Conservation Matters

Howard Som

August 2018

Howard Soil Conservation District 14735 Frederick Road Cooksville, MD 21723 410.313.0680 www.howardscd.org

CALENDAR

Cover Crop Fall
Certification
August 15 - November 13

Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan Ag Sector Meeting August 29

Local EQIP Workgroup Meeting August 29

Cooperators Dinner
Invite Inside
September 13

Farm Academy Myrtle Woods Farm September 29

Phase III: Watershed Implementation Plan

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are the roadmap for how the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions, in partnership with federal and local governments, will achieve the Chesapeake Bay restoration. In 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic, comprehensive, and somewhat controversial "pollution diet". The TMDL requires the states that make up the Bay Watershed - New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia - to develop strategies for reducing the amounts of nutrients and sediment reaching the Bay. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers are in place by 2025. The amount of reduction required by each state is based on complex modeling efforts that calculate the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment contributed by various land uses. Each state has developed a set of WIPs to address the targeted reductions of nutrients and sediment.

In Maryland, the WIPs address four main sectors – agriculture, waste water treatment plants, urban/suburban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. The EPA has designated three phases for development of the WIPs. Phase I and Phase II were completed in 2010 and 2012 respectively. Both of these phases describe actions and controls to be implemented by 2017 and 2025 to achieve applicable water quality standards. Phase III WIPs will be developed based on a midpoint assessment of progress and scientific analyses that is currently underway. Phase III WIPs will provide information on



Map of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

actions Maryland intends to implement between 2018 and 2025 to meet the Bay restoration goals.

As part of the development of the Phase III WIP for the Agricultural sector, the Maryland Department of Agriculture is holding public meetings to seek input from farmers and landowners regarding what practices they think are most applicable to their county. On Wednesday, August 29, 2018 the MDA will host a public meeting in Howard County at the Lisbon Fire Hall from 9:30-11:30 AM to provide information on the Agricultural sector WIP and gather input from the local agricultural community about the conservation practices they feel will help achieve the goals as part of Phase III. For information about this meeting please contact the Howard Soil Conservation District at 410.313.0680.

Page 2 Conservation Matters

Introducing New Associate Supervisor - Nora Crist

The Howard Soil Conservation District is always looking for members of the agricultural community who are interested in our conservation mission. Over the last year, the Board of Supervisors has replaced two members with combined service of over 35 years! This represents an unprecedented turnover in leadership, and has created an opportunity to expand our membership of Associate Supervisors. Associate Supervisors are nonvoting, volunteer members of the District Board of Supervisors, who contribute their time, knowledge, and expertise to developing and implementing the District's soil conservation and water quality programs and responsibilities.

Fortunately, the Board of Supervisors recently appointed Nora Crist as the newest Associate Supervisor. Nora's family has a long history of farming and conservation in Howard County. Nora and her family own and operate Clark's Elioak Farm on Route 108 in Ellicott City. With a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and her recent participation in the LEAD MD - Class IX, Nora is already a leader in promoting conservation efforts and outreach in Howard County. "We have always done our best to protect our

soil and water resources on the farm, and over the years we have participated in a variety of conservation programs offered by Howard SCD", Nora explained.

Nora is also active in Farm Bureau, Future Harvest CASA, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Grazer's Network. The family is also very active in outreach programs and serving the public through their Clark's Elioak Petting Farm and their Roadside Produce Stand. "I am not sure the public realizes all the conservation efforts farmers are making, and the benefits these projects have for the Bay". Nora said this was one of the issues that interested her most about the Howard SCD, to learn more about the programs and how farmers can use them to improve their operations and help protect the environment. "My family has farmed in Howard County a long time, and I am planning on continuing that tradition", she said. "And conservation is an important part of our future".

Howard SCD is very pleased to have Nora as a new Associate Supervisor, and we appreciate her commitment to promoting our conservation programs and mission. Part of Nora's family



Nora at the family's Roadside Produce Stand.

history in conservation includes her grandfather, James Clark, Jr, who served as a Supervisor on the Howard SCD Board from 1948 to 1954. This was prior to Senator Clark's long and distinguished political career, and it demonstrated his lifelong dedication to conservation and protecting natural resources. It is evident that he passed his stewardship ethic down to future generations! Welcome aboard Nora!

MDA Cover Crop Program

Sign-up for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2018-2019 Cover Crop program ended on July 17th.

In Howard County we had 15 applicants for almost 3,000 acres. This does not include farmers who farm multiple farms in multiple counties and work through other field offices.

Planting of cover crops under the

program can begin on August 15th. The deadline for planting depends on the species being planted as well as the planting method, with the latest date being November 5th..

Fall certification of planting cover crops is within one week of planting but no later than November 13th.

If you have any questions please call the District, 410.313.0680 or visit

www.mda.maryland.gov/ resource_conservation/Pages/ cover_crop.aspx



Howard County Envirothon

The 2018 Howard County Envirothon was held in early May at the Howard County Conservancy. Three teams studied in preparation for the event.

Congratulations to the winning team from Mount Hebron High School. The winning team went on to represent Howard County and compete at the Maryland Envirothon in June held at the 4-H Camp in Garrett County. This first time team had the 3rd highest score in the Forestry and Fifth Issue stations, and the 8th highest score overall out of 17 teams.

The 2019 Howard County Envirothon will be held on Tuesday, April 30th at the Howard County Conservancy. It is never too early to start studying so plan on attending our Fall Training Day on Friday, October 19th,

If interested in learning more about the Envirothon program or starting a new team, contact Howard County Envirothon Coordinator, Kristal McCormick, 410.313.0657 or kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov



Forestry Station at County Envirothon.



(Above and Left) Some extra Forestry training prior to the Maryland Envirothon event.



David Plummer, helping students with tree identification.



(Left) Wildlife Station—identification.



Gutschick, Little & Weber, PA



Thank You 2018 Howard County Envirothon Sponsors

Air View Farm
Marilyn & Allan Bandel
Barkley Law Office, P.C.
Chanceland Farm, Inc.
Circle D Farm
Harold & Martha Clark
Greenway Farms

Howard County Farm Association
Larriland Farm, Inc.
Miller Land Company
Paul Shoffeitt
Sun Nurseries, Inc.
Walnut Springs Nursery, Inc.

Page 4 Conservation Matters

Farm Academy: Fair Update and Upcoming Session

Farm Academy began in the Fall of 2015, as a combined effort of Howard County Government, Howard County Economic Development Authority and the Howard Soil Conservation District. It was started in an effort to educate non-farming residents about the what, how and why of farming operations.

The original Farm Academy was held on a farm, where the public was invited to come learn and ask questions. We added a session for Howard County employees so that by increasing their knowledge and understanding the constituents would be better served. Last year guided tours at the Howard County Fair were added. This year, thanks to Ellie Feaga, a Howard County 4-H'er, a self-guided tour was added at the Howard County Fair. This self-guided tour was a success as it allowed fami-

lies to go at their own pace and fit the tour stops into their schedule.

In its fourth year, Farm Academy will be on the farm once again this Fall. This time we will be visiting a small farm, Myrtle Woods Farm, in the eastern part of Howard County.

Myrtle Woods Farm is located in Lawyers Hill Historic District in Elkridge. It is preserved from development as part of the Rockburn Land Trust. On the 8.8 acres they raise hogs, chicken, produce, herbs, and edible flowers. While not certified organic, organic farming practices are used in the management of the farm. Farmers Cathy Hudson and Van Wensil know the importance of soil health, and do everything they can to make sure that the soil receives what it needs and in turn the plants receive what they need.

Join us on Saturday September 29th as we visit Myrtle Woods Farm for our next session of Farm Academy. It begins at 9:00 AM and concludes by noon. We will be walking outside so dress appropriately. Space is limited. Contact the



Howard Soil Conservation District at 410.313.0680 or kmccormick@howardcountymd.gov to reserve your space. When registering please include your name, contact information and the number of people in your party.

To learn more about past Farm Acade my Sessions visit www.livegreenhoward.com/green/health/farm-academy

Howard SCD's New District Conservationist

We would like to introduce Charlotte Brewster, Howard Soil Conservation District's new District Conservationist. Charlotte comes to us from Frederick County where she worked as a Soil Conservationist for more than three years. Prior to that position she interned with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for three years, and USDA Office of Chief Economist in Washington DC for a year.

Charlotte grew up on a 140-acre Dairy farm, now converted to beef, in Union Bridge, Maryland where she is still actively involved in farm opera-

tions. She is a graduate of Walkersville High School where she participated in Future Farmers of America. She was a member of the Lewistown Mt. View 4-H Club. Charlotte was the Maryland State Dairy Princess in 2005 and the Miss Maryland Agriculture 3rd Runner-up in 2008. She attended University of Maryland Eastern Shore, receiving her Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture, with a Minor in Ag Business, as well as earning a Masters in Ag Extension and Education.

Charlotte is an ag enthusiast and enjoys helping others. She is excited

to serve Howard and Montgomery Counties. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Charlotte be sure to stop in our office and do so, or give her a call, 410.313.0680.



Farmer Brown's Camp

One of the goals we strive for at the Howard Soil Conservation District is educating the public about agriculture and conservation. It seems that many of the challenges farmers face today are the result of the general public's misunderstanding of the agricultural industry. So, this past year Jamie Brown and Jen Poston decided to open the farm to kids and adults in what is known as Farmer Brown Camp. This is an ongoing adventure for making friends and creating lifetime memories in a safe, beautiful,



Mike Calkins teaches kids about erosion and water quality.

natural environment. It's wonderfully crazy, it can be messy and it's different from our normal, everyday lives. Camp provides time to "unplug" from electronic devices, TV, and get out into nature! At camp, campers can learn more about plants, animals, agriculture, conservation outdoor skills and develop deep friendships with others.

At Farmer Brown Camp, every child is given the opportunity to become a farmer for a week. Each "farmer" is given equal opportunity to enrich their knowledge of agriculture. Every "farmer", no matter their background in agriculture, is welcome to attend Farmer Brown Camp. While at camp, every "farmer" will be given the same opportunities to grow, learn, and play.

The goal of the camp is to teach children that agriculture is not just planting crops and harvesting. They learn that math, science, weather forecasting, animal care, and business are all parts of what make agriculture whole. This camp also shows the kids and adults conservation that the

Brown family has been working on for many generations.

The Brown Farm has been family owned since 1886. Jamie operates a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, offering fruits, vegetables, lamb, beef, pork, turkey, chicken, and eggs through their farm market and at Farmers Markets across Howard County. He also does agri-tourism in the fall, and sells Christmas Trees.

The Howard SCD provides assistance for the Farmer Brown Camp by teaching students about conservation. HSCD staff educates the students about the best management practices farmers use to protect water quality in our local streams.

They initiated a camp for both children and adults to come to their farm and learn about agriculture and conservation. Check out www.farmerbrowncamp.com for more information.

The Howard SCD recognized the Brown family with our Conservation Education Award in 2017.

Maple Dell Stream Restoration Project

Maple Dell Farm, located on each side of Cattail Creek within the Triadelphia Reservoir watershed, features a stream which has experienced channel instabilities resulting from watershed development and past agricultural practices. A major restoration project is underway that will involve approximately 6,000 linear feet of stream restoration, selective harvesting of approximately 10 acres of trees to establish new silvo pasture and the installation of approximately 4,500 linear feet of new fence to exclude the dairy herd from

the restoration area and stream. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by late May 2019.

The project will support the County's water quality improvement and restoration efforts under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has partnered with Howard County to fund the establishment of a 15-acre riparian easement at the site, to plant trees within

this easement and to monitor water quality before, during and after construction. The 15-acre easement will encompass the streams and a large portion of the floodplain on the farm. The project is partially funded through a Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund grant, which comes from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as well as the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund.

Page 6 Conservation Matters

Cooperator Highlight: Clark Family

Clark's Elioak Farm has a farming legacy in Howard County that has been around for centuries. They are best known for their Petting Farm, Enchanted Forest, Roadside Produce Stand and Meat. "Clark's Farm is part of the farming operation of the Clark family, which is proud to be entering its 221st year of farming in Howard County. The farm is currently owned and operated by Martha Clark and her daughter, Nora Crist. The farm specializes in pasture-raised beef and pork. Our goal is to provide our neighbors with a local source of pasture-raised, grass-finished beef, an alternative to the feedlot-raised, corn -fed beef that is prevalent in local stores."

The Clark's have been working with the Howard Soil Conservation District since the beginning, and Senator Clark was on our Board of Supervisors back in the early 1950's. They have implemented several Best Management Practices to reduce erosion and address water quality issues. Grassed Waterways, Tile, Watering Troughs and Heavy Use Areas, just to name a few. Senator Clark also planted forest buffers along large sections of the streams that flow through the property.

With the increased interest in their meat products, they are growing their herds and have started focusing on more intensified rotational grazing to conserve their soil and water resources. The increase in rotational grazing has required watering troughs throughout the farm to meet the animals' needs. Most recently, with the assistance from the Howard SCD and the Natural Resources Conser-

vation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), they installed two pressure fed troughs, so the cattle will have an ample source of clean water. The troughs also include heavy use area aprons around each trough to help minimize soil erosion and compaction from the livestock.

The Clark family has a long history of conservation and protecting natural

resources, and the Howard Soil Conservation District is proud to have been part of that tradition.



Martha Clark and her daughter Nora Crist.

Local Workgroup Meeting

Across the state, many organizations and individuals continue to express interest in participating in Local Work Group's (LWG) that has been established for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Howard County Local Work Group will be held on Wednesday, August 29th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at the Lisbon Fire Hall, 1330 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, 21797. LWG meetings are open to the public.

The meeting will be conducted as an open discussion among attendees. Discussion will include a review of current fiscal year decisions and focus on prioritizing local natural resource concerns for the subsequent fiscal year. All recommendations will be considered.

Specific to FY 2019 Conservation Program delivery, LWGs are designed to seek input and recommendations based on the following programs and activities:

- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Agricultural Conservation Land Easements including Wetland Reserve Easement and Agricultural Land Easement
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Conservation Technical Assistance

LWG input and recommendations may assist our agency in identifying any of the following conditions:

- Identifying significant local and statewide geographic areas of concern
- Identifying significant local and statewide natural resource concerns
- Technical programmatic recommendations

- Need for statewide public information and outreach campaigns
- Guidelines for developing ranking criteria for evaluating applications
- Guidance on eligible conservation practices
- Technical guidance on conservation practices, including new, innovative practices
- Financial assistance payment rates, practice payment limits and methods of payment
- Identifying, monitoring and analyzing performance indicators
- Evaluating and reporting program impacts on natural resources and the environment
- Coordinating with other Federal, State, Tribal and local public and private activities.

For any questions, you may call the HSCD at 410.313.0680.

Howard Soil Conservation District Invites You to the 2018 Cooperators Dinner at The Colmont Farm 14685 Carrs Mill Road Glenwood, MD 21738

The Howard Soil Conservation District invites you and your family to join us at The Colmont Farm, Glenwood, Maryland to honor the Howard SCD's Cooperator of the Year. The event will be held September 13th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Since 1945 the Howard SCD has helped farmers and citizens of Howard County with soil conservation and water quality protection through a variety of programs that provide technical guidance, education, outreach, and financial assistance







Reservation Form - Please mail to Howard SCD address at bottom

Colmont Farm, Glenwood, MD • Thursday, September 13, 2018 • 5:30 p.m. Menu to include Pit Beef, Pit Ham, Pit Turkey, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and all the fixings.

Enjoy hayrides and try your aim at the pumpkin cannon!!

Enclosed find payment for	tickets @ \$15.00 ea. (Children 10 & under free)
Names of Attendees:	
How many children under 10?	
Name	Telephone #

Make Checks Payable to: Howard SCD Mail to: 14735 Frederick Road Cooksville, MD 21723 410-313-0680 *R.S.V.P. by: 9/6/18*



14735 Frederick Road Cooksville, MD

DISTRICT HOWARD SOIL

www.howardscd.org

HSCD Board of Supervisors

Justin Brendel, Chairman
Joe Rutter, Vice Chairman
Keith Ohlinger, Treasurer
Ken Clements, Member
John Dove, Member
Dr. Allan Bandel, Associate Member
Nora Crist, Associate Member
Brent Rutley, Associate Member

HSCD Staff

David C. Plummer, District Manager Charlotte Brewster, District Conservationist

Merhlyn Barnes, Secretary
Michael Calkins, Stormwater Management Specialist
Wes Earp, Engineering Specialist
Jackie Kern, Administrative Aide
Kristal McCormick, Engineering Specialist
Kristen Parris, Equine Conservation Planner
Bob Robertson, Engineering Specialist
Melbaliz Santiago, Soil Conservationist
Geof Schoming, Engineering Specialist

You Can Receive This Newsletter by EMAIL!!!

Enjoy a full color version emailed to you as soon as it is posted to our website. Register by phone 410.313.0680 or by email jkern@howardcountymd.gov

The Howard Soil Conservation District (HSCD) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.