



Local Soil and Water Conservation Starts Here

2014 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	STATE	FEDERAL
District Manager	1	
District Conservationist		.5
Soil Conservationist		.25
Agricultural Planner	1	
Soil Conservation Engineer Technician	1	
Soil Conservation Technician		1

CURRENT STAFF & OPERATING BUDGETS		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$ 159,104	\$ 19,075
State	\$ 225,979	\$ 20,301
Local	\$ 0	\$ 18,722
Total	\$ 385,083	\$ 58,098

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<p>Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 72 comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 6,284 acres of farmland. There are 33,277 planned acres in the county.</p>
<p>Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Worked with farmers to install 46 conservation projects.</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Control—Approved 23 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects on 150 acres.</p>
<p>Cover Crop Program—Provided technical assistance to 58 farmers who planted 16,055 acres of cover crops during the 2014-2015 planting season.</p>



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