



COLONIAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting our natural resources to meet the needs for our children and future generations.

Fiscal Year 2012 July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Board of Directors

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Stephen Lueke	New Kent
<u>Vice Chair</u>	
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<u>Secretary</u>	
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Frederick Fisher	Charles City
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Edward Overton, Jr.	James City
Robert Lund, Jr.	James City
Timothy Beale	York
Lawrence “Tu” Ritter, II	York

Associate Director

Norman Hofmeyer	Charles City
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Staff

Brian Noyes	District Manager
Jim Wallace	Agricultural Water Quality Specialist
Linda Terrell	Information Specialist

The Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District directors and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals and organizations that helped the District accomplish so much this past year. With the help and support of the stakeholders, the District continues its commitment to the preservation and restoration of our natural resources within our district (the counties of Charles City, James City, New Kent, York, and the city of Williamsburg) as well as the surrounding area. This annual report highlights our activities from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The year began in normal fashion, but change was on the horizon as only three of the elected directors sought re-election in November. Leaving the board were Peter Henderson, Archer Ruffin, Jordan Anglin, Harry Hager, Dan Leonard, Billy Scruggs, and Paul Davis. We thank them for their service and commitment to the District. Staff also saw a change with the retirement of Valerie Temple, Administration Officer, in September. She had served the District for thirty-two years and we thank her for her dedication and commitment to the District. In January, the District welcomed Linda Terrell as the Information Specialist.

Colonial SWCD Mission: To cooperate, communicate and educate landowners and operators, government agencies, schools, businesses and civic groups to preserve and protect our local natural resources. Use funds entrusted to provide technical and financial assistance as responsible stewards.

Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District

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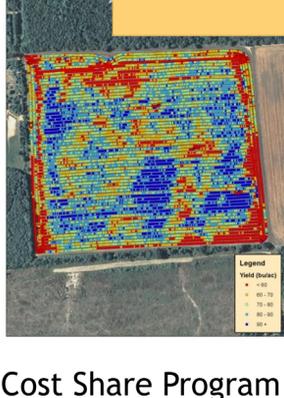
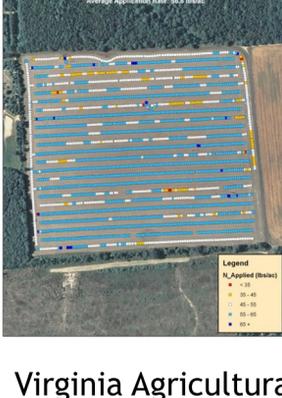
www.colonialswcd.net

All programs and services of the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

GreenSeeker™ Grant Project

District staff, local producers, and other project partners were awarded a total of \$50,000 by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct a three year demonstration of the GreenSeeker™ (<http://www.ntechindustries.com/greenseeker-home.html>) variable rate, sensor based nutrient application technology. The CSWCD has tested and demonstrated GreenSeeker™ successfully in previous projects however this project will scale up the scope of the demonstration covering 800 acres of corn and 800 acres of soybeans.

The project will be on the coastal project collected by the C application and by Rather than plant was applied or how project will look required to produce This term is known Worldwide, NUE is means approximately the environment. around 50%, but increase the efficiency

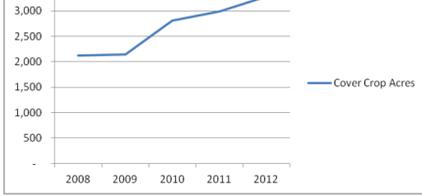


Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program

Implementation of BMPs within the CSWCD during the fiscal year continued to be brisk. As part of the District's contract with the Commonwealth, a minimum of 90% of Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program funds are required to be utilized annually for agricultural conservation practices which reduce nutrient and sediment pollution.

Fortunately, the CSWCD was successful not only in allocating 100% of their original funding, but also securing supplemental financial resources to get additional conservation practices on the ground. To learn more about specific practices implemented in your area please visit the following site:

http://dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/progs/BMP_query.aspx



	\$ Value	Acres
No-till	\$ 109,197.50	4,367.9
Split N Apps	\$ 64,596.23	12,051.1
Cover Crops	\$ 141,097.50	3,287.2
Conversion	\$ 782.81	4
2012 NMPs	\$ 12,710.20	
2011 NMPs	\$ 13,646.00	
2010 NMPs	<u>\$ 72,284.60</u>	
TOTAL BMP Expenditures	<u>\$ 414,314.84</u>	

Activities at the Davis Farm

Spring brought yet another crop of fourth graders from the New Kent County elementary schools to the farm of C.W. "Boogie" and Paul Davis. District staff spent four days helping to educate the students on the importance of agriculture and conservation in their lives.

In the morning, the students read ingredient lists from favorite food items and realized that there was at least one ingredient that could have come from the Davis farm. They also experienced the growth cycle of a seed by acting out the different parts of the cycle, including soil, rain, and

air. Paul showed them the equipment used on the farm and explained how it is used.

The staff of the Colonial District talked with the students about the different watersheds they were a part of. The children learned the importance of keeping nutrients and sediments out of the waterways to keep the Chesapeake Bay healthy.

They saw how different the composition of the soil was as you dug down into

the ground and how that affects the growing crops. The students also got an up close view of salamanders, fish, frogs, and crabs.

The afternoon activities included talking about the aquatic life found using the seine in the Pamunkey and a more hands on demonstration of how the Bay is affected by uncontrolled nutrient and sediment runoff.

Also coming out this year was the mid year from the Williamsburg Montessori School. They also enjoyed a similar day of learning like the younger kids, but at the middle school level.



Jim and his daughter Molly work the seine net as her classmates look on.

Envirothon

Jamestown High School once again represented the Colonial Soil and Water District at the Area III regional competition held on April 19th at Westmoreland State Park. The team was led by Charlie Dubay, a retired teacher from Jamestown, and Scott Thomas, Director of Engineering & Resource Protection for James City County. The students had a fantastic competition placing first in 5 of the 6 areas of testing, securing their first place finish. This win allowed them represent our Area III at the state competition

held at James Madison in May.

Competition was a little tougher at the state level and the team captured 2 seconds and 2 thirds in the area testing leading to a fourth place overall finish. Team members included: Abby Broome; Yuyi Taylor; Vicki Hernandez; Hunter Chapman; Mayee Chen; Meggie Nelson; Billie Meacham.

Envirothon is a hands-on, outdoor competition designed to challenge and test students knowledge of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife

and current environmental issues. The program is field-oriented, community students an opportunity to resource professionals. The proudly supports the Envirothon and financial resources.



The team showing off all their first place medals at the Area Competition

DCR Officials visit the District

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) - In June, David Johnson, DCR Director, and Jeb Wilkinson, DCR Deputy Director, spent a full day with the District. They toured farming operations and discussed agricultural and urban stormwater initiatives with local farmers and District

Directors. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wilkinson also discussed the challenges of meeting water quality mandates and the importance of advancing alternatives that reduce pollutants reaching the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Johnson indicated that the innovation in crop production that he

witnessed was impressive and enlightening.



David Johnson

Urban BMPs



Common area planted with Crimson Clover to improve adulterated soils that won't support traditional vegetation such as turf. The soil needs to be improved in a cost effective manner and furnish esthetic appeal.



Area planted with Cosmos after Crimson Clover. These plantings offer improved soil quality, stabilized eroding soil, and intercept stormwater runoff by generating superior biomass and soil function. Soils are improved so alternative vegetation such as turf can be seeded with a better probability of survival at a lower cost.

The District was involved with a number of urban projects in cooperation with homeowner associations and civic organizations this year. The District has strived to offer a comprehensive menu of services to those who are interested in installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the urban landscape. Services include developing BMP designs, practice specifications, material cost estimates, installation guidance, and on site consultation to aid landowners in the evaluation of BMP alternatives. The process allows the landowner to consider a wide-range of site specific physical features, as well as cultural factors such as budget limitations and community objectives. The landowner

is encouraged to select BMPs that will complement existing infrastructure. These services are offered free of charge to the landowner and the client is free to choose any level of service. Another service offered by the District is the actual BMP installation. The District offers and materials those partners demonstrate effective practice alternatives. Participating organizations who agreed to BMP demonstrations were better served to facilitate the transfer of needed technical information and further the scope of BMP implementation. BMPs applied to common areas within the community become a model to address recurring problems found on

surrounding private property.



Using no till planting to benefit the soil

National Park Service Project



Native plant species and stormwater channel stabilization are demonstrated adjacent to the Colonial Parkway between Williamsburg and Jamestown.

The District partnered with Dominion Virginia Power and the Colonial Historical National Park Service to establish native vegetative species within a utility easement on federal park property. The project is in clear view of the Colonial Parkway and adjacent to public facilities. This effort resulted in the planting of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees and channel stabilization under an electrical power easement on approximately one half acre. The District provided a design plan including vegetation and practice specifications to the Park Service and contracted with Dominion Power to implement the project. Vegetation selected for this project will not interfere with overhead power lines or necessitate intensive management in this utility easement.



Native trees and shrubs planted on both sides of the Colonial Parkway adjacent to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitors Center parking lot.

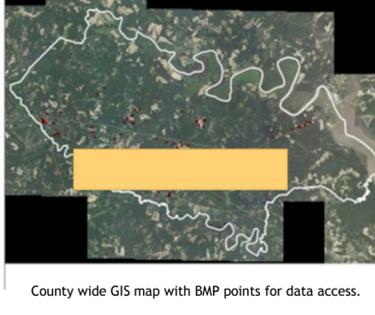
NK BMP Map Based Tracking Program

The District provided contractual services to assist New Kent County with a Virginia Department of Conservation grant. The grant supported an effort to develop a map based program that facilitates the tracking of Best Management Practices that have been implemented within the county. The initial phase of the project was designed to identify stormwater BMPs. The program integrates Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to locate the various practices that constitute stormwater infrastructure and upland treatment to control erosion and infiltrate runoff. The program allows for a certain site to be located on a county map and supply user friendly map access with an

pertinent to each Best Management Practice.



Information needed for comprehensive tracking and maintenance of Stormwater BMPs are better accommodated with the map based program.



County wide GIS map with BMP points for data access.

Charles City and James City County Bay Act Support

In Charles City County, the District contracted with them to facilitate a Virginia Department of Conservation grant. The grant project was designed to develop and implement farm assessments required by state law to document Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act compliance on agricultural tracts within the county. The District made contact to all identified landowners in the county with agricultural land in close proximity to the county designated Resource Protection Area (RPA). Lands designated as RPA are situated next to perennial flowing water bodies and adjacent to wetlands that are contiguous and connected to those water features. The project required that a minimum of 20 assessments (land parcels) be completed. Participation was voluntary and a more than enough landowners replied. In the end, the

District documented assessments which resulted in the validation of compliance on 22 land parcels. The state of Virginia is attempting to avoid federal mandates designed to remove water quality impairments. By implementing a state developed plan there is hope that more costly alternatives can be avoided. All states within the Chesapeake Bay watershed must show progress in the reduction of nutrients and sediments that reach the Bay. Crop producers within the Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District have gained national attention for the progress they have made. Virginia law requires that farmers are in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and state plans require that compliance is documented. Most farmers within the District have reduced

pollutant loads considerably more than the minimum standards required by the Chesapeake Bay Act.

assistance to meet compliance standards on approximately 12 tracts of land within the county.

In James City County, the Colonial Soil & Water Conservation district has worked with the county to facilitate compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and land clearing for agricultural land use. State law exempts bonifide agriculture from land disturbance permitting and erosion and sediment control laws. If a proposed land clearing operation is deemed to be an agricultural land use a Soil & Water Quality Conservation Plan must be approved by the local Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors. The District worked with James City County Department of Engineering and Resource Protection to provide

District Partners

Renwood Farms



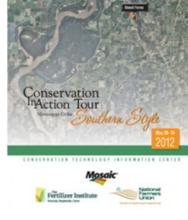
The District has partnered with local area farmers like David Hula of Renwood Farms for many years. This year the District assisted David with a presentation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission and how the farm uses Precision Agriculture to identify field variables and adjust crop production inputs such as fertilizer, to be profitable a water quality. David has gained national recognition in his ability to both increase crop yields and implement the most

Practices into his management system. David was the winner of the National Corn Yield Contest proving that water quality and profitability are inclusive in a well managed cropping system. The Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District serves, along with other state and federal agency personnel, supervisors each contest

Conservation Technology Information Center

The CTIC has been a long time partner of the Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District. This year District Manager, Brian Noyes was invited to the CTIC Annual Conservation in Action Tour, as a special guest, which took place in the delta region of Mississippi. As a past host of this event, Brian was asked to provide perspective on parallel efforts in Virginia. For more information on the tour in

Mississippi and highlights of the tour the CSWCD hosted in 2010 please visit the Conservation Technology Information website or use this link. <http://www.ctic.org/resources/display/366/>



Texas Farm Bureau

This year the Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District was asked to coordinate a field visit by the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) with a local beef producer. The TFB wanted to gain input from the District and local producers as to how the new mandates designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay would affect agriculture within the watershed. The TFB traveled to Washington to provide congressional testimonials on the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load initiative and how to

remove water quality impairments as required by the US Clean Water Act. James Talley of Poplar Springs Farm in New Kent County hosted the group so that perspectives could be shared. Mr. Talley shared how his beef operation has evolved over the years and how the CSWCD helped him to meet his objectives through technical services. Mr. Talley described that this relationship helped him to make changes on his own and independent of financial incentive programs.

