

Garrett Soil Conservation District

“Conservation News”

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COVID UPDATE - We are Working for You!

The Garrett Service Center is open for business but not for public access. Currently, questions and appointments are being taken/held via phone, e-mail, and using online services. Special arrangements will be made for signatures. Please call the service center at 301-501-5856 for the most up to date information, or visit our Facebook page or farmers.gov/coronavirus.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE WHEN WORKING WITH FARM ANIMALS

Maryland farmers store manure in the winter to protect against runoff. March 1 is the earliest they can recycle manure as a natural crop fertilizer and soil conditioner. Protecting streams and reducing odors are top priorities. Farmers use special equipment to work manure into the soil while planting windbreaks and buffers to trap dust and sediment. This helps keep runoff out of streams — and odors away from noses. Below are some of the emergency provisions pertaining to winter nutrient management.

Winter Nutrient Application Prohibited Effective thru February 28

Request for Emergency Waiver by calling 410-841-5959 or contract a Regional NM Specialist

Emergency Provisions

- * On-farm generated liquid manure (operations w/> 50 AU's)
- * Solid manure must be stacked
- * Application shall be made to existing vegetative cover maintained as such until March 1
- * No application within 100' of surface waters
- * No application on slopes >7%
- * Rate per acre cannot exceed the 1 year P crop removal rate of 50 lbs PAN/Ac for the next harvested crop
- * No application when soil is saturated, ground is snow covered >1" or ground is hard and frozen >2"

Important Dates

- Office Closed: Federal Holiday Feb 15
- Buffer Grants though MDA signup open thru Feb. 5
- CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing app can do so between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26
- Nutrient Management winter application prohibited period ends February 28
- Annual Implementation Reports Due March 1
- Kill down/suppression for Cover Crops takes place March 1 thru June 1. Farmers who terminate cover crops after May 1, 2021 may be eligible for an Extended Season incentive payment.



From the Chairman.... James "Smokey" Stanton

Welcome to the winter 2021 issue of the Garrett Soil Conservation District Newsletter.

The mission of the Garrett SCD is "To implement conservation programs and initiatives within Garrett County to protect and improve our soil, water, and related natural resources through local involvement and decision making."

Garrett County has approximately 700 farms in nearly 90,000 acres of land in agricultural land use, and winter is a good time for our partners and cooperators to examine operations to expand or apply additional best management practices (BMP's). Along with the cost-sharing and technical assistance programs available to Garrett County farmers through the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, I want to remind our community our District purchased and has available a lime spreader and a no-till drill to assist with implementing this set of best management practices.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation lists five broad categories of BMP's that have proven cost-effective benefits:

Streamside buffers: Streamside buffers are areas bordering stream banks that are taken out of crop production or pasture use and planted with native trees, shrubs, or grasses. These buffers are at least 35 feet wide on either side of a stream, and filter and absorb runoff pollution such as excess fertilizer before it can reach streams. The buffers also help shade streams and provide food and homes for wildlife.

Streamside fencing: Streamside fencing keeps livestock and their waste out of farm streams, thereby reducing pollution and erosion and helping prevent the spread of waterborne disease.

Nutrient management plans: Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) help a farmer know how much and when fertilizers should be used on crops. By developing and using the nutrient management plan, farmers can minimize fertilizer costs and reduce nutrient runoff into local waterways.

Continuous No-till: Continuous no-till (also known as conservation tillage) reduces erosion and runoff by minimizing soil disturbances. This practice also builds the soil's health and its ability to hold moisture. Traditional plowing and tilling, on the other hand, disturbs the soil, leaving it unprotected and allows more erosion to occur.

Cover crops: Cover crops are planted to absorb excess fertilizer left in fields after the main crop is harvested. Cover crops help reduce runoff and erosion and enrich the soil with organic matter.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has additional descriptions and definitions to assist with decision-making, and those can be found at: https://mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/WIPCountyDocs/bmpdef_co.pdf

Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors

Meeting Dates for 2021

During the Covid-19 pandemic - all monthly Board of Supervisor meetings will be held via teleconference on the following dates in 2021. Anyone having an item to discuss with the supervisors are invited to attend any/all of the meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Please see our website or Facebook page for the call-in number and pin. All times and dates are subject to change.

January 19	February 16	March 16
April 20	May 18	June 15
July 20	August 17	September 21
October 19	November 16	December 21

FY20 Annual Report

The Garrett SCD purchased a rain fall simulator that will be used for outreach. The simulator will visually demonstrate what happens on the landscape every time it rains. Garrett County is in the mountainous area of western Maryland. Steep slopes and a culture of using conventional tillage methods (moldboard plowing) present a great potential for excessive soil erosion, and accelerated concentrations of nutrients and impairing levels of sediment in streams. Furthermore, approximately one-third of the county lies within the endangered, Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The goal of the Garrett Soil Conservation District is to present this demonstration to people from all walks of life. Employees at the district currently present soil information to middle school-aged classes. This project would add a new way to visually and interestingly present the relationship between rainfall, tillage methods, and various types of ground cover. By being introduced to these concepts at a young age, we expect the lessons learned to help to shape the attitudes and actions of these students for a lifetime. Additionally, we plan to present this demonstration at other school functions, the county fair, to service organizations, and wherever opportunities may arise.



Simulator may differ from picture which is courtesy of rainfallsimulator.com

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs): Developed/Updated 2 SCWQP's to help farmers protect natural resources on 93.6 acres of farmland.

Best management Practices: Installed 101 BMP's to control erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality.

Cover Crops: Twenty-two (22) farmers planted one thousand two hundred ninety seven (1,297) acres of cover crops on fields in Garrett County the fall of 2020.

Erosion and Sediment Control: Reviewed 160 Erosion and Sediment control plans for construction projects to ensure their effectiveness in protecting 2,738 acres. The district approved 145 of these plans.

OUTREACH

- * Soil Classes taught to 6th graders at Hickory Environmental Center.
- * Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's Coloring Contest.

Funding in FY20

EQIP: \$188,176 (Secured)

EQIP: \$594,398 (Practices Implemented)

MACS: \$14,264 (Capitol Projects)

\$95,261 (Cover Crop)

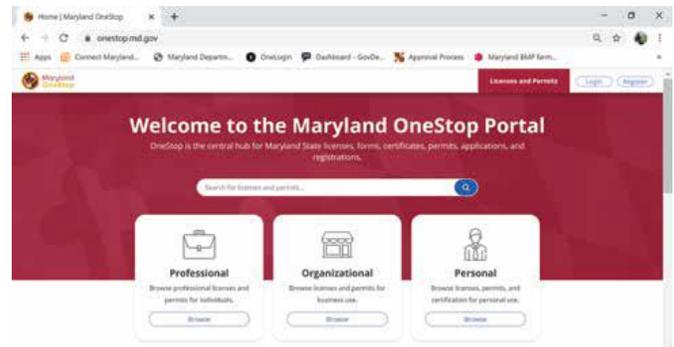
\$144,654 (Practices Implemented)

2020 Annual Implementation Reporting (AIR) forms are due March 1

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding farmers regulated by the Nutrient Management Program that they are required to submit their 2020 Annual Implementation Reporting (AIR) forms by March 1. New this year, farmers will have the option to submit their forms electronically via the [Maryland OneStop portal](https://onestop.md.gov/). Visit <https://onestop.md.gov/> to register. Approximately 5,500 Maryland farmers are regulated by MDA's Nutrient Management Program. These farmers are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure, and must submit AIR forms summarizing their operation's nutrient applications for the previous year. Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit **one** combined reporting form along with a manure analysis to MDA's Nutrient Management Program. For those farmers who want to continue to submit paper reports, a mail-in option remains available this year. Paper forms will be mailed to all regulated farmers and are available for download on MDA's website

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/air.aspx

For additional assistance in completing the AIRs, farmers should contact their regional nutrient management office.



Plant the Buffer That Works for You

Excluding Livestock From Streams is a Requirement in the Current Nutrient Management Regulations

Signup opens January 11 for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's new Conservation Buffer Initiative. The program offers attractive incentive payments, easy signup and more management options for farmers who want to plant streamside buffers on their farms to improve water quality. Interested? Check out the website for full details and application forms, but don't wait too long, signup ends February 5, 2021.

Visit: https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/conservation-buffer-initiative.aspx

FERTILIZER BLACKOUT DATES ARE NOW IN EFFECT!

To protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, citizens and lawn care professionals are prohibited from fertilizing lawns with products containing nitrogen or phosphorus during blackout dates. Citizens and lawn-care professionals may resume lawn-fertilizer applications containing nitrogen and phosphorus on **March 1, 2021**, as long as the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is not predicted. A soil test is required before phosphorus may be applied to established lawns. Potassium and lime may still be applied to lawns during blackout dates. As a reminder, fertilizer products should never be used to melt ice and snow on steps, sidewalks or driveways. Applying fertilizer to hard or frozen ground provides a direct pathway for nutrient runoff into the storm drains that feed the Chesapeake Bay. To learn more, visit www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer

Don't Use Fertilizer to Melt Ice

The Maryland Department of Agriculture reminds citizens not to use of fertilizer products to de-ice frozen surfaces. Once temperatures rise, these products can easily wash into nearby storm drains and streams with the first rain or snow.



USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

(Washington, D.C., January 15, 2021) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program. Producers who are now eligible and those who need to modify existing applications due to these updates can contact USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26. Some of these changes are being made to align with the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 while others are discretionary changes being made in response to ongoing evaluation of CFAP.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has left a deep impact on the farm economy, and we are utilizing the tools and monies available to ease some of the financial burdens on American producers to ensure our agricultural economy remains strong, independent and a global leader in production," said Secretary Perdue. "As part of implementing CFAP 1 and CFAP 2, we identified new areas of support and Congress recently directed us to provide additional relief. This additional assistance builds on to the \$23.6 billion in assistance already provided to our farmers and ranchers impacted by the pandemic, and we will continue to implement other provisions enacted by Congress."

Background:

Expanded Eligibility for CFAP 2

Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds.

Producers of pullets and turfgrass sod also now are eligible for CFAP payments. The commodities were not explicitly included in the initial CFAP 2 rule. Payments are based on eligible sales, and the payment calculation in the updated rule includes crop insurance indemnities, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) payments.

Updated Payment Calculations for CFAP 2

Similarly, FSA adjusted the payment calculation to use the producer's eligible 2019 calendar year sales, and 2019 crop insurance indemnities, NAP, and WHIP+ payments, multiplied by the applicable payment rate for all sales commodities, which include specialty crops, aquaculture, tobacco, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture, for CFAP 2. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

Additionally, FSA adjusted the payment calculation for certain row crops for CFAP 2, specifically those for which a producer had crop insurance coverage but not an available 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. FSA is now using 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield to calculate payments when an APH is not available rather than 85%, which was in the original CFAP 2 calculations. This calculation change is only for producers with crop insurance coverage who grow barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton and wheat. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

CFAP 1 'Top-up' Payments for Swine

FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic. Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive a "top-up" payment of \$17 per head increasing the total CFAP1 inventory payment to \$34 per head.

More Information

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021, by contacting their local USDA Service Center. New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364.

In addition to the changes being made to CFAP, per language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, FSA will extend 2020 Marketing Assistance Loans to provide additional flexibilities for farmers. FSA is also preparing to move forward on implementation of the remaining provisions of the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

To learn more about this additional assistance, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

How to Write a Nutrient Management Plan: March Session

When: *Monday March 8, 2021 to Friday March 12, 2021*

Where: *Online through Zoom, WebEx, or similar*

COURSE DESCRIPTION Participants will learn how to write a nutrient management plan from beginning to end and how to use NuMan Pro nutrient management planning software. Principles will be discussed via live webinar (Zoom, WebEx or similar) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Video guidance for NuMan Pro activities will be available and online “office hours” (Zoom, WebEx or similar) will occur on Tuesday and Thursday to guide participants through NuMan Pro activities.

COURSE CREDITS Newly (less than one year since certification) certified nutrient management consultants will receive 6 continuing education credits with satisfactory course completion, which includes participation in webinars and completion of plan development. A certificate of completion will be issued to participants who complete the necessary components.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND All are welcome; however, the material will be geared toward Certified Nutrient Management Consultants.

REGISTRATION 1) Registration (<https://go.umd.edu/March2021-HTWNMP>) is required; links for access will be sent to those who register. 2) There is no cost for this course, but 3) the latest version of [NuMan software](#) will be needed on your desktop/laptop before the start of the course. NuMan licenses are \$75 if you or your institution does not yet already have one. Contact Emileigh Lucas at erosso@umd.edu if you have any questions. Contact David Ruppert at druppert@umd.edu if the \$75 NuMan software license is a hardship.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS Participants must have access to a stable internet connection, be able to connect to Zoom, WebEx or similar, have access to [NuMan Pro 5.0 software](#), and be able to access Google Drive (for course materials and participant folders). Contact Emileigh Lucas at erosso@umd.edu if you have any concerns about accessing the course and we will do our best to accommodate you.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

MD Forest Service is once again offering the *Backyard Buffer Program*

Landowners with a stream or other waterway on their property are eligible to receive a FREE packet of 25 seedlings. This year's species include hazelnut, river birch, silver maple, pin oak and yellow poplar (5 of each). Requests to participate must be received by March 19th or when the program reaches capacity. Those who have requested trees will receive more information once pickup details are available. Sign up online at

<https://forms.gle/9Jz8CrbJbuhqrqUJF8>

Pickup information will be sent via email to the e-mail address provided. If you do not have an email address or experience a problem signing up via the Google form, please call 301-334-3296 and leave a message.

>>>The Garrett County Forestry Board is offering a college scholarship!<<<

You must live in Garrett County and be pursuing a degree in forestry or a natural resources related field.

Information is at the following link. Applications due by March 1, 2021.

<https://gcforestryboard.wixsite.com/gcfb/scholarship>

Available For Rent From Garrett SCD

Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime and Fertilizer Spreader and 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill



The Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime Spreader was purchased to promote better growth and plant vigor of cropland and pasture. Improving soil fertility is an excellent way to revitalize an old meadow or pasture. Proper soil pH is important for crop and pasture performance. Vigorous vegetative growth minimizes soil erosion from runoff and minimizes the harmful effects on surface water quality from sediment and nutrients in runoff.

No-till farming (also called zero tillage or direct drilling) is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. No-till is an agricultural technique which increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil and increases organic matter retention and cycling of nutrients in the soil. In many agricultural regions it can reduce or eliminate soil erosion. It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil, including disease-causing organisms and disease organisms. The most powerful benefit of no-tillage is improvement in soil biological fertility, making soils more resilient. Farm operations are made much more efficient, particularly improved time of sowing and better trafficability of farm operations.

The rental rate for the Transpread 5.5 Ton spreader is \$3.00/ ton of any material spread with a \$30.00 minimum charge. The John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill is available for rent at \$10.00 per acre with a \$30.00 minimum charge. For additional information or to have your name added to the list, contact the Garrett SCD at 301-501-5886.



Big Year for Cover Crops

Maryland farmers signed up to plant more than 640,000 acres of cover crops this fall during the Maryland Cover Crop Program's first ever mail-in enrollment. Getting those cover crops in the ground, however, proved challenging. Persistent rain and poor field conditions made planting a soggy business. By mid-December, soil conservation districts had certified 420,000 acres of cover crops with more fields to be counted.

Garrett SCD Scholarship

The District grants one \$1,000 scholarship annually to assist a Garrett County student in pursuing a degree in agriculture, natural resources or related environmental fields. Eligibility guidelines now allow college students and previous winners to apply as well as high school seniors. In order to qualify the student must meet the following requirements: Must be a resident of Garrett County, Maryland and graduating or was a resident of Garrett County, Maryland at the time of graduation from one of the following high schools: Mountain Ridge High School, Northern Garrett High School or Southern Garrett High School. Must have a high school/college grade point average of 3.0 or better. Must major in an agricultural or natural resources related field. Previous winners are eligible but preference will be given to first time applicants. Completed applications, along with a one page essay, are due into the conservation district office by May 1. Selection of the recipient will be made by June 30 by the Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Please visit <http://www.garrettscd.org/education.htm> for the application forms.



2020 Winner Sara Carr

**Garrett Soil Conservation District
1916 Maryland Highway Ste C
Mt Lake Park MD 21550**

**Service Center Main Line: 301-501-5856
FSA Direct Line: 301-501-5885
NRCS/SCD Direct Line: 301-501-5886**

**We are on the web and Facebook!
www.garrettscd.org and Garrett Soil Conservation District**

If you would like to:

- **Receive an emailed version of this newsletter or**
 - **Would like to submit an article or**
 - **Have an idea for an article**
- Please contact, *Carrie Colebank*, at
carrie.colebank@maryland.gov**

Office Staff

Roger Kitzmiller, District Manager (MDA)
Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
Charles "Chuck" Hayes, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)
Chris Herbert, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)
Jessica Aronhalt, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
Will Gindlesberger, Soil Conservation Technician (USDA-NRCS)
Carrie Colebank, Administrative Assistant (SCD)
Vacant, Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist II (MDA)
Vacant, Soil Conservation Associate III - Technician (MDA)

Business Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am til 5:00 pm

Service Center Phone Number: 301-501-5856



1916 Maryland Highway Ste C / Mt Lake Park MD 21550

Board of Supervisors

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman
Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman
Cameron Crawford, Treasurer
Katharine Dubansky, Vice Treasurer
Bill Buckel, Member

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a supervisor or associate supervisor please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.

The Garrett Soil Conservation District (GSCD) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.