

Calvert Soil Conservation District



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2014 ANNUAL REPORT



calvertsoil.org





Message from the District Conservationist

2014 Welcomes Farm Bill and Opportunities

Year 2014 welcomed a new Farm Bill and opportunities to help our producers and landowners provide conservation practices in Southern Maryland. The Agricultural Act of 2014 was signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Farm Bill addresses the need for sustaining the nation's food supply and provides opportunities for protecting soil and water resources on the farm.

The Farm Bill merges some of the programs in the previous Farm Bill. The previous Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program were combined to become the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) was created by the combining of the previous Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. The new Regional Conservation Partnership Program was formed by combining the previous Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, Chesapeake Bay Water Initiative, and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Other programs remained the same and kept the same name.

Over the last five years most of the NRCS program participation that received financial assistance in Calvert County was to address erosion issues such as livestock and implementation of grazing systems and initiatives on oyster habitat. The conservation practices utilized for erosion control included pond repair, lined waterways or outlets, diversions, grassed waterways, grade stabilization, and critical area seeding. Conservation cover and fencing was used to support these practices to protect critical areas and limit livestock access to streams and waterways.

Livestock and grazing systems may include water facilities, pasture planting, implementation of rotational grazing and interior fence for division of paddocks, heavy use areas, and waste storage and compost facilities. There was participation in the oyster habitat initiative. Other practices included Seasonal High Tunnel installation for producers growing vegetables in organic and non-organic systems. The use of Nutrient Management includes implementing nutrient management plan, manure or nutrient testing, PSNT, split application or slow release N, and incorporation of organic materials or manure with equipment such as Aerway or Turbo Till.

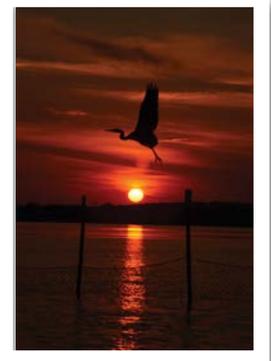
We look forward to working with producers and landowners in Southern Maryland with opportunities provided by the new Farm Bill. Please feel free to contact me or any of our staff at the Prince Frederick Field Service Center at our new location.

Oliver Miranda

Bill Clark Wins National Photo Contest

Bill Clark, district manager at Calvert Soil Conservation District, was awarded first place in a 2013 national photo contest sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Clark submitted the winning photograph (shown on the right) under the Close Up Conservation category. He captured this photo at sunset on the Patuxent River near the fish nets just south of the 231 bridge.



Psalms 65:13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.



2014 ENGINEERING AND PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



County Landowners Assisted	147
Conservation Plans Completed	1,996 acres
New Cooperators	7

Best Management Practices Installed (75 total):

Fence	4,178 feet
Lined Waterway/Outlet	36 feet
Underground Outlet.....	92 feet
Seasonal High Tunnel.....	2,880 square feet
Livestock Pipeline	1,885 feet
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	0.1 acres
Heavy Use Area	0.2 acres
Nutrient Management.....	121.1 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation.....	121.1 acres
Cover Crop.....	3,695.6 acres
Pasture and Hayland Planting.....	14.6 acres
Prescribed Grazing	46.8 acres
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch-Till	74.3 acres
Critical Area Seeding Restoration and Management	0.3 acres
Forest Management Plan	601.8 acres
Roof Runoff Structure.....	1 each
Stream Crossing	1 each
Pond	1 each
Grade Stabilization	1 each
Watering Facility	2 each



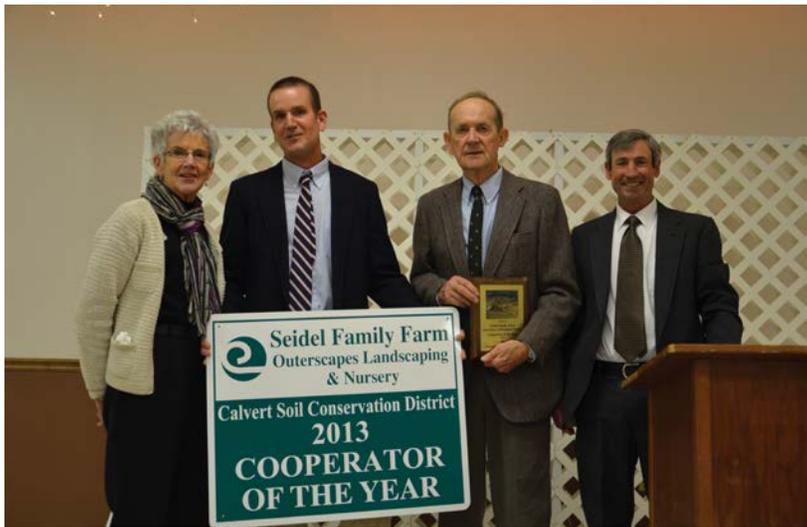
EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW



Site Plan Reviews (all types).....	449
Commercial/Subdivision Plans Reviewed	63

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

2014 Annual Cooperators' Dinner

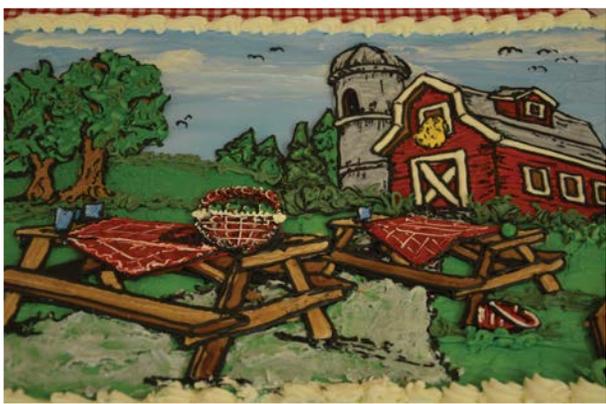


Chairman Tommy Briscoe (far right) presents the 2013 Cooperator of the Year Award to the Seidel Family, from left: Donann, Josef III and Josef, Jr.

Calvert Soil Conservation District held its twelfth Annual Cooperators' Dinner on March 13, 2014 at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. Over two hundred and fifty cooperators, staff, friends and family gathered together to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Thompson's Seafood. During the dinner the district presented the 2013 Cooperator of the Year Award to the Seidel family of Outerscapes Landscaping and Nursery for their conservation efforts over the years. To show our support for Calvert County farmers and watermen, our door prizes this year were purchased from Calvert County producers and included fresh eggs, beef, honey, oysters and wine from local wineries.



Everyone had an enjoyable time at the dinner and the district hopes to see Calvert's farmers again in 2015 to share a good meal and information on conservation programs.



Everyone enjoyed a great meal prepared by Thompson's Seafood (top photo).

Dessert was a lovely cake prepared by Wildewood Bakery depicting a picnic scene which was the theme of the dinner (bottom photo).



Summer intern Danielle Crocker displays one of the many door prizes awarded at the dinner.

New Places, New Faces, and Lingering Traces



It was an exciting year as the district moved to its new location at 489 Main Street. After more than 25 years in the Kaine Building we had collected a lot of stuff. Bill and I found it difficult to dispose of things not needed any longer due to the “conservationists” (hoarders) among us. There was much discussion and wrangling as we pared down

to a manageable size. There was also a fair amount of reminiscing as we were completing the history of Calvert Soil Conservation District this past year.

Where did the time go? Bill and I are all that is left of the original staff who moved from the second floor of the Post Office Building to the Kaine Building. An important lesson learned from that move was to not schedule it on a Friday. It took much longer than the estimator from the moving company thought it would and Russ Mader (our district conservationist at the time) and I were left until 10:00 p.m. with a crew who had not been able to get back to their shop for their paychecks! Russ bought them



Calvert Soil Conservation District staff in front of the district's new office, from left: Oliver Miranda, Jen David, Geoff Westbrook, Tammy Bowen, Janet Hall, Caroline Trossbach, Susan Davis, Angella Hunter, Ron Babcock, and Bill Clark.

pizza and soft drinks for dinner to try and mollify them. So we scheduled this move to Main Street on a Wednesday, and I guess times have changed because the movers could not have been more professional and efficient!

In addition to moving we have had staff changes over the last couple of years as you can see from the photo. Cindy Nieland and Jenny Snoddy retired after about 18 years each. Tammy Bowen is our new district secretary and Jenny's MDA position is unfilled. Jen David, MDA, is in her 19th year here. After Craig and Paula Mask retired in 2013, Caroline Trossbach and Angella Hunter came on to fill those positions. Our USDA-NRCS staff, Oliver Miranda, district conservationist, and Susan Davis, resource conservationist, have been assigned to our district for more than a year. They rotate between our district and the Charles and St. Mary's Districts. They can be reached any time if we need assistance. Ron Babcock and Geoff Westbrook, erosion and sediment control specialists, have been here 25 and 5 years respectively, and most of you know them. Bill and I have been here 29 years. Everyone is getting along great as we always have. We have been truly blessed all this time by staff who love what they do and respect and help one another. We are happy in our new office at 489 Main Street, Suite 101. Our phone number is the same: 410-535-1521. extension 3. Call if you need assistance or come by and see us!

Janet Hall, Administrative Aide



Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.

CONSERVING OUR RESOURCES...

...With a Diversion and Grade Stabilization

The Problem

Gully erosion was cutting out the upstream end of a small pond and working its way into the adjacent farm field not far from the Patuxent River. This caused increased sedimentation of the pond and increased the chances that excessive nutrient or pesticide residues could be delivered to local waterways. In addition, the slope was steep, overgrown and difficult to maintain.



Clearing



Pipe and Box Installed



Grading Back Slope



Cutting in Diversion Channel



Inlet Protection



Stone Outlet Protection

The Solution

A grade stabilization and lined outlet were installed to safely deliver runoff from the field to the pond. The existing thick, woody vegetation was removed and the bank regraded for ease of maintenance. A vegetated berm and channel delivers runoff to a concrete inlet structure that protects the back of the pond from erosion. Additional seeding creates a field border to enhance nutrient uptake and provide a buffer between the structure and the field.



CONSERVING OUR RESOURCES...

...With the Creation of a Stream Crossing

The Problem

An existing culvert failed during a major storm event and eroded the embankment over the corrugated metal pipe. Further investigation indicated that the pipe had begun to deteriorate and the two existing sections of pipe had never been properly joined together when the culvert was originally installed. The failure of this joint was likely the cause of the culvert failure, which compromised the farmer's only access point to his back crop fields.



The Solution

Overall the farmer was happy with the original structure until it failed. So the corroding metal pipe was replaced with plastic high density polyethylene in a slightly larger diameter to handle increased flows. Riprap was installed to control exit velocities and prevent erosion at the outlet. In addition, the upstream end of the pipe was submerged slightly below natural grade. Over time this will allow the bottom of the large diameter pipe to fill in with sediment from the stream bed above and provide a continuous habitat for the species in the stream. Lastly, a riprap blanket was provided over the pipe on both sides to protect the fill from future damage.



2014 Cooperator of the Year

The Tiralla family owns and operates two farms off Adelina Road in Prince Frederick. Monnett Farm (108 acres) and Kitts Marsh Farm (29 acres) have been family farms for several generations. Joseph and Marilyn Tiralla, their son, Benson, daughter-in-law Jamie, granddaughter Caroline, and grandson Henry raise cattle, hogs, goats, sheep, and chickens on both properties.

Joseph Tiralla became a cooperator in 1984, his wife Marilyn in 2007, and son Benson in 2011. Before the current livestock operation the farms grew tobacco and hay. The family expanded their interest in livestock as the market for local food developed. The family first contacted the district to rent equipment and help develop infrastructure.



The Tiralla family from left: Caroline, Jamie, Benson, Henry, Emmett, Marilyn, and Joseph.



Preparation for installation of livestock watering pipeline on Kitts Marsh Farm.

The Tiralla family has decreased erosion and improved water quality on their farms by managing their pastures more efficiently and fencing livestock out of surface water. The Tiralla family utilized the USDA EQIP program to provide cost-share for the following best management practices: fence, watering facilities, pasture planting, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing. Pest management and forage harvest management are also utilized practices in the family's agricultural operation. The Tiralla's have not used herbicides or pesticides as part of their agricultural operation.



Annual Ryegrass was planted to smother weeds before planting permanent forage.



This trough with disks allows for multi-species grazing, a key component for this operation.

A roof runoff system is scheduled to be installed on Monnett Farm in the near future.

Dennis Monnett Junior, Benson's grandfather, was Cooperator of the Year in 1965, and also served as a supervisor of Calvert Soil Conservation District between 1960-1963.



Rotating animals through different areas of pasture increases available forage and decreases erosion.

2014 Envirothon

Each year Calvert Soil Conservation District helps sponsor the County Envirothon. The Envirothon is a competition designed for high school students that focuses on the importance of natural resources and uses the outdoors as an alternative to classroom learning. This environmental competition for high school students cultivates a passion for environmental science.

The outdoor training session, conducted at Kings Landing Park, was held one month before the competition. The inclement weather throughout the winter did not dampen enthusiasm for the training session. The Envirothon Competition resulted in Huntingtown High School's team advancing to the state competition, having placed first overall. However, Calvert High School's team placed first in the soils portion of the event.

Congratulations to the students and thank-you to Susan Davis, USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist, who scored the exams of the students in the soils pit at Kings Landing.



The winning team from Huntingtown High School, from left: Daniel Henderson, Alejandro Smith, Elijah Sanchez, Stefan Hernandez, Daniel Garcia, and teacher Grace Hanners.

Team USA Wins First International Soil Judging Contest

Team USA won the first international soil judging contest held in Jeju, South Korea, June 5 through 7, 2014. University of Maryland student Tyler Witkowski was the highest ranked American and placed second individually. As it turned out, Team

USA-B (pictured) were the grand prize winners and placed first in the group judging portion. Team USA-A earned second place in the group judging portion and second place overall.

There were 12 teams from 10 countries participating in the contest. In addition to Team USA, China, Taiwan, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, Hungary, and the United Kingdom were represented. The contest was held on Jeju Island, where nearly 400 smaller volcanic cones surround Hallasan, the dormant volcano at the center of the island, which had major eruptions 25,000 years ago. Therefore, most of the soils in that area have unusually high infiltration and permeability. Needless to say, it was an incredible experience for all of the students, and following the Soil Judging competition on June 7, most of the students stayed to participate as delegates to the 20th World Congress of Soils Science from June 8 through 13.

Tyler's trip was funded in part by a contribution from Calvert Soil Conservation District. Congratulations to all!



Team USA-B from left: Dr. Chris Baxter, University of Wisconsin, Platteville (Coach); Emily Salkind, Virginia Tech; Tyler Witkowski, University of Maryland; Kyle Weber, University of Wisconsin, Platteville; Caitlin Hodges, University of Georgia.



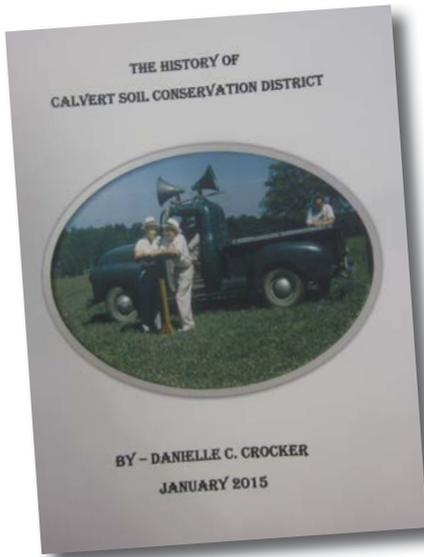
Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

The History of Calvert Soil Conservation District is Written



June 10, 1948 to June 10, 2014

66 Years of Service



June 10, 2014 marked the district's 66th anniversary. The day passed as any other--staff worked on farm planning, visited with farmers, and reviewed erosion and sediment control plans. Danielle C. Crocker, one of our interns, was busy with a very large task--that of researching and writing our history. She and Bill Clark had interviewed Hagner R. Mister, retired district conservationist, who had spent 33 years working for USDA Soil Conservation Service (as it was called then); Laura S. Trott, district administrative secretary, who had also retired after 33 years; Jesse Jo Bowen, wife of Arthur Bowen, who had been the first district conservationist, working from 1948 to 1973; George Spence, retired Extension Agent, working from 1962 to 1992; and others.

At one point during the summer Bill Clark, current district manager, said to Janet Hall, current administrative aide, "We missed interviewing two people." "Who?" she asked. "Us," he replied. "We have been here 29 years." "How did that happen?" Janet asked.

Many dedicated people are responsible for the formation of the district and for its operations over the years. Of special note is Calvert W. Norfolk, who worked alongside others to organize the district and who then served 40 years as chairman and vice chairman of the district board of supervisors. The board room in our new office space at 489 Main Street is named in his honor. Copies of the completed history are available for a fee. Just call the office.



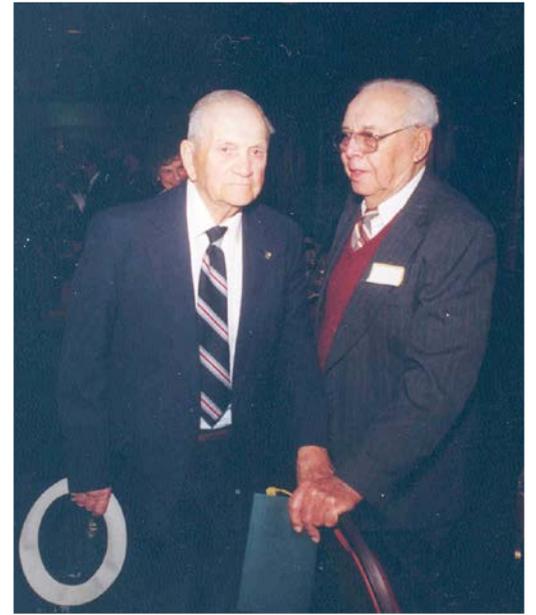
1980 Board of Supervisors, from left: Arthur Bowen, Calvert Norfolk, Wilbur (Billy) Ward, Leroy Williams and Hagner Mister at a dinner at the Log Cabin Inn in Prince Frederick.



Billy Ward (left) receives an award from Robert Hall, Extension Agent.



1998 Board of Supervisors, from left: Walt Wells, David Cox, Phillip Jones, Sr., Tommy Briscoe, Y.D. Hance, and Bryan Dowell at the district's 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Rod-n-Reel Restaurant, Chesapeake Beach, Maryland.



Calvert Norfolk, left, and Oliver Cox, right, in 1989 at Calvert's award dinner. Calvert received state recognition in 1989 for 40 years of service as a district supervisor.



From left: David Cox, Tommy Briscoe, Janet Hall, and Russ Mader at their new office in the Kaine Building, Prince Frederick around 1988.



Bill Clark (left) and Gary Wynn Sr. with the district's first no-till drill purchased in 1997. This was the beginning of the district's current extensive equipment rental program.



Arthur Bowen (seated), Hagner Mister, and Laura Trott. Laura wrote the very first district newsletter.

CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Associate Supervisor

Benson Tiralla, Prince Frederick
Associate Supervisor

Charles Wells, Prince Frederick
Associate Supervisor

All district programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Calvert Soil Conservation District's Annual Report is published regularly to provide information to the land user.

Assisting Staff

Oliver L. Miranda
District Conservationist USDA-NRCS

William A. Clark
District Manager

Ronald M. Babcock
E&S Control Specialist

Geoffrey S. Westbrook
E&S Control Specialist

Janet Payne Hall
Administrative Secretary

Tammy S. Bowen
District Secretary

Jennifer M. David
*MDA Conservation
Engineering Technician*

Caroline A. Trossbach
Conservation Planner

Angella D. Hunter
Conservation Planner

Susan L. Davis
Resource Conservationist NRCS-USDA

Andrew C. Zagwodzki
Engineering Technician

Cooperating Agencies

Calvert County

Calvert County Commissioners
Community Planning and Building
Department of Public Works
Economic Development
Inspections and Permits
Marine Museum
Natural Resources
Parks & Recreation
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation
and Development Board

State of Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maryland Department of the Environment
MD Department of Natural Resources
MD Forest, Parks & Wildlife Service
State Soil Conservation Committee
MD Cooperative Extension

United States Government

USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Rural Development
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Protection Agency

Others

Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission
MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Maryland Farm Bureau
National Association of Conservation Districts