



Rooted in Healthy Soil *and Clean Water*

2017 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 Tech.			1		2
Soil Conservation Technician			2	.33	
Soil Conservation Engineer Tech.		1	1		1
Secretarial/Support			1		
Program Assistant		1		.33	
NRCS Area Engineer				.33	1

CURRENT STAFF AND OPERATION BUDGETS		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$260,001	\$48,458
State	\$490,768	\$31,988
Local	\$168,900	\$4,000
Total	\$919,669	\$84,446

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 68 new and revised SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 11,301 acres of land. Currently, there are 87,291 planned acres in the county.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Helped farmers install 248 BMPs to protect natural resources on 8,398 acres.

Cover Crop—Provided technical assistance to help 150 landowners plant 46,713 acres of cover crops on their fields in 2017.

Erosion and Sediment Control—Reviewed and approved 105 erosion and sediment control plans for construction and forestry projects on 180.8 acres of land. Performed 40 pre-construction meetings and 37 inspections.



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CAROLINE COUNTY FARM PROFILE:

Poultry Farming | A Growing Industry in the County

In recent years, the poultry industry has experienced tremendous growth in Caroline County. District staff work with poultry farmers to install the latest best management practices at their facilities to protect soil, water, and related natural resources. Heavy use pads constructed at poultry house entrances help prevent nutrients from impacting waterways during cleanouts. Manure storage structures help protect poultry litter from the elements until conditions are right for field application or transport can be arranged. In addition, trees and shrubs planted near poultry houses help improve air quality and provide visual screens for neighbors.



Vegetated buffer strips planted near this poultry house help improve air quality.