

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3 | Q3 2022

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

**KENT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*Helping farmers protect soil and water quality since 1938.*

[kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org](http://kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org) / Find us on Facebook



Edited by: Janet Sigler



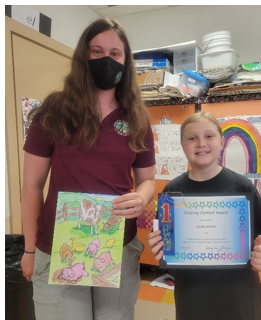
## COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

THE CLARK FAMILY - GOOSE HAVEN FARM

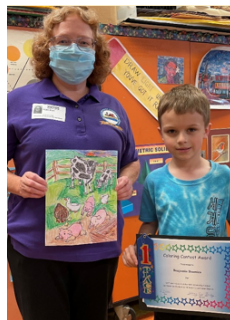
Time to celebrate! The Clark Family (Goose Haven Farm) our Cooperator of the Year, will be honored on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. at Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department. Please reserve your seats by August 1, 2022. See you there!

## ANNUAL COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

We are proud to announce our 2022 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring Contest winners. For 13 years Shelly Gsell has been assisting with the coloring contest. A farm themed coloring page is distributed to our local elementary schools. She keeps the process flowing through staff and board voting. The winners are chosen for neatness, choice of colors and creativity. It's a hard job, but someone has to do it! The staff liked spotted cows and pigs in mud puddles. This project promotes agricultural awareness to Kent County's children.



Amelia Ritchie &  
Jenny Freebery



Benjamin Boumiea &  
Shelly Gsell



Dakota Slacum &  
Jenny Freebery

## MEET OUR BOARD

**Charlie Miller**, Chairman  
**Lewis McDonald**, Vice Chairman  
**Tim Redman**, Treasurer  
**William Langenfelder**, Supervisor  
**Barney Barnes**, Supervisor  
**Wickes Westcott**, Associate Supervisor  
**Eddie Taylor**, Associate Supervisor  
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**Sean Jones**, Associate Supervisor  
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**Michael Boughner**, Soil Conservation Technician  
**Christopher Davidson**, Civil Engineer Technician  
**Jesse Downey**, Soil Conservation Technician  
**Jenny Lee Freebery**, Conservation Planner  
**Kelsie Fronheiser**, Conservation Planner  
**Shelly Gsell**, Administrative Assistant  
**Julianna Kaiser**, Soil Conservation Technician  
**Sam Leaverton**, Conservation Planner  
**Ronald "Jason" Merrick**, Soil Conservationist  
**Chris Myers**, Engineering Technician  
**Jennifer Richardson**, Soil Conservationist  
**Janet Sigler**, Administrative Assistant  
**Craig Zinter**, Contractual Urban Reviewer  
Main Line: Office (410) 778-5150; Fax: 410-778-4700  
<http://kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org>

## SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 17, 2022) – The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced the raising of cost-share funding caps for 34 qualifying conservative-minded best management practices (BMPs). Effective May 2, 2022, the cost-share ceiling for these BMPs increased to \$75,000 per project. This applies to all eligible BMP components, which are based on approved flat rates. Call the office for eligible practices

## CONSERVATION QUARTERLY



Anna Mouldsdale



Georgia Harrison  
with Jenny Freebery



Haven Wesley



Reagan Pettitt with  
Shelly Gsell



Tidence Lockerman  
with Jenny Freebery

### 2021-2022 COVER CROP REPORT

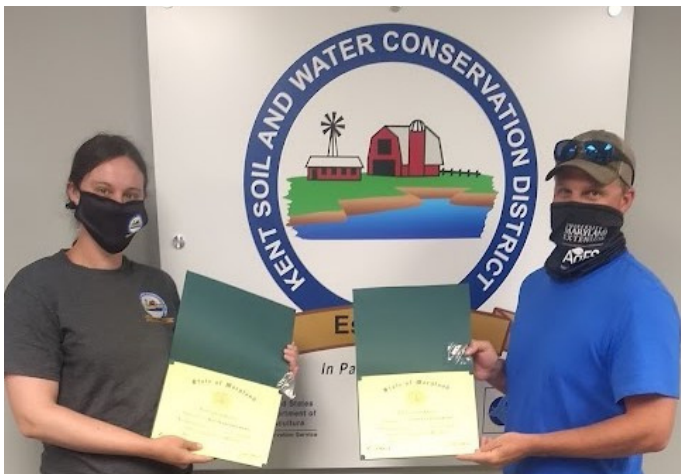
Thank you for participating!

Eligible Acres Planted: 57,243.3

Cover Crop Payments (Fall): \$1,016,316

Cover Crop Payments (Spring): \$1,079,785.50

Congratulations



Jenny Freebery and Sam Leaverton  
received 5 year service pins from the  
Maryland Department of Agriculture

### WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

Clifford E. Matthews: August 18, 1939 - April 17, 2022  
Had a dairy farm in Worton and backhoe business

William E. Hepbron: December 2, 1942 - April 19, 2022  
From a Rock Hall Farm

William L. Cording, Sr.: March 2, 1928 - May 13, 2022  
From a Still Pond Farm

William L. Walbert, Jr.: September 29, 1935 - May 28, 2022;  
From Radcliffe Farm

*Always in our memory. Forever in our hearts....*

### 2022- 2023 COVER CROP SIGN-UP

It is time to get ready for another cover crop season. Kent Soil and Water Conservation District's staff will need the following:

1. **Cover Crop Application - postmarked between July 1 -18.**
2. **Current Nutrient Management Certification Form.**

#### Incentives:

- \$55/acre - base rate for incorporated seed cover crop.
- \$15 / acre for planting rye or multi-species cover crop
- \$10 / acre aerial/aerial ground seeding into standing corn before 9/10/22
- \$10/acre for incorporated seed if planted before 10/10/22.
- \$10 / acre delayed termination after 5/1/23

**Notes: Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, tobacco, vegetables, hemp and millet.**

**Confirm MDA crop planting deadlines!**

**All seed purchased must be tested under MDA regulations.**

[https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Pages/cover\\_crop.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/cover_crop.aspx)

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE SUMMARY

2022 January - June

Lined Waterway or Outlet -	245.4 ft.
Conservation Cover -	83.3 ac.
Wetland Restoration -	62.6 ac.
Riparian Herbaceous Cover -	20.5 ac.
Tree / Shrub Establishment -	11.3 ac.
Stormwater Run-off Control -	10.3 no.
Grassed Waterway -	9.7 ac.
Riparian Forest Buffer-	6.1 ac.
Grass Buffer on Watercourse -	5.0 ft.
Shallow Water Development	4.5 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structure -	2.0 no.
Waste Facility Closure -	1.0 no.
Sediment Control Pond -	1.0 no.
Agricultural Energy Management -	0.8 no.
Critical Area Planting -	0.5 ac.

## CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

### FARM TOURS WITH TZONG-RU LEE TAIWANESE FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR

by Jenny Freebery

In June, Jenny Lee Freebery, Conservation Planner, led a tour of Kent County agriculture with the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. Dr. Melissa Leiden Welsh, Professor, University of Maryland, and Dr. Tzong-Ru Lee, Visiting Professor, National Chung Hsing University, toured Fair Hill Farm (dairy operation), Crow Vineyard & Winery (winery and beef operation), Langenfelder Family Farm (pork operation), and Lockbriar Farms (fruits and vegetables).



LANGENFELDER FAMILY FARM - JENNIFER DEBNAM



LOCKBRIAR FARM - JACQUELINE LOCKWOOD &  
WAYNE LOCKWOOD



CROW WINERY & FARM - JUDY AND ROY CROW



FAIR HILL FARM - EDWIN FRY & MEGAN FRY

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**University of Maryland Extension, Kent County** Jenny Rhodes: (410) 778-1661; cell: 410-310-0103

**Maryland DNR Forest Service:** Andrew Amoruso and Shaun Creasey - (410) 819-4121  
**Kent County Weed Control:** Jay Bennett: 410-708-1227; Jim Calao: 410-562-3054

**Important Links:**

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

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

**2020 Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Annual Report -**

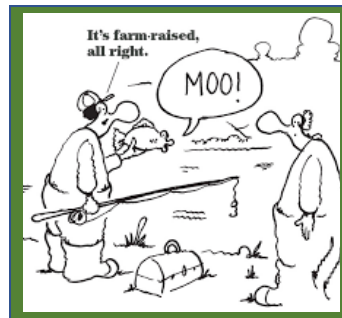
[https://mda.maryland.gov/pages/annual\\_reports.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/pages/annual_reports.aspx)

**Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Conservation Resource Newsletter**  
"Conservation Buzz" sign-up  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMDA/bulletins/2e249dd>

**Bird Flu Biosecurity Practices**

<https://news.maryland.gov/mda/bird-flu-blog/>

**Farmers within Avian Influenza restricted zone,  
contact Howard Callahan with questions and  
manure transport permit information**  
[Howard.Callahan@Maryland.gov](mailto:Howard.Callahan@Maryland.gov) or 410-279-4003



### JOKE JUNCTION

Knock, Knock  
Who's there?  
A little old lady.  
A little old lady who?  
Hey you can yodel!



Introducing Cover Crop Plus, a new financial incentive program for soil health farmers. The program is offered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Conservation Grant's Program.

How it works: Farmers sign a contract to grow cover crop mixes on the same field for 3 consecutive years. Sign up July 1 - 18, 2022.

Base Rate-Cover Crop Plus+ Conservation Tillage \$115/acre. Additional incentives are offered in options.

Option 1: Conservation Crop Rotation - \$15/acre  
 Option 2: Integrate Livestock into Cropland - \$15/acre

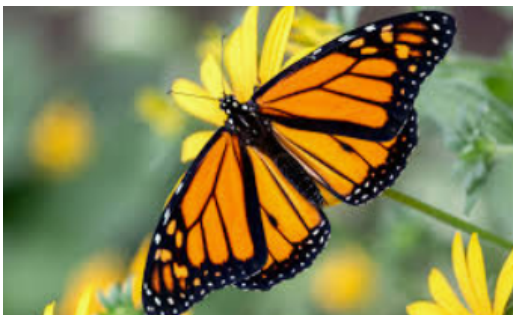
Option 3: Pre-Sidedress Soil Nitrate Test - \$15/acre.  
 For more information

[https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Pages/Cover-Crop-Plus.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Cover-Crop-Plus.aspx)

SEDIMENT CONTROL FEE REVIEW  
 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2022

TYPE OF PLAN	Application Fee		Review Fee
Standard 5000 sq. ft. to 20,000 sq ft	\$100.00	+	\$100.00
Detailed over 20,000 sq ft	\$200.00	+	\$200/ac
Forest Harvest	\$100.00	+	\$20/ac
Shoreline	\$150.00	+	\$150.00
Agricultural Structure	\$100.00	+	\$50.00
Renewal (before 3-year expiration)	Waived	+	\$200.00
Municipal (Town/County)	Waived	+	\$50/ac

Where Review Fees are charged per acre, the fee will be charged in increments of one tenth of an acre.



NOTABLE DATES

**Cover Crop Sign Up:** July 1 - 18

**Kent County Fair:** July 21 - 23

**Cooperator of the Year Dinner:** August 10th @ 6:00  
 Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department

**Board Meeting:** Third Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

**MASCD/NASD Annual Meeting:** August 28 -31, in Cambridge

**Office Closed:**

July 4th - Independence Day

September 5th - Labor Day

October 10th -Columbus Day

INTRODUCING ANDREW AMORUSO, FORESTER

Introducing Andrew Amoruso, Project Manager Forester for Kent and Queen Anne's counties. He was commissioned in 2019 to perform job functions under Natural Resources Title 5.



His duties include state forest management, wildfire prevention and suppression, community forestry and forest stewardship. We waited for months for the right person. We look forward to Andrew serving Kent County. Please join us to welcome him!

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY REMINDS  
 PRODUCERS TO FILE CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Submitted by Susan Mackey Taylor

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after spring planting should make an appointment with the Kent County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the July 15th deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

For questions, please contact the Kent County FSA office at 410-778-5353.

### QUAIL HABITAT

By Jenny Freebery

Many farmers reminisce about hearing the iconic 'bob white' call of coveys (groups) of quail in the edges of their fields. Sadly, those calls are rare today, but thanks to the efforts of many landowners, quail are making a comeback in Kent County. At the "Recovering Quail-Maryland Early Succession Habitat Workshop" at Washington College, we discussed that one of the biggest drivers for the population decline is loss of habitat. As fields got bigger to accommodate modern agriculture practices and equipment, there were less hedgerows and tall grasses, and as forests adjacent to fields matured, the grassy-shrubby habitat of quail diminished.

Restoring habitat is the biggest way to support quail populations. They need warm season bunch grasses, forbs, and some shrubs. These provide protection from predators since everything from foxes to owls to snakes likes to eat these little birds. Quail prefer the shorter warm season grasses such as little bluestem or broomsedge. Taller grasses such as switchgrass and big bluestem get too thick and don't leave enough bare ground under the plants for quail movement. Prescribed burning is one of the best ways to manage the habitat to keep it as grass and small shrub habitat. Selective cutting, spraying, mowing, or disking help to maintain ideal habitat. There has been low success with captive breeding and releasing, so the best way to get quail back into areas is to build the habitat for them to expand into from areas where they are already found. This requires work from landowners throughout a region to create habitat corridors. Programs like CRP/CREP can be used to help turn marginal land into quail habitat. Lots of work ahead, but hopefully someday we will hear the covey calls all around the county again.



### BMP VERIFICATION UPDATE

By Tina Stevens



The Verification Team for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is in full swing, creating an inventory of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms. MDA staff members are visiting farms to inventory practices that reduce

nutrient and sediment runoff.

In the past decade alone, farmers installed thousands of BMPs across the state to help protect local waterways while also protecting and making their land more sustainable. Examples of BMPs include, grassed waterways, conservation cover, riparian buffers and filter strips, just to name a few. Use of these practices is mutually beneficial for farmers and the Bay.

The six states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have been tasked with reducing daily nutrient loads into the Bay, otherwise known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Great strides have been made toward reducing nutrient runoff by installing and maintaining BMPs. And MDA staff are making sure these conservation practices are accounted for so the districts and the state, receive credit for improving water quality. In Kent and Cecil Counties, the verification and inventory process is lead by Tina Stevens. Feel free to contact the SCD offices in these counties for any questions regarding verification or if you would like to install new BMPs on your farm.

### WELCOME SHAUN CREASEY, BUFFER TECHNICIAN

Introducing Shaun Creasey, the new Buffer Technician for the Maryland Department of Agriculture Forestry Service. Shaun will assist Kent County cooperators and farmers with support and outreach concerning riparian forest buffer plantings and maintenance especially through CRP/CREP.



You will also see Shaun at local events promoting forestry programs' enrollment and implementation. Shaun's arrival is good news!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Robert Baldwin

Kent Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with Andelot LLC, recently awarded its 2022 high school scholarships to three talented and deserving Kent County High School seniors. The scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors who will pursue a degree in either an Agriculture or Natural Resources related field.



Left to right: Bill Langenfelder, Supervisor; Jimmy Miller, Associate Supervisor; Eddie Taylor, Associate Supervisor; **Parker Miller**; Charlie Miller, Chair; W. Frank Barnes Jr., Supervisor; Lewis McDonald, Vice Chair. **Parker received the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District with Andelot, LLC scholarship** and will attend the **University of Maryland**.



Left to right: Jimmy Miller, Associate Supervisor; Eddie Taylor, Associate Supervisor; **Olivia Daniels**; Charlie Miller, Chair; Lewis McDonald, Vice Chair; W. Frank Barnes Jr., Supervisor. **Olivia received the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District scholarship** and will attend **Bridgewater College**.



Left to right: Jimmy Miller, Associate Supervisor; Eddie Taylor, Associate Supervisor; **Samantha Merrell**; Charlie Miller, Chair; W. Frank Barnes Jr., Supervisor; Lewis McDonald, Vice Chair; . **Samantha received the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District scholarship** and will attend the **University of Maryland**.

SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP WITH SECRETARY

TOM VILSACK

By Jennifer Richardson



On Monday, May 2nd, I had the pleasure of attending a Soil Health Workshop with Secretary Tom Vilsack and NRCS Chief Terry Cosby at the Beltsville USDA Agricultural Research Center (ARS). We spent part of the morning learning about various innovative approaches that USDA-ARS researchers are developing to map cover crop performance on-farm using low cost camera systems. These systems will allow producers to determine the success of different cover crop mixes and species so that the maximum benefits of incorporating cover crops into your cropping system can be achieved. A demonstration of the ARS hydraulic probe for soil organic carbon measurement was shown with hopes that measuring soil carbon levels at various depths within the soil profile will soon be a simple process. Carbon sequestration is a key component of the USDA's climate smart initiative. We heard firsthand from farmers across the country about their efforts to improve soil health by minimizing soil disturbance, building soil organic matter, improving infiltration rates, and using cover crops. For more information about USDA-NRCS soil health programs, reach out to me at 410-844-2716.



ADDRESS CHANGES:

Please call 410-778-5150 or email [Janet.Sigler@Maryland.gov](mailto:Janet.Sigler@Maryland.gov)

## The Kent Soil & Water Conservation District

Would like to invite you to our

### Annual Cooperators' Dinner

August 10, 2022

Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm

Rock Hall Fire Department

21500 Rock Hall Avenue

Rock Hall, MD 21661

*Come help celebrate our*

**2021 Cooperator of the Year**

**Goose Haven Farms**

**The Clark Family**

The cost is \$20.00 per person

Menu includes Chicken Chesapeake, Ham, Red Skin Parsley Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Vegetable Medley, Tossed Salad, Rolls, and Assorted Desserts



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Please return your reservation form by **Monday, August 1, 2022** by mail to Kent SWCD, 122 Speer Rd. Suite 4, Chestertown, MD 21620 or call Shelly at 410-778-5150, ext. 3275

Please print all names attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 per ticket. Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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RED, WHITE 'N' BLUE SALAD

Taste of Home

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/red-white-n-blue-salad/>

- 1 package (3 ounces) blueberry gelatin
- 2 cups boiling water, divided
- 2 1/2 cups cold water, divided
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package (3 ounces) raspberry gelatin
- 1 cup fresh raspberries
- Whipped topping for top with additional berries

1. Dissolve blueberry gelatin in 1 cup boiling water; stir in 1 cup cold water. Add blueberries. Pour into a 3 -qt. serving bowl. Refrigerate until firm.
2. In a sauce pan, sprinkle unflavored gelatin over 1/2 cup cold water; let stand for 1 minute. Add cream and sugar; cook and stir over low heat until dissolved. Cool to room temperature. Whisk in sour cream and vanilla. Spoon over blue layer. Refrigerate until firm.
3. Dissolve raspberry gelatin in remaining hot water; stir in remaining cold water. Add raspberries. Spoon over cream layer. Chill until set. Top with whipped topping and berries, if desired.



**REQUEST E-NEWSLETTERS - EMAIL [JANET.SIGLER@MARYLAND.GOV](mailto:JANET.SIGLER@MARYLAND.GOV)**  
**RECIPE WITH STORY TO SHARE - EMAIL [JANET.SIGLER@MARYLAND.GOV](mailto:JANET.SIGLER@MARYLAND.GOV)**

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