

Garrett Soil Conservation District

Conservation News

1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite C Mt Lake Park, MD 21550

www.garrettscd.org

301-501-5886

[\\$600 Stimulus Payment Available](#)

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture, in conjunction with the MDA, is distributing one-time relief payments of \$600 to eligible front-line farm and meat-packing workers.

Both adults and youth are eligible. Individuals must have completed at least one hour of frontline labor during the Pandemic. This can include vegetable production, produce cleaning, and/or packing, tending livestock, meat processing, or meat packing.

Farm and farm business owners are not eligible unless they did front line work for another farm. Farm managers and service workers are not eligible unless they did front-line work as well. For more info, go to <https://farmworkers.com/#apply>.

Small Acreage Cover Crop Program

Maryland's new Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program has announced that Smaller Farms can now benefit from their own Small Acreage Cover Crop Program. This program pays for the costs to plant cover crops, up to \$1500 per farm.

To qualify for this program, farms need to generate at least \$1000 per year from their farm business and be planting less than ten acres of cover crop.

Cover crops may be planted in open fields, raised beds, or a high tunnel, following the harvest of a production crop.

Eligible cover crops include cereal grains and seed mixes, which must be planted no later than November 30, 2023, to qualify. Growers will be reimbursed based on paid receipts.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://garrettscd/smallfarmcovercrops/>.
Enrollment is April 24 through May 26.

Important Dates

[Board of Supervisor's Meetings,](#)
May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15

[Small Acreage Cover Crop Sign-Up](#)
– April 24 – May 26

Scholarship Winner Announcement
– June

[Manure Transport/Injection](#)
completed by June 30

[Traditional Cover Crop Sign-Up](#) –
July 1 through July 18

[NR Career Camp](#) – July 23-28

[Fair 4H and FFA Booth or Banner](#)
Contest – July 29



The District offers a No-Till Drill and a Lime Spreader for [rent at low cost](#).

Call us at 301-501-5886 for more information.



Letter from the Chairman James "Smokey" Stanton

New GSCD Board of Supervisors member: Welcome to Richard W. (Butch) Helbig, who has been appointed to the GSCD Board by the State Soil Conservation Committee. Mr. Helbig begins his term representing the University of Maryland Extension Service, replacing Cameron Crawford.

Maryland Nutrient Management: Maryland law requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure. Nutrient management plans specify how much fertilizer, manure or other nutrient sources may be safely applied to crops to achieve yields and prevent excess nutrients from impacting waterways. Because of their complexity, these plans must be prepared by a certified University of Maryland specialist, certified private consultant, or farmer who is trained and certified by the department to prepare his or her own plan.

Farmers are required to submit copies of their initial nutrient management plans to the Nutrient Management Program, update plans before they expire, take new soil samples a minimum of once every three years, obtain manure analyses (if using manure) at least every other year, and submit Annual Implementation Reports documenting how they implemented their plans during the previous year. These reports are due to MDA annually by March 1. Farmers who apply nutrients to 10 or more acres a year are required to attend a two-hour nutrient applicator course once every three years. Farmers who are certified to prepare their own nutrient management plans are exempt from this requirement for upcoming voucher training and farmer certification classes. More information at: https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/farmer_information.aspx

Nutrient Management Plans: To efficiently develop your plan, UMES advises gathering the following information:

- A recent soil test, less than three years old, for each field you manage
- A recent manure analysis, less than one-year-old, if you plan to apply manure or organic nutrient-containing materials (e.g., compost or processing waste)
- A map of your farm showing the boundaries of your farm and fields
- Management history for each field, including current/previous season's crop, tillage regime, manure/organic application rates for the previous two seasons, and yield history, if possible
- Plans for the upcoming growing season for each field, including what crops and nutrient applications are expected. Multiple scenarios can be built into the plan.
- Animal Information, if applicable, including weight, amount and type of bedding used, and turnout/confinement schedule
- Manure import/export information, if applicable, which should include the name and contact information of the export destination.

Envirothon

Each year, the District helps students learn about conservation through a youth training and competition called [Envirothon](#).

Envirothon allows students the opportunity to learn from professionals in the fields of Soils; Aquatics; Forestry; and Wildlife conservation, while obtaining hands-on skills in these areas.



This year, there was an Envirothon training day on April 12, with the competition being held at Camp Hickory on April 26. Two teams, one from Northern High, and one from Southern High, participated in the events. See our website for [photos](#) of the teams in action.

Congratulations to the SOUTHERN HIGH SALAMANDERS for winning the County Envirothon this year! We are proud of you team members: Sophia Lambert, Zabiana Dillsworth, Rylee Iden, Fontana Moreland, Lani Daugherty, and Erin Coffman. The Salamanders also won the Soil challenge.

As the winning team the Salamanders will be able to attend the [State Envirothon](#) competition in June. This year’s State Envirothon is being held in Garrett County at the 4H Camp, June 15 and 16. County Envirothon winners from all over the state will travel to Garrett County for the event.

Conservation and Natural Resource Careers



Conservation and Natural Resource Jobs are increasing faster than they can be filled, so it is an excellent career choice. If you know a student interested in a career in Conservation or Natural Resources, there are programs to help students on their journey. Here are a few:

- 1. Envirothon
- 2. The Garrett Soil Conservation District Scholarship
- 3. Natural Resources Careers Camp

The [Maryland State Natural Resources Career Camp](#) is going to be held July 23 – 28 at Camp Hickory. Students will have the chance to learn about careers in Conservation and Natural Resources while learning from professional in the field.

The total cost is \$650, which covers lodging and meals in addition to activities, but there may be scholarships available from the Garrett County Forestry Board.

Space is very limited. For more information go to <https://garrettscd.org/camp>



The Traditional Cover Crop Program – More Than 5 Acres

[Sign-up July 1 – 18, 2023](#)

2022-2023 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS					
TRADITIONAL COVER CROPS PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL/ AERIAL GROUND SEEDING	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base payment:	\$55/acre	\$55/acre	\$55/acre	\$60/acre	\$55/acre
Plant by October 10, <i>add:</i>	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre
Aerial seed into standing corn on or before September 10, <i>add:</i>	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$10/acre	\$0/acre
Plant rye or a multi-species cover crop, <i>add:</i>	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre
Terminate cover crop after May 1, <i>add:</i>	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre
Maximum Payment Amount:	\$90/acre	\$90/acre	\$90/acre	\$95/acre	\$80/acre
<i>Flat rate:</i> (for cover crops planted from November 6 through November 15)	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$45/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre

USDA'S Web Soil Survey Tool

The USDA has a database that gives landowners information about the types of soils on their land.

This is important for many reasons, including helping landowners understand if there are parts of their property that may have higher conservation needs.

We have added instructions on our website about how to use the tool to find your specific soil type. You can find it at <https://garrettscd.org/websoilsurvey/>

Of significant importance is the "Land Capability Classification". This allows

landowners to know if there are special management needs for their soil. For example, Class 3e soils have severe limitations that restrict what types of plants can be grown on the site, and they require additional conservation practices to avoid severe erosion.

The Web Soil Survey Tool only gives the class but does not explain the meaning of the class, so you'll need to look up the classification on the USDA's chart. You'll find a link to the [Land Capability Classification chart](#) on the website as well.



Find directions and a link to the Web Soil Survey Tool on our website at <https://garrettscd.org/websoilsurvey/>



Tree Planting Bonus Program

Maryland Department of Agriculture is offering a new tree planting bonus program. The bonus is available to farmers and landowners who install qualifying conservation practices financed through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share program. The incentive aims to help Maryland achieve its ambitious tree-planting goal to capture greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Under the new incentive program, eligible farmers will receive \$2 for each new tree planted as part of an approved conservation practice that began April 1, 2023.

The bonus payment will be provided when the conservation practice is fully installed. This payment is in addition to the regular cost-share rate for the qualifying practice. It is available for the following:

- Windbreak Establishment - \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Silvopasture - \$2 per tree plus up to 87.5% cost-share
- Riparian Forest Buffer - \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Hedgerow Planting - \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share
- Tree and Shrub Establishment - \$2 per tree plus up to 100% cost-share

Those interested should visit our office at **1916 Maryland Hwy, Ste C, Mt. Lake Park, MD** or call **301-501-5886** to apply for cost-share funding and to receive free technical assistance to install new practices. Applicants must be in good standing with the program and in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations to be eligible. Other restrictions apply. When contacting our office, please tell us that you are interested in the new Bonus Program for Tree Plantings with MDA. For more information go to <https://garrettscd.org/mdatreeplantingbonus-2/>



The District Congratulates the Southern High FFA

The Southern High School FFA (*Future Farmers of America*) Land Advisory Team won first place for the State of Maryland in Homesite Judging.

Congratulations to Autumn Custer, Bailey Schmidt, Kira Rinker, and Colton Tasker on a job well done!

The team will travel to Oklahoma in May for the National Competition.

Miranda Rounds, SCD MDA Planner presented a check from the District to Colton Tasker to help the team with expenses for the National Competition Trip.

Better Understanding Your Soil Conservation District

Have you ever wondered exactly what the Soil Conservation District is?

The mission of Soil Conservation Districts is to coordinate assistance from available sources to help develop local solutions to natural resource concerns. There is a Soil Conservation District in almost every county in the country.

The Soil Conservation District is not a regulatory agency. Instead, we protect the environment by helping farmers and landowners to be able to install conservation practices on their land. We do this by providing expertise in conservation, project planning, and helping to find funding for farmers and landowners that qualify for it.

We know that farmers and landowners want to protect their land. But they don't always have the expertise in every area or the resources to do everything that is needed.

Hiring a planner to draw up plans is expensive, and that is before the project even gets started. The District provides this service free.

Additionally, the District applies for funding for projects for farmers and landowners that qualify, on behalf of the farmer or landowner. The District handles both NRCS MDA funding.



Manure Storage

The District Website

You will find the District Website at <https://garrettscd.org>

- Learn More About District Programs
- Read Announcements
- Find Resources
- Download Forms
- Learn About Conservation
- See Old Garrett County Photos

Think you already know about everything the District has to offer? Are you sure??



Cattle Water Trough

It's a Unique Relationship

Our District Office has employees that work for NRCS and employees that work for MDA, but we are all part of the Soil Conservation District. So, we all work together.

NRCS is the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#). NRCS is an agency of the federal USDA.

MDA is the [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#). It is a Maryland State agency.

Both NRCS and MDA handle different funding programs. But when someone comes to the District for help, we try to place them in the funding source that makes the most sense for that property unless the individual requests a specific program.

A farmer or landowner could potentially have a conservation plan developed by an MDA employee and receive NRCS funding, which is handled by an NRCS employee. We are all in the same office, and we all work together as one team.

We also partner with the USDA's FSA (Farm Service Agency) and the MD Department of Forestry for many projects, but they are not actually part of the District.

What do we mean when we say Conservation Practice?

Conservation practices are things that protect water and soil.

You may have already guessed that planting trees and brush for wildlife is a conservation practice. But did you know that building a [roofed, cattle congregating area](#) is a conservation practice? The reason is because when soil is loosened and has no plants growing in it to hold it in place, it erodes. And groups of cattle gathering in one area consistently means eroded soil.



Livestock Congregation Area



Finzel Swamp Foot Bridge

How about [fencing](#) or a [cattle watering trough](#)? Well, if a farmer has a stream or pond on the property, it makes sense to let the cattle drink out of that natural water source. But then the water becomes polluted with animal feces and mud. Our office helps many farmers build fences to keep livestock out of streams and ponds and concrete watering troughs so that farm stock has fresh, clean water. But it isn't quite that simple. Watering troughs need piping to get the water to the trough. So, our office also helps with piping and other things necessary to move water to the trough.

These are just a few examples, but we think you get the idea.



Cattle Crossing

The District has also been involved in some [community projects](#) that encompass community waters and soil, like building bridges and dams, and reclaiming old mine sites.



If you know someone who would like to receive the District newsletter, please have them [contact us](#) to be added to the list.



A Look Back

[2nd Street in Oakland flooded](#). July 1938. Before the Soil Conservation Service built Winters' and the Hospital Dams, the town of Oakland flooded regularly.

The Soil Conservation Service is now called NRCS and is part of the District. See more photos at <https://garrettscd.org/flooding>.



Visit us at <https://garrettscd.org> and on [Facebook](#) at [Garrett Soil Conservation District](#)

Garrett Soil Conservation District

Business Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 301-501-5886



Office Staff

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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 family status.

Board of Supervisors

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman
Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman
Katharine Dubansky, Treasurer
Bill Buckel, Member
Butch Helbig, Member

If you would like to know more about being a supervisor or associate supervisor, please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.

Editor – Jeannie Frazee