



2016 HIGHLIGHTS | SOMERSET SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OUR MISSION

The Somerset Soil Conservation District is located in the southernmost region of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Broilers, corn, soybeans, vegetables, swine, and dairy operations comprise the agricultural makeup of the area. Because of its agricultural productivity, Somerset County is ranked among the top 100 agricultural counties in the United States. Developing Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs) to protect natural resources and implementing the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program are chief priorities for the district’s technical staff. Additionally, district staffers are involved in planning and implementing strategies to reduce agricultural nutrients in Lower Eastern Shore watersheds. Drainage is a major concern. Many of the streams and rivers in the county are tidal, and approximately two-thirds of the soils have impeded drainage. Moreover, only about ten percent of the county’s soils can be farmed without artificial drainage. Helping farmers maintain good drainage is a major activity for the Somerset Soil Conservation District.

STAFFING	LOCAL	GRANT	STATE	FEDERAL
District Manager			1	
District Conservationist				.5
Soil Conservationist				1
Agricultural Planner		1	2	
Soil Conservation Technician				1.25
Other				.5

CURRENT STAFF AND OPERATING BUDGETS		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$231,348	\$30,014
State	\$158,250	\$16,597
Local	\$0	\$0
Grants	\$53,840	\$2,000
Total	\$443,438	\$48,611

2016 CCOMPLISHMENTS

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—
 Developed 56 SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 3,960 acres of farmland. Currently, there are 31,875 planned acres in the county.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—
 Worked to help farmers install 32 conservation projects on their farms to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality.

Cover Crops—Provided technical assistance to 55 farmers who planted 16,500 acres of cover crops during the 2016 planting season.

Erosion and Sediment Control—
 Approved 18 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects impacting 128 acres of land.



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