

Conservation Around the Neck



NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving the people of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland Counties since 1940

Fall 2018

District Welcomes New Team Members



Over the summer, the District gained three new team members: (from left to right) Kelsey Moss, Intern; Lowery Becker, Non-Point Source Specialist; and Aaron Saunders, Conservation Specialist. *Turn to page 3 to read more about these dynamic new additions to our staff!*

RHS Students Represent District at Conservation Camp

Sarah Hinson and Katie Vanlandingham, both juniors at Rappahannock High School in Warsaw, were the NNSWCD's 2018 designees to attend the VASWCD's annual Youth Conservation Camp (YCC), which took place July 8-14, 2018 at Virginia Tech. YCC is an annual, week-long educational experience that introduces students to conservation methods using resources in and around Virginia Tech's campus in Blacksburg.



Katie Vanlandingham (left) and Sarah Hinson (right) at their "home" for camp week in the dorms at Virginia Tech.

Each year the District accepts applications from interested students, two of whom will attend under the District's sponsorship. Applicants must be in grades 9-12 during the academic school year and cannot have previously attended the camp.

Katie and Sarah delivered a brief presentation at the District's September Board Meeting to thank the District for the opportunity to attend YCC and also to highlight a few of their favorite activities from the week. They mentioned that the time spent hiking and fishing (watershed study) to their experiences at VT's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Kentland Farms (Ag study) and the Veterinary School was both fun and educational. They also learned about the very labor intensive maintenance of turf grass while visiting the field at Lane Stadium.

For information on the 2019 Youth Conservation Camp please contact Kathleen Watson at 804.313.9102 x 105.

NNSWCD FY 18/19 Virginia Agricultural Cost Share (VACS) Program Summary

TOTAL ALLOCATION: **\$ 576,720.00**

PRACTICE	SIGN-UP
NM-1A (Nutrient Management Plan Writing)	\$ 188,162.60
SL-1 (Long Term Vegetated Cover on Cropland)	\$ 24,531.00
SL-8B (Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Management)	\$ 1,033,670.70
SL-8H (Harvestable Cover Crop)	\$ 7,234.00
WP-1 (Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures)	\$ 130,000.00
WQ-4 (Legume Based Cover Crop)	\$ 3,762.00
FY 18/19 TOTAL SIGNUPS	\$ 1,387,360.30
DIFFERENCE:	- \$ 810,640.30

AG Notes



SL-8B November Deadline Extended

Virginia has seen record breaking rainfall in 2018, with Central Virginia recording 48.59 inches of rain for the year thus far. In recognition of these conditions, the deadline for planting late cover crop has been extended until November 29, 2018, as provided in the Extreme Acts of Nature Policy for SL-8B contracts. Please contact Aaron Saunders, Conservation Specialist at (804) 313-9102 x 106 with any questions and also to report your late planting when completed.

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NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program for 2019

Technical and financial assistance is available to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland. NRCS accepts applications year-round but makes funding selections at specific times. Virginia has established two application-batching periods for national programmatic and landscape conservation initiatives:

Application Batching Period	Application Deadline	Batching Deadline
1	October 19, 2018	November 2, 2018
2	November 2, 2018	November 16, 2018

While NRCS will continue to accept general EQIP applications, first quarter activities will be limited to subaccounts not affected by potential changes in the new Farm Bill. *(Continued, see EQIP, page 3)*

Introducing Our Newest Team Members

Over the summer, the District gained three new staff members. Kelsey Moss joined us as our Intern in early July. We also welcomed Lowery Becker as our Non-Point Source Specialist and Aaron Saunders as our Conservation Specialist at the beginning of September. We are excited to have all three of them become a part of our NNSWCD Team.

Kelsey has been a valued volunteer for over a year, joining us for our 2017/18 Household Hazardous Waste Events and lending a hand during our Richmond County Tire Amnesty and Recycling event in June. Kelsey is a Junior at Northumberland High School where she is Class President, FBLA Co-Vice President, and a member of SCA, BETA, and TAG. She is simultaneously earning her Associates Degree from RCC while attending Chesapeake Bay Governor's School at the Warsaw campus. She is also a member of the Lady Indians Varsity Softball Team, the 360 Fastpitch 16U travel softball team, and scorekeeper for the Lady Indians Volleyball Teams. In her spare time, she sleeps and dreams of becoming an attorney!

Lowery Becker was raised in Richmond County and comes from a long line of farmers, dairy farmers and watermen. She graduated from Rappahannock High School and attended the University of Virginia where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Specialization in Environmental and Biological Conservation. She also received her Master of Education from the University of Mary Washington. After graduating from college, Lowery was an AmeriCorps Vista stationed with Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR). She later started as the Education Coordinator for FOR, a position she held for five years, and worked primarily on Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. Lowery lives in Richmond County with her husband, Robert, and her dogs. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking and exploring new things. Lowery is excited to work within her local community to make a difference in soil and water conservation.

Aaron Saunders grew up on his family's farm in the Newland area of Richmond County and attended Rappahannock High School. He then attended Virginia Tech and will soon have a B.S. of Agribusiness Management upon completion of his graduation requirements online. When not at work, Aaron spends most of his time in the outdoors. He also plays music, and serves as a volunteer firefighter for both Richmond and Westmoreland Counties. Aaron looks forward to working with local producers to keep the Northern Neck a great place to live and farm.

Roundtable Meets in Westmoreland

The District hosted the Potomac Watershed Roundtable's quarterly meeting at Westmoreland State Park on July 13, 2018. Attendees heard several important updates on projects and programs.

Ann Jennings, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, gave an update on the status of the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan as part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Update. Karen Hudson, Shellfish Aquaculture Specialist at VIMS, spoke about VIMS' Marine Advisory Program. After lunch, Aaron Wendt, Shoreline Engineer with the SEAS program, gave an update on current efforts to remedy shoreline erosion problems in Virginia.



EQIP *(continued from page 2)*

Special EQIP fund pools for the following initiatives will be available to Virginia producers/landowners:

High Tunnel System – Steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner;

Northern Bobwhite in Working Grasslands – Native grass restoration to address habitat loss while maintaining or improving cattle production on the land;

StrikeForce – Priority ranking for cropland, high tunnel and livestock practices to support program participation among underserved producers in rural communities;

Conservation Activity Plans – Development of site-specific plans to identify conservation practices that will address an identified natural resource need.

Call (804) 333-3525 EXT. 3 or visit the Warsaw Service Center to learn more about USDA program eligibility requirement and how EQIP and other Farm Bill programs can help you better protect and manage natural resources on your land.

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NNSWCD Staff

Kathy Clarke	District Operations Manager
Brandon Dillistin	District Technical Manager
Lowery Becker	Non-Point Source Specialist
Kelsey Moss	Intern
Aaron Saunders	Conservation Specialist
Kathleen Watson	Education/Outreach Specialist

NRCS Staff

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