

# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Editor: Gerald F. Talbert

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## A Bay-Wide TMDL

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that they will finalize a bay-wide plan to meet bay restoration goals by the end of 2010. The plan is called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which uses a computer model to calculate the maximum amount of a pollutant a watershed can receive and still meet its water quality standards of acceptable levels of dissolved oxygen, water clarity and other criteria to ensure safe, swimmable and fishable water. TMDLs are not new; they are required by the Clean Water Act to deal with all segments of a water body that fail to meet water quality standards.

In 1999, a law suit filed against EPA required it to develop a TMDL for Virginia's impaired waters if the state failed to complete them by 2010. EPA decided to include the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed including portions of six states and the District of Columbia if the states did not adequately address the issue. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed TMDL will be the largest, most complex one ever written. It will cover 64,000 square miles, 17 million people, 88,000 farms, nearly 500 large wastewater treatment plants and thousands of counties, cities, towns and townships.



Work did not begin immediately because the states and EPA signed the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, which pledged to reduce enough nutrient and sediment pollution by 2010 to remove the Bay and its tributaries from the impaired waters list. Those goals

have not been met and EPA started several years ago to develop the Bay-wide TMDL to meet the 2011 deadline imposed by the 1999 consent decree. The new goal is to complete the Bay-wide TMDL by December 31, 2010.

There are many TMDLs that have already been developed across the state. In Baltimore County, there are several to cover the Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs, Jones Falls, Herring Run, Baltimore Harbor, Gwynns Falls, Back River, North Branch of the Patapsco River and Lake Roland watersheds for pollutants that include nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, fecal bacteria, mercury and chlordane. These will be incorporated into the Bay-wide TMDL. If a TMDL requires more than the Bay-wide model, the more stringent requirements will prevail for that watershed. Once the new TMDL is established, the states must begin to implement the plan.

*Source: Chesapeake Bay Journal, January 2010*



### **The District's Newest Employee**

Alex Shindledecker is the District's new Soil Conservation Technician. A graduate of Towson University in Environmental Science, Alex will be working mainly with MDA's small equine program designing best management practices for small horse operations. He grew up around horses on a small farm in northern Baltimore County and now lives in southern Pennsylvania and raises chickens.

### **Workshop for Woodland Owners**

A workshop for woodland owners presented by Forestry for the Bay will be held on Saturday, April 24th from 8:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater, MD 21037 for a registration fee of \$10 and lunch will be provided.

The workshop will present information in the morning about the changing forest landscape in Maryland, developing goals and a plan for your property, conservation programs and opportunities, plant invaders and a new web-based mapping and assessment tool for landowners. An afternoon field tour will highlight forest succession and ecology, invasive and exotic plant control methods and wildlife habitat management.

To register, contact:

Craig Highfield

Forestry for the Bay

(410) 267-5723

chighfield@chesapeakebay.net or visit:

<http://www.forestryforthebay.org/events.cfm>



### **20 Years of Service**

Jim Ensor, District Manager, has completed 20 years of service to the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District. He started at the District as a Soil Conservation Planner in 1990 and was promoted to District Manager in 1995. "It's been a privilege to work for the District and I look forward to conservation challenges and opportunities ahead," Jim said.

### **Old Farmer's Advice:**

*Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.*

*Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.*

*Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.*



### 2009 Engineering Awards

The District's 2009 Award to the Engineering Firm of the Year went to Morris & Richie Associates, Inc. and to Joshua Sharon, also with Morris & Richie, for Consultant of the Year. The engineering awards acknowledge excellence in sediment control plan design and preparation. Developers are required to get a sediment control plan approved by the District before the County will issue a grading permit for a construction site. At left, Jeff West, District Urban Conservationist, (center) presents the Engineering Firm Award to Dean Hoover, left, and Bill Monk, right. At right, Jeff West presents the Consultant Award to Joshua Sharon.

*Photo by Jim Ensor*

## Baltimore County Agricultural Statistics

<b>Farms</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2007</b>
Number of Farms	889	784	751
Average Size (acres)	89	91	104
Land in Farms (acres)	79,479	71,227	78,282
<b>Livestock Inventory</b>			
Cattle	9,831	8,534	5,715
Hogs	2,477	1,343	798
Sheep	3,089	1,977	1,897
<b>Demographic Data</b>			
Average Age of Operator	56.2	58.5	58.8
% Female Primary Operators	20.6	26.4	24.1

<b>Crop Production Acres</b>	
<b>Rank among Maryland Counties, 2007</b>	
Corn for Grain	12
Barley	10
Forage	2
Soybeans	15
Vegetables	5
Wheat	14
<b>Livestock &amp; Poultry Inventories</b>	
<b>Rank among Maryland Counties, 2007</b>	
Beef Cows	9
Broilers	9
Hogs	7
Milk Cows	10
Sheep	6

#### District Outreach

Speakers from the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District are available at no charge to give presentations on natural resource conservation programs in agricultural and urban areas. If your organization or school would like to hear about the ways that conservation practices can improve soil, water and air quality for any land use, contact the District office at 410-666-1188, extension 3 to request a speaking engagement.

#### You Can Receive This Newsletter by Email!

Enjoy a full color version emailed to you as soon as it is posted to our website. . **Register for our email group by calling 410-666-1188, ext. 101 or emailing to [essy.frey@md.nacdnet.net](mailto:essy.frey@md.nacdnet.net)**

**B**altimore County Soil Conservation District  
 9831 Van Buren Lane  
 Cockeysville, MD 21030  
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<http://www.mascd.net/BCSCD>



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**BALTIMORE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
*A political subdivision of the State of Maryland, the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District was established in 1944. Its mission is to protect the natural resources of Baltimore County and assist landowners in implementing sound conservation measures. The District is managed by a Board of Supervisors, five appointed county residents who take an oath of office to serve their community. The staff is composed of federal, state and district employees.*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
 Charles Conklin—Chairman  
 Mike McGinnis—Vice Chair  
 Stephen Smith—Treasurer  
 Vernon Foster—Supervisor  
 Hank Suchting—Supervisor  
 David Martin, Secretary, Cooperative Extension  
 Bud Sparks, Supervisor Emeritus

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS**  
 Daniel Dorsey      Pat Ghingher      Lucy Wright  
 Diana Gutierrez

**DISTRICT STAFF**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
 Jim Ensor, District Manager  
 Essy Frey, Administrative Assistant

**AGRICULTURAL**  
 Tim Clippinger, District Conservationist, NRCS  
 Andy Thomas, Soil Conservation Eng. Tech., MDA  
 Ciara McMurtrie, Planner/Outreach Specialist, MDA  
 Jared Wagner, Soil Conservation Planner, MDA  
 Alex Shindledecker, Soil Conservation Technician, MDA

**URBAN**  
 Jeff West, Urban Conservationist  
 Quintin Cornwell, Urban Conservationist  
 David Bachman, Urban Conservationist  
 Sara Campbell, Urban Conservationist, Balto. Co.

*All District services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

**LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP YOU!**

The Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS) will pay up to 87.5% of the installation cost of these practices for qualifying landowners:

<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassed Waterway
<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Buffer	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Cover Crop
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversion	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Border
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Basin	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fencing
<input type="checkbox"/> Strip Cropping	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trough or Tank
<input type="checkbox"/> Critical Area Planting	<input type="checkbox"/> Filter Strip
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Use Area Protection	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roof Runoff Mngt. System	

If you would like to see if you qualify or you'd like more information on these or other conservation practices, a conservation plan for your property or updating an old plan, mail or fax this form to us and we will contact you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax to: 410-666-0179 or mail to:  
 Baltimore County Soil Conservation District  
 9831 Van Buren Lane  
 Cockeysville, MD 21030