



Rooted in Healthy Soil *and Clean Water*

2017 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 Conservationist			1
Soil Conservation Technician			1.25
Agricultural Planner	1	1	
Agricultural Technician		1	
Secretarial/Support Staff		.5	

CURRENT STAFF AND OPERATION BUDGETS		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$256,996	\$80,210
State	\$264,390	\$33,654
Local	\$39,637	\$2,000
Total	\$561,023	\$115,864

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 32 SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 2,900 acres of farmland. Currently, there are 32,000 planned acres in the county.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Helped farmers install 9 BMPs on 160 acres to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality.

Cover Crops—Assisted 47 county farmers who planted 24,000 acres of cover crops during the 2017 planting season.

Erosion and Sediment Control—Reviewed 160 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects; 143 of these plans were approved to ensure their effectiveness in protecting 1,100 acres of land.



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WORCESTER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT FARM PROFILE:

Waste Facility Closure | Protecting Water Quality

The Worcester Soil Conservation District completed the closure of a dormant waste facility this year that took two years to plan and carry out. The project involved an old hog lagoon that had been sitting idle at least 15 years. It involved pumping out the lagoon completely and injecting the manure into farm fields that could benefit from its nutrients at an application rate prescribed by the farm's nutrient management plan. Once the lagoon was emptied, its banks were graded and the structure was successfully converted into a shallow water wetland. The banks of the wetland were then seeded and stabilized with grasses. The cooperator was pleased with the end result and appreciated the district's help in designing and managing the project.