



THE DISTRICT DIRT

ANNE ARUNDEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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aascd.org

WINTER 2021-2022

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE TOUR

by John Czajkowski

On July 20, 2021, the Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau put together a legislative tour of three farms located in Anne Arundel County. Legislators that participated included Senator Sarah Elfreth, Senator Bryan Simonaire, Councilwoman Amanda Fielder, Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien, and Councilwoman Sarah Lacey. Other notable attendees were MDA Secretary, Joe Bartenfelder, Deputy Secretary, Julie Oberg, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation President/CEO, Ben Birge, University of Maryland Extension, David Myers, and Maryland Farm Bureau District 3 Director, Jamie Raley.

The stops included Triple G Farm, owned and operated by Billy and Mary Ford with the help of Mary's brother, Jerry Bunch. En-Tice-Ment Farm and Stables operated by Deana Tice, owned by Christopher and Betty Wilson and the third stop was at Knightongale Farm owned by Joel Greenwell, Sr. Each gave a brief history of the farm and an outline of its current operation.

Some of the topics discussed included the concern of the increasing deer population and the resulting damage to crops, unmaintained vegetation encroachment along the shoulders of the roads making it difficult to move large farm equipment from farm to farm and the role that herbicides play in modern farming techniques and why it is important not to restrict their use. During lunch, organizations such as the Maryland Extension, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Anne Arundel Economic Development, Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation had an opportunity to highlight their roles in agriculture.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training & Exam

January 4, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Anne Arundel County Extension Office

Maryland's Best Expo

January 19, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis marylandsbest.maryland.gov

Fruit Production Meeting

February 10, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Baden Volunteer Fire Department

Crop Sustainability & IPM Workshop

March 8, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Anne Arundel County Extension Office

LEGISLATIVE TOUR...

One of the goals discussed was the education of adults who are not familiar with how farms operate, and the education of children so future generations are familiar with farms and the important role they play in the community. The legislators were interested in learning about each farm and their operation, and they were very interested in helping to address the issues farmers face. They also gave the farmers some tips on how to reach out to their legislators. It was a good tour and I think both the farmers and the legislators learned some things and have a better understanding of each other's position.

John Czajkowski, District Manager,
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AASCD BOARD WELCOMES NEW SUPERVISORS: CHRIS CATTERTON AND DONALD ENTZIAN



Christine "Chris" Catterton lives on a 5th generation farm in Harwood, MD. She and her husband, Skip, have been happily married for 31 years. They have three children.

Along with her family, Chris operates "On The Hill Farm", where they grow beef cattle and hay. Like many farms in Southern Maryland, it began as a tobacco farm in the early 1900's. She also helps with the family grocery store Shady Side Market.

Chris started on Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District as an

Associate Supervisor July 2019, then becoming a Supervisor in July 2021.

These experiences have earned Chris a seat on American Farm Bureau's Food Safety Issue Advisory Committee. Chris has been heavily involved in many community outreach activities, including the Ronald McDonald House, The Cancer Society, Knights of Columbus Ladies, church activities, and the Farm Bureau.



Donald H. Entzian, was born and raised in Mitchellville, Maryland where he was the fourth generation to have resided and worked on the family farm. Donald purchased his first fifty shares of the family farming business called Locust Lane Farms from his grandfather in the early 80's. Locust Lane farmed several thousands of acres in a four countywide area. He purchased the remaining fifty shares from his father in the early 90's. Over time, Locust Lane transitioned to a heavy civil construction company. The "Save the Bay" initiative prompted Donald to create a division focused on soil stabilization and erosion control by offering hydro-seeding packages to construction companies whose projects

involved any disturbance of land which the new laws then required immediate stabilization.

Donald has been in business more than 40 years and is an expert in Agriculture, Excavation & Site Development, Sediment & Erosion Control, Storm Water Management, Underground Utilities, Landfill Cell Construction, and Highway Improvements. For the past 20 years, he has maintained the Snow Removal contract for one of the largest secure government buildings in Virginia. Donald's experience and dedication has made LLF, Inc. a powerhouse among Heavy Civil Construction companies.



WHAT'S NEW WITH MDA

CREP – The Maryland Department of Agriculture is offering a one-time signing bonus of \$1,000.00 per acre to install a forested buffer along qualifying stream corridors.

Eligible farmers and landowners can sign up for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) through our office or by contacting the Farm Service Agency located in Prince George's County at (301) 574-5162.

Eligible land includes marginal cropland or pasture next to a stream, wet areas, or highly erodible land. CREP is a partnership between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provides landowners an annual payment for taking land out of production and installing conservation practices that provide water quality benefits and wildlife habitat. It is a part of a federally funded Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that contracts with agriculture producers to install conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) on environmentally sensitive land that is currently farmed. With CREP, priority conservation goals are identified by the state, after which federal funds are used along with state funds, to meet the goals.

Contracts can be for 10 to 15 years.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is offering up to 100% cost share to establish streamside buffers and wetlands. For more information on the one-time CREP bonus, contact Alisha Mulkey at (410) 841-5873.

100% Cost Share on Certain Best Management Practices (BMPs) – To help Maryland agricultural landowners reach the 2025 Chesapeake Bay restoration goals outlined in the 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), the Maryland Department of Agriculture is providing 100% cost share on selected Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Qualifying practices must have at least a 10 year life span, meaning landowners will have to maintain the practice for the 10 years. The practice must provide environmental benefits that are consistent with Maryland's WIP goals and it must protect local waterways from nutrient runoff associated with crop production.

Some of the practices include fencing, field border, grassed waterway and grade stabilization structure among others. There are 23 practices altogether that are now eligible for the 100% cost share rate.

Contact us if you are interested in taking advantage of these new rates.



ANNE ARUNDEL AND PRINCE GEORGE'S URBAN FARMING WORK GROUP

The first meeting of the Anne Arundel and Prince George's Urban Farming Work Group convened August 24th at the Anne Arundel Extension Office for the development of an urban farming initiative.

The work group working with Extension faculty will lead the urban farming initiative, by planning educational workshops to assist urban farmers in topics such as business planning, land access and zoning regulations, integrated pest management, machinery and production technologies for vegetables, fruits, livestock and high value specialty crops.

Public and private interests in urban agriculture are on the rise. Many farmers have hopes of improving their farm's economic situation, while providing greater food access to their communities. Successful urban farming also serves to educate others about agriculture, creates a space for community engagement, and fosters environmental awareness of the benefits of agriculture in all communities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Anne Arundel and Prince George's Urban Farming Work Group, then please contact R. David Myers, AgFS Educator, Anne Arundel Extension Office at 410-222-3906 or by email at: myersrd@umd.edu

More information is available at the Anne Arundel Urban Farming website at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county/agriculture-food-systems/urban-agriculture>



HELP WITH 2022 FARM PROJECTIONS

by Keli Kirby

Many producers are already starting to worry about the financial forecast for the 2022 harvest season. It has become apparent in the last few months that not only are the cost of resources increasing but they are also in short supply.

Agricultural Policy Research Institute has reported, "Under current policies, farm income could drop again in 2022, as government payments decline, and production expenses continue to rise." Direct government payments to farmers would total \$6.3 billion in the new year, compared with \$28.3 billion this year and a record \$45.7 billion in 2020, said Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute in an update to its farm income baseline.

Although commodity prices remain high, U.S. net farm income is projected

to decline in 2022 with the expiration of the pandemic payments. Farmers and ranchers have received nearly \$30.6 billion in coronavirus relief payments in the past 17 months, according to USDA data released November 1, 2021. Pandemic assistance is a major element in farm income this year, as it was in 2020, and is projected to equal one-fourth of net farm income.

Cost of production is very important when making decisions related to your farm. University of Maryland Extension has developed a budgeting tool that allows producers to make decisions regarding operations and plan for the coming production year.

The enterprise budget uses farm revenue, variable cost, fixed cost, and net income to provide a clear picture of the financial health of each farm. It can be used as a baseline for your operation. Make changes to these budgets to include your production techniques, inputs, and overall management.

This tool can be found at:

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/farm-and-agribusiness-management/grain-marketing/crop-budgets>

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Grain Marketing



Effective grain marketing is as important as growing the crop itself. By understanding your cost of production, market trends, and pricing tools you can make profitable sales decisions.

This website includes grain marketing information as well as many other topics related to farm risk management including custom rates, crop budgets, and lease agreements.

Explore Grain Marketing



The University of Maryland Extension has a revamped grain marketing section with budget tools and other resources.



OUTDOOR RIDING RINGS ADDED TO AGRICULTURAL STANDARD GRADING PLAN

by Shelley Garrett

In collaboration with Anne Arundel County Code Compliance, the AASCD has successfully added outdoor riding rings for horses to the list of acceptable grading practices for the Agricultural Standard Grading Plan.

This addition means a grading permit designed by a Professional Engineer and approved through Anne Arundel County Inspections and Permits is no longer required. The new process will go through your Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan, also known as the "farm plan".

In order to receive approval to install your outdoor riding ring, please contact our office to create a farm plan or to update your existing plan prior to any work being started. There is an application process, and we will help you through the process.

Shelley Garrett, Soil Conservation Specialist, s.garrett@aescd.org



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POND WATER TEMPERATURE: PART THREE OF THE POND SERIES

by John Czajkowski

Water Temperature

Before we talk about thermal stratification let's take a look at the importance of water temperature in your pond.

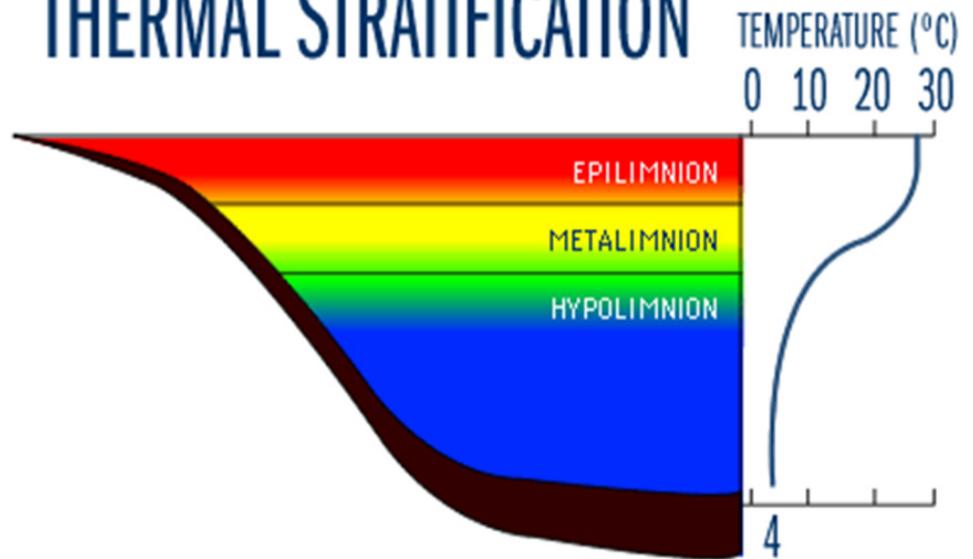
Water can absorb large quantities of heat without a significant temperature change and along with that, can lose a large quantity of heat before a drop in temperature occurs. This is a good thing, as it provides a buffering effect for aquatic life so there are no sudden, rapid, temperature swings. The size (surface area) and depth of your pond will have a direct relationship to temperature in your pond as well as volume of water, exchange rate and turbidity.

As you can imagine, a small (less than 1 acre), shallow (less than 4 feet deep) pond will warm up and cool down more rapidly than a larger, deeper pond. Ponds that have turbid water warm faster and lose heat slower than clear water ponds.

Spring fed ponds that have a continuous flow where the water is exchanged in less than a month tend to be cooler than ponds relying on rainfall and retain their same volume of water for several months.

Water temperature affects biological and chemical activity. When

THERMAL STRATIFICATION



temperatures drop below 60°F, growth of some fish, plant growth, and nutrient uptake are all affected. You will find that herbicides are less effective too.

Notice I mentioned some fish. Trout, as we all know, are cold water fish. We only have one natural trout stream in Anne Arundel County and that is Jabez Branch. That is because trout thrive in water temperatures at or below 60°F. They can survive in ponds so long as the temperature at a depth of 4 feet below the surface does not exceed 72°F. The temperature at and twelve inches below the surface can range from 72°F to 75°F. An occasional temperature of 80°F for a couple of days in mid-summer is tolerable so long as the temperature below does not exceed 72°F. Ponds with warmer temperatures are better off stocked with species such as largemouth bass, bluegills, channel catfish, golden shiners and flathead minnows.

The cooler temperatures that come with spring are essential for egg production, fertilization and hatching. The warmer summer temperatures will promote growth after hatching. Most warm water fish grow best with a temperature range of 65°F and 90°F. Fish become stressed when temperatures graduate above 90°F. Their growth slows down, they become more susceptible to parasites and diseases and high temperatures hinder reproduction. Warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen and increases the metabolic rates in fish. This can lead to a fish kill when oxygen levels are lowest in the morning hours.

Well, it looks like I have run out of room to go into thermal stratification. I better save that discussion for the next newsletter.

John Czajkowski, District Manager, john@aascd.org



MARYLAND FARM & HARVEST RETURNS FOR 9TH SEASON

Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series Maryland Farm & Harvest returned for its ninth season on Tuesday, November 9. This season features thirteen new half-hour episodes, visiting farms across the state.

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts is a sponsor of this award winning program. Visit mpt.org/farm to find episodes.

Agriculture Division

The Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District's Agricultural Services Division provides information and guidance to agricultural landowners in order to protect soil and water resources.

Did you know? Your conservation plan expires every 10 years — find out if it's time to update your plan.



3,857.20
ACRES PLANTED IN 2021
 In 2021, 57 Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans across Anne Arundel county.



\$182,483.83
STATE & FEDERAL COST SHARE FUNDING
 Extensions due to COVID caused project and payment delays.

26 FARMERS
 Participated in the Cover Crop Program in 2021.

4,568.6 ACRES
 Enrolled in the Cover Crop Program in 2021.

\$211,942.00
 Cover Crop cost share funding in 2021.

5,784 ACRES
 Needed to meet District's WIP Goals by 2025.

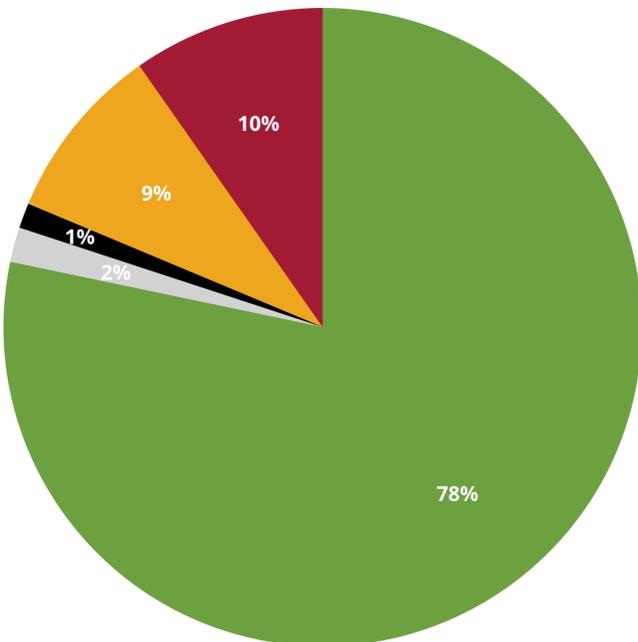


Urban Division

Our District plays a vital role in the conservation of soils and in improving water quality by reviewing and approving sediment and erosion control plans for construction activity throughout Anne Arundel County and the city of Annapolis.

URBAN DIVISION BY THE NUMBERS

- Total Submittals: 2,056
- City of Annapolis Grading Plans: 76
- County Grading Permits: 476
- Sediment Control Plans: 1,111
- Mining Plans: 3
- Subdivision-Variance-Other: 393
- Average Review Time: 5.1 days



AASCD Funding Sources

We are one of 23 soil conservation districts in Maryland. Each district functions independently under a local Board of Supervisors. This ensures that local natural resource issues are addressed.

- Anne Arundel County: \$ 600,161.00
- Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund: \$13,533.00
- MDA General Fund: \$9,705.00
- Fees for Service: \$68,673.78
- Additional Grants: \$74,617.60

To carry out our mission, we work with a number of local, state and federal agencies including county government offices, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers and state and federal legislators.



PLOWING, PLANTING AND PODCASTS

by Keli Kirby

Sometimes after spending hours in the field, plowing, planting, and harvesting, there is no energy left to relax and read the latest information on production technologies, a new agricultural venture or concerns of the agricultural industry. Because tomorrow, the same long hours will be needed to make the operation a success. Where does one find the time to absorb relevant information when there are no more hours left in a day?

Podcasts have become both magazine and radio for the 21st century. They cover every topic imaginable and bring expertise and talent from people who share your same interests. Farming podcasts, or ag podcasts, are rich in information, interviews, and entertainment. Armed with a cellphone and earbuds, you can turn the long hours on your tractor into hours of information and entertainment from people who know agriculture.

Need a starting place...



The Farming Podcast - Covers homesteading, permaculture, and daily life of farmer Josiah Garber. A straightforward website archives all the episodes, and the focus is on food and small operations. This podcast is perfect if you want variety but also relatability, and since it's been

going now for years, there is a huge backlog of episodes to get started. Visit thefarmingpodcast.com/subscribe



Farm to Table Talk - Explores issues and the growing interest in the story of how and where the food on our tables is produced, processed, and marketed. Visit farmtotabletalk.com



Young Farmers - A weekly podcast by the National Young Farmers Coalition. Recent episodes have covered everything from industrial hemp production to politics in rural America to land access to farmland to climate change. Many of these podcast episodes are about the politics, trends, and future of farming in America. Visit youngfarmers.org

You can also check out "Soil Health to Go," short episodes from the National Resource Conservation Service covering soil health topics with farmers from across the country. Visit nracs.usda.gov



Farming Today - Comes from the UK as a part of BBC Radio 4. The daily show has been broadcasted for nearly six decades. Episodes cover current issues facing farmers, fishermen, and countryside living. Farmers, politicians, agricultural associations, and environmentalists are frequently interviewed for the short 10-to-20-minute episodes. Visit bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qj8q



Off The Husk - Join the team as they explore the business of food, fiber, and fuel. Hear from farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, and agriculture/farming professionals from across the country. What ensues is a politically incorrect podcast filled with genuinely improvised, authentic conversation, laughter, and some newfound agriculture knowledge. Visit mnmillennialfarmer.com/podcast

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FAIR

This year, the county fair board was able to hold the fair, and we were able to have a display at the fair. The tent was in the same location as two years ago which is east of the exhibit building. We shared the tent with the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation as well as the Maryland Farm Bureau.



ANNE ARUNDEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chair: Brian Riddle

Vice Chair: Gary Palmer

Treasurer: Vaughn Foxwell

Secretary: Dave Myers

Donald Entzian, Member

Christine Catterton, Member

Mike Superczynski, Associate

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

District Manager: John Czajkowski

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Office Manager: Keli Kirby

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