



We Go the Extra Mile Every Day for a Healthier Chesapeake Bay

2016 HIGHLIGHTS | CAROLINE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OUR MISSION

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the Caroline Soil Conservation District serves a predominately agricultural region. Farming operations include dairy, swine, beef, and an ever expanding poultry industry. Grain farms, however, dominate the landscape of the Green Garden County. Approximately 80 percent of Caroline County's land drains into the Choptank River, while the remaining 20 percent lies within the Nanticoke River Watershed. The district works with farmers and landowners to implement Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQP) outlined in Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. These plans feature best management practices (BMPs) to protect the environment. The district promotes cost-share programs offered through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS). Drainage continues to be a chief priority, as Caroline County has more organized Public Drainage Associations than any other district in Maryland. On the urban front, the district reviews erosion and sediment control plans and is authorized by the Maryland Department of the Environment to perform compliance activities.

STAFFING	LOCAL	GRANT	STATE	FEDERAL	NEEDS
District Manager			1		
District Conservationist				.5	.5
Soil Conservationist				2	
Sediment Control Planner					1
Agricultural Planner		2	3		
Agricultural Technician			1	.25	2
Soil Conservation Engineer Technician		1	1		1
Secretarial/Support					1
Program Assistant		1			
NRCS Area Engineer				.33	1

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 101 new and revised SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 14,626 acres of land. Currently, there are 109,163 planned acres in the county, including 75,777 acres of cropland, 663 acres of pasture, and 3,197 acres of headwaters.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Helped farmers install 283 BMPs to protect natural resources.

Cover Crop—Provided technical assistance to help 150 landowners plant over 46,713 acres of cover crops on their fields in 2016.

Erosion and Sediment Control—Reviewed and approved 136 erosion and sediment control plans for construction and forestry projects on 1,095 acres of land. Performed 58 pre-construction meetings and 50 inspections.

CURRENT STAFF AND OPERATION BUDGETS

	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$254,893	\$45,410
State	\$424,252	\$34,556
Local	\$178,123	\$6,000
Total	\$857,268	\$85,966



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