2006, Andy moved on to manage another CSA farm that supplied 450 families with produce in the Philadelphia suburbs. Andy started his own consulting and contracting business in 2014 that kept him busy until joining CSCD in 2021. In this business, he took on a broad diversity of jobs including consulting to small farms, community farms and a food hub operation, installing community gardens and operating equipment on large produce farms.

Andrew Sipe MDA Soil Technician



A lifelong resident of Cecil County having grown up on a former 30-acre farm dating back to the mid-1800s Andrew has enjoyed spending time outdoors from a young age. After graduating from Perryville High School in 2013 he attended the University of Maryland College Park, where he received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Land Use, along with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Upon graduation Andrew returned home and spent 4 years working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a lead trail technician at Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area.

During his time at Fair Hill he oversaw the maintenance of an 80-mile trail system. His daily jobs included clearing fallen and hazardous trees, building bridges, controlling vegetation, and making various trail improvements. In addition to these jobs he also played an integral role in the planning, designing, and early stages of construction of a brand-new trail system at the soon to be Bohemia River State Park. While with the Department of Natural Resources Andrew was a member of the states Wildland Fire Fighting Crew and spent 3 weeks in Northern California in Oct 2020 inside the Klamath National Forest on the Red Salmon Complex Fire.

Sean McCandless MDA Soil Planner



Sean has lived in Cecil County nearly his entire life. Sean came to the District in 2021 from the Cecil County Department of Public Works Stormwater Management Division where he served as an MS4 Compliance Supervisor. He started at Cecil County Government over 13 years ago as a Stormwater Management Inspector. Sean's job involved coordinating stormwater BMP inspections, project management, reviewing development, stormwater and grading plans. A large component of Sean's job also involved outreach and education; from talking to contractors and residents, to visiting schools to work with students as well as providing continuing education opportunities for teachers. Sean strived to make others aware of their impact on the environment around them. Because of his efforts, Sean received the Outstanding Achievement Award in 2010 from the Cecil Soil Conservation District where he served as an Associate Supervisor on the Board of Supervisors for seven years. Since a very young age, Sean has been interested in and very passionate about the health of water resources, wildlife, especially birds. He has served several terms a President of the Cecil Bird Club where he continues to serve as a very active field trip leader. He has also become an avid nature photographer. Sean focuses a lot of his free time on education and conservation of birds and bird habitat. For the past few years, Sean has been the Cecil County Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator which is a cooperative project between the Maryland Ornithological Society and Department of Natural Resources. What started out as personal interests throughout his life, have developed into a desire and a career to educate others about the importance of environmental stewardship. From improving water quality to the better management of wildlife habitats, Sean encourages the importance of environmental awareness.

WELCOME NEW
TEAM MEMBERS

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Cecil Soil Conservation District

Board of Supervisors

J. Bruce Yerkes, Chairman
William Ewing, Vice-Chairman
Van Funk, Treasurer
Victor Priapi, Member
Jonathan Quinn, Member

County Staff

Chris Brown, District Manager
Mari McNinch, Soil Conservationist
Ryan Fisher, Soil Conservationist
Tracey Rach, Financial Coordinator
Patty Pierce, Administrative Assistant

MDA Staff

Dan Polite, Engineering Technician
Jessica Zebley, Soil Conservation Technician
Andrew Sipe, Soil Conservation Technician
Andy Andrews, Soil Conservation Planner
Sean McCandless, Soil Conservation Planner

USDA/NRCS Staff

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