

KENT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Helping landowners protect soil and water quality since 1938.

October 2026

Volume 9, Issue 4



MASCD: Celebrating Conservation Excellence

The Kent Soil and Water Conservation District proudly attended the 2026 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Annual Meeting, held August 3-5 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland. This year's gathering brought together conservation districts, state and federal agencies, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and research partners from across the state for three days of collaboration, learning, and celebration.

Daytime events featured informative sessions, committee meetings, and opportunities to share innovative approaches to agricultural and environmental stewardship. Evenings offered time for networking along the Choptank River waterfront and recognizing outstanding achievements in conservation during the annual Awards Banquet.

One of the most celebrated honors of the night went to **Lester C. Jones & Sons, Inc.**, who was named **Maryland's Cooperator of the Year**. The family was recognized for their dedication to advancing soil health, implementing conservation practices, and serving as a model land steward with the community.

KSWCD received another major distinction when it was named **Outstanding District of the Year**. This award reflects the District's commitment to strong partnerships, effective program delivery, and continued leadership in supporting Maryland agricultural and natural resource goals.

Representatives from Kent attended sessions, networked with colleagues, and continued to strengthen connections that support conservation work at home. The energy and collaboration seen throughout the conference underscored MASCD's ongoing mission to support resilient agriculture, healthy soil, and thriving communities.

Congratulations to Lester C. Jones & Sons, Inc. for the well-deserved statewide recognition!



MASCD presenting the Cooperator of the Year Award to the Jones Family



KSWCD receiving the Maryland Outstanding District of the Year Award

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Important Dates

Columbus Day - 10/12 OFFICE CLOSED
October Board Meeting - 10/15
Veterans Day - 11/11 OFFICE CLOSED
November Board Meeting - 11/19
Thanksgiving - 11/26-27 OFFICE CLOSED (NRCS Open 11/27)
December Board Meeting - 12/17
Christmas - 12/25 OFFICE CLOSED
New Year's Day - 1/1 OFFICE CLOSED
MLK, Jr Day - 1/18 OFFICE CLOSED

Find Us

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Chestertown, MD 21620

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kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org

 Find Us on Facebook

Meet Our Board

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Chairman

Lewis McDonald
Vice Chairman

Timothy Redman
Treasurer

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Supervisor

William Langenfelter
Supervisor

Eddie Taylor
Associate Supervisor

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Conservation Planner

Carol Middleton
Field Assessment Planner

Chris Myers
Engineering Technician

Brooke Shaw
Program Support Specialist

Add it to the Calendar

Small Farm Success Workshop

Thursday, October 15, 2026 - 9:00am-3:00pm

The Elk Room - Cecil County Administration Building (200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton)

Join University of Maryland Extension for the Small Farm Success Workshop on Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Cecil County Administration Building.

This workshop is designed for small acreage farmers and will cover practical topics including: pest management, soil fertility and nutrient management, ag business and marketing, ag law and right-to-farm issues, agricultural leasing, NRCS conservation cost-share resources, and micro-grant resources.

Lunch is free, and there will also be giveaways. Space is limited so register today!
<https://go.umd.edu/smallfarmsuccessworkshop>.

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2026**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elk Room of the
Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Blvd.,
Elkton, MD 21921

FREE LUNCH

GIVEAWAYS

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

REGISTER TODAY!



[go.umd.edu/
smallfarmsuccessworkshop](https://go.umd.edu/smallfarmsuccessworkshop)

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Pest management
- Soil fertility and nutrient management
- Ag business and marketing
- Ag law
- Right to farm
- Ag leasing
- NRCS conservation cost-share resources
- Micro grant resources

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this event, please contact the Kent County Extension Office at (410) 778-1661, option 6, on or before **October 1, 2026**.

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.

Langford Watershed Alliance Community Town Hall

Monday, October 19, 2026 - 5:30pm-7:30pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestertown

The Langford Watershed Alliance wants to hear from you about the issues facing your communities, like stormwater flooding, shoreline erosion, failing septic systems, and elevated levels of bacteria in the water. To do so, the LWA will be hosting a Town Hall meeting to hear from the community, share resources, and explore solutions on Monday, October 19, from 5:30-7:30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Refreshments will be provided and childcare upon request. Please register and note any accommodations/childcare needs at shorerivers.org/event/langfordtownhall.

If you have questions or are interested in learning more, please email Maegan White at mwhite@shorerivers.org.

LANGFORD WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEMBERS



MDA Cover Crop

Maryland's 2026-2027 Cover Crop Sign-Up ran from **June 22 through July 17, 2026** and acceptance letters have been mailed.

A few reminders for Fall Certification:

- 2026-2027 Cover Crop Payment Options

Traditional Cover Crop Payment Options	No-Till	Conventional	Broadcast with Light, Medium or Vertical Tillage	Aerial	Broadcast Stalk Chop and Broadcast Cultipacker
Base Payment	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre
Incorporate on or before October 10, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$0	\$0
Plant rye, triticale, or a multi-species cover crop, add:	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre
Maximum Payment	\$65/acre	\$65/acre	\$65/acre	\$50/acre	\$50/acre

- Cover Crop Planting Deadlines

- Plant oats or mixes containing legumes, forage radish, canola/rape by **October 10, 2026**.
- The aerial seeding deadline is **October 10, 2026**.
- The deadline to receive an incentive for incorporated seeding methods is **October 10, 2026**.
- Plant barley and ryegrass by **October 15, 2026**.
- Plant cereal rye, triticale, and wheat by **November 5, 2026**.

- Cover Crop Certification Deadlines

MAC'S INCENTIVE FOR 10/10 INCORPORATED PLANTING AND AERIAL SEEDING DEADLINE	MAC'S BASE PAYMENT PLANTING DEADLINE 11/05
Certification Deadline 10/17	Certification Deadline 11/12

- Information needed for fall certification and what to bring:

- * Was there manure or fertilizer applied?
- * What was the planting method?
- * What was the previous crop?
- * What was the planting date?
- * What was the planting rate?
- * Would you like a partial payment in the fall?
- * If available, FSA maps with planted fields/acres marked.
- * If aerially planted, signed maps by the applicator.
- * Seed tags/seed tests for all varieties planted.



Remember

Planting Options and Requirements:

- Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum (sorghum/ Sudan hybrid), tobacco, vegetables, hemp, sunflowers, sod, or millet.
- Enrolled acreage cannot exceed Nutrient Management Plan acreage.

Seed Requirements:

- Both homegrown and purchased seed must be tested and labeled following Maryland Seed Law and Regulations.
- Seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds, have at least 80% germination, and contain no more than 16 restricted noxious weeds per pound.

Eligible Cover Crop Species:

- Cereal Grains: Wheat/spelt, rye, barley, triticale, oats, and rye grass.
- Brassicas: Forage radish and canola/rape (must be planted with a cereal grain as part of a mix).
- Legumes: Clover, Austrian winter peas, and hairy vetch (must be planted with a cereal grain as part of a mix).

To receive payment, you must certify your cover crop by the dates listed in the regulations received at sign-up. You must be in good standing with the Conservation Grants Program and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management requirements.

For more information on the Cover Crop or Cover Crop Plus+ Programs visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture website at <https://mda.maryland.gov/conservation>.

Quick Highlights

- Date: August 19
- Location: Kings Grant Farm
- Hosts: University of Maryland Extension & Kings Grant Farm
- Featured Demonstrations: Drone water release, soil pit analysis, roller-crimper termination
- Speakers: Sarah Hirsh, Ray Weil, Thabu Mugala, Lisa Garfield, Ann Rossi-Gill, Jim Brewer, Webb & Tyler Johnson.



Why Summer Cover Crops Matter

- Improve weed suppression
- Support soil moisture management
- Enhance disease control
- Boost soil biological activity
- Add organic matter and protect soil from erosion



What Participants Learned

- How to “plant green”
- Slug management strategies
- Soil layering, compaction indicators, and the Mattapex/Butlertown soil series
- Mechanical vs. chemical termination options
- Equipment demonstrations relevant to diversified farming systems

Cover Crop Showcase Highlights Innovation and Hands-On Learning

A cover crop showcase was hosted by Kings Grant Farm and the University of Maryland Extension on August 19. The event brought together farmers, conservation staff, researchers, and agricultural professionals for a day of education, demonstrations, and field exploration.



The morning session featured presentations from agricultural researchers Sarah Hirsh, Ray Weil, and Thabu Mugala. Their discussions covered several timely topics, including planning and managing cover crop, “planting green” techniques that incorporate planting cash crops into living cover crops, and practical strategies for slug management. Participants engaged with the speakers on how these practices can improve soil structure, reduce pest pressure, and support long-term farm resilience.

After the indoor presentations, attendees moved outside for a drone demonstration by Scout Applicators. The drone was programmed to hover over a field and release water from an applicator tank—showing how aerial tools can assist with precision applications and reduce field compaction.

Participants then rotated through hands-on stations around the farm. Lisa Garfield of Future Harvest discussed the numerous benefits of summer cover crops, highlighting their role in weed suppression, soil moisture retention, and disease control. NRCS Soil Scientists Ann Rossi-Gill and Jim Brewer guided attendees through a soil pit, explaining the Mattapex/Butlertown soil series present on the farm and the natural processes that shaped it.

At another station, Webb and Tyler Johnson demonstrated terminating cover crop using a roller crimper, showcasing how mechanical termination can effectively prepare fields for next season’s planting while maintain soil health.

The event wrapped up with a delicious barbecue lunch and an opportunity for attendees to network and exchange ideas. The showcase offered a valuable mix of science-based learning, on-farm demonstrations, and community connection—reinforcing the important role cover crops play in supporting sustainable agriculture across Maryland.



NRCS in Maryland Accepting Applications for Conservation Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to put Farmers First through a historic investment in conservation on agricultural lands through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a result of the conservation funding provided by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.

While NRCS accepts applications year-round, interested agricultural producers in Maryland should apply by November 13, 2026 to be considered for fiscal year 2027 funding. Programs include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP. RPP is part of USDA's commitment to putting Farmers First and advancing the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda by building a healthier, more resilient food system.

Additionally, producers can apply to participate in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project. The ranking date for RCPP applications is November 13, 2026.

For the whole Press Release from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) published on September 22, 2026, please visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/Maryland/news/nrcs-in-maryland-accepting-applications-for-conservation-programs>.

FSA Contacts

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W Jeffrey Galt
County Committee Chairperson

James Miller
County Committee Vice Chairperson

Brad Morris
County Committee Member

Alice Mason
County Committee Advisor

Joke Junction

What do you call a cow that plays an instrument?

-A moo-sician

Do you know what a fake potato is called?

-An imi-tater

Why were the two you strawberries scared?

-They were in a jam



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>

Ingredients

Sliced apples

- 6 golden delicious apples (peeled and chopped/sliced)
- 2 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon juice

Crisp topping

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 3/4 cup old fashioned oats
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Pinch of kosher salt
- 1/2 cup cold unsalted butter (diced into small cubes)

Old Fashioned Easy Apple Crisp

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8x8 baking dish, or spray with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, add chopped apples, granulated sugar, 3/4 tsp of the cinnamon, and lemon juice. Stir to combine, then transfer to prepared baking dish.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, add topping ingredients (brown sugar, oats, flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, salt, and diced cold butter).
4. Use a pastry cutter to cut the butter into the oat mixture, using a slight downward twisting motion, until mixture resembles pea-sized crumbs. Alternatively, you can use two forks or even your hands to cut butter into the mixture.
5. Spread topping over apples in baking dish, and gently pat to even it out. Bake 40-50 minutes, until golden brown and bubbly.
6. Serve warm and enjoy!

Total Time: 1 hour, Serves: 6, 301 Calories

<https://www.thechunkychef.com/old-fashioned-easy-apple-crisp/#wprm-recipe-container-11755>



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

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