

2020 | VOL. 76

CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT



105 CHESAPEAKE BLVD,
SUITE B-3
ELKTON, MARYLAND 21921

410-398-4411, EXT 3
WWW.CECILSCD.COM

***"Agriculture
is a field of
unlimited
possibilities."***

District Mission

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.

District Vision

The vision of the Cecil Soil Conservation District is to be the recognized leader in promoting voluntary conservation and sustainable land use in Cecil County.

75 years

The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary for Cecil Soil Conservation District. CSCD was formally organized under a charter signed by Maryland's Secretary of State on June 26, 1945. Shortly thereafter on August 27, 1945, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into between CSCD and USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now, the Natural Resources Conservation Service) with the common goal of conserving the natural resources within Cecil County.



Message from the District Manager

CHRIS BROWN

Conservation districts formed during the difficult times of the dust bowl era. Fast forward over 75 years from our beginnings to 2020 and new challenges exist. The shift in approach of how conservation practices and programs are implemented in 2020 has extended to all those involved. As we have in the past, the Cecil Soil Conservation District has faced the challenges presented head on. I am proud to say that the implementation of Best Management Practices in 2020 may have shifted, but never faltered. The diligence and commitment of all of our Cooperators, Staff, and Partners has once again produced measurable "on the ground" conservation. These conservation efforts serve to protect the soil and water quality of Cecil County, its tributaries, and the Chesapeake Bay. Despite challenges, 2020 has proven to be a very productive year for the District. Thank you for your resolve and commitment to stewardship of the land, water, and natural resources that surround us.



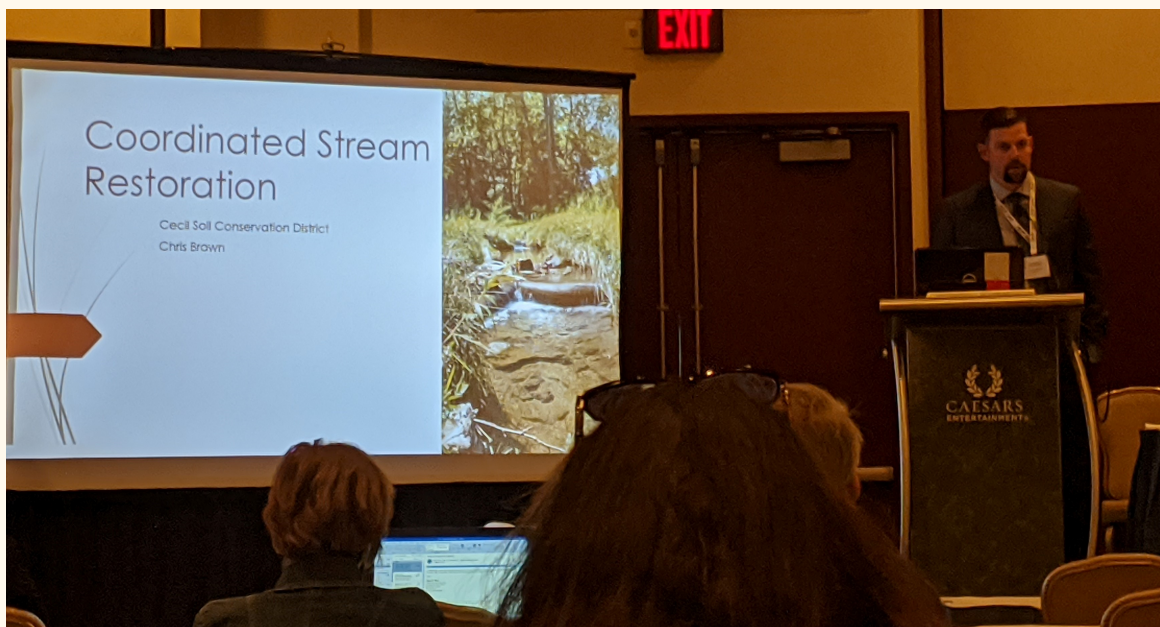
Nutrient Management Update Meeting

In February 2020 the Cecil Soil Conservation District hosted a Nutrient Management Meeting held at Calvert Grange in Rising Sun, Maryland. This annual meeting offers the opportunity for our producers in Cecil County to learn about Legislative updates, proposed requirements, status of the Phosphorus Management Tool, and other State/Regional announcements. In attendance were 24 Cecil County farmers & producers along with speakers from partnering agricultural and conservation agencies.



NACD Meeting in Las Vegas

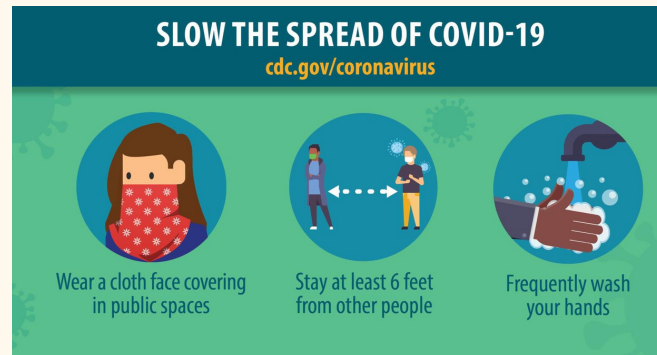
Cecil Soil Conservation District was honored to have the opportunity to present at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting this in Las Vegas in early February . CSCD highlighted various Stream Restoration efforts in Cecil County and how District partnerships have resulted in value added projects which work in conjunction with each farm's conservation plan and ongoing farming operations.



Covid 19 - Challenges and the Solutions

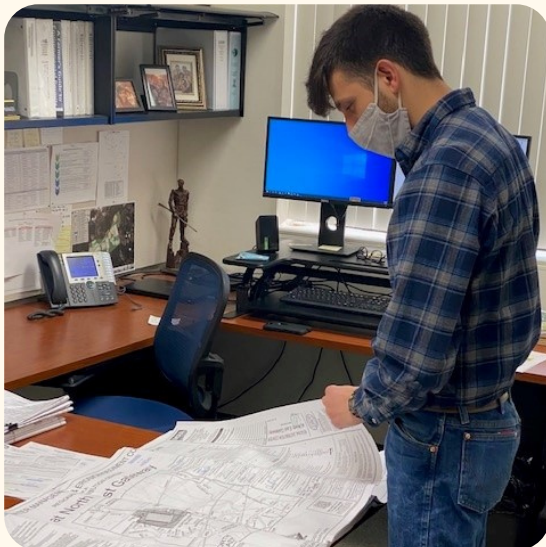
How did the office operate during the pandemic?

Though doors were locked and staff were working remotely, the District was able to continue to serve the residence and farmers of Cecil County. Rotation schedules were developed to provide one person in the office to manage telephone lines and sort incoming mail. Staff members personal extensions were forwarded to their cell phones. Twice weekly a Service Center Schedule was forwarded to all staff members and partners designating times when they could safely gather work.



How has Erosion and Sediment Review changed?

During normal business hours, containers are placed in the Service Center vestibule for contactless plan review drop off & pick up. In addition, an electronic review policy has been developed and posted on the Districts website and FaceBook page.



COVID Electronic Submittal Policy

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID, the District is accepting electronic submittals of erosion and sediment control plans and environmental site design plans for review. Electronic plan submittals must include the plan sets, any required applications, checklists, reports, etc. and should be emailed to **Patty Pierce** at pattypierce@cecilsd.com.

Payments may be made electronically by contacting our office, or payments may be submitted by mail or drop-box. Please note that plans will not be checked in or placed in the review queue until the required application fee has been paid. Please also note that if electronic submittals are made after business hours or during the weekend, the plan will be checked in on the next business day.

Paper plan submittals may still be submitted by mail or by using the drop box in the District's vestibule during office hours. Please note that the District reserves the right at their discretion to request that a paper copy of an electronic plan submittal be made. In general, electronic submittals may be used for simple, single lot residential projects.

Please also note that once plan sets are requested by the District for approval signatures, these plan sets will have to be submitted in paper form.

We strongly advise that you contact the District at 410-398-4411, ext. 3 if you are in need of meeting with one of our staff members to schedule an appointment. All reasonable means will be done to conduct meetings via telephone or email where and when possible. In addition, if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19 please do not visit the district.

If you have any questions regarding these changes please do not hesitate to call the office for clarification. It is important that we take the necessary steps to safeguard your health as well as the employees of Cecil Soil Conservation District. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Covid 19 - Challenges and the Solutions

How did the District conduct staff and board meetings?

Implementation of a Service Center Master Calendar provides better communication between staff, board members, and partners. Virtual meetings, trainings, and other events are posted to the calendar which is distributed twice weekly. Meeting times and dates, login details, and attachments are included which assist in keeping board members and staff easily prepared for upcoming events.



Was it difficult to manage the Cover Crop Spring Termination, Signup and Fall Certification?

The MACS Cover Crop program continued throughout the pandemic. Local implementation within Cecil County went well in part due to the creation of an easy to complete spreadsheet with drop down choices. These sheets were sent to producers for them to complete and send back. Spring sign up was uncomplicated as well. Forms provided by MACS made for ease of completion by producers. Once signup was complete the District had a small break to evaluate the best way to assist our producers for fall certifying. The District obtained farm data maps that were either emailed or mailed to our producers for them to mark up and return with the certification information.



And how about the survey work?...


Survey work was carefully coordinated by technical staff. Social distancing was practiced and masks were worn at all times to protect both staff and producers. Preconstruction meetings were held virtually over the phone.

Staff successfully completed the necessary work and kept right on schedule with tasks that needed to be accomplished.

District YouTube Channel

Education within our community is an important aspect to Cecil Soil Conservation District's mission. Our Facebook, website, and YouTube channel assist in achieving that goal. The Cecil SCD YouTube channel provides the opportunity for CSCD to showcase Agricultural Best Management Practices along with our past **Cooperator of the Year** videos and other outreach where the district has been highlighted.





Cecil SCD
9 subscribers


[CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL](#)[MANAGE VIDEOS](#)

[HOME](#)[VIDEOS](#)[PLAYLISTS](#)[CHANNELS](#)[DISCUSSION](#)[ABOUT](#)[SEARCH](#)


Uploads

PLAY ALL


SORT BY




Buffer Presentation
4 views • 1 month ago




Cecil SCD 75th Anniversary Preview
6 views • 2 months ago




Heavy Use Area Presentation
1 view • 2 months ago




Early Successional Habitat Development
2 views • 2 months ago




Cover Crop Best Management Practice
3 views • 2 months ago




Waste Storage Structures
1 view • 2 months ago




Cecil SCD 2019 COY
448 views • 1 year ago




Cecil SCD 2018 COY
442 views • 2 years ago




Cecil SCD 2017 COY
163 views • 3 years ago




Cecil SCD 2016 COY
677 views • 4 years ago




Cecil SCD - 2015 COY
452 views • 5 years ago



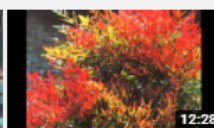
Cecil SCD 2014 COY Video
67 views • 6 years ago



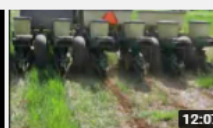
Cecil SCD 2012 COY Video




Cecil SCD - 2011 COY Video




Cecil SCD 2010 COY Video



Cecil SCD 2009 COY Video



Cecil SCD 2007 COY Video



Cecil SCD 2008 COY Video

BE SURE TO SEARCH MARYLAND FARM AND HARVEST FOR THE EPISODE, "FIGHTING EROSION ON A SHORELINE FARM."



OUR COOPERATOR, ORDINAIRY POINT FARM AND THE DISTRICT ARE FEATURED.

Agricultural Conservation Tour for Cecil County Elected Officials

In November of 2020, CSCD hosted a Conservation Ag Tour for elected officials. The tour was attended by County Executive Elect - Danielle Hornberger, members of County Council, MD State Senator Jason Gallion, Cecil County Economic Development, and other partnering agencies. In order to practice state guidelines for social distancing, the District utilized a virtual meeting space so that each separate vehicle could call in for narration during the tour and an en-route Question and Answer session.



BMPS INSTALLED - 158

Access Control	1 Ac.
Animal Trails/Walkways	3,457 Ft.
Animal Mortality Facility	1 No
Barnyard Clean Water Diversion	2 No.
Channel Bed Stabilization	3,101 Ft.
Conservation Cover	120.4 Ac.
Conservation Crop Rotation	47.7 Ac.
Cover Crop	18,985.9 Ac.
Critical Area Planting	1.9 Ac.
Critical Area Planting Construction	8.2 Ac.
Fence	8,091 Ft.
Grade Stabilization Structure	3 No.
Grassed Waterway	1.64 Ac.
Heavy Use Area Protection	.27 Ac.
Hedgerow Grass	498 Ft.
Hedgerow Trees	1,259 Ft.
Lined Waterway or Outlet	159 Ft.
Livestock Pipeline	6,527 Ft.
Mulching	1 Ac.
Non-Streamside Fence	6,080 Ft.
Nutrient Management	49,816 Ac
Pasture & Hay Planting	1 Ac.
Prescribed Grazing	7.25 Ac.
Pumping Plant	2 No.
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	8.96 Ac.
Riparian Forest Buffer	6.7 Ac.
Roof Runoff Structure	5 No.
Shallow Water Development	13.48 Ac.
Storm Water Runoff Control	12 No.
Stream Crossing	1 No
Streamside Fence (Grass & Trees)	9,771 Ac.
Streambank Protection	3,101 Ft.
Structure for Water Control	5 No.
Subsurface Drain	606 Ft
Tree/Shrub Establishment	28.4 Ac.
Underground Outlet	3,795 Ft.
Waste Storage Facility	2 No
Watercourse Access Control	14,164 Ft.
Waste Recycling	50.2 Ac.
Waste Transfer	77 Ft.
Water Well	2 No.
Watering Facility	7 No.
Wetland Creation	9.15 Ac.
Wetland Restoration	11.4 Ac.



General Activities

- Conservation Planning
- BMP Design/Review
- Agricultural Preservation Programs
- BMP Verification Project
- District Nitrogen Use Efficiency Program
- Farmer Nutrient Management Workshop
- Nutrient Applicators Voucher Training
- Community Drainage Maintenance
- District's Website, Facebook & YouTube
- MASCD/NACD Meetings & Activities
- Streambank & Shoreline Protection Education
- Watershed Implementation Plan



Community drainage ditches in the County are maintained by the District and are located in and around incorporated towns or populated areas. The District is responsible for over 11 miles of community ditches located in 14 drainage project areas. The annual operation and maintenance program includes inspection, mowing, spraying and structural repairs.

Agricultural Conservation

Federal Conservation Financial Assistance

Federal Statewide Funding	
Federal Funding for Cecil County	\$12,724,762.38
Number of Contracts	\$1,230,585.00
	12

Federal Programs with USDA, NRCS & FSA

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) & Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	
Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	
USDA/FSA (DCP, MILC, ACRE, LOANS, DISASTER)	\$11,262,076.94
	Undisclosed
	Undisclosed

MACS REPORT 2020

Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Capital	\$161,798.95
2019-2020 Cover Crop applications	\$1,584,050.50
2019-2020 Cover Crop claims	\$1,073,553.50
Manure Transport	\$57,519.86
Manure Injection/Incorporation	\$74,875.64

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 **18,985.90 acres** of crop in 2020 as traditional cover.



Agricultural Conservation

CONSERVATION PLANNING & AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Conservation Planned Acres	1,080 Ac.
Conservation Plans	52
New Cooperators	11

URBAN CONSERVATION

Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Reviewed	275
Erosion & Sediment Control Plans Approved	198
Forest Harvest Plans Reviewed & Approved	25
Pre-Construction Meetings	5
Agricultural Storm Water Management/E & S Inspections	12

Educational Outreach

In the fall of 2020 Cecil Soil Conservation District partnered with the Cecil Land Trust, Ewing Brothers, The Patsy DuPont Foundation, and The Mill to plant three cover crop demonstration plots on the DuPont Farm in Elkton. These plots will be utilized for public outreach to illustrate how cover crops help to control erosion, fix nitrogen, and break up hardpan, thereby creating healthier soils and cleaner water.



CECIL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

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

County Staff

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

MDA Staff

Dan Polite, Engineering Technician

District Staff

Jessica Zebley, Conservation
Technician

USDA/NRCS Staff

Rob Weaver, District Conservationist
William Metcalf, Soil Conservationist
Tyler Witkowski, Soil Conservationist
Emily Slear, R C & D Soil Conservationist
Elizabeth Jamison, Program Support Specialist
Christopher Davidson, Civil Engineer Tech

105 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite B-3, Elkton, Maryland 21921
410-398-4411, ext 3