



PIEDMONT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2009-2010 Annual Report



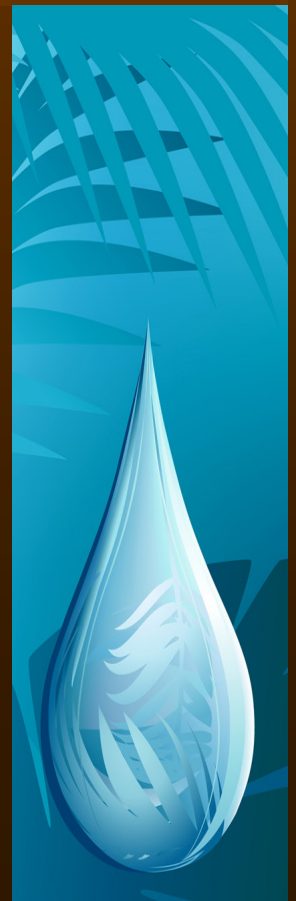
The "Water Wizard" sharing conservation secrets with Nottoway Summer Reading Program participants.



Impromptu jam session at the VA. Assoc. of Conservation District's annual meeting.



Newest conservation partner, Grayson Dunn & dad Kevin.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Partners in Conservation,

The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District has been conducting the business of conservation for seventy years now. Founded in 1940, it a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, defined and established by the code of Virginia, Title 10.1, Chapter 5. The Piedmont SWCD is one of 47 conservation districts within Virginia.

The Piedmont District service area includes Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties. Located in the Piedmont Plateau, the area is underlain by igneous and metamorphic bedrock, the average rainfall is 42 inches, and elevation ranges from 200 to 600 feet above sea level.

An abundance of natural resources has produced an economy based on agriculture in the Piedmont. 2007 census data indicate that 239,106 out of 660,320 acres in the district's three counties are in farms. 2009 figures report over 40,000 cattle and almost 60,000 acres in cropland in the Piedmont District.

The work of the District is determined by the 11 directors on the District Board. 6 are elected in a general election by the public, 4 are appointed by the Board, and one is appointed by the Va. Soil and Water Board. The directors term of office is four years and directors may serve more than one term. With the resignation of one of the Piedmont District's elected directors this year, a longtime associate

director was appointed to finish his term.

Piedmont District director Ricky Rash was presented the State Association's Outstanding District Director Award this year. Mr. Rash joined the Piedmont SWCD in 1994 as an associate director representing Nottoway County and has served as an elected director since 1997.

Piedmont District activities and programs are guided by the goals set forth in the four-year strategic plan that is periodically reviewed and updated according to community needs. The strategic plan was developed with community input and established the following mission:

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.

Funding for the District office and for special programs comes primarily through grants with the Department of Conservation Recreation. The District seeks outside grants to expand its work efforts and the three counties within the Districts service area contribute supporting funds.

Thank you for your interest in the District. We value your partnership as we work together toward our shared mission.

Sincerely,

Larkin Moyer

DISTRICT FINANCES JULY 2009—JUNE 2010

REVENUE SOURCES		EXPENDITURES	
DCR Operating Funds	\$ 215,528	Operating—Salaries, Office, Rent	\$ 190,643
Locality Funding for Operations	\$ 28,240	Ag BMP & TMDL Cost Share Payments	\$ 402,070
Ag BMP –TMDL Cost Share Funding	\$ 493,058	Watershed Dam Maintenance	\$ 26,200
Watershed Dam Maintenance	\$ 30,850	Equipment Program Expense	\$ 12,810
Equipment Rentals	\$ 15,732	Youth Education Program	\$ 2,262
Youth Education Sponsorships	\$ 400	Grants	\$ 13,675
Grants	\$ 20,657	Total Expenditures	\$ 647,660
Total Revenue	\$ 804,465	Revenue in excess of expense	
		Carry-forward to 2010-2011	\$ 156,805

PIEDMONT SWCD EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

The District's Equipment Rental Program is self supporting. Four no-till drills, a straw blower and a ditch pan are available for rent. This program year 1,725 acres were planted using the District's No-Till Drill.

The District is fortunate to have Lindy Hamlett managing the Equipment Program. He schedules drill use, delivers the drills and calibrates them according to the unique characteristics of each field and type of seed. He also stores, repairs and performs regular maintenance on the equipment.





VA AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AND TMDL COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

The VA Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program (VASC) is administered by the VA Department of Conservation & Recreation through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to improve water quality in the State's streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. The program encourages voluntary installation of BMP's by offering cost-share assistance for implementation. The chart below shows the amount and type of cost-share assistance provided in the Piedmont District's three counties between July 2009 and June 2010.

BMP PRACTICES INSTALLED JULY 2009 TO JUNE 2010	AMELIA	NOTTOWAY	PRINCE EDWARD	TOTAL OF THE 3 Co's.	TOTAL COST SHARE FOR 2009-2010
Cover Crop	2,921 acres	796 acres	575 acres	4292 acres	\$ 129,258
SL-8, SL-8B, SL-8H, WQ-4					
Continuous No-Till	264 acres	—	—	264 acres	\$ 5,327
LTCNT					
Stream Exclusion Fencing	1,880 feet	7,975 feet	35,150 feet	45,005 feet	\$ 226,748
LE-1T, LE-2T, SL-6					
Restored Streamside Forested Buffers	3.2 acres	3 acres	10.3 acres	16.5 acres	\$ 1,099
CP-22					
Cropland Converted to Hayland	13 acres	34 acres	30 acres	77 acres	\$ 17,577
SL-1					
Cropland Converted to Forest	8 acres	47 acres	19 acres	74 acres	\$ 16,443
FR-1					
TOTAL COST SHARE					\$ 396,452

CONSERVATION AWARDS

David E. Smith, Amelia County
DCR Clean Water Farm Award

Jack E. Bulls, Amelia County
Conservation Farmer of the Year

Tony Reames, Amelia County
Young Conservation Farmer

Carly Woolfolk, Nottoway County
Conservation Educator



Virginia Association of Conservation District's 2009
Outstanding District Employee Award Winner Charlie Wootton



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

2010 Envirothon Team Winners—Nottoway FFA

DISTRICT YOUTH EDUCATION

Classroom K-12 Programs

Over 2,000 students in three counties participated in classroom programs that included these hands-on learning modules: Watershed Awareness, Water Cycle, Soils, Wetlands and Recycling.

Envirothon

3 teams competed at the Local Envirothon for the chance to represent the Piedmont SWCD at the Area V Envirothon. Nottoway FFA team took top honors. The Nottoway team competed at Area V and went on to compete at the state level in Wakefield, VA.

Environmental Awareness Days

50 students participated in water quality testing and watershed awareness activities at Fuqua School. Staff conducted water quality testing activities with forty 7th graders at Holiday Lake State Park 4H Center.

Conservation Poster Contest

The District received over 500 student entries on the 2010 theme "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats. Grand Winner Ben Carr from Blackstone Primary School received a \$25.00 gift card.

Environmental Field School

22 campers from 5 counties attended the week long, outdoor day camp held in conjunction with Peter Francisco SWCD.

Summer Library Program

70 young people met the "Water Wizard" and learned about water conservation.

Science Fair Judge

Staff assisted 4H and county schools with their science fairs, judging entries and discussing project content with students.

Natural Resources Education

Scholarship

Taylor Elke, enrolled in Christopher Newport University, received a \$1,000 scholarship to defray college expenses.

COMMUNITY YOUTH AND FAMILY

Ag Awareness Day

At the Prince Edward Co. Ag Day, 120 fourth graders cycled through 8 stations including the Piedmont SWCD's Soils Deli. The Soils Tunnel and Erosion Boxes captivated students at Nottoway County Ag Day. At Buckingham Co. Ag Day, Erosion Boxes demonstrated ways to keep soil in place.

Kerr Dairy Farm Ag Day-Amelia

Over 150 youngsters rotated through 8 stations, including the District's Soil Tunnel where they learned about the elements of healthy soil.

Family & Farm Day -Nottoway

Over 600 attended, participating in fun family oriented activities highlighting Virginia's oldest and largest industry, agriculture.

Earth Day Celebration

Staff conducted walking tours for 60 students through Fuqua Lower School's rain garden, butterfly garden and aquatic lab.



County Fair Displays

"Roots and Shoots" display above won 1st Place in the Ed. Exhibits at Amelia County Fair. An Interactive "Best Management Practices" exhibit at the 5 County Fair in Farmville.

Rain Barrel Workshop

District and Clean Virginia Waterways taught Low Impact Design concepts and rainbarrel construction to 15 adults.

DISTRICT ADULT OUTREACH

Twilight Farm Tour

85 producers attended this informative field day showcasing practices installed on the Blanton Farm in Amelia County.

Conservation Partners Meeting/Notoway

30 attended a breakfast meeting held at Southern Piedmont AREC. The District and their natural resource partners described program changes and offered program sign-up advice.

Conservation Partners Meeting/Farmville

30 attended a dinner held at the Farmville Agricultural Center to hear natural resource professionals speak about the TMDL "Pollution Diet" and how it might affect them.

Conservation Awards

4 citizens recognized for outstanding conservation. 3 awards presented at the Amelia Farm Bureau annual meeting banquet, & one at the Nottoway School Board meeting.

Open House, Farmville Office

50 District partners attended an Open House featuring displays of the year's activities with conversation over refreshments.

Amelia Open House

30 attended an Open House in the Village of Amelia USDA Service Center.

Odev & Que Stormwater Workshop

30 planners and builders attended a District seminar focusing on stormwater pollution prevention and innovative construction site BMPs.

Publications

Three issues of the District's newsletter reached over 1,350 households.

Several District brochures were designed and printed in-house.

Brochure racks installed at the Amelia & Farmville offices provide District program and general conservation information to people visiting the USDA Service Centers.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



NRCS FOCUS ON CLEAN WATER AND CATTLE

As you pass through the rural roads of the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District you may see cattle water troughs and new fencing, and ask “why did the landowner do that”? Most landowners do this work because they want to be responsible stewards of their land. When landowners fence cattle out of streams, install water troughs, and plant trees next to streams, **clean water** is the result. Clean water is water with less sediment load, less fecal bacteria, and less nutrient load. Land stewardship systems can benefit landowners by improving the soil on their farms and making their farms more sustainable and profitable in the long term.

During the 2009/2010 program year the Farmville and Amelia NRCS Field offices worked with landowners to plan and apply practices on 1800 pasture acres. A total of 2400 acres of cropland and pasture were treated with practices that will improve water quality from our local streams to the Chesapeake Bay.

OTHER WATERSHED NEWS

WATERSHED DAMS

The Piedmont District maintains 14 flood control structures in Prince Edward County in the Buffalo and Bush River watersheds. Annual maintenance is performed that includes bush-hogging the dams and spillways, removal of woody vegetation from the dam outfall, and rodent control. Piedmont dams are inspected annually by District staff, directors and NRCS partners.

In Sept. 2008 the General Assembly passed legislation that requires all owners of regulated dams to have a downstream flood inundation study performed. Initial studies for 12 PSWCD dams are complete. These are currently being reviewed by the State's Dam Safety Division and will have final approval by the State Soil and Water

Board. Recent legislation from the General Assembly may change some of the criteria for the studies. The District expects to have the final studies, including maps to provide to localities, by the close of 2010.

Emergency Action Plan updates, including table top emergency action plan exercises are underway. Also, publications related to lake water quality were distributed to lakeside landowners.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (E&S)

A DCR Certified E&S Inspector is on staff at the Piedmont SWCD and offers erosion and sediment control site inspection to Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties and the towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, Crewe and Farmville.



Soil eroding from a hillside can make its way to a stream where it becomes sediment pollution.



**PIEDMONT SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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PIEDMONT SWCD STAFF

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DISTRICT MANAGER

- KEVIN DUNN 116

BMP CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

- ROBIN BUCKALEW 131

COMMUNICATIONS

- CHARLIE WOOTTON 134

TMDL CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

- PAULA TOTTEN

TMDL CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

- LINDY HAMLETT 131

Directors

- LARKIN MOYER
CHAIRMAN - AMELIA CO.
- RICKY RASH
VICE CHAIR - NOTTOWAY CO..
- WILKIE CHAFFIN
TREASURER - PRINCE ED.
- CHAD GUNN
SECRETARY - NOTTOWAY
- DONNA KERR
AMELIA COUNTY-ELECTED
- JUAN WHITTINGTON
AMELIA COUNTY- APPOINTED
- DON GANTT, JR.
PRINCE ED. CO.—RESIGNED
- DON MAXEY
PRINCE EDWARD- APPOINTED
- GARY DILLARD
AMELIA COUNTY- ASSOCIATE
- CHARLES DODSON
AMELIA COUNTY- ASSOCIATE
- CHUCK ARNASON
NOTTOWAY CO—ASSOCIATE
- BILL POWERS
PRINCE EDWARD—ASSOCIATE

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CONSERVATION PARTNERS

NRCS partnership recognized at Piedmont SWCD Board meeting

Poster Contest

Joy Utzinger—PEC ES
Carol Edmundson—PECES
Susan Campbell-PECMS
Debbie Quinn—Blackstone
Primary
Youth Education Programs
Linda Webber, PECES
Fuqua School
Prince Edward County 4H
Crewe Primary
Burkeville Elementary
Blackstone Elementary
Amelia and Nottoway High

Envirothon

Ray York, Amelia Co.
Patrick Murphy, DOF
Dennis Jones, NRCS
Anne Fields, HoV MG
Greg Winston, DOF

Jennifer Bowen, 4H

Communication Support

Amelia Bulletin-Monitor
Farmville Herald
Southside Messenger
Courier Record
Crewe-Burkeville Journal
WFLO
Environmental Day Camp
Town of Farmville
Fville Water Treatment Plant
F'villr Wastewater Treatment
Forkland Farm

Bear Creek Lake State Park
Dan Michaelson- DGIF
Katie Martin— DGIF
Lee Woodruff
Ag Conservation Programs
Horace Adams—NRCS

Brian Loadholt—NRCS

Dennis Jones—NRCS
Robbie Hazlegrove -NRCS
Kirby Woolfolk—DOF
Patrick Murphy—DOF
Farm Service Agencies
VA Cooperative Extension
Amelia, Nottoway and
Prince Ed. Co. Farm Bureaus

Interns

Emily Jones
Keith Trent
Sarah Robinson
Annual Report

This publication is sponsored
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Credit, located on 1700
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