

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Cecil Soil Conservation District

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Photo credit Sean McCandless

About the District

The Cecil Soil Conservation District (CSCD) was formally organized on June 26, 1945 under a charter signed by Maryland's Secretary of State. On August 27, 1945, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into between CSCD and USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now, the Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Since that time, the CSCD has entered into more than 25 MOU's with various conservation partners. The District is comprised of the Cecil County Department of Soil Conservation, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the USDA-NRCS. The services provided are diversified and involve extensive coordination with the County, State, and Federal government.

The District promotes conservation planning, cover crops, nutrient management and land preservation. The District administers and provides technical assistance for the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and many other MDA and USDA Farm Bill programs.



District Manager Message

During the past year, the Cecil Soil Conservation District (CSCD) continued its mission to provide the community with information, education, and technical assistance in conserving the county's natural resources while supporting the viability of agriculture in Cecil County.

Through conservation planning, technical assistance, and administration of cost-share programs, CSCD staff have worked closely with farmers, landowners, municipalities, and partner agencies to implement effective, science-based best management practices. Each year, more producers adopt and maintain practices including cover crops, conservation tillage, waste storage, water management, and erosion and runoff control measures. These efforts improve soil health, reduce sediment and nutrient losses, and contribute to improved local water quality and progress toward Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

Over the past several years, CSCD has also made a renewed effort to emphasize education and outreach through farm workshops and public events that increase awareness of conservation practices and programs. These efforts help connect landowners with resources and encourage voluntary adoption of conservation measures. Looking ahead, I am excited for another year of continued service to the farmers and residents of Cecil County.



Chris Brown

Agricultural Conservation Programs

MACS Program

MACS Applications

16

MACS Application Funding Requested

\$326,467.76

MACS BMP Funding Granted (claims)

\$191,567.76

USDA Programs

Federal Statewide Funding

\$14,220,831.60

Number of Contracts for Cecil County

8

Federal Funding for Cecil County

\$1,217,843

AMA, EQUIP, CSP

28 payments

Cover Crop Program

2024-2025 Cover Crop Applications

89

2024-2025 Cover Crop Acres

22,219 acres

2024-2025 Cover Crop Contracts

\$1,443,385

Manure Transport & Injection Program

Manure Transport/Injection

\$1,386.07

Manure Transport

\$66,266.76

Manure Injection/Incorporation

\$23,566.50



Conservation Assistance

Conservation Planning

Conservation Planned Acres

11,409.7 acres

Conservation Plans

77

New Cooperators

20

Agricultural E&S/SWM Activities

Farm AG SWM Plan Reviews

11

AG SWM Plan Approvals

4

AG Fill Plan Approvals

3

Ag SWM/E&S Inspections

41

Technical Assistance Requests

46

Erosion & Sediment Control



Urban E&S Activities

Erosion and Sediment Control Reviews

335

Erosion and Sediment Control Approvals

221

Total Disturbed Acres

2,793

378 Small Pond Activities

Small Pond Review

36

Small Pond Approvals

8

Forest Harvest Plan Approvals: **17** on **377** Acres

357

Best Management Practices Installed

A Best Management Practices help improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

Amendments for treatment of Ag Waste	10,505 AU.	Pasture & Hay Planting	47.2 Ac.
Conservation Cover	377.98 Ac.	Prescribed Grazing	129.1 Ac.
Conservation Crop Rotation	3,844.3 Ac.	Dry Waste Storage RI 1	5 Ea.
Contour Farming	1.1 Ac.	Watercourse Access RI 6	350 Ft.
Cover Crop (Non-Program)	2,918.2 Ac.	Water Trough RI 18	19 Ea.
Critical Area Planting	135.93 Ac.	Residue & Tillage Management (No Till)	2,325.1 Ac.
Diversion	771 Ft.	Residue & Tillage Management	1,593 Ac.
Fence Non Streamside	3,409 Ft.	Riparian Forest Buffer	1 Ac.
Forage Harvest Management	1,049.8 Ac.	Roof Runoff Structure	1 No.
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 No.	Soil Spreading	0.4 Ac.
Grassed Waterway	5.77 Ac.	Strip Cropping	39.5 Ac.
Lined Waterway or Outlet	272 Ft.	Subsurface Drain	994 Ft.
Mulching	1.6 Ac.	Stormwater Runoff Control	2 No.
Nutrient Management	5,616.78 Ac.	Structure for Water Control	1 No.

Best Management Practices Installed



Roofed Heavy Use Area



Lined waterway/outlet



Grassed Waterway



Waste Storage Facility



Structure for water control

Cooperator of the Year: Meck Farms



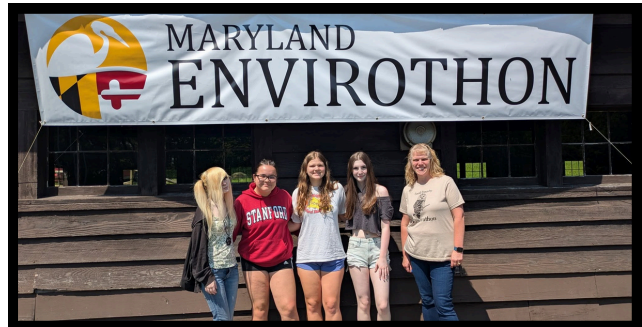
In January, CSCD honored Meck Farms as the District's 77th Annual Cooperator of the Year. Philip Meck and his family have implemented a variety of Best Management Practices, including Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management, Grassed Waterways, a Waste Storage Facility, Composting Facility, Heavy Use Areas, Environmental Buffers, and Agricultural Stormwater Management. The Meck family have a long history of conserving natural resources to leave a legacy of outstanding conservation for future generations.



Envirothon



Cecil Soil Conservation District had another successful Envirothon season! This event would not be possible without the support from our local sponsors and the Fair Hill Nature Center. We have been going strong now for over 25 years with participation from Cecil County High Schools. The energy from all of the participating teams during trainings and competition as truly inspiring. Students came to learn but also to enjoy the outdoors. The winning team from this year's county competition was Rising Sun High School, who went on to the compete in the State Envirothon Competition at the Western Maryland 4H Camp Center in Swanton, MD



THANK YOU TO OUR ENVIROTHON SPONSORS



MAEOE
Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education



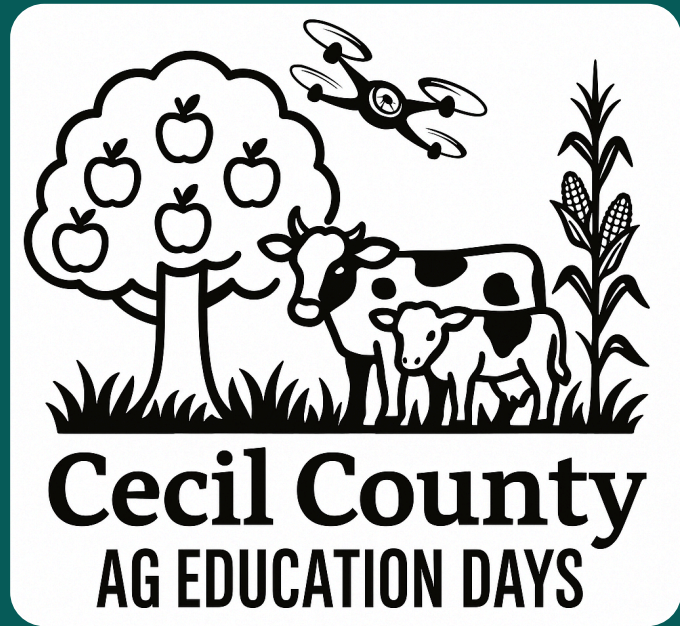
UPPER BAY RURITAN CLUB



7th Grade AG Education Day

A partnership between Cecil County Public Schools, Cecil Soil Conservation District, Horizon Farm Credit, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, and the University of Maryland Extension (Cecil County) has served as the base for the establishment of a new non-profit organization known as The Cecil County Agricultural Education Planning Association.

In 2025, the CSCD continued to educate students as part of the Cecil County 7TH GRADE AG EDUCATION DAYS, held at the Cecil County Fairgrounds on April 29th to May 1st. This year, the successful 3-day event brought agricultural education to another 1,100+ Cecil County seventh grade students. Students visited 12 distinct Ag science stations which showcase the diversity of agriculture-based careers and how agriculture touches all aspects of everyday life. The event builds upon the student's classroom science curriculum. Students from the Cecil County School of Technology were invited to interact with the 7th graders to inspire questions and promote programs and opportunities at the Cecil County School of Technology.



Education and Outreach



Education and Outreach has an important place in the mission and vision of Cecil Soil Conservation District. Our Educational events aim to reach every age demographic. Each year we find that we are adding more and more outreach events to our calendar. The hard work of district staff has been recognized as the CSCD has been awarded as the Conservation Education District of the Year for four years in a row. Below are just a few of the education and outreach event that Cecil Soil Conservation District participated in or sponsored.

Thank You

4th Grade Insects **FMC**

4th Grade Ecosystems **NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

4th Grade Soil Science

**Fair Hill Nature Center
Fourth Grade Soils**

**Dupont Farm
Ag Day**

**Cecil Community
College**

**Cecil County
Wade In**

**RSMS Science Fair
Judges**

**Bio Blitz
Bohemia State Park**

**County Ag Tour
County Executive
& Council**

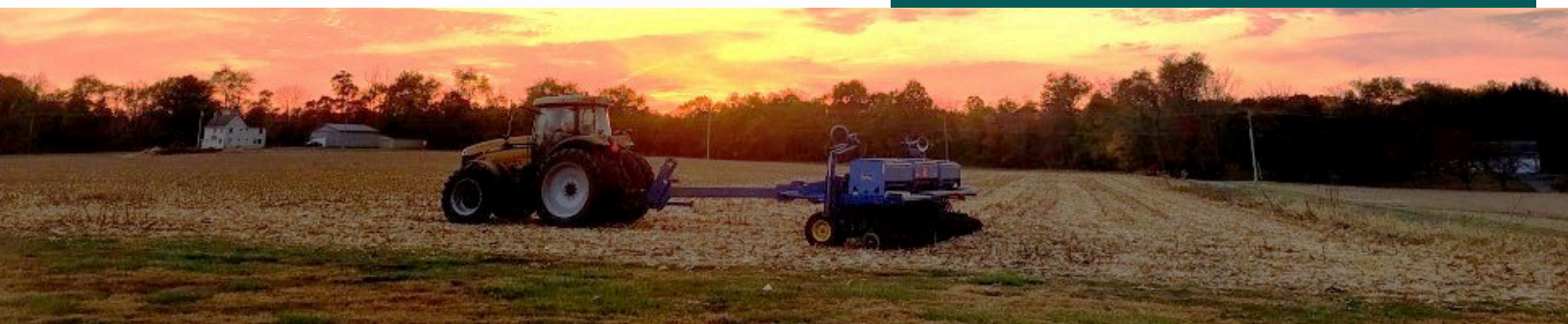
**MD Ag Commission
Tour**

District Staff



Board of Supervisors

Bruce Yerkes, Chairman
William Ewing, Vice-Chairman
Van Funk, Treasurer
Jonathan Quinn, Member
Vic Priapi, Member
Alice Crothers, Associate



MDA Staff



Dan Polite, Engineering Technician
Jessica Zebley, Engineering Technician
Andrew Sipe, Soil Conservation Technician
Josh Fitzgerald, Soil Conservation Technician
Lauren Gilbert, Soil Conservation Technician
Sean McCandless, Soil Conservation Planner
Cherish Warner, Soil Conservation Planner
Ivan Tokash, Soil Conservation Planner

USDA/NRCS Staff



Rob Weaver, District Conservationist
Sonya Matlack, Soil Conservationist
Elizabeth Jamison, Program Support Specialist



County Staff

Chris Brown, District Manager
Tracey Rach, District Coordinator
Patty Pierce, Administrative Assist.
Gerry P. Powell, M.CE., PE.
Mari McNinch, Soil Conservationist
Ryan Fisher, Soil Conservationist