

Garrett Soil Conservation District

“Conservation News”

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District Operations— Reopening July 1

After more than a year of Covid-19 closures, The Garrett Soil Conservation District Office is open to the public by appointment only. Wearing of masks and social distancing are not required for persons who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Those who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a mask and practice social distancing (6’). To make an appointment, call (301) 501-5886, or, if you know your parties extension you may dial them directly.

This information is subject to change

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

PL-566 Flood Control Dam Mowing

Important Dates

- Board of Supervisors Meeting Dates: July 20, August 17, September 21
- Offices Closed: July 5 & September 6
- Cover Crop Sign-Up: July 1 thru July 16 (Enrollment will be entirely by mail)
- Bids accepted for the PL-566 Flood Control Dam Mowing until July 19 @ 4:00 PM . Bid opening at 4:15 PM
- Garrett County Fair: July 31 - Aug 7th
- MASCD Summer Conference: August 1-3, Cambridge MD
- First day to plant cover crops: August 15

The Garrett Soil Conservation District is accepting bids for mowing three (3) PL-566 Flood Control Dams, including cutting of herbaceous and woody vegetation adjacent to the toe of slope, emergency spillway, end of outlet pipe, and edge of plunge pool. The dams are located at Deer Park, Loch Lynn, and Route 219 north of Oakland. Work may commence anytime after the Agreement is signed by both the Contractor and the District but no later than July 21, 2021 and must be completed by August 11, 2021. Pre-bid and site information may be obtained by calling (301) 501-5886. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained by contacting the Garrett Soil Conservation District Office located at 1916 Maryland Highway, Suite C, Mt. Lake Park, MD (call 301-501-5886 to receive a copy by mail) or from the District’s website at www.GarrettSCD.org. Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m., July 19, 2021. Bids will be opened July 19, 2021 at 4:15 p.m. at the Garrett Soil Conservation District office. Bidders and interested parties are welcome to attend the bid opening; bid openings will proceed in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines, pertaining to COVID-19, that are in-place at the time of the opening (please notify the District office in advance if you plan to attend the bid opening). For more information call the District office at 301-501-5886. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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



Welcome to the summer 2021 edition of the Garrett Soil Conservation District “Conservation News” to all our partners and readers.

Two important topics for our cooperators and partners to highlight for this newsletter:

COVID-19

Most readers are probably aware that Maryland is relaxing most restrictions related to the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus, with most government offices returning to many normal practices beginning July 1, 2021.

Maryland has achieved a COVID-19 vaccination rate of approximately 70% statewide, however Garrett County has achieved only about 35% vaccinations as of mid-June, and partners doing business with the GSCD are urged to contact the District to make an appointment when seeking an in-person visit. Individuals who are not vaccinated are required to wear a mask when visiting the office and practice social distancing of six feet when interacting with District staff. A mail-box has been placed at the exterior entrance to the District office to facilitate business with the GSCD, MDA, NRCS and FSA.

2021 Cover Crop Program

Registration begins Thursday, July 1 and ends Friday, July 16, is entirely conducted by mail, with completed applications mailed to the GSCD office and postmarked between July 1 – July 16. The base payment for incorporated seed has been raised to \$45 per acre, with a five acre minimum, incorporated seed qualifies for a \$10 per acre early planting incentive and an extended season incentive payment of up to \$10 per acre for farmers terminating cover crops after May 1, 2022.

Eligible cover crop species include Cereal grains (wheat/spelt, rye, barley triticale, oats, ryegrass); Brassicas (forage radish and canola/rape), and Legumes (clover, Austrian winter peas and hairy vetch). Cereal grains must be planted by November 5, 2021, some mixes must be planted by October 1, 2021, and cover crops must be terminated between March 1, 2022 – June 1, 2022.

Additional and updated information, eligibility requirements, rates of payments and other important dates are on the next page, and can also be found at: https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/cover_crop.aspx

James “Smokey” Stanton, Chairman, GSCD

Congratulations to

Jillian Wood

Garrett SCD 2021 Scholarship Recipient

The Garrett SCD grants one \$1,000 scholarship annually to assist a Garrett County student in pursuing a degree in agriculture, conservation, natural resources or related environmental fields.

Please visit the Education tab on the Districts' web site at www.GarrettSCD.org or call 301-501-5886 for more information.

Cover Crop Sign-up Announced

Why Plant Cover Crops?

It's easy to understand why cover crops are so popular. Cover crops recycle nitrogen, reduce erosion, add valuable organic matter to the soil, and can help protect fields from too much and too little rain. Isn't it time you put cover crops to work in your fields? Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to apply for grants to help offset seed, labor, and equipment costs to plant cover crops in your fields this fall to protect water quality and build your soil's health. Our grants can make planting cover crops very affordable!

Mail-in Enrollment

- Enrollment will be conducted entirely by mail.
- Applications will be mailed to farmers who participated in last year's cover crop program. If you would like to participate this year or would like to access the application immediately, you may download the form **July 1 through July 16, 2021 at https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/cover_crop.aspx**
- Completed applications must be mailed to the local soil conservation district and postmarked **between July 1, 2021 and July 16, 2021.**

2021-2022 Program Highlights

- The base payment for incorporated seed has been raised to \$45/acre.
- The base rate for aerial/aerial ground seeding is \$50/acre.
- Incorporated seed qualified for a \$10/early planting incentive.
- Farmers who aerial seed or aerial ground seed cover crops into standing corn on or before September 10, 2021 qualify for a \$10/acre incentive payment.
- Farmers who terminate cover crops after May 1, 2022 may be eligible for an Extended Season incentive payment of up to \$10/acre.
- Incentives are available to plant rye **or** a multi-species cover crop.
- Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum tobacco, vegetables, hemp and millet.
- There is a five acre minimum. Total enrolled acres may not exceed acreage managed under the farm's current Nutrient Management Plan.
- Direct deposit of cost-share grants is available

2021-2022 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS					
TRADITIONAL COVER CROP PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL/AERIAL GROUND SEEDING	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base Payment	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$50/acre	\$45/acre
Plant by October 10, add:	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$0	\$0
Aerial seed into standing corn on or before September 10, add:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10/acre	\$0
Plant rye or a multi-species cover crop, add:	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre
Terminate cover crop after May 1, add:	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre
MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:	\$75/acre	\$75/acre	\$75/acre	\$80/acre	\$65/acre

Participants must be in good standing with MACS and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. A current Nutrient Management Plan Certification is required and must be submitted with the application. Additional restrictions may apply. Please visit

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/cover_crop.aspx for the most current information or contact your local soil conservation district at 301-501-5886.

Maryland Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) has established the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) to acknowledge those farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and to encourage and reward farmers to put more conservation best management practices (BMPs) on the land.

The project has established the Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard (ACSCS), which measures compliance with state requirements for the farm's nutrient management plan plus a level of conservation BMPs that prevent any significant sources of pollution from leaving the farm.

Through FSCAP, MASCD will establish a collaborative process to recognize good stewardship by farmers that will be acknowledged and respected by both the environmental and agricultural communities. By "setting the bar", it will encourage other farmers to achieve certification and participate in new conservation programs that will put more conservation on the land and reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

When a farmer volunteers to be evaluated, FSCAP works through the local soil conservation district to visit the farm to review the existing nutrient management plan, soil conservation and water quality plan and other pertinent documents to determine if the farmer meets the Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard (ACSCS).

If you are interested in learning more about the program for your farm, contact our Conservation Planners at 301-501-5886. For more information, visit <http://mascd.net/fscap/>

MASCD is proud to announce that FSCAP now has at least one certified farm in each of Maryland's 23 counties with over 50,000 acres certified! Established in 2010 by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Farm Bureau, Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, this unique program recognizes and certifies farmers who have demonstrated a superior level of stewardship. Farmers must demonstrate that they are in full compliance with their nutrient management plan and are addressing all resource concerns on their owned and rented land.

MDA announces Increased Cost Share Assistance for Farmers Installing BMP's

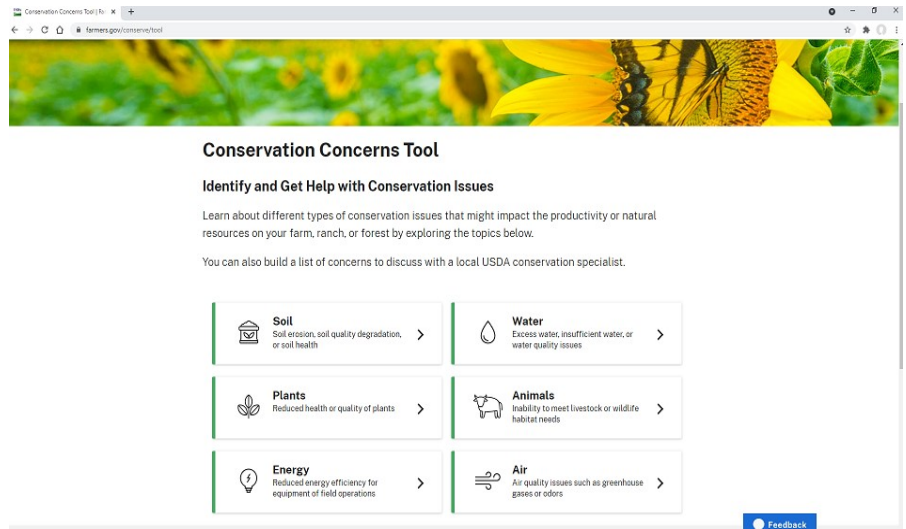
On April 14, 2021, Governor Larry Hogan signed SB 344 into law. This change in State Law will now allow the Maryland Department of Agriculture through its Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Assistance Program (known as MACS) to provide up to 100% State funding assistance for certain Agricultural Best Management Practices eligible under this program. The current program that provides cost share assistance available to farmers is capped at 87.5%. MDA is currently evaluating which Agricultural BMPs will be eligible for the increased level of cost share assistance. Some potential projects being considered for 100% cost share assistance include, but may not be limited to, land retirement, tree plantings and conservation cover all which provide a high nutrient reduction credit when compared to the cost of implementation.

Since MDA is highly focused on achieving the EPA mandated Watershed Implementation (WIP) goals. MDA believes the increase in cost share will help target those BMP's that have a low per unit cost to implement but provide a high per unit reduction. The law goes into effect on July 1, 2021 and whether you are an owner of land or operating under a lease agreement, the 100% cost share assistance would be available to all producers who meet eligibility requirements. The only exception involves the installation of satellite waste storage facilities. To receive funding for this BMP, the applicant must be the landowner. With the rising cost of construction materials as result of COVID-19, the increased level of cost share assistance may help ease the pain of these rising costs. MDA also announced that cost share rates for Poultry Manure Transport has increased to \$28 per ton for qualifying farms. If you want more information about the MACS Program please contact the District Office (301-501-5886) for more information.

New Farmers.gov Conservation Concerns Tool Provides Customized Support for America's Farmers and Ranchers

Are you interested in keeping your working land productive for years to come? Use Natural Resources Conservation Service's new [Conservation Concerns Tool](#) to learn about conservation concerns that might impact your agricultural operation, then work with us on solutions targeted to fit your business needs. This tool is available now on our [farmers.gov](#) website, no login or account necessary.

With plain language and illustrative photos, the Conservation Concerns Tool provides a walkthrough of more than 40 conservation concerns related to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and air. Use the tool to create a list of resource concerns specific to your farm, ranch, or working forest lands, then download or print your list to share with NRCS staff at your local USDA Service Center.



Real Stories. Real Successes. Real quick.

Learn about the benefits of conservation practices directly from the farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners applying them with our new 90-second video series.

A new video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, *Conservation at Work*, (The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found at [farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork](#).) presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

The first 15 videos cover:

Brush Management * Nutrient Management * Cover Crop * Prescribed Grazing * Forest Stand Improvement
Pumping Station * Grade Stabilization * Sprinkler System * Grassed Waterway * Trails and Walkways
High Tunnel * Waste Storage * No Till * Water & Sediment Control Basin * Wetland Restoration

FSA Information Center

New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once

If you file crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), you can now provide the common information from your acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

You must still contact both your local FSA office and your insurance provider to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps, or provide program-specific information, including reporting uninsured crops to FSA. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report.

You can access your FSA farm information from the convenience of your home computer using the customer self-service portal, **FSAFarm+**. You'll have the ability to view, print or export personal farm data, such as field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

Maps for Acreage Reporting are Available

Maps are now available at the Garrett County FSA Office for acreage reporting purposes. If you wish to receive your maps by e-mail, please call our office at 301-501-5885 or email Connie Stemple at connie.stemple@usda.gov. **In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits**, you must file timely acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the **crop acreage reporting deadline of July 15**, may cause ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline. Producers are encouraged to file their acreage reports as soon as planting is completed. www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Available For Rent

Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime & Fertilizer Spreader and 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill



The Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime Spreader was purchased to promote better growth and plant vigor of cropland and pasture. Improving soil fertility is an excellent way to revitalize an old meadow or pasture. Proper soil pH is important for crop and pasture performance. Vigorous vegetative growth minimizes soil erosion from runoff and minimizes the harmful effects on surface water quality from sediment and nutrients in runoff.

No-till farming (also called zero tillage or direct drilling) is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. No-till is an agricultural technique which increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil and increases organic matter retention and cycling of nutrients in the soil. In many agricultural regions it can reduce or eliminate soil erosion. It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil, including disease-causing organisms and disease organisms. The most powerful benefit of no-tillage is improvement in soil biological fertility, making soils more resilient. Farm operations are made much more efficient, particularly improved time of sowing and better trafficability of farm operations.

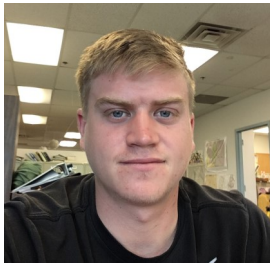
The rental rate for the Transpread 5.5 Ton spreader is \$3.00/ton of any material spread with a \$30.00 minimum charge. The John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill is available for rent at \$10.00 per acre with a \$30.00 minimum charge. For additional information or to have your name added to the list, contact the Garrett SCD at 301-501-5886.

Meet the new office staff...



Jessica Klotz joined the Garrett SCD office in April 2021 as an MDA Conservation Planner. Previously, Jessica has worked in the stormwater management field in Cecil County. A native of Oakland, Jessica received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Analysis and Planning from Frostburg State University in 2017. Jessica received her master's degree in Environmental Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus in 2020. In her free time, Jessica enjoys hiking, photography, kayaking, and birdwatching.

Cody Myers recently joined the Garrett SCD office as a MDA technician. Cody is a native to Oakland MD and graduated from Southern High School in 2011. After graduation he worked on a local farm as well as doing construction and contracting work. Cody is happy to be on board, and looks forward to servicing the landowners of Garrett County.



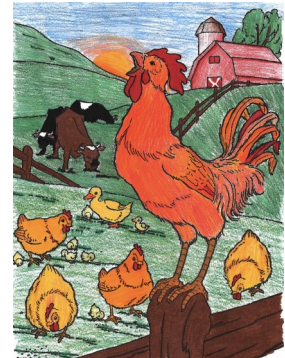
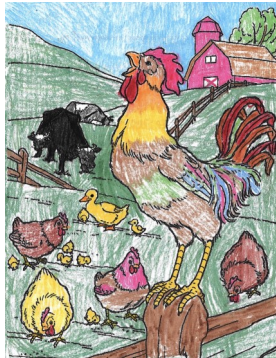
William "Will" Gindlesberger joined the Garrett SCD in October of 2020 as a USDA-NRCS Technician. He joined the Western Maryland RC&D in early 2018 and has covered projects in the following counties; Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett. Will graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Will is excited to service Garrett County because this is where he grew up.

Coloring Contest Winners

The Garrett Soil Conservation District held its Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Coloring Contest judging during the May 18th Board of Supervisors meeting. The coloring contest was open to all Garrett County children in grades K through 5, the District received around 150 entries. The contest encourages children to channel their own creativity on an agricultural designed coloring template.

The Board of Supervisors selected 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the three entry classes. The winners received a cash prize. The 1st place winning entries will be forwarded onto The Hyatt Regency at Cambridge MD to be judged along with other Maryland SCD's county winners at the MASCD summer conference, August 1-3, 2021.

The Garrett SCD is committed to promoting education by helping students understand the benefits of proper management and conservation of our nation's natural resources. Congratulations to our winners and good luck at the State competition! They belong to Harper Kitzmiller, Eleanor Burrow, & Kasi Ouellette.



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

SERVICE CENTER PHONE NUMBERS

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**

**Available to rent from Garrett SCD:
Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime & Fertilizer
Spreader & 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill.
Call the office at 301-501-5886.**

If you would like to:

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

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

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

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)

Jarrod Sisler, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)

Jessica Klotz, Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (MDA)

Jessica Aronhalt, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)

Jacob Metcalf, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)

Will Gindlesberger, Soil Conservation Technician (USDA-NRCS)

Carrie Colebank, Administrative Assistant (SCD)

Board of Supervisors

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman

Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman

Cameron Crawford, Treasurer

Katharine Dubansky, Vice Treasurer

William 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.