



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 DECEMBER 2006



2006 District Accomplishments

The Charles SCD had a very productive year. District activities included:

- Development of District web site (www.charlesscd.com);
- Published New Sediment Control Plan Submittal Guidelines;
- Held Annual Cooperator Dinner in May;
- Hosted Green Card Training in June- (94 individuals received certificates);
- Completion of Indian Head Site 3 Ditch Plugs;
- Developed contract documents for Indian Head Shoreline Stabilization Project;
- Hired part-time technician;
- Held training and competition for the 13th Annual Charles County Envirothon.

On the farm side, the following conservation practices were installed this year:

- 4,513 linear feet of fencing -3 farmers
- 1 grade stabilization structure
- 1.2 acres of grassed waterway
- 106.2 acres of pasture and hay planting-2 farmers
- 1 roof runoff structure
- .15 acre of heavy use area-1 farmer
- 2.5 acres of shallow water area-1 farmer

The sediment and erosion control plan review area had the following activity:

- 1964 sediment & erosion control plans were reviewed and;
- 1325 sediment & erosion control plans were approved from July 2005 thru June 2006;

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides farmers with a flexible and effective program that offers cost-share assistance from 40 to 75 percent of the cost of certain conservation practices including: grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, contour buffer strips, livestock exclusion, and prescribed grazing. The focus of the EQIP program this year is grazing practices and incentives to manage crop rotations and continuous no-till production.

Applications are accepted all year, ranked on December 15, 2006 and at future dates if funding allows, and approved according to environmental benefits.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP is a voluntary program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for individuals who are interested in developing and improving wildlife habitat primarily on private lands.

Applications for the WHIP program are accepted continuously throughout the year. However, there are ranking cut-off dates and the next one closes December 15, 2006. Applications submitted prior to this date will be ranked accordingly to determine which practices offer the most wildlife habitat benefits for funding.

WHIP provides the opportunity for individuals to create wildlife habitat. It also provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to people who plant grassland habitat or restore riparian buffers, stream banks, and wetlands for wildlife habitat.

To be eligible for participation in this program you must have at least one acre of eligible wildlife habitat improvement practices or at least \$300 of cost-share assistance for eligible practices. Applicants who do not have projects large enough to meet the minimum size or dollar amount may enter into cooperative efforts with their adjoining neighbors to develop a larger, contiguous project, such as stream bank restoration.

To learn more about cost-share assistance offered through Federal or State programs or to determine if you are eligible to participate in these programs, please call our office at: 301-934-9588, ext. 3.



<i>USDA PROGRAMS</i>	<i>APPLICATION CUT-OFF DATES</i>
<i>WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)</i>	<i>December 15, 2006</i>
<i>EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)</i>	<i>December 15, 2006</i>
<i>AMA (Agricultural Management Assistance)</i>	<i>December 15, 2006</i>
<i>WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)</i>	<i>January 19, 2007</i>

2006-07 Winter Cover Crop Program In Charles County

Participation in the 2006-2007 MACS Winter Cover Crop Program has been varied this year due to two main factors: program changes and adverse climate conditions.

The program changes this year were due to overwhelming participation in sign-ups this past spring. In order to more widely distribute available funds, all participating farmers regardless of how early they signed up, received approval for a portion of the funds for which they were eligible: 75% for traditional cover crop; and 50% for commodity crops. In total, up to \$303,347.75 of program funds were approved for 34 farmers in Charles County.

This summer, many parts of Charles County experienced some periods of drought that hurt the corn and soybeans. Then heavy rains in early fall made it very difficult for many farmers to harvest in time to plant their cover crop before the earliest planting deadlines.

Five (of the 34 farmers who signed up) decided not to participate in the program. A few farmers, who had initially decided not to continue in the program for either of the above reasons, later changed their minds and planted for the later certification periods.

Approximately 5,059 acres were planted by the final November 5th deadline as part of the cover crop program.

Reminders For Cover Crop Participants

* As a reminder, no commercial nutrients may be applied before **March 1, 2007** on any of the cover crop or commodity crop designated acreage.

* Spring kill-down or suppression of cover crop may not occur before **March 1, 2007** unless you plan to plant an early vegetable crop. If you plan to plant the vegetable crop by February 28, 2007, the spring kill-down or suppression of cover crop may occur as early at **February 15, 2007**.

Spring kill-down measures include: plowing under or using a burn-down herbicide. Grazing alone does not qualify as an acceptable kill-down method.

* Within two weeks of kill-down, suppression, or harvest, contact our office to certify your acres for Spring Certification. The deadline for certifying kill-down of cover crops and harvest of commodity crops must be reported to our office by **June 1, 2007**.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Recruiting for Soil Conservation Planner II Positions

MDA is currently advertising for planner positions. Individuals selected will be stationed in various locations including the Charles Soil Conservation District office. The closing date for applications is December 22, 2006.

Position duties include developing and revising conservation plans and performing site evaluations for cooperators on agricultural land.

Visit or call the Charles SCD office at 101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106-C, LaPlata, 301-934-9588, ext. 3, to obtain a copy of the position announcement.

Kyong Chung Changes Agencies

After working with this District as a Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Planner for the past 7 years, Kyong has changed hats. Effective October 30, 2006 she became a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Conservationist. The good news is she only changed desk locations. She is still working in this District and will continue to assist our cooperators with the design and installation of conservation practices.



Joey Schneider Joins Charles SCD Staff

The Charles SCD welcomes our newest staff member, Joey Schneider. Joey works for the District on a part-time basis (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) assisting with various office tasks, including reviewing erosion and sediment control plans. Joey recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Natural Resource Management. He now lives in Annapolis.



DATE	EVENT
1-22/23-07	MASCD Winter Meeting Annapolis, MD
3-1-07 <i>No commercial nutrients or poultry manure may be applied before this date</i>	2006-07 Winter Cover Crop Participants
4-24-07 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	14 Annual Charles County Envirothon Competition Gilbert Run Park, Charlotte Hall, MD
5-2-07 6:00 p.m.	2007 Charles SCD Cooperator Dinner
6-8-07	Deadline for Submitting Cover Crop Spring Certification Claim for Payments

“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.”

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

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

*To receive our
newsletter via
email, please give
us your email
address*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

