

Garrett Soil Conservation District "Conservation News"

Covid-19 District Operations

NOTICE

The Garrett Soil Conservation District, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and USDA-NRCS are open by appointment only.

By entering this facility, I agree that I am not currently experiencing any of the following NEW symptoms:

Cough or sore throat

Shortness of breath

Fever or Chills

Loss of taste or smell

You are required to wear a mask and to maintain social distancing (even if you have been vaccinated) to enter this facility. Please note that this is a rapidly evolving situation and practices and procedures are subject to change at any moments notice based on direction from the District's Federal, State, and County Partners. Please be safe and stay healthy!



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Important Dates

- Cover Crop Fall Planting and Certification Deadlines: See Page 4
- Offices Closed: October 11, November 11, 25, 26, and December 24, 31
- Board of Supervisor Meetings: October 19, November 16 & December 21



Fall Certification Happening Now for 2021-22 Cover Crops

Farmers must certify their cover crop with the soil conservation district within one week of planting and no later than November 12, 2021. *Note: some species may have earlier deadlines.* Kill down /suppression may take place between March 1 and June 1, 2022. Farmers who terminate cover crops after May 1, may be eligible for an Extended Season incentive payment of up to \$10/acre. District Staff will need to know the following information when certifying your cover crops:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Which fields were planted? | 5. What was the planting date? |
| 2. What was the previous crop? | 6. Was manure applied? When? |
| 3. What cover crop was planted? | 7. NEED ORIGINAL SEED TAGS |
| 4. What planting method was used? | SIGNED IN BLUE INK! |

From the Chairman.... James “Smokey” Stanton



James R. “Smokey” Stanton, Chair, GSCD

Garrett County Agriculture - We Need to Hear From YOU!

In the 2021 Maryland General Assembly, the legislature asked the Hughes Center to work with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a process and strategy to develop a “Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Maryland Agriculture”. This new assessment is to build on and update the strategy to reduce Maryland’s vulnerability to climate change last done in 2011. The process developed for this 2021 agricultural climate vulnerability assessment consists of two parts: PHASE ONE IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY with an on-line survey designed to identify farmers’ challenges, concerns and thoughts on how extreme weather events and climate change issues impact their operations. This Phase One will form the focus, identify issues and direct the full assessment. PART ONE is to be completed by December 1, with the survey open now.

The purpose of the survey is to begin to engage farmers and stakeholders in the process of developing the framework for the full assessment and to ensure that the climate assessment for Maryland agriculture – Garrett County’s Agriculture – conducted in Phase Two will address all relevant issues.

As we know in Garrett County, we are unique in our weather, our climate, our topography, our geology and our soils. The effects of climate change and our vulnerabilities are also unique, but we have to be our own advocates and communicate our threats and concerns.

As of today, two thirds of respondents are farmers, with 75% from the Eastern Shore, 11% from Central Maryland, 10% from Southern Maryland, and fewer than 10 actual respondents from Western Maryland, none from Garrett County. The range of operations represented include poultry, grain, cattle, organic row crops, organic vegetables, and others. Our agricultural community should not be silent during this phase of the assessment.

The assessment project is being conducted in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as well as members of the Project Leadership Team, which includes members of the University of Maryland and its Extension program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay Program, and an industry representative.

The survey has four questions, with approximately seven sub-questions and takes only a few minutes to complete. By taking the survey, and entering your email address, you will be updated on progress of the Phase Two developments. Please complete the survey today.

The PHASE ONE Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Maryland Agriculture survey is at: <https://go.umd.edu/cvama>

High-Priority Agricultural Conservation Practices Now Available for 100% Cost-Share Grants

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that over 20 high-priority agricultural conservation practices are now eligible for cost-share funding of up to 100% through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Installation of these practices by farmers will help Maryland meet its 2025 Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals.

“Clean water and healthy natural resources benefit all Marylanders,” said Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “The department is committed to providing farmers with the financial and technical resources and support they need to install best management practices on their farms that will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.”

Earlier this year, Governor Larry Hogan signed a new law that authorizes MDA to provide farmers with cost-share assistance that covers up to 100% of eligible costs to install certain high-priority best management practices on farms.

Qualifying practices must have at least a 10-year maintenance life; provide environmental benefits that are consistent with Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plan; and focus largely on in-field or edge-of-field practices that protect local waterways from nutrient runoff associated with crop production. In addition, these practices are required to be implemented as part of a current Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan developed by a local soil conservation district.

Practices now eligible for up to 100% cost-share funding and free technical assistance include:

- Conservation drainage practices
- Conservation cover
- Critical area planting
- Diversion
- Stream exclusion fencing
- Field border
- Filter strip
- Grade stabilization structure
- Grassed waterway
- Lined waterway or outlet
- Riparian forest buffer
- Riparian herbaceous cover
- Sediment basin
- Terrace system
- Tree and shrub establishment
- Wetland restoration or creation



Interested farmers should contact their local soil conservation district to apply for cost-share funding and to receive free technical assistance to design and install these practices. To be eligible for cost-share assistance, applicants must be in good standing with MDA, the MACS Program and in compliance with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations. Other restrictions may apply.

For more information, please contact the Garrett SCD at (301) 501-5886.

Cover Crop Fall Certification is Upon Us

The leaves are beginning to change and temperature is beginning to drop - which can only mean one thing - fall is upon us in Garrett County. Garrett County farmers need to start thinking about certifying their cover crops for the upcoming 2021-2022 season. During the annual sign-up period held in June every year, twenty-nine applicants accounted for 2,707 acres of cover crop intended for Garrett County.

This popular grant program provides farmers with cost-share assistance to offset seed, labor and equipment costs to plant cover crops on their fields this fall to control soil erosion, reduce nutrient runoff, build healthy soils and protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. The Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Cover crops help protect waterways from nutrient runoff, control soil erosion and improve soil health. As they grow, cover crops recycle unused plant nutrients remaining in the soil from the preceding summer crop. Once established, they work all winter to protect fields against erosion spurred on by wind, rain, snow and ice. In addition to their water quality benefits, cover crops help build healthy soils, increase organic matter in the soil, reduce weeds and pests, and provide habitat for beneficial insects. They can even help farm



fields recover more quickly from drought and extreme rainfall. Studies have shown that planting cover crops in the fall can increase yields of cash crops like corn and soybeans after only a few years.

Available to rent from Garrett SCD:

Transspread 5.5 Ton Lime & Fertilizer

Spreader & 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill.

Call the office at 301-501-5886.

COVER CROP DATES TO REMEMBER

- Planted on or before **10/10** reported within 7 days of planting for the **\$10 incentive**
- Last day to plant is **11/05** reported by **11/12/21**
- Barley and Rye Grass must be planted by **10/15/21**
- Broadcast stalk chop method ends **10/15/21**
- Terminate cover crops between March 1 and June 20, 2022
- **Extended Season incentive payment for termination after May 1st, 2022, must have signed up at time of enrollment.**



The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program Cost Share Rates Increase by 30% through June 2022

In response to inflated material/construction prices, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the MACS Office has authorized a 30% add-on to the final cost-shared amount on MACS Funded Projects. The increase can be applied at the time of application for new projects or applied to the claim-for-payment for projects that are already in process. The 30% add-on is scheduled to continue through June 30, 2022, at which time material/construction prices will be re-assessed. This strategy was deemed necessary in order to keep project installation moving, and to meet 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan Goals. For more information please contact our MDA associates today at 301-501-5886.



MARYLAND
Department of Agriculture



Department Accepting Nominations for Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is accepting nominations of farmers and farm families for the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame, which pays tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to the state's leading industry. Nominations are due by Friday, Oct. 22, 2021. Those selected for induction will be honored during the "Taste of Maryland Agriculture" event on Feb. 3, 2022.

"Maryland farm families are the backbone of our state's agriculture industry and our rural communities," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Join me in recognizing Maryland's great farm families by submitting a nomination for the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame."

Any farm family that derives its income principally from farming is eligible for the award. The Hall of Fame, established in 1991, includes 53 farm families from 23 counties who have been honored for their high standards of conduct; personal values; contributions to their community; and performance, leadership, innovation, and achievement in agriculture.

University of Maryland Extension county offices serve as local nominating committee coordinators. Each local nominating committee is made up of the county extension educator, county farm bureau president, county fair representative, and county soil conservation district chairman. Each committee reviews a pool of candidates from its county and forwards a selection to the Governor's Selection Committee. Only one farm family per county can be considered.

Applicants **MUST** work with their county Extension office in preparing the application, which should include as much information about the family as possible and address agricultural leadership, community activities, and technological and management advancements.

The selection committee includes the Dean of the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the President of the Maryland Farm Bureau, and members of the agricultural community. This year's application can be downloaded at <https://mda.maryland.gov/Documents/2021-Governor's-Agriculture-Hall-of-Fame-Award-Nomination.pdf>. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 22, 2021, at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Jessica O'Sullivan at (410) 841-5882 or Jessica.osullivan@maryland.gov



Farm Service Agency News

USDA Updates Pandemic Assistance for Sales Based Crops (Specialty Crops)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) for sales commodities (specialty crops) like aquaculture, crops (excluding corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum), nursery / floriculture, miscellaneous crops, and other livestock (excluding cattle, hogs, sheep, and other breeding stock). CFAP 2, which assists producers who faced market disruptions in 2020 due to COVID-19, is part of USDA's broader Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set an **Oct. 12 deadline** for all eligible producers to apply for or modify applications for CFAP 2.

Updates for Sales-Based Commodities

USDA is amending the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales-based commodities, which are primarily comprised of by specialty crops, to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Previously, payments for producers of sales-based commodities were based only on 2019 sales, with 2019 used as an approximation of the amount the producer would have expected to market in 2020. Giving producers the option to substitute 2018 sales for this approximation, including 2018 crop insurance indemnities and 2018 crop year Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) payments, provides additional flexibility to producers of sales-based commodities who had reduced sales in 2019.

Grass seed has also been added as an eligible sales commodity for CFAP 2. A complete list of all eligible sales-based commodities can be found at farmers.gov/cfap2/commodities. Producers of sales-based commodities can modify existing applications.

Applying for Assistance

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so by contacting their local FSA office. Producers can find their local FSA office by visiting farmers.gov/service-locator. Producers can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. All new and modified CFAP 2 applications are due by the Oct. 12 deadline.



USDA-NRCS 2022 EQIP Local Work Group - Coming Soon

The Garrett Soil Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosting a virtual public meeting in late October or early November to discuss the availability of conservation funding to improve local water quality, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability. Farmers, conservation partners and interested members of the public will learn more about assistance available to address their natural resource concerns. If you are interested in participating once plans are finalized please call the Garrett SCD office at 301-501-5886 or email Carrie.Colebank@Maryland.gov to be placed on the list to be contacted.

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Garrett SCD Staff Updates



Jarrold Sisler joined the Garrett SCD office in March 2021 as an MDA Technician. Since 2018 Jarrold has been employed by Thrasher Engineering as a survey technician where he acquired a vast array of skills in surveying and the use of survey equipment. He attended Garrett College where he obtained an associates degree in Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology. Jarrold has an extensive background in agriculture from growing up on a farm to working at a feed and seed cooperative as previous employment. We would like to give a big welcome to Jarrold and look forward to him serving the landowners of Garrett County.

In July of this year Jacob Metcalf came on board with the Garrett SCD team as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS. Jacob is a graduate of Allegany College of Maryland where he obtained an associates degree in Forest Technology and West Virginia University with a Bachelors of Science in Forest Resources Management. Jacob started out his career in the private sector with RK&K Engineers as a survey technician; gaining experience in land surveying, construction surveying, and utility installation inspection. Later Jacob accepted a position with the WV Division of Forestry and NRCS as the forestry and wildlife point of contact covering two counties in the eastern panhandle of WV. In 2015, he took a full time position with NRCS as a soil conservation technician where he gained experience in preparing NRCS designs. Jacob has been a certified conservation planner since 2014 and has gained planning experience related to livestock, high tunnel systems, stream restoration, poultry production, forest management, and wildlife management.



Best Wishes to Jessica Aronhalt from all of us at Garrett SCD



After 11 years as a Soil Conservationist for MD NRCS, 6 of which have been in Garrett County, Jessica is ready to begin a new chapter. Jessica has accepted a position as an Area Resource Conservationist with WV NRCS out of Morgantown, WV. "It's been a great pleasure servicing and getting to know the agricultural producers in Maryland. Garrett County will remain my home and I hope to see you all out in the community". Jess

congratulations



Harper Kitzmiller was presented a \$35 check and blue ribbon from Garrett SCD Chairman James "Smokey" Stanton for winning 1st place in the MASCD Coloring Contest for Class A (k-1). Harper said her inspiration for the "rainbow" rooster was from the one that she owned. Congratulations Harper on a job well done!



James "Smokey" Stanton (10 year Pin) and Katharine Dubansky (5 year Pin). Both were recognized for their dedication to the Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors at the Annual MASCD meeting held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge MD, August 1-3, 2021.

**Garrett Soil Conservation District
1916 Maryland Highway Ste C
Mt Lake Park MD 21550**

PHONE NUMBERS

Service Center Main Line: 301-501-5856

FSA Direct Line: 301-501-5885

NRCS/SCD Direct Line: 301-501-5886

**We are on the web and Facebook!
www.garrettscd.org and Garrett Soil Conservation District**

If you would like to:

- Receive an emailed version of this newsletter or
- Have an idea or would like to submit an article

Please contact, **Carrie Colebank**, at carrie.colebank@maryland.gov

Office Staff

Roger Kitzmiller, District Manager, (MDA)

Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)

Charles "Chuck" Hayes, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)

Chris Herbert, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)

Cody Myers, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)

Jarrold Sisler, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)

Jessica Klotz, Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist (MDA)

Jacob Metcalf, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)

Will Gindlesberger, Soil Conservation Technician (USDA-NRCS)

Carrie Colebank, Administrative Assistant (SCD)

Business Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am til 5:00 pm

Service Center Phone Number: 301-501-5856



1916 Maryland Highway Ste C / Mt Lake Park MD 21550

Board of Supervisors

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman

Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman

Cameron Crawford, Treasurer

Katharine Dubansky, Vice Treasurer

William "Bill" Buckel, Member

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a supervisor or associate supervisor please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.

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