



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

105 CHESAPEAKE BLVD, SUITE B3
ELKTON, MARYLAND 21921
410-398-4411, EXT. 3



WWW.CECILSCD.COM



DISTRICT MANAGER'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on the District's activities for 2024, I am humbled by the number of Conservation and Best Management Practices that have been utilized by Cecil County Farmers and Landowners. The dedication and investment that our agricultural community puts into the land seems to grow year after year. Voluntary conservation is a true testament that Cecil County farmers and landowners know that soil health and water quality go hand in hand with farm profitability and that they value the benefits that conservation adds to our community. I am proud to present the hard work that CSCD staff has done to help our cooperators achieve their soil and water quality goals as well as the education and outreach that they have all worked so hard to provide to the residents of Cecil County.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INSTALLED

325

Access Road	11,689 FT
Agricultural Stormwater Management	0.6 AC
Comprehensive Nutrient Management	1 NO
Conservation Cover	19.4 AC
Conservation Crop Rotation	3,678 AC
Contour Farming	49.4 AC
Cover Crop (Non-Program)	3,634 AC
Critical Area Planting	45.1 AC
Diversion	268 FT
Early Successional Habitat	8.6 AC
Fence (Non-Streamside)	5,793 FT
Fence (Streamside 10' to 35')	2,909 FT
Fence (Streamside 35' +)	312 FT
Grade Stabilization Structure	2 NO
Grassed Waterway	7.9 AC
Grass Buffer on Watercourse - RI08	222 FT
Heavy Use Area Protection	0.5 AC
Lined Waterway or Outlet	178.5 FT
Livestock Pipeline	3,213 FT
Mulching (Straw)	0.9 AC
Nutrient Management	3,797.4 AC
Pumping Plant	1 NO
Residue and Tillage Management (No-Till)	3,653.6 AC
Residue and Tillage Management (Reduced Till)	26.5 AC
Riparian Forest Buffer	14.7 AC
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	8.8 AC
Roof Runoff Structure	9 NO
Roofs and Covers	1 NO
Soil Carbon Amendment	242.7 AC
Stormwater Runoff Control	8 NO
Stream Crossing	2 NO
Structure for Water Control	5 NO
Tree and Shrub Establishment	1.8 AC
Underground Outlet	1,831 FT
Waste Storage Facility	1 NO
Water Well	2 NO
Watering Facility	12 NO
Wetland Creation	6.6 AC

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

MDA MACS ANNUAL PROGRAMS 2024

MACS Applications (Structural Practices)	9 Ea
MACS Application Funding Requested	\$404,467
MACS BMP Funding Granted (claims)	\$318,390

2023-2024 Cover Crop Applications	87 Ea
2023-2024 cover Crop Approved Funding	\$2,169,951
2023-2024 Cover Crop Acres	24,913 Ac

Manure Transport / Injection Applications	20 Ea
Manure Transport	\$130,637
Manure Injection/Incorporation	\$78,211

FEDERAL CONSERVATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Federal Statewide Funding	\$29,618,406
Number of Contracts for Cecil County	14 Ea
Federal Funding for Cecil County	\$1,833,575
AMA, EQIP, CSP - 26 payments	\$387,317



CONSERVATION PLANNING & AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Conservation Planned Acres	8,780 Ac
Conservation Plans	54 Ea
New Cooperators	20 Ea

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 2024, Cecil Soil Conservation District received **67 Technical Assistance requests** serving **5,891 acres.**

URBAN E&S ACTIVITIES

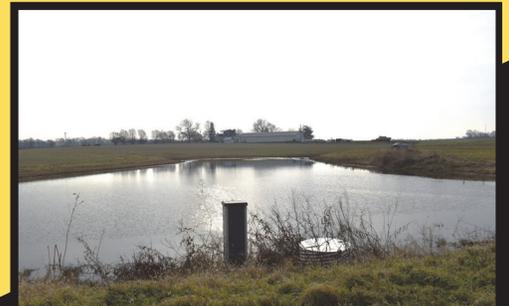
Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Reviews	300 ea.
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Approved	182 ea.
Forest Harvest Plans Reviewed & Approved	16 ea.
Total Acres of Disturbance	2,126 acres

AGRICULTURAL E&S/SWM ACTIVITIES

Ag SWM Plan Reviews	11 ea.
Ag SWM Plan Approvals	9 ea.
Ag Fill Plan Approvals	6 ea.
Ag SWM/E&S Inspections	46 ea.

378 SMALL POND ACTIVITIES

Small Ponds Reviewed	28 ea.
Small Pond Approvals	5 ea.
Technical Assistance Requests	13 ea.
Small Pond Evaluations	12 ea.



COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

SPRY BROTHERS, INC.

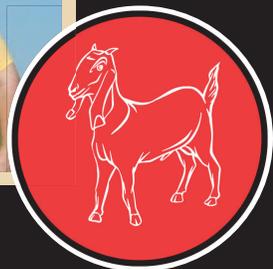
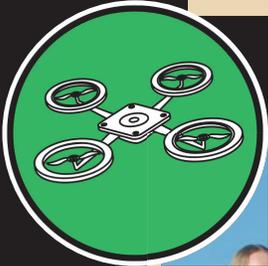
In January, CSCD honored Spry Brothers Inc. as our Annual Cooperator of the Year. Spry Brothers, Inc. have implemented a variety of Best Management Practices, including Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Riparian Buffers, Shallow Wildlife Development, Grassed Waterways, Critical Area Plantings, the use of No-Till Farming, Cover Crops, Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management, and Precision Agriculture. Spry Brothers Inc. have a long history of conserving natural resources to leave a legacy of outstanding conservation for future generations.



7TH GRADE AG EDUCATION DAY

In 2024, the Cecil Soil Conservation District was involved in a new partnership to bring agricultural education to Cecil County Public Schools. This partnership with representation from University of Maryland Extension, Cecil County Farm Museum, Horizon Farm Credit, Cecil County Government, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Cecil Soil Conservation District, and Cecil County Public Schools culminated in an event dubbed "Cecil County Ag Education Days". The event successfully educated over 1,200 Cecil County seventh grade students over the course of 3 days. Students visited 12 separate Ag science stations which showcased the diversity of agriculture based careers and how agriculture touches aspects of everyday life.

7TH GRADE AG EDUCATION DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



7TH GRADE AG EDUCATION DAY



CSCD's staff provided educational presentations across three stations. The topics were Conservation Engineering & Design, Farming with Conservation (Planning), and a hands on lesson explaining the relationship between Soil Health, Water Quality, and the Chesapeake Bay. The remainder of District staff provided educator assistance, time keeping, volunteer check in, station flagging, fairground clean up, and many other duties.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

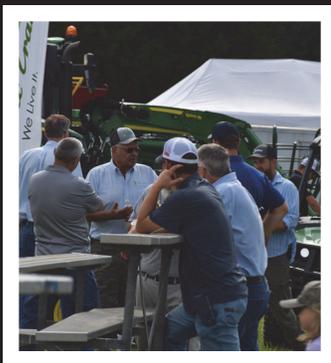
CECIL COUNTY FAIR

Children's Day

With assistance from students from the School of Technology, District Staff taught over 120 elementary school aged children about pollinators with a craft highlighting caterpillars and butterflies. We were so grateful to have the School of Technology assisting us since it was such an incredible turnout.



In addition to Children's Day, the District worked with partnering agencies to participate in the Ag Showcase. District staff attended this event to share details regarding current and upcoming programs through Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.



ENVIROTHON

Cecil Soil Conservation District has been hosting the county Envirothon for over 25 years and is still going strong. Over 70 Cecil County high school students attended the training days and 8 teams of students participated in the competition. Students compete in five topics: soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a rotating fifth topic. The winning team from the county competition, Elkton High School, went on to the state competition.

THANK YOU TO OUR ENVIROTHON SPONSORS



UPPER BAY RURITAN CLUB



CECIL COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS



2024 ENVIROTHON WINNERS



Elkton High School



North East High School



Cecil County School of Technology

ROOFED HEAVY USE AREA

The Cecil Soil Conservation District worked with a cooperater to construct a 61' X 204' covered heavy use area which included six months of waste storage that allows the cooperater to store and apply manure in accordance with their nutrient management plan. The roofed heavy use area was designed to eliminate an existing sacrifice lot/feeding area that was located next to an unnamed tributary that outlets to the Principio Creek. The project was co-cost shared utilizing EQIP and MACS funding.





Board of Supervisors

Bruce Yerkes, Chairman
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Van Funk, Treasurer
Jonathan Quinn, Member
Vic Priapi, Member
Alice Crothers, Associate

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

USDA/NRCS Staff

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

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