

KENT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Helping landowners protect soil and water quality since 1938.

July 2026

Volume 9, Issue 3



Kent County Fair Shines Through Smoke, Storms, and Summer Heat

From July 15-18, the Kent County Fair returned to the Kent Ag Center in Tolchester, showcasing the resilience, dedication, and community spirit that define Kent County. This year's fair unfolded against a backdrop of challenging conditions — smoke drifting in from Canadian wildfires, sudden severe summer storms, and intense heat that tested everyone's endurance. Yet, despite it all, the youth exhibitors, volunteers, and local families brought extraordinary energy and commitment to the fairgrounds.

Livestock shows, agricultural demonstrations, and 4-H exhibits continued with enthusiasm, as young participants demonstrated months of preparation, care, and hard work. Their perseverance in the face of unpredictable weather underscored the strength of Kent County's next generation of agricultural leaders.

Fairgoers also flocked to the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District booth, where the ever-popular trivia wheel drew in those passing by. Participants spun the wheel and answered conservation and agriculture-related questions focused on our local environment, learning how soil health, water quality, and sustainable land management play a vital role in Kent County's rural landscape. The booth offered a fun, interactive way for visitors of all ages to deepen their understanding of conservation practices while taking home small prizes and new knowledge.

Despite environmental hurdles, the 2026 Kent County Fair was a testament to community collaboration. Volunteers worked tirelessly to keep the event safe, engaging, and enjoyable. Their efforts, combined with the dedication of participating youth, made this year's fair not only successful but memorable.

As Kent County continues to navigate environmental challenges, events like the fair remind us of the importance of connection — to our land, our neighbors, and our shared agricultural heritage. The Kent County Fair once again proved that when the community shows up, Kent County shines.



more fair photos on page 7

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Important Dates

August Board Meeting - 8/20

Labor Day - 9/7
OFFICE CLOSED

September Board Meeting - 9/17

Columbus Day - 10/12
OFFICE CLOSED

October Board Meeting - 10/15

Veterans Day - 11/11
OFFICE CLOSED

November Board Meeting - 11/19

Find Us

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410-778-5353

kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org

 Find Us on Facebook

Meet Our Board

Charles Miller
Chairman

Lewis McDonald
Vice Chairman

Timothy Redman
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William Langenfelder
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Eddie Taylor
Associate Supervisor

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Resource Conservationist

Christopher Davidson
Civil Engineering Technician

Jenny Lee Freebery
Conservation Planner

Kelsie Fronheiser
Conservation Planner

Shelly Gsell
Program Support Specialist

Sam Leaverton
Conservation Planner

Carol Middleton
Field Assessment Planner

Chris Myers
Engineering Technician

Brooke Shaw
Program Support Specialist

Brianna Allen Joins Kent & QA

Brianna Allen was born and raised in Anne Arundel County until she moved to Knoxville, Tennessee to pursue her undergraduate studies. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Soil Science with a concentration on Agriculture Conservation. After graduation, Brianna completed an internship with the Department of Natural Resources supporting living shoreline and wetland restoration projects which strengthened her passion for conservation and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her horse and dog. She also enjoys traveling, boating, and listening to live music. Brianna is very excited to begin her new position with NRCS supporting local farmers and staff in Kent and Queen Anne's counties.



Cover Crop Showcase

COVER CROP Showcase

RESEARCH • DEMONSTRATIONS • PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

KINGS GRANT FARM

7029 Quakerneck Rd.
Chestertown, MD

**FREE EVENT
LUNCH INCLUDED**

Pesticide & Nutrient
Management Credits
Available

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Interactive drone and cover crop related equipment demonstrations
- ✓ Tour strip trials showcasing 14 species of summer cover crop
- ✓ Interactive soil pit demonstration
- ✓ Learn about cover crop planning and management and pest management in cover crops
- ✓ Learn latest results from Maryland "planting green" research trials



**REGISTER
TODAY!**



**go.umd.edu/
covercropshowcase**



or call
410-651-1350

UNIVERSITY OF
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AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

FUTURE HARVEST
Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

**MILLION ACRE
CHALLENGE**

Funding for this project provided by Northeast SARE Research for Novel Approaches #LNE23481RAW00001024; NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grant #78444; NFWF Small Watershed grant #83985; NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant #2445. This is a partially outdoor event. 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. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Sarah Hirsh at 410-651-1350. Accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to attending the event.

Sowing Seeds for a Sustainable Future

The Kent Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to announce two outstanding Kent County high school seniors whose academic achievements, leadership, and commitment to environmental stewardship earned them the District's 2026 scholarship awards. These annual scholarships, presented in partnership with Anelot, LLC, support local students pursuing higher education in agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, and conservation-related fields.

Mary Jane Joiner, a senior at Kent County High School, was selected as the recipient of the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District and Anelot, LLC Scholarship for her exceptional academic record and deep commitment to environmental science and agricultural studies. With a 4.3035 GPA, a rigorous course history, and extensive agricultural science coursework, Mary Jane has distinguished herself through both academics and passion. A member of several organizations—including FFA, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Student Government Association, and multiple athletics teams—Mary Jane embodies leadership and service. She has also conducted capstone research on algae-growth mitigation techniques, demonstrating her commitment to solving real-world environmental challenges. Mary Jane has been accepted to Roanoke College for Fall 2026 and plans to major in Environmental Science, with aspirations to pursue graduate studies focusing on the intersection of agriculture and water quality.

John "Scottie" Ford, also a senior at Kent County High School, is the recipient of this year's S. Wicks Westcott Memorial Scholarship. He was chosen for his proven dedication, strong character, and clear vocational commitment to natural resources protection. Scottie carried a 3.0862 GPA and has completed multiple science courses in preparation for his environmental and law-enforcement related studies. As a disciplined three-sport athlete, he has earned praise from coaches and educators for his leadership, resilience, and work ethic. His participation in FFA, Interact Club, and an athletic-department internship reflects his commitment to service and personal growth. Scottie plans to attend King's College, where he has been accepted into the Criminal Justice program, with the goal of becoming a Natural Resources Police Officer—a career that directly supports conservation and environmental stewardship.

KSWCD congratulates these two exceptional students and looks forward to their future contributions to the fields of natural resources, agriculture, environmental science, and public service.



KSWCD Scholarships

Founded in 1938, the Kent Soil & Water Conservation District partners with landowners, agricultural producers, and community organizations to promote conservation practices that protect soil health, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and support the long-term sustainability of Kent County's natural resources.

KSWCD also believes that the education of the next generation of agricultural leaders is beneficial to the conservation of Kent County and its surroundings. In addition to agricultural education in and out of the classroom, KSWCD and these partners grant funds to those wishing to pursue agriculture, environmental studies, and conservation at a higher level. These scholarships are awarded annually and are funded in part by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD, Anelot, LLC, and funds generated by the Cooperator's Dinner Silent Auction.

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made at anytime during the year by stopping by the office or scanning the code below.



Past Scholarship Recipients

2025: Paige Miller & David Daniels, Jr

2024: Trice Moore, Samantha Jayne, & Molly Depp

2023: Aja Manning, Will Goetz, & Stephanie Hogan

2022: Parker Miller, Olivia Daniels, & Samantha Merrell

2021: Rachel Jones

2020: Alexis Langenfelder

2019: Mary Parent, Lizzy Goetz, & Macy Willis

2018: Ethan Miller & Sarah Collins

2017: Daniel Parent

2016: Alexis Johnston

2015: Laurie Quinn

2014: Morgan Rameika

2012: Haleigh Baxter



Langford Creek Watershed Alliance Kicks Off

The Langford Creek Watershed Alliance (LWA) has recently been awarded a grant from NFWF to start planning efforts to improve water quality in the Langford Creek watershed. This grant involves baseline monitoring, best management practices (BMPs) design development, and landowner and stakeholder engagement to identify priority areas in the watershed.

The LWA will be applying for future funding to help implement these plans, but LWA is currently looking for people interested in creating plans for actionable change on their property through BMPs or monitoring.

Allocation and implementation of BMPs will be based on maximum water quality impact in the Langford watershed.

The Kent Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to partner with several other agencies to improve water quality throughout the Langford Creek watershed.

Best Management Practices

- Buffers (trees or grass/wildflowers)
- Wetland installation
- Living shorelines and hybrid shorelines
- Stream restoration
- Enhanced grass waterways and linear wetlands

Research & Monitoring

- Langford Creek as a model to test and demonstrate efficacy
 - Grassed waterways - measuring flow before and after enhancement
 - Buffers and Living Shorelines - measuring erosion rates before and after restoration
 - Water quality sensors - measuring oxygen and nutrients

Partners have gathered for workshops and field tours of restoration and monitoring sites throughout the watershed.

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

-Robert Swan

NRCS Contacts

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nancy.metcalf@usda.gov

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Joel Burley
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Christopher Davidson
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NRCS Practice Reminder

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts conservation program applications year-round, but evaluates and ranks them for funding based on specific state and national batching dates. If you would like to apply for financial or technical help through EQIP or CSP, stop in or call the district at 410-778-5150.

NRCS practices must be certified after implementation is fully completed and before financial assistance or cost-share payments can be issued. Producers must notify the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at the local service center when installation ends so an on-site inspection or remote verification can occur.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2026 MASCD Coloring Contest Winners

Class A - 1st Place



Aura - HHGES

Class A - 2nd Place



Libby - HHGES

Class A - 3rd Place



Maggie - CCA

Class B - 1st Place



Kali - HHGES

Class B - 2nd Place



Gabby - HHGES

Class B - 3rd Place



Taylynn - HHGES

Class C - 1st Place



Benjamin - HHGES

Class C - 2nd Place



Emma - HHGES

Class C - 3rd Place



Brooklynn - HHGES



In partnership with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District hosts a coloring contest for children in grades K-5th around the county. Each year, Shelly Gsell reaches out to Kent County's elementary schools to ask for students' participation in the coloring contest. Entries are broken into three age groups: Class A (K-1st), Class B (2nd-3rd), and Class C (4th-5th). Shelly, Brooke Shaw, Kelsie Fronheiser, and Jenny Freebery had the tough job of narrowing down all the impressive coloring contest entries before the staff and board voted on them. This year's picture focused on soil layers and the students did an excellent job at bringing those black and white scenes to life with their colorful crayons. The first place entries in the District contest will be judged at the July MASCD meeting. Congratulations to this year's top entries and good luck to Aura, Kali, and Benjamin.

FSA Contacts

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Melissa Gobely
Program Analyst
melissa.gobely@usda.gov

W Jeffrey Galt
County Committee Chairperson

James Miller
County Committee Vice Chairperson

Brad Morris
County Committee Member

Alice Mason
County Committee Advisor

Disaster Assistance for 2026 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Kent County are eligible to apply for 2026 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, and forage sorghum.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than March 1, 2027, for 2026 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Kent County USDA Service Center at 410-778-5353 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Upcoming Deadlines

April 14 - August 15, 2026 - Primary Nesting Season

August 3, 2026 - County Committee Election Nominations Due

August 7, 2026 - Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Deadline

August 12, 2026 - Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) Deadline

Environmental Education

KSWCD staff have been out and about, as usual, teaching the next generation about soil health, what lives in our soils, local agriculture, and conservation practices. From ag days, to the fairgrounds, to summer camp, the children have seemed enthusiastic to learn and practice!



Thank you to Mr. Wayne Gilchrest for always inviting KSWCD staff out to participate and interact with the Kent County Parks and Recreation Summer Camp groups.



Word Scramble

1. CSOLKITVE _____
2. OSLI _____
3. MAREFR _____
4. PROC _____
5. ERTAHVS _____

1. livestock, 2. soil, 3. farmer, 4. crop, 5. harvest

Maintenance, Maintenance, Maintenance

Submitted by: Chris Myers

Everything around us needs maintenance. We service and maintain our vehicles. We maintain ourselves. We certainly service and maintain our farm equipment. So why should maintenance of our Best Management Practices be any different?

Every BMP we build and implement has an operation and maintenance plan. Maintenance might be as simple as mowing a buffer during the proper dates or fixing a fallen gutter on a roof runoff system. We should check and inspect every practice or BMP after every storm event, in addition to performing periodic inspections.

If you have any questions about the proper maintenance of a Best Management Project, please contact the district for guidance or for a copy of the correct operation and maintenance plan. Most of the BMPs on your property can—and should—outlast their expected lifespan.

Fair Fun

A few quick photos of some of the children with their animal exhibits from the fair. Shout out to these exhibitors, parents, grandparents, family, friends, and volunteers for the countless hours put into these projects!



Important Contacts

Kent County Weed Control:

Jay Bennett - 667-337-3663 or
jbennett@kentgov.org

University of MD Extension Kent County:

Dwayne Joseph, PhD - 443-480-8369;
Sam Covington, Nutrient Management -
443-480-8530

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service

Andrew Amoruso - 410-819-4121 or
andrew.amoruso@maryland.gov
Shaun Creasey - 410-819-4121 or
Shaun.creasey@maryland.gov

Maryland Dept of Agriculture

Animal Health Program

<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>

Bird Flu and Biosecurity

<https://news.maryland.gov/mda/bird-flu-blog>
410-841-5810

Nutrient Management Practices

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/nm_manual.aspx
410-991-3114

Manure Transport

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/manure_management.aspx

Plant Industries and Pest Management

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/default.aspx>

Resource Conservation

https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/pages/default.aspx

Spotted Lanternfly

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx>
dontbug.md@maryland.gov

2023 MDA Annual Report

https://mda.maryland.gov/Documents/Annual_Reportv15.pdf

Important Links

Farmers.gov

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

Farm Service Agency

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Maryland Department of Agriculture

<https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Grilled Pineapple Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 cup unsweetened pineapple juice
- 3/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped peeled ginger
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1 pineapple, cored sliced into rings, rings halved
- Thinly sliced scallions, for serving



1. In a large bowl, whisk garlic, pineapple juice, ketchup, soy sauce, brown sugar, and ginger until combined.
2. Place chicken in a large resealable plastic bag. Pour in marinade. Refrigerate at least 2 hours and up to overnight.
3. Prepare a grill for high heat; preheat 5 minutes (or heat grill pan over high heat). Clean and oil grates.
4. Grill chicken, basting with marinade and flipping occasionally, until charred and an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 165°, about 8 minutes per side. Transfer to plate.
5. In a medium bowl, toss pineapple with oil. Grill pineapple, flipping occasionally, until charred, about 2 minutes per side.
6. Transfer chicken and pineapples to a platter. Top with scallions.

Prep Time: 10 mins

Total Time: 2 hrs 25 mins

Cal/Serv: 564

Serves 4

ADDRESS CHANGE OR REQUEST E-NEWSLETTER - EMAIL BROOKE.SHAW@MARYLAND.GOV

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