

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

KENT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

122 Speer Road, Suite 4, Chestertown, MD 21620

kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org / Find us on Facebook



Edited by: Janet Sigler



COVID-19 UPDATES AND RESOURCES THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS OPEN

Please note that the office is open and is covered by staff every day. For the staff's safety, we ask that no one enter the office. Please call 410-778-5150 for assistance or ring the door bell outside the office. Please wear a mask when working with staff. Thank you.

Also, we encourage submission of Cost Share applications for project funding. Due to the coronavirus, budgets may change. Please do not wait!

MARYLAND UPDATE

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

Online Forum: <https://health.maryland.gov/covidconnect/Pages/Home.aspx>

Covid 19 Vaccine Update: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/experimental-covid-19-vaccine-safe-generates-immune-response>.

MD Farm Bureau: Food Assistance Program – MDFarmBureau.com/Coronavirus

MEET OUR BOARD

Charles Miller, Chairman
Lewis McDonald, Co-Chairman
Tim Redman, Treasurer
Wickes Westcott, Member
Robert Baldwin, Member
Barney Barnes, Associate
Sean Jones, Associate
William Langenfelter, Associate
George Kendall, Associate
Eddie Taylor, Associate

Karen Miller, District Manager
Nancy Metcalf, District
Conservationist

CALENDAR VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

November 17-19 - Precision
Ag.Conference - Technology
Showcase

**Extension Virtual Winter Crop
Production Meetings**

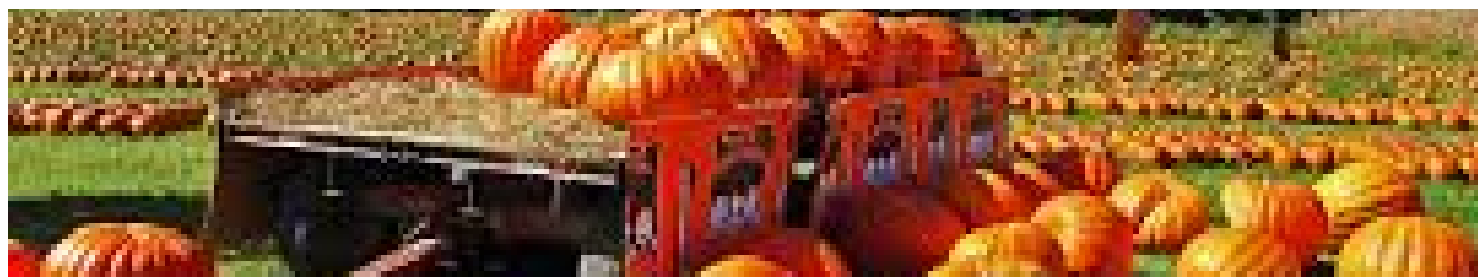
<https://extension.umd.edu/agriculture>

January 14-16 2021, Future Harvest - "Crisis
& Resilience: Farmers Building a New Food
Future."

COVER CROP

110 applications this year.

November 5th - Last Day to Plant
November 12th - Deadline to Report



THE BOARD WELCOMES ROBERT BALDWIN



Robert Baldwin was voted onto the Board during the September Board meeting. Robert has over 30 years experience working with Natural Resource Conservation Programs in both Maryland and Delaware. Robert is a graduate of Kent County High School, he has earned a Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Resources and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from West Virginia University. He has also earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Delaware. Robert has worked in both technical

and administrative positions for Maryland Forest Service, Maryland Department of Agriculture and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Robert has also served as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Regional Director of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. Robert's interests are varied and many, he is an avid outdoors person including having been a crewmember on numerous wildland fire crews working in the western U.S and Alaska. Robert has been a associate supervisor with Kent Soil and Water Conservation District for 32 years. Robert and his family live in Kent County.

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST - \$1.6 M MICROGRANT

American Farmland Trust (AFT, <http://farmland.org/>) has partnered with Tillamook Creamery (<https://www.tillamook.com/>) to launch the Brighter Future Microgrants Program. I am reaching out to you with information about the upcoming microgrant opportunity for farmers within a Philadelphia area Tillamook-distribution radius. The Brighter Future Microgrant Program seeks to support farmers in successfully launching, growing, or sustaining their farms in the face of many current challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, changing markets, climate change, natural disasters, and other forces are impacting the U.S. food and agricultural system. Brighter Future Microgrants will be awarded in amounts between \$1,000-5,000. The Microgrants can be applied towards equipment/infrastructure (that promotes conservation practices) or professional services (such as hiring a lawyer to develop a farm lease, or a service provider to create a business plan.) Specifically, AFT has committed that at least 50% of microgrant funds will be awarded to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ farmers. There will also be a focus on supporting female-identifying farmers. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and there is limited funding, which is why I am reaching out to you about this opportunity. Could you please share with farmers in your community that could benefit from this program? One of AFT's goals is for the microgrants to complement regionally based organizations' existing work and be of benefit for the farmers with whom they are working. Your Philadelphia area organization may work with traditionally underserved farmers or their valuable contributions to the local food system. Please encourage farmers you know to submit early applications to this microgrant program. More information can be found here: <https://farmland.org/brighter-future/>.

As the regional lead for the Philadelphia area, I will be the primary point of contact for any questions about the program. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions. Thank you for your time and outreach efforts for this exciting program. Margot Mays

Press Release - <https://farmland.org/tillamook-september-sales-campaign-successfully-delivers-1-6-million-to-american-farmland-trust/>

STAFF DIRECTORY

Karen Miller, District Manager
Nancy Metcalf, District Conservationist
Zach Berry, NRCS Technician
Michael Boughner, Soil Conservation Tech
Christopher Davidson, Civil Engineer Tech
Jenny Lee Freebery, Ag Conservation Spec
Shelly Gsell, Administrative Assistant
Sam Leaverton, Ag Conservation Specialist
Chris Myers, Engineering Technician
Jennifer Richardson, Soil Conservationist
Janet Sigler, Administrative Assistant
Main Line: (410) 778-5150, ext. 3
Office Fax: 410-778-4700

<https://kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Government-Organization/Kent-Soil-Water-Conservation-District-369901813117803/>

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

University of Maryland Extension, Kent County: (410) 778-1661

Maryland DNR Forest Service: (410) 819-4121

Kent County Weed Control: 410-708-1227; srowe@kentgov.net

Important Links:

<https://www.farmers.gov/>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/md/home/>

2019 MACS Annual Report

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/MDA_MACS_AR2019_FINAL.pdf

JOKE JUNCTION

Riding lawn mower
\$1,500

Riding mower for sale, mows the tall grass with ease, doesn't need gas, has a fertilizer attached to rear. FCFS, NH, QOS.



RCPP APPLICATION DEADLINE

NRCS state office has let us know that the next deadline for RCPP application is 11/20/20. We have some remaining funds to promote soil health in your area...The eligible practices are as follows: Adaptive management; Multi-species cover crops; Conservation crop rotations; Variable rate technology for applying nutrients; Residual and tillage management; Precision nutrient management; Edge-of-field tools to identify and reduce agricultural sources of excess nutrients; Composting; Forage and biomass plantings; and Other practices that support and enhance soil health. Contact Nancy Metcalf or Jen Richardson at 410-778-5150

THINK SPRING! - ORDER SHRUBS AND TREES

Submitted by Brittany Haas

Orders are now being accepted for the spring 2021 planting season for shrubs and trees from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery, managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Trees benefit the environment as well as enhance natural habitat for birds, squirrels and other wildlife. Almost all trees and shrubs available for sale are native, and many are also pollinator-friendly. The best time to plant bareroot seedlings in Maryland is March 1 to May 10. Planting native trees and shrubs help to improve water quality, create wildlife habitat and can provide a source of income in the future. If you are interested in planting trees or purchasing trees from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery, visit nursery.dnrmaryland.gov or contact your local Maryland Forest Service Office at 410-819-4120 for assistance.



A BIT OF NEWS

Harold Joiner, a life long resident of Chestertown, is turning 100 on November 10th. Please mail cards to c/o Christ United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 262, Chestertown. Thank you.

WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

Violet Baxter - August 12, 1934 - August 29, 2020;
Conservation partner, Cooperator of the Year

Joan Strong Elburn - October 24, 1939- October 1, 2020;
Landowner, and local farmer

Della Elna Willis - October 24, 1925 - September 27, 2020;
Landowner and Local farmer.
Always in our memory. Forever in our hearts....



SOIL TRIVIA- TRUE OR FALSE

By Jenny Freebery

1. There are around 1000 different soil types in the US (False - There are over 70,000 soil types!)
2. There are more microbes in a handful of healthy soil than there are people on this planet (True)
3. It takes 500 years to make 1 inch of topsoil through natural processes. (True)
4. Tillage increases organic matter (False- Disturbing soil causes organic matter to decompose faster since it is exposed to air.)
5. 5 tons of soil spread over an acre would be an inch thick (False. Only as thick as a dime.)
6. Healthy soils help fight climate change by sequestering carbon from the air. (True)

MARYLAND FARMER - COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM

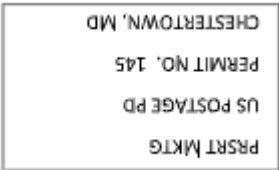
By Jenny Freebery

MDA is accepting applications to help producers impacted by the pandemic. All contract poultry growers are eligible for a direct payment of \$1000 per poultry house (capped at 5 houses) and those whose flocks were depopulated during the pandemic are eligible for an additional \$1500 per house. Maryland farmers who received federal funding on the first round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) are eligible for a 15% bonus payment. To learn more or to apply for funding please go to mda.maryland.gov/pages/farmer-relief or contact Jenny Lee Freebery at 410-778-5150x3293 jenny.lee@maryland.gov.



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