

# Calvert Soil Conservation District



*District  
Conservationist's  
Message*

•

*2017 Envirothon*

•

*Engineering  
and Planning  
Accomplishments*

•

*District  
Happenings*

•

*Annual  
Cooperators'  
Dinner*

•

*District Projects*

•

*Cooperator of  
the Year*

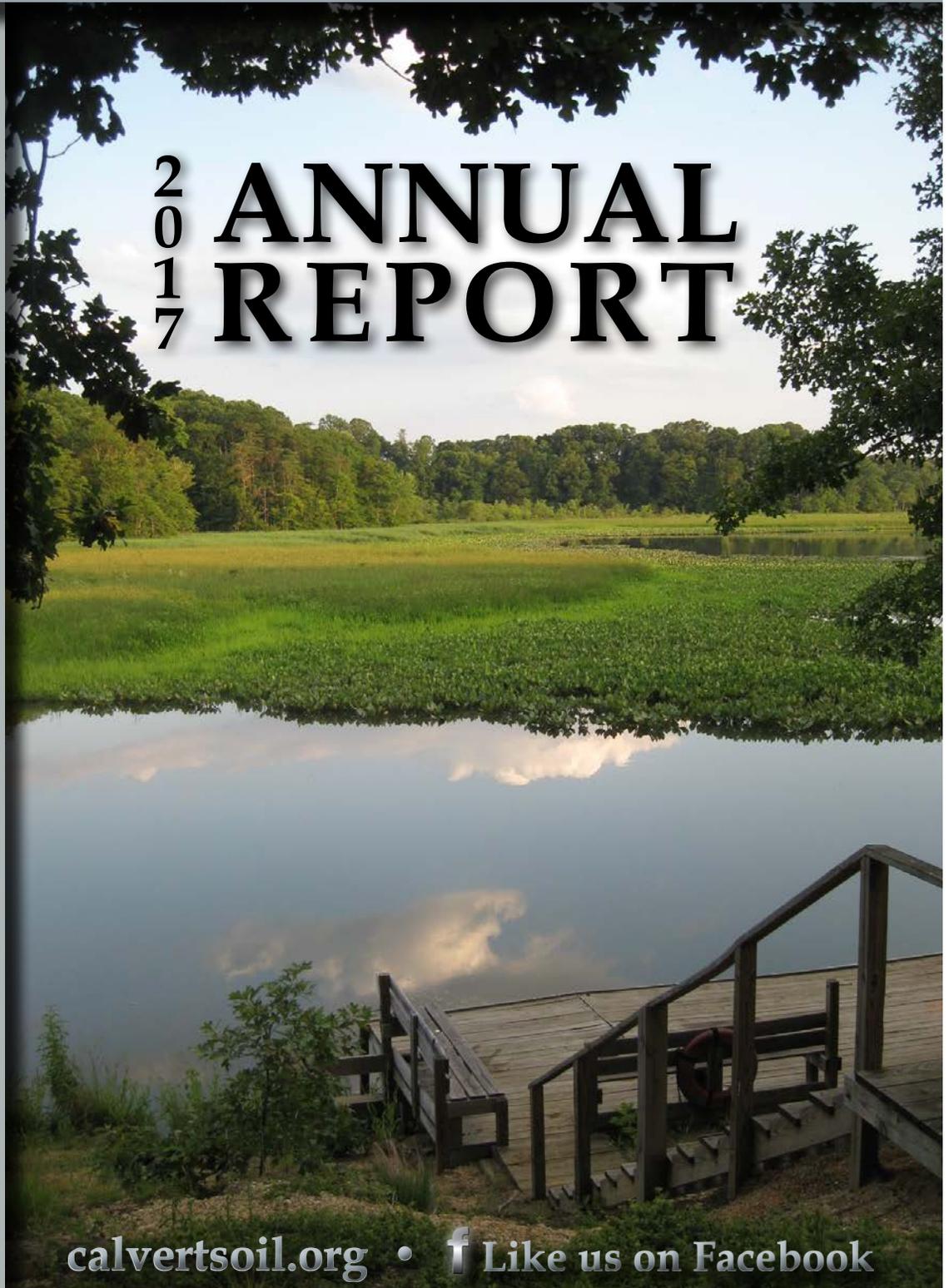
•

*Annual Farm Tour*

•

*Conserving  
Our Resources*

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



[calvertsoil.org](http://calvertsoil.org) •  Like us on Facebook

## *A Message From Our District Conservationist*



As my first year as District Conservationist here comes to a close, I'd like to take a moment and reflect on the past year. 2017 was a busy year for NRCS in Calvert County. We successfully funded several new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) contracts for grazing and irrigation projects while also certifying over 35 Best Management Practices (BMPs) under previously funded federal contracts. We also did well as an office with our first ever Quality Assurance Review (QAR). This new review, which rotates on a five year cycle, replaces the previous planning and engineering spot check process. The QAR not only looks at planning and engineering work but also encompasses a weeklong review of the entire office - including civil rights, programs, and operations. Members from the NRCS State Office complete a systematic review of the office to ensure that the high quality work and services we provide meet expectations. We received an abundance of commendations and positive feedback from the review.

Looking towards 2018, NRCS is continuing with the Local Work Group focus that lets individual counties provide input on what resource concerns and BMPs are a priority for funding under EQIP, a federal financial assistance program, in their area. Up to \$100,000 will be made available to help farmers implement these BMPs with EQIP contracts.

As always, my goal is to help put conservation on the ground. I am proud of the efforts made by the farmers of Calvert County and the Conservation Partnership staff here. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone, and want to thank you all for welcoming me to your county.

*Rachel Yeatman*

*NRCS District Conservationist  
Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's County NRCS*

## *2017 Brings Technological Enhancements to Envirothon*

Enhancing student training through the use of technology and investing in additional resource time was the focus of this year's Calvert County Envirothon. Chespx teacher Linda Subda created a new website providing additional support for students offering monthly example test questions, helpful links, and other resource materials for each part of the competition.

This year two in person training sessions covering each resource were enjoyed by the trainers, teachers and students alike. In November web-based technology was used to view soils maps, horizons and properties which impact land use. The March training focused on determining soil texture, comparing two different soil profiles and understanding a soil survey.

Five teams from four high schools participated in the April competition at Kings Landing Park. Calvert High School's Team C won the overall competition, as well as the top prize in each resource category.

Thank you to Conservation Planner Caroline Trossbach who expertly leads the Envirothon program for the District and to everyone who participated this year.

You can test your natural resources knowledge at <http://calvertcountyenvirothon.weebly.com>.



*The winning team from Calvert High School, from left: Sarah Monroe, Sidney Losey, Jack Green and Hope Couto.*

# 2017 ENGINEERING AND PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Landowners Assisted .....	272
Conservation Plans Completed .....	2,538.1 acres
New Cooperators.....	8

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INSTALLED (51 total projects):

Fence .....	3,251 feet
Conservation Cover .....	2.6 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation .....	174 acres
No-till Residue Management .....	49.5 acres
Critical Area Planting .....	1.6 acres
Mulch-till Residue Management.....	135.8 acres
Sediment Control Pond .....	1 each
Lined Waterway or Outlet .....	39 feet
Mulching .....	0.4 acres
Obstruction Removal.....	0.2 acres
Forage Planting .....	45.7 acres
Livestock Pipeline .....	3,401 feet
Prescribed Grazing .....	23.7 acres
Pumping Plant .....	1 each
Heavy Use Area .....	0.2 acres
Stormwater Runoff Control.....	1 each
Structure for Water Control .....	2 each
Nutrient Management .....	223.6 acres
Watering Facilities .....	7 each
Forest Stand Improvement .....	24.68 acres

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW

Site Plan Reviews (all types).....	490
Commercial/Subdivision Plans Reviewed .....	60
Commercial Preconstruction Meetings .....	45



*Nehemiah 9:6 ... Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein...*

# District Happenings

## Meet Valinda, Jake, Mike & Adam

*These employees serve multiple counties in Southern Maryland and assist in the Calvert office from time-to-time.*



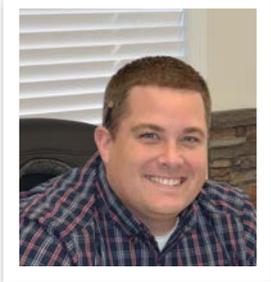
**Valinda Clark** is the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) new Program Support Specialist. She was born in North Carolina, but lived in Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County during her childhood. She currently resides in Charles County. Valinda has 25 years of experience in the clerical and administrative fields and looks forward to putting her skills to work. She has a six year old son who really keeps her busy. She is very excited to be here and looks forward to working with everyone. Valinda joined the Southern Maryland RC&D team in January of 2017, and she is based out of the La Plata NRCS Service Center.



**Jake Kiessling** has recently returned to our engineering team as a Civil Engineering Technician working for NRCS. He began working with us almost 3 years ago as a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) employee before taking an urban plan reviewer position in the Anne Arundel District last year. We are happy to have him back helping to reduce our growing engineering workload. Jake spends most of his days working out of the La Plata Service Center where he is involved with agricultural engineering projects across the five Southern Maryland Districts.



**Mike Montillo** is a native of St. Mary's County where he has lived most of his life on a farm in Chaptico. He has been working with Southern Maryland RC&D for the past year and a half as a Soil Conservation Technician (SCT). As a SCT he assists the five counties in Southern Maryland with their agricultural engineering workload. In his spare time he's an avid photographer and volunteers with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society assisting with the conservation of endangered barn owls.



**Adam Lyon** was born and raised on a tobacco farm in St. Mary's County. Adam comes from a family steeped in Southern Maryland agriculture since the late 1600's. Since graduating from the University of Maryland in 2006, Adam has spent 10 years as a Nutrient Management Advisor for the University of Maryland and a Nutrient Management Specialist with MDA. Since April of 2017, he has been serving as the Field Assessment Supervisor for the MDA Watershed Implementation Program, which includes verifying Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nutrient reduction. In his spare time, Adam enjoys farming, landscaping, golfing, and most of all spending time with his wife Rebecca.

## From Seed to Success at the Calvert Fair!

Several staff members from Calvert Soil Conservation District entered various homemade or handmade items at this year's Calvert County Fair. Colleen Kiefer, MDA Conservation Planner, brought home a total of nine ribbons, including four first places for her dill pickles, sliced cucumber pickles, jelly sampler, and tomato sauce. Susan Lamb, NRCS Resource Conservationist, won a total of six ribbons, including two first place awards for her spiced apple jelly and counted cross stitch. Geoff Westbrook, Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist, won third place for his dill pickles, and intern Carl Freeman won Reserve Grand Champion and a first place ribbon for his art exhibits. Way to go!



*Colleen with her winning entries.*

# Geoff Westbrook is 2016 Outstanding Employee

Geoff Westbrook, Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist, was awarded the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts' (MASCD) award for 2016 Outstanding Employee of the Year. Geoff was presented with the award during the MASCD summer meeting banquet on August 8, 2017 in Turf Valley, Maryland.

The District performs engineering and design services for other county, state and federal agencies. These services help supplement the District's operating budget and have enabled us to continue to provide much needed services to the citizens of Calvert County during these tight budget times. Geoff was nominated by the District's Board of Supervisors for his willingness to learn new skills that have been of enormous value in implementing these services. Hired in 2009, Geoff uses his knowledge of Computer-Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) and surveying to produce surveys, design practices, and draft entire construction plans for the District. In addition, Geoff assists with construction inspection and as-built surveys for both agricultural and District projects. His work has been instrumental in implementing an increasing number of structural practices each year, thereby enabling the District to meet its goals. He regularly puts in extra hours in the evenings and on weekends to accomplish these additional tasks. Geoff is an invaluable asset to the Calvert Soil Conservation District and the citizens of our county. Congratulations and thank you Geoff!



*Geoff Westbrook (left) accepts the 2016 Outstanding Employee Award from MASCD President Charles Rice.*

## Ron Babcock Recognized for 25 Years of Service



*Ron (right) receiving his award from Commissioner Tom Hejl.*

Ron Babcock was honored by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners for twenty-five years of service during an awards ceremony held on February 7, 2017 at the Calvert Pines Senior Center.

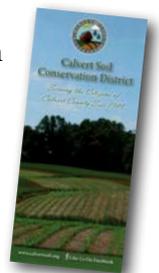
Ron was hired by Calvert County Government in 1991 as an Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. For twenty-five years Ron has held this position and has assisted numerous citizens and Calvert County businesses with their erosion and sediment control issues. One of Ron's most memorable jobs was to assist the District Manager with a search of the Commodore Barney's flotilla. Ron had to pull a ground penetrating radar through the marsh in mud up to his knees!

Prior to coming to work for Calvert Soil Conservation District, Ron was employed for ten years at a civil engineering firm.

## Like Us On Facebook

Stay up-to-date on events, deadlines and the latest conservation news by liking our Calvert Soil Conservation District page on Facebook! If you are a cooperator and are interested in being one of our "Featured Cooperators" on Facebook, please contact our office for more information.

In addition, the District has a new brochure outlining our services. If you would like a copy please stop by the office or give us a call and we will be happy to mail one to you.



# 2017 Annual Cooperators' Dinner

Calvert Soil Conservation District held its fifteenth Annual Cooperators' Dinner on March 16, 2017 at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. A buffet of delicious food including fried oysters, crab balls, fried chicken, and stuffed ham was enjoyed by over 300 attendees. During the dinner the District presented the 2016 Cooperator of the Year Award to Eddie Smith of Lazy Day Farm who was lauded for implementing a variety of conservation practices over the past several years.

The District showed its support of Calvert County farmers and watermen by purchasing door prizes from Calvert County producers. Thanks to the superb efforts of Pat Terrant, guests had the opportunity to win one of over 70 door prizes generously donated by local businesses.

District Manager Bill Clark gave a presentation on the District's Annual Farm Tour, showcasing the interesting places that have been visited over the years.

The table centerpieces featured handcrafted pottery with embossed crabs that were beautifully decorated by adults with disabilities at the Providence Center located in Arnold, Maryland.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and the District hopes to see Calvert County's agriculture community again in 2018!



*2016 Cooperator of the Year Eddie Smith (center) with wife Kathy and son Neil.*



*Photo above: District staff members take turns distributing over 70 door prizes to lucky recipients. Photo below: Attendees enjoying the food and fellowship.*



*Photo above, from left: County Administrator Terry Shannon, husband Jeff, Deputy County Administrator Wilson Parran, and Planning & Zoning Director Mark Willis.*



*Photo above: Tour bus driver Darwin Engle listens to District Manager Bill Clark's presentation about past Annual Farm Tours. At immediate left: Bobbi Rausch (left) and retired District Administrative Secretary (and door prize recipient) Janet Hall.*



# Project at the Naval Research Laboratory



*An aerial view of the stabilized cliffs at NRL.*

In 2014 the Calvert Soil Conservation District embarked on a construction project at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Chesapeake Beach. NRL has over 4,000 feet of 100-foot high cliffs that are eroding. In 2011 the District designed and installed a stone revetment over an existing wooden retaining wall to protect the base of the cliff from eroding into the Chesapeake Bay. A portion of the stone project is seen at the base of the cliff in the photo. This project protected the base of the cliff but did not stop the top of the cliff from eroding.

Numerous critical facilities located atop the cliff were increasingly threatened. In 2014 the Department of the Navy hired WBCM of Baltimore to design a cliff stabilization project to hold back the first 800 feet of the 100-foot tall cliffs. The design included installing 1,200 soil nails through 50 feet of the cliff face. A soil nail is a rod that is two inches in diameter and 45 feet long with a drill-bit at the end. The nails were drilled into the cliff face on five-foot centers. Grout was then piped through the center of the nail, filling any voids and securing the soil nail to the face of the cliff. After the soil nails were installed, chain-link fencing was laid over and bolted to the nails along the cliff in the light-brown area of the photo. The face of the cliff was then sprayed with organic material and seeds to promote plant growth along the vertical face. The remaining lower portion was graded and planted with a mix of grass, shrubs and trees to further stabilize the cliff in the dark-brown area of the photo.

Construction of the completed cliff project at NRL began in 2016 after being awarded to Hayward Baker for 6.3 million dollars and is the largest project to reduce erosion and protect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay undertaken by the Calvert Soil Conservation District since its formation in 1948.

## Pond Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

### *Basic Permitting Guidelines for Building, Owning and Managing a Pond*

Every year the District receives requests for information regarding the repair of existing structures or the feasibility of new ones. Resources and technical assistance are available at the District to help you. Regulations pertaining to the building and restoration of ponds is the responsibility of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Dam Safety Division. Review and approval of pond projects is a joint effort between MDE, local authorities and the Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs). Failure to obtain the necessary local, state and federal permits can result in hefty fines from MDE.

In all cases a site plan designed by a licensed engineer and approved by your local SCD is required by law to insure the project meets the NRCS Maryland 378 Standard. If the site is located in the Critical Area, further review and approval by the Critical Area Commission will be necessary. County grading permits are required for the rehabilitation of existing structures, while new ponds will require both a grading and building permit at the County level. If wetlands are to be disturbed during the construction, repair or enhancement of a pond, additional approval by both MDE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must be obtained. Depending on the scope of disturbance, wetland mitigation may be required as part of the project.

Some pond maintenance, such as minor clearing or repair work, does not have any permit requirements. Dam inspection checklists are available in the District office and are a useful tool in evaluating the condition of existing embankments. As a rule, always check with your local SCD prior to performing any maintenance, undertaking a repair, or installing a new pond.

# 2017 Cooperator of the Year



*Kathy Bowen with her son Jamie Shifflett.*



*Entrance to the farm.*



*Barns and outbuildings.*



*Cattle congregate by the barn.*

Calvert Soil Conservation District is proud to announce Kathy Bowen of Legacy Farm in Prince Frederick as our Cooperator of the Year for 2017. A lifelong resident of Calvert County, she grew up on her family's farm growing tobacco, grain and livestock. Different varieties of livestock have always appealed to her throughout her agricultural experiences.

Primarily a beef cattle operation, Kathy now plans on slowly expanding her herd thanks to the help of conservation practices installed with technical assistance from Calvert SCD and support from state cost-share programs. She sells her feeder calves to other Calvert County farmers while Michael Granados of Granados Farms, LLC farms the cropland on the property. Kathy also raises horses, including a miniature horse and pony, along with a few chickens and pigs. Legacy Farm is an agriculturally preserved family operation, owned and managed by Kathy with involvement from her son, Jamie Shifflett, and supportive husband Bob Atkins.

She first came to our office in 2013 in response to the new Nutrient Management regulations and wanted to be in compliance. As a result, she installed fencing, a well, and a watering trough in 2016 through the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Other conservation practices on the farm include a wetland mitigation site for the State Highway Administration installed in 1997, a dug out pond installed in 1972, and a drainage ditch installed in 1968.

Upcoming operational goals include having bee hives on the property and increasing hay production. Future Best Management Practices (BMPs) include pasture planting, additional fencing, a second watering facility to enhance rotational grazing as outlined in a prescribed grazing plan, and a roof runoff structure to prevent erosion. These practices will be gradually implemented since Kathy works full-time off the farm.

For her willingness to adapt to new conservation methods and her organized approach to installing BMPs, we are proud to have Kathy Bowen as Cooperator of the Year.



*Trench for pipeline.*



*Fencing on the farm.*

# Farm Tour 2017

This year's Annual Farm Tour was held on Thursday, November 7, 2017. Passengers on the bus enjoyed the beautiful fall scenery on the way to Baltimore County.

The first stop was Feederbrook Farm in Freeland. Jan Van Bibber and Lisa Westra entertained participants with stories of their sheep, llamas and alpacas. The sheep are housed in a circa 1850's barn, and include Teeswaters, Blue-faced Leicesters (BFLs) and BFL Teeswater crosses (BLTees). Lisa detailed the process of shearing, spinning, and dyeing the wool. Feederbrook Farm also offers educational opportunities to the public including classes on spinning and dyeing wool, animal husbandry, cheesemaking, and canning. Before departing, everyone had the opportunity to browse in the quaint shop located on the property. Items for sale included a variety of herbs, raw fleece, yarn, blankets, socks, hand felted soap, sheepskins and hand crafted jewelry.

The next stop was Friendly Farm Restaurant in Upperco. Situated on 200 acres and surrounded by three ponds, this family owned and operated restaurant boasts gorgeous views of the surrounding farmland. Everyone feasted on a delicious buffet of beef, fried chicken and an array of side dishes.

The afternoon was spent at Liberty Delight Farms in Reisterstown. Owner Shane Hughes, who heads up the Operations and Agriculture side of the business, and Lauren Taylor, Vice President and head of Wholesale and Retail Sales, gave an interesting and enlightening presentation. Cows, pigs, chickens, rabbits, sheep, and turkeys are raised on the farm. Meat and eggs are sold to local restaurants and may also be purchased at local farmers' markets. Shane's childhood experiences with farming and his knowledge of corporate business have been a guiding force in his operation. The welfare of the animals is of utmost priority to him and are raised without antibiotics, stimulants or hormones. With the assistance of his local Soil Conservation District, Shane has installed many Best Management Practices that benefit both animals and his business.

The tour participants enjoyed a day of learning, fellowship and great food. We hope to see everyone again next year!



*Lisa Westra gives a tour of the shop at Feederbrook Farm.*



*Visiting the animals at Feederbrook Farm.*



*Frankie Wood and Lester Holland were among the Farm Tour participants.*



*Shane Hughes (far right) of Liberty Delight Farms describes the new housing facility for his hog operation.*

*If you wish to be added to the Farm Tour invitation list, please call the District and speak with Tammy.*



*Lauren Taylor (far left) details the operations at Liberty Delight Farms.*



*Touring the rabbit house at Liberty Delight Farms.*

# Conserving our Resources

## *The Flexibility of Watering Facility Systems . . .*

Throughout 2017, various watering systems were installed on Calvert County farms to protect water quality and enhance rotational grazing, predominately for cattle operations. These systems address natural resource concerns such as erosion, compaction and excessive nutrient runoff. Partial funding for these projects was provided through federal and state programs.

A thorough design of these systems includes the consideration of many factors. Of primary importance is a review of the current watering resources on the farm and a determination of future watering needs. Current and future pasture locations, fencing layouts, anticipated herd size and frequency of use by animals in barnyards and pastures are analyzed to determine the desired watering facility placement. Additional considerations include the existence or nonexistence of electrical service and other critical utilities, as well as soil type and topography to ensure adequate pressure, protect proposed waterlines and safeguard potable water sources.



### Photos on left (top to bottom):

*Determine whether the water will be supplied from an existing well or a new well. If installing a new well, work with a well driller and the County Health Department to ensure proper installation of the well.*

*Once the system is properly planned and designed, choose a contractor whose construction knowledge, timeline, financing, and demeanor align with your needs.*

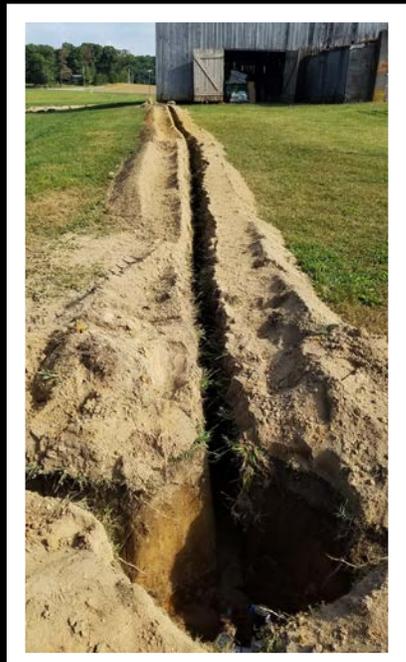
*Pipeline is examined for specified diameter and wall thickness. All materials installed under state and federal cost-share programs are inspected prior to installation.*



### Photos on right (top to bottom):

*The pipeline trench is dug below the frost line to prevent freezing pipes.*

*The path of the pipeline trench is prearranged to minimize cost and enhance ease of maintenance.*



*Isaiah 12:3 ... Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*

# Conserving our Resources

## ... And The Phases of Installing These Systems

A well-designed system improves grazing operations by minimizing the need to break ice in unheated tubs or troughs during freezing weather, facilitating optimal grazing, and excluding livestock from environmentally sensitive areas.

These systems are designed to be built with quality materials, and are installed to ensure the longevity of project components. Backflow preventers and shutoff valves help safeguard the system from nutrient contamination and freezing. Maintenance of the system includes checking for debris, algae, leaks, damage, erosion, and freezing.

Planning for new watering facilities continues at the District, which will enhance grazing operations and address natural resource concerns throughout Calvert County in the coming years.



### Photos on left (top to bottom):

*Frost-free hydrants and tubs can be utilized with hoses or without hoses. Grazing systems can also be complemented with permanent or temporary fencing.*

*Permanent troughs are installed on a stabilized surface, such as gravel or concrete, to prevent damage from livestock and limit soil compaction.*



### Photos on right (top to bottom):

*Concrete pads make it easier to keep the area around the trough clean. Expansion joints can be added to control cracks in the finished concrete.*

*Establish grass and spread straw mulch to cover any areas disturbed by construction. If the disturbed areas are in a pasture, consider planting a suitable pasture mix for stabilization.*



*Isaiah 30:23 ... Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous; in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.*

# CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

489 Main Street  
Suite 101  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pr. Fred. MD  
Permit No. 247

---

## PUBLISHED BY:

**Calvert Soil Conservation District**  
489 Main Street, Suite 101, P.O. Box 657  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
Phone (410) 535-1521, Ext. 3 • Fax (410) 414-8006  
[www.calvertsoil.org](http://www.calvertsoil.org)

### Board of Supervisors

Thomas D. Briscoe, St. Leonard  
*Chairman*

Walter L. Wells, Prince Frederick  
*Vice Chairman*

David A. Cox, Prince Frederick  
*Treasurer*

Leonard R. Ogden, Prince Frederick  
*Supervisor*

Gilbert E. Chaney, Dunkirk  
*Supervisor*

Phillip H. Jones, Sr., Huntingtown  
*Associate Supervisor*

J.R. Cosgrove, St. Leonard  
*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

William A. Clark  
*District Manager*

Rebecca S. Willis  
*Administrative Secretary*

Tammy Bowen  
*District Secretary*

Ronald M. Babcock  
*E&S Control Specialist*

Geoffrey S. Westbrook  
*E&S Control Specialist*

Jennifer M. David  
*MDA Conservation  
Engineering Technician*

Angella D. Hunter  
*Conservation Technician*

Caroline A. Trossbach  
*Conservation Planner*

Colleen M. Kiefer  
*MDA Conservation Planner*

Rachel Yeatman  
*District Conservationist USDA-NRCS*

Susan Lamb  
*Resource Conservationist USDA-NRCS*

### Cooperating Agencies

#### Calvert County

Calvert County Commissioners  
Planning and Zoning  
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