



CHARLES SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Organized 1941

P.O. Box 269
101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106C
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-9588/Fax (301) 934-2845

CONSERVATION UPDATES MAY 2007

Spring Certification and Claim For Payment 2006-2007 Winter Cover Crop Program

A big THANKS to the cooperators who participated in the current cover crop program. Nearly 5000 acres of cover crop were planted despite unfavorable weather and unexpected program changes. Good job!

Participants please don't forget that kill down/suppression or harvest certification needs to be completed by June 1, 2007. If you have not done so, please notify the Charles SCD of the kill-down/suppression date(s) and visit our office to complete your Spring Claim for Payment form. If you have commodity crop acres, you will also need to contact us by June 1 to complete your Spring Claim for Payment form.

Maryland's 2007-2008 Winter Cover Crop Program

- *Sign-up is from June 4 thru June 29, 2007;
- *Requests for funds approved on a first come, first serve basis;
- *Cover crop must follow corn, soybean, sorghum, tobacco or vegetable harvest;
- *Participants must be in compliance with Nutrient Management Plan requirements;
- *All seed must be tested for purity, germination, and noxious weeds;
- *Signed seed invoice and a current seed tag for all purchased seed must accompany cover crop certification;
- *Split payments (fall/spring) are available;

****NEW** - Separate applications for traditional and commodity cover crop (acreage in each program must be specified and may not be switched between programs):

*Traditional Cover Crop Program:

- \$50/ac. if planted by October 1
- \$40/ac. if planted by October 15
- \$30/ac. if planted by November 5

*Commodity Cover Crop Program:

- \$20/ac. if planted by November 5

2007-08 Winter Cover Crop Program brochures were mailed to prior program participants. Additional brochures are available in this office or on our website (www.charlesscd.com) under Upcoming Events.



2006 Charles SCD Cooperator of the Year Hancock Brothers Partnership

On May 2, 2007, the Charles Soil Conservation District recognized the Hancock Brothers Partnership as the Charles SCD 2006 Cooperator of the Year.

Brothers David and Wayne Hancock handle the partnership, with assistance from their father Chester and David's wife Sheila.

They operate the Hancock family farm, a 316.6-acre farm located near LaPlata. Their primary agricultural operations on the farm include commodity crop and livestock production. In addition, the Hancock Brothers Partnership manages various other farms in Charles County.

The Hancock's have been cooperators with the Charles SCD since 1955. Since that time, they have installed numerous soil conservation and water quality practices on their property including ponds, a waste storage structure, crop rotation, conservation tillage, grassed waterways and the first agricultural water and sediment control basin in Charles County.

During the dinner program, numerous other groups also recognized the Hancock Brothers Partnership and presented them with Proclamations and Certificates of Appreciation. Included in this group are: the Charles County Commissioners, the Governor of Maryland, the Maryland House of Delegates, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Congratulations are again extended to the Hancock Brothers Partnership for their exemplary conservation ethic as demonstrated by their application of best management practices on their land.



LtoR-Commissioner Cooper, Wayne, David, Sheila and Chester Hancock

Charles SCD Annual Cooperator Dinner Held on May 2, 2007

The 19th annual Charles SCD cooperator dinner drew a record number of attendees. In addition to representatives from the farm community, county residents, local, state and federal government, political representation, there were numerous attendees from other soil conservation districts.

The evening began with entertainment from the Southern Mixed Chorus who sang various inspirational songs, followed by a delicious dinner catered by Thompson's Seafood. The dinner program included a special recognition to the Charles County Commissioners for their efforts in security delegation and erosion and sediment control enforcement authority for Charles County. Next the Hancock Brothers Partnership was honored as the 2006 Charles SCD Cooperators of the Year. A slide presentation outlining Charles SCD activities and projects was presented.

The Charles SCD Supervisors and staff thank all who attended this annual event and we encourage everyone to attend our 2008 Cooperator Dinner next spring.



Southern Mixed Chorus from College of Southern Maryland

County Commissioners Honored

Charles SCD District Board of Supervisors presented the Charles County Commissioners with a "CONSERVATION AWARD" in recognition of their efforts in securing delegation of erosion and sediment control enforcement authority for Charles County.

This enforcement authority for Charles County is a strong environmentally minded action by the Charles County Commissioners.



LtoR Commissioners Collins, Cooper & Patterson

14th Annual Charles County Envirothon Held at Gilbert Run Park on April 19, 2007

Seventy students from the six Charles County High Schools participated in this annual natural resources competition. Each team, consisting of five students, took the tests as a unit. They were tested in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and alternative energy. The teams changed testing stations approximately every 40 minutes. After the testing was completed and a delicious cookout, prepared by the school coaches, was consumed, the winning teams were announced.

The second place team, from Maurice J. McDonough High School, included members: Aleida Young, Gabby Howard, Lauren Walsh, Stephen Galvin and Emily Shaw. Their school coach is Karena Bennett.

The first place team from Westlake High School included members: Chanel Celestine, Kathleen Seay, Shayne Delph, Maryam Aftab and Stephen Palma. Their school coach is C. J. Newcomb. This team will represent Charles County at the Maryland State Envirothon competition June 19 thru 21, 2007.



2007 Charles County Envirothon Winning Team Westlake High School

2007 Charles County MASCD Auxiliary Coloring Contest Winners Announced

Winning entries of the District's annual MASCD coloring contest are:
Class A - (kindergarten-1st grade):
1st: Gino Gerow-Dr.Thomas Higdon;
2nd: C. J. Torres-J. P. Ryon
Class B - (2nd & 3rd grade):
1st: Alexis Gregory-Dr.Thomas L. Higdon;
2nd: Jillian Knode - Archbishop Neale
Class C - 4th & 5th grade:
1st: Shiara Beausoleil-Dr.Thomas L. Higdon
2nd: Joelle Tiller - J. P. Ryon
Contest information is distributed to local elementary schools in the spring. The schools hold their coloring contest and winners in each of the three classes are chosen and submitted to the District where they are judged and County winners are chosen. The first place entries in the three classes are then submitted to the MASCD Auxiliary for the State competition which is held in July. For the Charles County competition, the first place winner in each class receives a \$20 gift card to Toys R Us and the second place winners receive a \$10.00 Toys R Us gift card. Contest results are:



L to R: Gino Gerow, Alexis Gregory, Shiara Beausoleil and teacher Anna Cowan

Agricultural Clearing and Grading

Prior to any clearing and/or grading for agricultural related activities, the District strongly recommends that farmers and landowners first contact our office.

Some of these activities require local, state or federal permits and approvals prior to commencement of said activity.

The District's guidance and advice may prevent the landowner from incurring penalties and fines for performing the work without required approvals.

Bermudagrass Planting

Bermudagrass is a warm-season perennial grass often grown in the Southern U.S. for hay. Although its persistence is limited by harsh winters, some hardy strains exist which can survive in Southern Maryland and therefore show promise for hay production in this region as well. Field trials of this species have begun in Charles and Calvert Counties. On May 16, Charles SCD technical staff joined Elmer Dengler, NRCS State Grazing Specialist, Les Vough, Forage Crop Extension Specialist, John Englert, National Plant Material Center Manager, and Randall Lester, Plant Materials Assistant Manager (West Virginia) on the Welch farm for the Bermudagrass planting day.



No-till sprig planter

Charles SCD
101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106-C
LaPlata, MD 20646

To receive our
newsletters via email,
call: 301-934-9588,
ext. 3 and provide your
email address

Sprigs of three varieties of Bermudagrass, 'Tifton 44', 'Midland 99' and 'Ozark', were planted with a no-till sprig planter into 1-acre fields. Four other varieties of Bermudagrass, 'Wrangler', 'Sun Grazer Plus', 'Riata', 'Mohawk', were seeded into 0.5-acre fields. All varieties were kept separate and will be evaluated for their growth production and hay quality.

USDA PROGRAMS	SIGN-UP DATES
WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)	Continuous depending on fund availability
EQIP (Environmental Qualify Incentives Program)	Continuous

DATE	EVENT
June 1-07	Deadline for Submitting Cover Crop Spring Certification Claim for Payments
June 19 thru 21-07	Maryland State Envirothon Competition
June 19/20-07	Fundamentals of Nutrient Management (2 day pre-certification training course-MDA)
July 17 thru 19-07	Annual MASCD Meeting Solomons Island, MD

"The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternatives means for communication of program information (Braille, large print audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Standard Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 16
LaPlata, MD
20646

