

# Garrett Soil Conservation District Conservation News

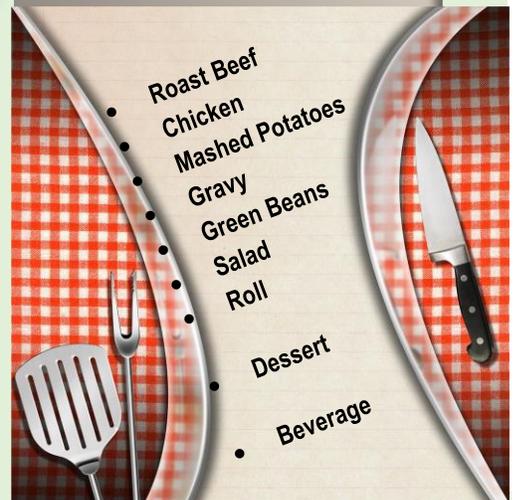
1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite C Mt Lake Park, MD 21550

<https://garrettscd.org>

301-501-5886



We invite you to spend an evening with us to highlight the advances Garrett County has made in the last year protecting our greatest resources, soil and water.



Garrett Soil Conservation District will hold its annual Cooperator's Dinner on **Thursday, November 20**, at the Bittering Mennonite Gymnasium.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m.

There are only a few tickets left. Please contact [jeannie.frazee@maryland.com](mailto:jeannie.frazee@maryland.com) ASAP to inquire.

The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under are free but still need a reservation.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- October 10 – Cover Crop Aerial Seeding Deadline and Oats, Legumes, Forage Radish, and Rape Seed Planting Deadline
- October 21 – Board of Supervisors Meeting
- November 5 – Cover Crop Cereal Grains Planting Deadline
- November 11 – GSCD Office Closed
- November 12 – Cover Crop Certification Deadline
- November 18 – Bd of Supervisors Meeting
- November 20 – Cooperator's Dinner, 6 PM
- November 27 & 28 – GSCD Office Closed
- December 1 – Cover Crop – All documentation must be submitted
- December 15 – Deadline Fall Manure Transport
- December 16 - Board of Supervisors Meeting

## Cooperator's Dinner 2025

Home Cooked Meal Prepared by  
Bittering Mennonite Church

Guest Speakers

Producer Awards

District Highlights

50/50 Raffle

Gift Basket Auction



## Scholarship Winners

The District Board of Supervisors has awarded two \$1000 scholarships to area students for 2025.

The winners were Benjamin Nazelrod and Cristy Enlow.

To qualify, students must be planning to study agriculture, natural resources, or large animal medicine. They are also required to have at least a 3.0 GPA and be living in Garrett County at the time of high school graduation.

Funding for the scholarships this year primarily came from a donation of \$250 from the Farm Credit Bureau and money raised through the GSCD Fruit Tree and Bush Sale. Thank you to everyone who supported the sale!



*Smokey Stanton, former Board Chairman, presents \$1000 scholarships to Benjamin Nazelrod and Cristy Enlow on behalf of the GSCD Board of Supervisors*



### Benjamin Nazelrod

Benjamin is a 2025 graduate of Southern High School. He plans to either attend Garrett College or Frostburg State University to major in Biology with a minor in Animal Behavior.

Benjamin would like to become a Wildlife Researcher, and he plans to study the populations of native birds in the Appalachian Mountains.

He has been in poultry farming since the age of two and currently manages a flock of 62 birds. "Taking care of my birds has been a catalyst for my interest and curiosity of the living world around me," states Nazelrod. "Spending time taking note of the communication styles of birds, their hierarchy in the flock, and the subtle differences in their breeds and genetic traits has led to a larger interest in the biological sciences."



### Cristy Enlow



Cristy is a 2025 graduate of Potomac State College, and she is currently at WVU to continue her studies in Agrobusiness Management.

Cristy grew up working on her family farm where she was involved in all aspects of the operation, including caring for the family's cattle herd and producing maple syrup. After college, Cristy would like to take over her family's generational farm or work for Farm Credit Bureau to help other local farmers.

Cristy is a graduate of Northern High School. She is an alumni member of the North Garrett FFA and was the 2023 Farm Queen. While at Potomac State she was a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation Club and the Potomac State Ag Club. She completed a farm fellowship at Brookdale Farm this spring through Eastern Technical College.

"Going to college has given me tons of opportunities, from meeting people and learning valuable information to just having real world experiences, Cristy notes. "I would like to continue my education further to better the future of agriculture."

## We Are Getting a New No-Till Drill

The District is purchasing a new No-Till Drill!

The District rents out a No-Till Drill to area farmers to help promote zero tillage farming. With the drill, farmers plant seeds by drilling them into the ground, often through current plant residue or after weed kill-down methods. The District's 7500 lb Drill can inject many seeds into the ground quickly allowing farmers to plant large areas.

Planting without tilling the soil helps prevent soil erosion. It also encourages root growth in plants which increases organic matter. This helps water infiltrate the soil instead of running off or evaporating.

No-tillage increases the amount and variety of life both in and on the soil, and that advances soil health. No-tillage is simply a win, win.

The new Drill will be here around February, but until then the District will be continuing rent out the old Drill.

Producers will need to fill out paperwork and present a credit card to rent the Drill. To avoid the Cleaning & Maintenance fee, those using the Drill need to clean it before returning.



**Rent the Drill**

**\$10 Acre**

[jeannie.fraze@maryland.gov](mailto:jeannie.fraze@maryland.gov)

or 301-501-5886

## Garrett County Fair 4H Booth Winners

Each year, the District holds a contest encouraging 4H Clubs to enter a display booth in the 4H building at the Garrett County Agricultural Fair. Displays need to feature conservation. It affords 4H clubs the opportunity to learn about agricultural and forestry conservation, while giving the members a chance to win some funds for their club.

The District awards \$100 to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, \$75 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were only two entries this year.

### Great job Finzel and Fireflies!!

We challenge all the 4H clubs in the county to enter next year. If you need resources, stop by our office.



1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner – **Finzel 4-H Club**  
(above)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner – **Friendsville Fireflies**  
(below)



## Understanding the District

Maybe you're an old friend of the District and you know all about how it works. Or maybe you have heard about the District and possibly even worked with us, but you don't really understand its very unusual staffing. In any case, here's an overview.



### Who Runs GSCD?

The Garrett Soil Conservation District is run by a five-member **Board of Supervisors**.

**Associate Members** can also join the Board. They can't vote but they can help influence policy and contribute to discussions.

Board members set district policy and oversee District spending. They create outreach and fund-raising plans, and establish community services, like rental of the No-Till Drill.



### Who Works at GSCD?

#### NRCS Staff

*(Natural Resource Conservation Service – USDA)*

- Chad Bucklew – District Conservationist
- Will Gindlesberger – Soil Conservationist

#### RC&D - NRCS Support Staff

*(Resource Conservation & Development)*

- John Grose – Program Support Specialist

#### MDA Staff

*(Maryland Department of Agriculture)*

- Seth Metheny – District Manager, E&S Manager
- Jarrod Sisler – Soil Conservation Technician
- Samantha Miller – Soil Conservation Technician
- Jillian Mason – Planner
- Miranda Rounds – Planner
- Vacant

#### GSCD Staff

*(Garrett Soil Conservation District)*

- Randy Storey – E&S Reviewer
- Jeannie Frazee – Administrative Specialist, Web Developer, E&S Admin

## What Does GSCD Do?



- Write Free Conservation Plans
- Give Free Technical Advice to Producers Regarding Conservation Practices and Structures
- Help Producers Obtain Funding for Conservation Practices if Applicable
- Design Conservation Structures
- Advise on Forestry or Agricultural Conservation Practices
- Administer Erosion & Sediment Control
- Educate the Public About Conservation
- Conduct Community Outreach

## Who are GSCD's Immediate Partners?

### FSA

(Farm Service Agency)

- Connie Stemple – FSA Executive Director
- Annetta Enlow – FSA Program Technician
- Emma Rush – FSA Program Assistant



## Allegheny County Soil Conservation District

- Share some resources including a Forester – Slater Hafer
- Civil Engineering Technician – Dakota Hamilton

## Board Associate Positions Available

The Garrett SCD is seeking individuals with knowledge and sincere interest in proper land use and conservation of natural resources to be considered to join the Board as an Associate Member.

For more information, please contact Seth Metheny at [seth.metheny1@maryland.gov](mailto:seth.metheny1@maryland.gov) or 301-501-5886.



**Thank you for your service, Smokey!**

**Board Chairman**  
April 2019 – October 2025

**Board of Supervisors**  
2011 – 2025

**Board of Supervisors**  
Associate  
2007 – 2011



*James "Smokey"  
Stanton*

**18 Years of Service!**

## We Won!

The Garrett Soil Conservation District won the MASCD State of Maryland Communications Award in July for materials produced throughout 2024!!

The award is given to one Conservation District in the state that demonstrates the best communications. Areas judged are website, email marketing, social media marketing, print media, press releases, and education materials produced.

Interestingly, the Garrett District has a much smaller communications budget than many of the Districts that were in the running. And some of those Districts have a dedicated Marketing Manager, whereas Garrett's communications and marketing are all handled by staff holding other positions.

Those involved with communications at the Garrett District include: Seth Metheny (manager), Miranda Rounds (social media, copywrite), and Jeannie Frazee (websites, email marketing, print media, copywrite, and press releases).



Seth Metheny (right) accepts the MASCD Communications Award on behalf of the Garrett District.

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## NRCS Garrett County Overview for FY25

The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30 each year. Totals in Garrett County for FY 25 are as follows. This is NRCS totals only. They do not include MDA assistance.

There were 24 contracts funded for a total of \$441,000 for Garrett County.

Contracts funded were:

- 7 Wildlife and Forestry
- 8 High Tunnels
- 1 Low Tunnel
- 2 Grazing Systems
- 1 Irrigation Efficiency Improvement
- 5 SEMA Forest Stewardship plans



Funding through ActNow was frozen at the beginning of the year, greatly

reducing the amount of cost-share funding available. Garrett County spent all its allotted funds and was able to secure some of the funds not spent by other counties.



The NRCS in Garrett County is currently operating with only two staff members and an assistant from RC&D.

The NRCS office is temporarily closed due to the government shutdown.

Garrett Soil Conservation District's

# Tree and Bush Sale

All trees & bushes customized to Garrett County climate and growing conditions!

## ● Apple

- Smokehouse – 1837 Amish Heirloom
- Arkansas Black – Garrett County's Deer Apple, Great for People Too
- Northwest Greening – Heirloom, Has Survived -50 F
- Northern Spy – Heirloom, May Bear for Decades
- JonaMac – A Macintosh Jonathon Cross, Fresh Eating Favorite
- Nova Spy – Loved, Faster-Bearing Nod to Northern Spy
- Yellow Transparent – Heirloom, Grandma's Sauce Apple
- Crimson Crisp – Flavor Superior to Honey Crisp
- Wolf River – Heirloom with 1 lb Apples
- Summer Rambo – 1500's Heirloom, Merryweather Pie Champ
- Wiltons Red Jonaprince (Dwarf) – The Red Prince

## ● Plum

Stanley – The Old Standby  
Bluebyrd – A True WV Plum, Heavy Clay Soil  
Long John – Our Best Plum Seller

## ● Pear

Bartlett – 1700's Heirloom, Still Popular  
Red Bartlett – The Healthier Pear  
Potomac – Good Fireblight Resistance  
Harrow Sweet – Excellent Fireblight Resistance  
Golden Russet Bosc – The Portrait Pear

## ● Cherry

Montmorency - #1 Commercial Tart Cherry  
Stardust – A White Northern Sweet Cherry!

## ● Peach

Contender – The Cold Climate Standard, Freestone  
More peach varieties may be listed later

**Order Now!**  
**Pick up April 2026**



*Some varieties may sell out before close of sale!  
First come, first serve.*

**Plus – Blueberries, Elderberries, Black Raspberries & Red Raspberries**

<https://garrettsoilconservation.org>

## Challenge

Life is busy, especially for farmers. So much to do, and not nearly enough time.

To deal with all that stress, producers can become set in a yearly routine, doing things the same way for years.

If you haven't already done so recently, this winter, take time to re-evaluate your farming practices for ways to be more efficient and to improve outcomes. If you need advice about conservation needs, we would be happy to help.



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### The Dust Particle from the Garrett Soil Conservation District

**The Dust Magician Starts It All**  
Way back, less than 100 years ago, about the time your Grandparents were growing up, there was this guy named Hugh Hammond Bennett who worked as a scientist.  
Now, Big Hugh, as he was called, wasn't just any kind of scientist: he studied soil. (You know, that stuff on the ground you call dirt.) He loved to learn anything he could about soil. And he studied it so much that he was awarded a job for the government that allowed him to hire teams of other people to help him study dirt.  
Hold tight, we are getting to the good part.  
One of Big Hugh's favorite things to do was watch soil move from one place to another. In case you are thinking that the dirt in your yard doesn't move, I have big news: it does! But thanks to Big Hugh, not as quickly now.  
Yes, Big Hugh noticed that the dirt in someone's yard could get up and move to someone else's yard. And sometimes it moved far away. Like all the way across the country away. And the favorite place for dirt to go when it moves is into water. Like the coast of the ocean, which carries it even further away!  
Now, what do you think would happen if all the soil around you got up and flew to the ocean. Try to picture it!  
Big Hugh tried to tell a lot of people how serious this could become if they didn't do something to stop the dirt from being able to move, but no one would listen to him. So, he started a plan.

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## Free Children's Booklet

The District has created a 12-page children's booklet that is loaded with fun activities, stories, games, and trivia. It is geared toward elementary and middle school. Pre-school will enjoy it too with a little assistance.

The activities and stories teach basic soil science, conservation, and a simple understanding of what a Soil Conservation District does.

The booklet is FREE. Stop by our office during regular hours to pick one up. Bulk copies are available to school groups, youth groups and clubs free of charge as well. Email [jeannie.frazee@maryland.gov](mailto:jeannie.frazee@maryland.gov) for more information.

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

- [Seth Metheny](#), District Manager (MDA)
- [Chad Bucklew](#), District Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
- [Will Gindlesberger](#), Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
- [Jarrod Sisler](#), Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
- [Jillian Mason](#), Conservation Planner (MDA)
- [Miranda Rounds](#), Conservation Planner (MDA)
- [Samantha Miller](#), Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
- Vacant – Soil Con Technician (USDA-NRCS)
- Vacant – Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
- Vacant – Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
- [John Grose](#), Program Support Specialist (RC&D)
- [Jeannie Frazee](#), Administrative Specialist/Web Developer (GSCD)



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**  
**Kristen Enlow, Chair**  
**Butch Helbig, Treasurer, UMD Representative**  
**Nevin Sines, GC Commissioner's Representative**  
**Dorsey Guard, GC Farm Bureau Representative**  
**Vacant – Being filled**

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