



This Annual Report is dedicated to Lindy Hamlett (right) for 31 years of distinguished work serving the public good.

# ***Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District 2011-2012 Annual Report***

## **ELECTED DIRECTORS**

LARKIN MOYER  
 Chairman - Amelia County  
 RICKY RASH  
 Vice Chair - Nottoway County  
 WILKIE CHAFFIN  
 Treasurer - Prince Edward Co.  
 CHAD GUNN  
 Secretary - Nottoway County  
 DONNA KERR  
 Amelia County-Elected  
 JUAN WHITTINGTON  
 Amelia County- Appointed  
 ERIC BOWEN  
 VCE Appointed

## **INCOMING ELECTED DIRECTORS**

CHUCK ARNASON  
 Nottoway County  
 BILL POWERS  
 Prince Edward County

## **ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

DON MAXEY  
 Prince Edward County  
 GARY DILLARD  
 Amelia County  
 CHARLES DODSON  
 Amelia County

# Award Winners



Lindy Hamlett (above right) accepting the Conservation Farmer Award from director Wilkie Chaffin.



Southern Piedmont Region Agricultural Research and Extension Center awarded the Conservation Education Award. Dr. Carol Wilkerson accepting from director Larkin Moyer.



Raymond Cbernault (above right) accepting the Young Conservation Farmer Award from director Wilkie Chaffin.



Dexter Jones (above left) accepting the Outstanding Conservation Farmer award from director Donna Kerr.



Don Knight, winner of the Wildlife Farmer Award.



Katy Martin of Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries presenting at the Farm Bureau Banquet in Nottoway County.



Dr. Wilkie Chaffin (above right) accepting the Virginia Association of Conservation District's prestigious VASWCD Bobby Wilkerson Award.



Soil and Water Conservation Society award winners include, left to right, David Buckalew, Dewitt Goin and son Travis, Piedmont SWCD District Manager Deanna Febrer and Dennis Jones, NRCS District Conservationist for their participation in the Rain Water Harvesting Project.



Jose Ramos, of Crewe Primary School—Grand Winner of the Soil to Spoon poster contest.



- The Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors held eleven monthly meetings. Directors, staff, conservation partners and interested citizens attended the meetings. Meeting announcements, agendas and minutes were distributed and posted on the website.
- The District Board of Directors includes the following committees: Conservation Programs, Financial, Personnel, Communication/Education, Legislative, Planning and Watershed. Two board members active on the Virginia Association of Conservation District's legislative committee worked with state legislative representatives and participated in Legislative Days.
- The Piedmont SWCD has a strategic plan and annual plan of work that guides programs and outreach. The plan is annually reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs in the community.
- District staff were evaluated on their performance and personnel policies were reviewed and updated.

## DISTRICT FINANCES JULY 2011-JUNE 2012

REVENUE SOURCES		EXPENDITURES	
DCR Grant Operating Funds	<b>240,872</b>	Operating—Salaries, Office, Rent	<b>199,141</b>
Locality Funding for Operations	<b>28,240</b>	Ag BMP & TMDL Cost Share Payments	<b>632,871</b>
Ag BMP & TMDL Cost Share Funding	<b>950,233</b>	Watershed Dam Maintenance	<b>14,167</b>
Watershed Dam Maintenance	<b>33,000</b>	Equipment Program Expense	<b>13,4996</b>
Equipment Rentals	<b>20,367</b>	Youth Education	<b>2,231</b>
Youth Education Sponsorships	<b>1,125</b>		
Grants	<b>2,700</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>861,906</b>
		Obligated Carry Forward (CF) Funds	<b>414,631</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,276,537</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES CF Funds</b>	<b>1,276,537</b>

### • **PIEDMONT SWCD EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM**

The District's Equipment Rental Program is self supporting. Four no-till drills are available for rent. In 2011-2012 program year 1,600 acres were planted using the District's no-till drills. Stephen Reames was hired to replace longtime Equipment Program manager Lindy Hamlett.

### • **WATERSHED DAMS**

The Piedmont SWCD maintains 14 flood control structures in Prince Edward County. They are regulated under the Department of Conservation and Recreation Dam Safety Division. The Piedmont SWCD is responsible for annual maintenance, field inspections, submission of compliance paperwork and emergency coordination of these dams. Working with NRCS staff, at least 3 visits per dam were conducted this year to insure maintenance standards; 11 dam inspections were held with DCR Dam Safety personnel. Landowners were provided with updated emergency contact information and water-level gauge reading instructions. Water-level gauges were installed on an additional 4 dams.

A new regulation passed by the General Assembly in 2009 requires mapping of all flood inundation areas downstream of regulated dams. Eleven of the Piedmont SWCD's 14 dams were evaluated and studies finalized and approved. Hazard classifications were revised on all 14 dams due to the potential for road flooding and bridge and structure damage downstream in the event of dam breach. Copies of studies along with summary correspondence were provided to Prince Edward County.

### • **EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (E&S)**

A DCR certified E&S inspector is on staff at the Piedmont SWCD to assist landowners with erosion and sediment control questions.

# VA Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-share Program



THE CHART BELOW SHOWS THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE AND TAX CREDIT PROVIDED IN THE PIEDMONT SWCD'S THREE COUNTIES BETWEEN JULY 2011 AND JUNE 2012.

BMP PRACTICES INSTALLED JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012	AMELIA	NOTTOWAY	PRINCE EDWARD	TOTAL OF THE 3 CO'S.	TOTAL COST SHARE FOR 2011-2012
Cover Crop	2858 acres	831 acres	998 acres	4,687 acres	\$158,521
SL-8, SL-8B, SL-8H, WQ-4					
Stream Exclusion Fencing, Water systems	32,370 feet	36,303 feet	56,244 feet	123,917 feet	\$434,067
LE-1T, LE-2T, SL-6					
Restored Streamside Forested Buffers	6.1 acres	9 acres	19 acres	34.1 acres	\$6,616
CP-22, CR-FR3					
Cropland Conversions	31 acres	61 acres	23 acres	115 acres	\$24,544
SL-1, FR-1, FR-3					
Nutrient Management	343 acres			343	\$2,100
NM-3, NM-3B					
<b>TOTAL COST SHARE</b>	<b>\$196,821</b>	<b>\$158,824</b>	<b>\$270,203</b>		<b>\$625,848</b>

## COST-SHARE PROGRAM STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- District staff conducted 548 farm visits & submitted 66 applications for board approval, 11 of which were new program participants. Over 40 Conservation Plans were written and approved. Compliance Spot Checks were conducted on 11 farms.
- In response to HB 1803 a state committee met to develop guidelines for Resource Management Plans - a voluntary, regulated program that will provide "safe harbor" for agricultural producers. A Piedmont SWCD staff member participated on the committee as a District Technical representative, attending 7 meetings and assisting with writing of program policy to be put forward for public comment.
- Three District technical staff administered the cost-share program and provided conservation planning assistance for Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward County producers. All three take advantage of training offered to enhance job performance. In order to obtain certification, staff train and then take rigorous exams on topics that include evaluating natural resource concerns and planning and designing conservation solutions. All technical staff achieved correct planning level for their job duties.
- District staff are proficient in; GIS and mapping, soils evaluation, conservation engineering (fencing, pipeline, watering systems, stream crossings, and animal trails and walkways), GPS, pasture evaluation, prescribed grazing, cover crop recommendations, and nutrient management planning and plan interpretation.
- TMDL staff attended regional TMDP progress meetings, assisting the TMDL state coordinator with the development of a new agricultural cost share practice.



## DISTRICT YOUTH EDUCATION

### Envirothon

Three teams competed at the Local Envirothon for the chance to represent the Piedmont SWCD at the Area V Envirothon. Nottoway FFA team (pictured above) took top honors and went on to compete at Area V and State level held at James Madison University.

### Classroom K-12 Program

Staff conducted 12 classroom programs reaching over 425 students. Classroom program modules available to Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward County schools include Watershed Awareness, Water Cycle, Soils, Wetlands and Recycling. Many other wonderful resources are available for teachers to check out.

### Conservation Poster Contest

The Piedmont SWCD received 1,000 student entries on the 2012 poster theme "Soil to Spoon". Grand Winner Jose Ramos from Crewe Primary School received a \$25.00 gift card. All 1,000 participants received a certificate of appreciation from the District.

### Youth Conservation Camp

The Piedmont SWCD sponsored Janet King of Prince Edward County to attend the Virginia Association of Conservation District's Youth Conservation Camp.

### Teacher Workshop—STEM

In partnership with Monacan SWCD and the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, 22 teachers attended an informative training session that included a presentation by Piedmont SWCD staff.

### Ag Awareness Day

This field day for 300 third grade students in Nottoway County included crawling through the Piedmont SWCD's soil tunnel and hearing the story of erosion told with the help of the erosion box demonstration.

## COMMUNITY YOUTH AND FAMILY

### Conservation Education Scholarship

Gary Rutkowski from Nottoway County received a \$1000 scholarship from the Piedmont SWCD to defray college expenses for the fall 2012 semester at Virginia Tech.



### Family & Farm Day –Blackstone

Over 600 attended, participating in fun, family oriented activities highlighting agriculture, Virginia's oldest and largest industry. The Piedmont SWCD Soil Tunnel was a big hit and staff helped kids make soil horizons of their own to take home.

### County Fair Displays

An educational display was entered in the Amelia County Fair illustrating the proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

### Pet Waste Campaign

Staff wrote a grant and received funding through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to help communities purchase Pet Waste Stations. Pet waste stations in public areas remind people to pick up after their pet, thereby helping to restore water quality in the streams and lakes.

### C B Phase II WIP

Staff assisted localities with the development of strategies so localities can meet the Phase II nutrient reductions called for in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

### Middle James Roundtable

Staff wrote articles for the newsletter and made a presentation on Rainwater Harvesting in a Breakout Session at the annual meeting.

## DISTRICT ADULT OUTREACH

### Pasture Renovation Farm Tour

Farm Tour attendees toured a farm in Prince Edward County, giving the 35 attendees the opportunity to see agricultural best management practices in the field. This tour was held in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and Natural Resource Conservation Services.

### Rain Water Harvesting Farm Tour

Poultry producers and others interested in commercial rainwater harvesting toured the Goin Farm in Prince Edward County. Many partners worked to make the rainwater harvesting project possible, and several were honored with an award from the VA Soil and Water Society at their Annual Meeting in March.

### Producer Meetings

Prince Edward and Amelia County producers met for a meal and updates on conservation assistance programs. Hosted by Piedmont SWCD, the 59 attendees heard from the Dept. of Forestry, NRCS, FSA, Rural Dev. and other partners.

### WFLO Radio Spots

4 radio spots aired on WFLO; BMPs, TMDL Win-Win, Agribusiness in the Community, and Spoon to Soil.

### Publications

3 issues of Conservation Matters and the Annual Report reached over 450 households. Several District brochures were designed and printed in-house.

### Social Media

The Piedmont SWCD continues to improve their social media skills. "Like us" on Facebook and join the conservation conversation. Visit our website at <http://piedmontswcd.org>

## PIEDMONT SWCD CHOSEN FOR PILOT PASTURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Cattle producers know that the cornerstone of their operation is the grass that feeds their “four-legged harvesting machines”. They are finding that pasture management and conservation practices go hand in hand as basic keys to successful production of grazing livestock on the farm.

The Piedmont SWCD is one of two districts state wide chosen to offer the SL-10T Pasture Management practice for demonstration purposes. The SL-10T practice uses a system of pasture management techniques that improve the quality, quantity and utilization of forage for grazing animals. The techniques include a Nutrient management Plan, a Prescribed Grazing Plan and exclusion of livestock from all surface waters. By maintaining an adequate stand of forage to absorb runoff and reduce pollutants, the risk of surface and ground-water contamination is reduced. The demonstration projects will be evaluated for their impact on water quality.



## USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICES CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACTS FUND CONSERVATION SYSTEMS

The NRCS has been managing the Working Lands Conservation Program Contracts since the programs were written into the Farm Bill in 1996 . Within the Piedmont SWCD's three counties 197 contracts were developed and completed or are in the process of implementation. The total direct value of incentives provided in these contracts is \$3,298,932.00. The total value of economic activity initiated by these contracts is estimated to be \$4,398,576.00.

### ANIMAL MORTALITY DISPOSAL



Disposal of Animal Mortality is a growing water quality concern as well as an animal health concern. Composting has become the preferred method of treating this form of animal waste. The above Forced Air Rotary Drum Compost Facility is used to naturally process swine carcass into an organic soil amendment.



Large animal farming operations can use bins and pile composting facilities. The facility pictured is composting deceased mature dairy cows in 12 foot wide bins. Each carcass rests on a two foot deep bed of wood shavings, or other suitable material, and is completely covered with at least two feet of the same material. The composting process for a mature dairy cow carcass takes at least six months. Once the compost process is complete the material is applied as a soil amendment .



# Note from the Chair

Dear Partners in Conservations,

Conservation Districts have been involved in delivering voluntary, locally led conservation across America for more than 70 years. They exist in nearly every county and community in the nation, where they work with landowners, farmers, ranchers and non-industrial private forestland owners to help them manage and protect natural resources on private land.

The staff and directors appreciate your support of your conservation district by your participation in the cost-share conservation program and outreach programs. Our goal of improving the environment of our counties can only be achieved with your help. We are open to any and all suggestions that will help us meet our goal. Thanks again, and give us a call to see how we can help you manage and protect the natural resources on your land.



## Thank You For Your Support

### CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Horace Adams—NRCS  
Dennis Jones—NRCS  
Derek Hancock—NRCS  
Robbie Hazlegrove—NRCS  
Kirby Woolfolk—DOF  
Patrick Murphy—DOF  
Doug Audley—DOF  
Farm Service Agency  
VA Cooperative Extension

### ENVIROTHON

Kelly Martin, Longwood Univ.  
Patrick Murphy, DOF  
Greg Winston, DOF  
Doug Audley, DOF  
Dennis Jones, NRCS  
Anne Fields, HoV MG  
Katie Martin-DGIF  
Alecia Daves-Johnson, P. Ed. Co.  
Sherry Ragland, PFSWCD  
Kelly Snoddy, PFSWCD  
Twin Lakes SP Cedar Crest  
Conference Center

### POSTER CONTEST

Joy Utzinger—PECES  
Carol Edmundson—PECES  
Debbie Quinn—Blackstone Primary  
Keri Lindsey- Crewe Primary and  
Burkeville Elementary  
Emily Gresham-LCVA

### YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Crewe Primary  
Blackstone Elementary  
Nottoway High School  
Amelia Elementary School  
Southern Piedmont Agricultural  
Research and Extension Center

### MEDIA SUPPORT

Amelia Bulletin-Monitor  
Farmville Herald  
Southside Messenger  
Courier Record  
Crewe-Burkeville Journal  
WFLO

### OTHER IMPORTANT PARTNERS

Middle James Roundtable  
James River Association  
Amelia, Nottoway and  
Prince Edward County Supervisors  
Amelia, Nottoway and  
Prince Ed. Co. Farm Bureaus  
Prince Edward County 4H

### FINANCIAL SPONSORS

Amelia Ruritans  
Mr. And Mrs. Billy Thompson

### ANNUAL REPORT

This publication is sponsored in part by Colonial Farm Credit, ACA. Dedicated to providing sound and constructive credit, they strive to improve the well being of the American farmer by providing long and short term financing. The Farmville office is located at 1700 South Main St. In Farmville, Virginia Call or stop by Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30 pm. (phone:434.392-3193).

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**PIEDMONT SWCD STAFF**

FRONT ROW

**DEANNA FEHRER**  
District Manager

**AMANDA BRAHAM**  
Program Support

BACK ROW

**CHARLIE WOOTTON**  
Senior TMDL Conservation Specialist

**ROBIN BUCKALEW**  
Communications

**KEVIN DUNN**  
BMP Conservation Technician

NOT PICTURED

**STEPHEN REAMES**  
Equipment Program Manager

"The mission of the Piedmont SWCD is to provide technical, educational and financial resources to citizens of the district in order to promote the wise use and conservation of soil, water and related resources."



All programs and services of the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, marital status or handicap.

The Piedmont SWCD publishes a quarterly newsletter, including the annual report, to provide information to landusers. Please contact the Piedmont SWCD office to be added to the mailing list at 434-392-3782.

"The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Piedmont SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation".