



## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS | WORCESTER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### OUR MISSION

The Worcester Soil Conservation District is located on the southern tip of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Worcester County is unique because it drains to both the Chesapeake Bay and the inland bays of the Atlantic Ocean. The region is strongly influenced by the poultry industry, with cash grain farms comprising a large portion of the agricultural market. The Pocomoke River provides drainage to four of the top 30 priority watersheds for pollution potential to the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Development pressures in the coastal areas have increased in recent years. The district’s urban responsibilities include the review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans for county and municipal construction projects. On the farm, district staff members work to develop Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs) to protect natural resources and farm profitability. The district promotes the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program, which has been widely used by farmers to help cover the costs of water quality improvement projects. The district also develops shallow water wildlife areas to help protect this environmentally-sensitive area. Additional priorities include implementing shoreline stabilization and coastal dune maintenance programs, helping farmers comply with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations and animal feeding operation requirements, and implementing Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

STAFFING	GRANT	STATE	FEDERAL
District Manager		1	
District Conservationist			.5
Soil Conservation			1
Soil Conservation Technician			1.25
Agricultural Planner	1		
Agricultural Technician		1	
Secretarial/Support Staff		.5	

### CURRENT STAFF AND OPERATING BUDGETS

	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$250,258	\$77,113
State	\$160,438	\$21,981
Grants	\$39,637	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$450,333</b>	<b>\$101,094</b>

### 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)**—Developed 23 SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 3,100 acres of farmland. Currently, there are 45,000 planned acres in the county.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**—Helped farmers install 7 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients, and protect water quality.

**Cover Crops**—Assisted county farmers who planted 32,000 acres of cover crops during the 2016 planting season.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**—Reviewed and approved 72 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects to ensure their effectiveness in protecting 5,800 acres of land.



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