

# Views From The Foothills

A Publication of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District  
Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties  
[www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org)

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M. Johnson

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### Welcome!

You are receiving this newsletter because you receive land use tax benefits in our counties. Please call 540-825-8591 or email [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) to remove yourself from our mailing list.

## **Culpeper District Receives Unprecedented Level of Agricultural Cost Share Funds: Virginia Agricultural Needs Assessment Fully Funded**

Agricultural Cost Share Funds continue to be available from the Culpeper District for the implementation of a myriad of different Best Management Practices (BMP) designed to minimize the environmental impact of agricultural production and enhance the land and the profitability of production. The District takes sign-up on a continuous basis all year long. Year after year. Nothing new there.

What is new is that we just recently received \$8.9 million in funding for just this year which began July 1. This is nearly double the \$5 million we received for the year that just ended, which was all allocated to BMPs. That \$5 million was already double the previous year before that. So, as we have opined previously, the Virginia General Assembly is continuing to “put the money on the table,” producers and landowners are stepping up and the “Bay goals or bust” process goes on. This is all driven by the need to reduce nutrient inputs to the Bay from our counties by 2025.

As we have mentioned in previous newsletter editions, the Virginia General Assembly seems to be willing to fund the voluntary approach to meeting the Bay goals. As the title of this article indicates, they have now fully funded the Virginia Agricultural Needs Assessment, at least for now. The “Assessment” is a long standing evaluation, updated more or less annually, performed by government agency officials, agricultural industry officials and environmental organizations all working together to identify the full programmatic costs to meet the agricultural goals for Bay restoration on a voluntary basis. This full level of funding is a first. Never before have the funding levels even come close to what just happened. It’s real good to be paying attention to this. Real attention. Now is a very good time to act and enroll in program options.

If you farm or own farmland please note the General Assembly essentially just “pushed the pedal to the floor” as the old saying goes and now is taking a “let’s see what this voluntary approach can do.” Well we’re here. Same as always. We are trained. We know how to work. We need you to keep the V in voluntary. At least in our opinion it’s a real the preferred approach to meeting Bay goals.

So, contact us. It’s good for the land. It’s good for the water. It’s good for your farm. It’s what we do. Visit page 4 of this newsletter to see many of the options. There are others. For more information on the Virginia General Assembly, the Bay goals and “Bay Bill” you can visit two previous newsletters here [Fall 2020](#) and [Spring 2021](#).

## **CROPLAND NEWS:**

### **Grass Filter Strips — Now Paying Buffer (“rent”) Payments**

Grass filter strips are areas of planted vegetation along cropland drainage channels, small streams and most other water bodies that are designed to anchor soil particles, intercept and filter out sediments, nutrients and pesticides and other potential pollutants. They are intentionally planted areas and provide land cover and protect what can often be fairly unproductive areas of cropfields that don't produce much product anyway due to wet, water logged soils or other conditions. There are new higher cost share rates for the filter strips and now as of July 1, the strips are also eligible for the buffer (“rent”) payment per acre of land taken out of production and to help with any maintenance costs.

As an example, a 35-foot wide strip pays 85% cost share for a 10-year contract and receives \$80 per acre per year for the 10 years, all paid upfront. For a 35 foot wide strip for 15 years it is 90% cost share with the same rent. A 50 foot wide strip pays 95% cost share for a 10-year contract and 100% cost share for a 15-year contract. Both also receive the same buffer payments per acre. So, for example for a 50 foot wide strip, 871 feet long (about 1 acre) some quick math; for a 10-year contract an applicant would receive 95 percent of eligible installation costs plus \$80 x 10 years (\$800). For a 15 year contract, 100 percent of eligible installation costs plus \$80 x 15 years (\$1,200). Now that's per acre of strip installed.

So maybe look at the land and ask yourself if you have such acres along “water” that aren't really producing much. So what are those “eligible” installation costs mentioned above? Seedbed preparation, seed, planting, soil testing, fertilizer for establishment only, land leveling if necessary, lime. Possibly other.

We encourage all ag producers and owners of cropland to evaluate the possibilities to add grass filter strips in the appropriate areas. The filter strips can and really do help improve local water quality and also count for progress with the Bay goals.

Here is an additional concept to consider for eroding streambanks along cropfields. Consider implementing a streambank stabilization project at 75% cost share along with a water quality filter strip. Ask us about this. We believe there are some good opportunities for this.

## **CROP PRODUCERS COVER CROP SIGNUP ALERT:**

### **Planting Payments Increased**

Signup is currently underway with the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District for this fall's cover crop program. Significant changes implemented as of July 1, 2022, have considerably improved options for producers to participate, and even increase their acreage in cover crops. Planting date deadlines have been extended for both the nutrient management cover crop program (crop is terminated in the spring) and the harvestable cover crop program. Those deadlines were permanently extended last program year to better accommodate producers and provide more flexibility during the demanding fall harvest. The deadline for harvestable cover crops and early planting of nutrient management cover crops is October 25, 2022, while the new deadline for regular planting of nutrient management cover crops is November 15, 2022. According to many producers in the District, this change has been a significant improvement to the program.

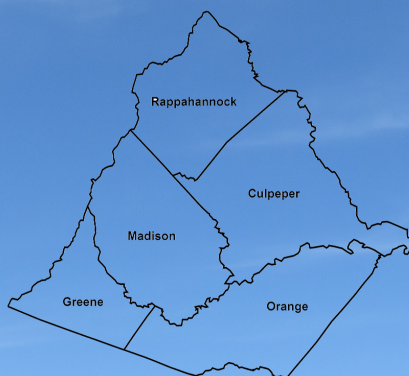
Cover crop support payments have also been increased for the current program year due to the increase in virtually all input costs. Current payment rates are structured as follows; \$20 per acre for harvestable cover crops; \$40 per acre base for nutrient management cover crops, plus options for additional \$30 per acre for early planting of nutrient management cover crops and additional \$20 per acre if the producer uses one of the select rye cultivars that have been identified as particularly good scavengers of nutrients. This could allow producers to receive a cumulative payment of up to \$90/acre.

Producers also have options for other agronomic practices such as grass filter strips along live or intermittent water bodies (which now have enhanced payment options that include \$80/acre rental payments for the life of the contract paid up-front), grassed waterways for areas of crop fields susceptible to channelized water flow, payments for adopting or continuing no-till crop planting, and precision placement of fertilizer on cropland.

For more information, contact 540-825-8591.



**Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District  
Presents  
New Landowner Conservation Services Workshop  
September 16, 2022 from 9am-2pm  
Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, Virginia**



Come out and meet with professionals from a myriad of conservation organizations active in providing landowner conservation programs and services in the Culpeper District!

**This program is targeted to newer landowners of agricultural and forested land in Culpeper, Madison, Greene, Orange and Rappahannock wishing to understand how the programs work!**

**Culpeper SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Extension Agents, Local Foresters, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Piedmont Environmental Council, Quail Forever, Smithsonian Virginia Working Landscapes and more  
Please RSVP (540)825-8591 or e-mail [StevieR@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:StevieR@culpeperswcd.org)  
Lunch will be provided \$15 per person registration required  
Limited to 75 attendees.**

## **Agricultural Cost Share Practices**

Culpeper & Rappahannock (540) 825-8591

David Massie [davidm@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:davidm@culpeperswcd.org)

Amanda McCullen [amandac@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:amandac@culpeperswcd.org)

Brandy Harris [brandyh@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:brandyh@culpeperswcd.org)

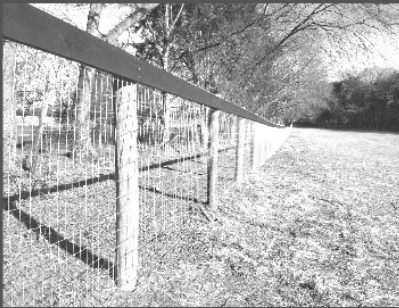
Green, Madison & Orange

Kendall Dellinger [kendalld@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:kendalld@culpeperswcd.org) (540) 825-8591 ext. 1009

Spencer Yager [spencery@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:spencery@culpeperswcd.org) (540) 308-6301

Practice	Details
Grazing Land Management with Stream Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream exclusion fencing &amp; water development.</li> <li>Includes fence, well, water troughs, pipe, stream crossings, rotational fences, etc.</li> <li>Covers 85% of <i>estimated</i> cost with 35' buffer &amp; 100% with 50' buffer.</li> <li>Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation of all practices.</li> <li>10 and 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Stream Exclusion with Narrow Width buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream exclusion fencing &amp; water development with reduced setback.</li> <li>Includes fence, well, water troughs, pipe, stream crossings, rotational fence, etc.</li> <li>Covers 60% of <i>estimated</i> cost with 10' buffer &amp; 75% with 25' buffer.</li> <li>10 and 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Afforestation of Crop, Hay & Pastureland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% of eligible cost for planting trees (hardwood or conifers).</li> <li>\$100/acre for 10 year incentive &amp; \$150/acre for 15 years.</li> </ul>
Woodland Buffer Filter Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting trees in riparian areas.</li> <li>95% of eligible cost for planting hardwoods or conifers.</li> <li>Conifers: \$100/acre for 10 years OR \$150/acre for 15 years.</li> <li>Hardwoods: \$100/acre for 10 years OR \$250/acre for 15 years.</li> <li>Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation.</li> </ul>
Cover Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 25th cut off for harvestable cover crop &amp; early planting date for cover crops to be killed in the spring</li> <li>November 15th, cut off planting date for kill down crops.</li> <li><i>Note: Dates have been extended by two weeks. Producer input led to this change!</i></li> <li>Rates: \$20/acre to harvest, up to \$90/acre to kill &amp; \$45/acre for legumes.</li> </ul>
Nutrient Management Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$4/acre to have a nutrient management plan written for your farm.</li> <li>A great way to save money on input costs!</li> </ul>
Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$8/acre for the precision application of nitrogen &amp; phosphorus to cropland.</li> <li>Must have current nutrient management plan: provide records, maps &amp; a bill for nitrogen/phosphorous application.</li> </ul>
No-Till & Cropland Conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$70/acre to convert from conventional tillage to a no-till system for 5 years.</li> <li>Up to \$410/acre to convert cropland to permanent hay or pasture.</li> <li>10 or 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Sod Waterway, Grass Filter Strips & Critical Area Seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 75% to grade &amp; seed gully erosion.</li> <li>Up to 75% to establish grass filter strips along waterways adjacent to crop, hayland or animal holding areas. NEW! Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation.</li> <li>Up to 75% to grade, fill &amp; seed critically eroding areas.</li> </ul>
Continuing Conservation Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$0.50-\$1.25/linear foot of stream bank protected with fencing.</li> <li>\$250-\$1,000 per water system, water trough or stream crossing.</li> <li>A great way to receive funds to maintain existing infrastructure!</li> </ul>
Streambank Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers 75% of the cost to stabilize &amp;/or grade eroding streambanks on ag land</li> <li>Can also cover slope toe rip rap for protection (if required), vegetative planting, trees/shrubs</li> <li>Requires engineered design which is a reimbursable expense</li> </ul>





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## 2021 Conservation Awards

Each year, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual banquet to honor residents who have demonstrated leadership in the stewardship of local soil and water resources. This past year, in lieu of a banquet due to the pandemic, District staff held individual presentations on farm and properties.

The Clean Water Farm Awards are given to one farm in each county of the Soil and Water Conservation District that is exemplary in its protection of soil and water quality, with particular emphasis on nutrient management. The recipients of the Clean Water Farm Awards were:

- Culpeper County, Ashland Farm, The Smith family (pending)
- Greene County, William and Cheryl McDaniel, Heavenly Acres Farm (top row left)
- Madison County, The Jewett Family, Madison Farms at Locust Dale (top row right)
- Orange County, McConnell Angus Farm (bottom row left)
- Rappahannock County, The Kalb family, Wadefield Farm (bottom row right)

The District also recognizes individuals and landowners with District level awards recognizing commitments to wildlife habitat, forestland management and conservation education. The McDaniel Family Farm in Greene County also received the Rappahannock River Grand Basin Award. The District nominated them to the state and they were selected as the best of the best in the full River Basin.



Heavenly Acres Farm



Madison Farms at Locust Dale



McConnell Angus Farm



Wadefield Farm



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## **Wildfire in Virginia**

(Used with Permission from [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov))

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) is charged with the protection of Virginia's forest resources from fire. The principal goals of the agency's resource protection program are to prevent injury or loss of human life, minimize property damage, and protect resources. The VDOF has a well-defined and organized team, with every member of the agency having fire responsibilities.

The ability to adapt to emergencies enables a small formal fire suppression force to limit annual fire losses to an average of 700 fires which burn just under 9,500 acres (10-year average). Each year in Virginia, more than 60 homes and other structures are damaged or destroyed by wildland fire, although agency suppression efforts are credited with directly protecting more than 460 homes and 280 other structures, collectively worth more than 60 million dollars.

Virginia's leading cause of wildfire is escaped debris burning. VDOF's focus on safe outdoor burning, fire prevention, and forest fire law enforcement is specifically focused to minimize the annual threats caused by careless outdoor burning.

Although wildfires occur throughout the year, Virginia's heaviest period of wildfire activity is in the spring and fall. In the spring, vegetation still dormant from the winter provides a ready fuel source. As temperatures rise, conditions become more favorable for fires to start and spread. The opposite occurs in the fall. Frost-killed vegetation and fallen leaves increase the availability of forest fuels. Combined with warmer temperatures and breezy days, Virginia again sees conditions ripe for wildfire spread, at least until temperatures finally cool down with the onset of winter.

Virginia's 4 PM Burning Law is specifically designed to limit outdoor burning in the spring. In effect from February 15 through April 30, the law prohibits burning each day, until after 4:00 p.m. Postponing outdoor burning until the late afternoon means decreasing potential for a fire to spread – temperature is lower, humidity is higher, and winds are typically calmer. Virginia's 4 PM Burning Law is credited with the prevention of numerous wildfires each year.

Finally, it is also very important to note that the VDOF's wildfire suppression success is only possible through close coordination with local fire departments, forest industry and both federal and state response agencies. The agency works closely with wildland fire suppression cooperators throughout the Commonwealth, providing training, support, and cooperation to ensure the safety of Virginia's citizens and natural resources.

## **Good Fire vs. Wildfire**

Fire can be both a good and bad force in the forest. Under controlled conditions, the benefits of fire in forest and ecosystem management are great. Under uncontrolled conditions, fires can be disastrous – these are called wildfires. Wildfires often develop when weather and environmental conditions are such that the fire cannot be controlled. Such fires spread rapidly, threaten lives, homes and communities, and damage our forestland and timber resource. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) sits ready to respond with wildfire suppression resources to control such wildfires as quickly as possible.

Fires play a vital role in keeping certain types of forests, grasslands, and other landscapes healthy. Most forest ecosystems evolved to tolerate semi-regular fires of lower intensity and flourish in their aftermath; however, societal norms, which often viewed all fire as bad, led a push during much of the 20th century to prevent fire at all costs. However, without fires, forest health and diversity has suffered. In an effort to reverse this trend, land managers have emphasized the increased use of prescribed fire, for the multiple benefits "good fire" brings to the forest.

In recent years, land managers have embraced prescribed fire – setting intentional, controlled fires in a specific area with a specific goal – as a necessary and useful tool to prevent dangerous wildfires and manage certain landscapes for long-term ecological health.

Learn more about fire that is beneficial to the environment: <https://www.goodfires.org/>





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## Conservation District Announces Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District awards educational scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in a conservation related field. Financial assistance is available for eligible students from Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties. Applicants must be full time students enrolled in or who have been accepted to a college undergraduate or graduate program related to soil and water conservation, natural resource management, animal science, environmental science or other related programs. This year, Isabella Dean was chosen to receive the annual John H. Boldridge Memorial Scholarship, our premier scholarship.

- Isabella Dean graduated from Madison County High School. She will attend North Carolina State University, where she will major in Agriculture Extension and Education (\$2,000 award).
- Elizabeth Blakey Bates graduated from Eastern View High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Agribusiness (\$1,000 award).
- Elizabeth Marie Dareing graduated from Rappahannock County High School. She will attend Sweet Briar College, where she will major in Environmental Science (\$1,000 award).
- Megan Mallory graduated from Madison County High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Agriculture (\$1,000 award).
- Kris Patel graduated from Eastern View High School. He will attend the University of Virginia, where he will major in Conservation Biology and Computer Science (\$1,000 award).

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is honored to recognize these students for their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavors.

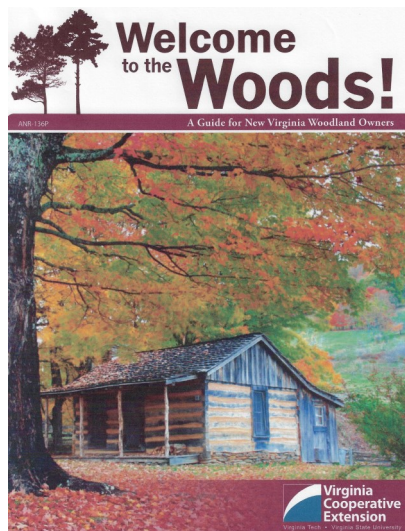
## Students Chosen for Summer Camps

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supported two students to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife held June 20-24 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, Virginia. The students representing the District were:

- Grace Faulk (Rappahannock)
- Izzy Hallberg (Culpeper)

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District also supported two students to attend Youth Conservation Camp held July 10-16 at Virginia Tech. The students representing the District were:

- Brett Howell (Culpeper)
- Hannah Tolson (Culpeper)



## Welcome to the Woods!

Let's start with a true or false question: More than half of Virginia is forested, and more than half of these woodlands are owned by individuals and families like you. If you find this statement hard to believe, that's OK, but it is true. As a woodlot owner, you play an important role in keeping Virginia's forests healthy and productive. This is a big responsibility because our forests not only provide timber, they also provide benefits such as wildlife habitat, biodiversity, flood mitigation, carbon storage and improved water quality and quantity.

While these provisions are nice, you are probably interested in personal benefits for you and your family. So what can you do to increase your family's enjoyment of the property?

This publication is a great place to get started. Please visit the Forest Landowner website, <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>. It can also be found on our website [here](#).

## **What Virginians Need to Know About the 2022 Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expansion**

**Authored by Theresa A. Dellinger, Diagnostician, and Eric Day, Manager, Insect Identification Lab, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech [What Virginians Need to Know About the 2022 Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expansion \(vt.edu\)](#)**

### **Introduction**

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Quarantine will be expanded in July 2022 to include the following cities and counties: Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Staunton, Waynesboro, Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockingham, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, and Wythe. This is in addition to the quarantine already in place for Frederick, Warren, and Clarke Counties and the City of Winchester. This document summarizes how the updated quarantine impacts the citizens of Virginia.

### **For residents in Virginia outside of the quarantine area**

There are no restrictions on the movement of materials originating outside the quarantine area, but you should be aware of SLF and report insects you suspect are SLF. To learn how to identify SLF, visit Virginia Cooperative Extension's Spotted Lanternfly In Virginia website [here](#).

If you think that you have found a SLF, you can take a specimen to your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office for confirmation. Your reports help Cooperative Extension track the spread of SLF in Virginia.

If needed, SLF on plants can be controlled with labeled insecticides. Confirm that you have SLF before applying insecticides.

### **For residents in the quarantine area moving outdoor household items to a location outside of the quarantine area**

The SLF quarantine regulates the movement of all the following items: recreational vehicles; lawn tractors or mowers; grills; grill or furniture covers; tarps; mobile homes; tile; stone; deck boards; outdoor furniture; children's playhouses and playground equipment; and any vehicles, trailers, or other equipment stored outside. This list can include anything else not otherwise specified that could move any life stages of SLF, including eggs. If you plan to move outdoor items out of the quarantine area, please inspect those items for SLF. Kill any SLF found. You can document your inspection using the Homeowner Checklist from VDACS ([here](#)).

### **For Christmas tree growers**

Inside the quarantine area, there are no restrictions on the movement of plants, plant materials, and other regulated items. An inspection is required if the customer lives outside the quarantine area. The inspection responsibility is on the business selling the commodity. Destroy any egg masses that are found. For more information, see the Best Management Practices for Spotted Lanternfly on Christmas Tree Farms ([here](#)).

### **For farmer markets, produce stands, U-pick farms, agrotourism sites, and similar businesses**

All plants and plant parts are considered regulated materials. This includes nursery plants, produce, and decorations made from plant materials. In addition, any items that have been stored outside since last fall (e.g., crates, furniture, crafts, decorative objects, etc.) are also regulated ([here](#)).

### **For lawn, landscaping, and tree care businesses**

All plants and plant parts are considered regulated materials. This includes nursery plants; live or dead trees; green lumber; firewood; logs, stumps, or branches; mulch; composted or fresh chips; and bark. Any equipment stored outside (e.g., lawn mowers, chippers, tools, etc.) is regulated along with trucks and trailers.

Inside the current quarantine area, there are no restrictions on the movement of plants, plant materials, and other regulated items within the quarantine area. It's still a good business practice to check for SLF on the materials to limit the spread of SLF.

*Continued on page 13*

*Continued from page 12*

### **For loggers and foresters**

All plants and plant parts are considered regulated materials. This includes nursery plants; live or dead trees; green lumber; firewood; logs, stumps, or branches; mulch; composted or fresh chips; and bark. Any equipment stored outside (e.g., lawn mowers, chippers, tools, etc.) is regulated along with trucks and trailers.

Inside the current quarantine area, there are no restrictions on the movement of plants, plant materials, and other regulated items. It's still a good business practice to check for SLF on the materials to limit the spread of this pest.

Moving plants, plant materials, and any regulated items from the quarantine area to locations outside the quarantine area requires a Spotted Lanternfly Permit. The items must be inspected and verified that they are free of all stages of SLF. Also, a copy of the Spotted Lanternfly Permit and a completed inspection statement must be sent with the regulated items. To obtain a Spotted Lanternfly Permit, take the online course for the Training Credential Training and apply to VDACS for a Spotted Lanternfly Permit. To start this process, visit Spotted Lanternfly In Virginia and click on the maroon "Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Training" box.

### **For growers of commodities that could be damaged by SLF or could spread SLF**

This includes fruit and grape growers; plant nurseries; and hops growers.

There are no restrictions on the movement of commodities grown inside the current quarantine area if the commodities are only sold inside the quarantine area. It's still a good business practice to check for SLF to limit the spread of SLF.

Growers shipping commodities from the quarantine area to locations outside the quarantine area must have a Spotted Lanternfly Permit. The items must be inspected and verified that they are free of all stages of SLF. Also, a copy of the Spotted Lanternfly Permit and a completed inspection statement must be sent with the regulated items. To obtain a Spotted Lanternfly Permit, take the online course for the Training Credential and apply to VDACS for a Spotted Lanternfly Permit. To start this process, visit Spotted Lanternfly In Virginia and click on the maroon "Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Training" box.

Clockwise from top left: Adult showing hind wings, adult with folded wings, early black and white nymphs. full grown nymphs showing red, and egg masses. (in color [here](#))





## **Drinking Water Testing Clinic for Residential Wells for Culpeper and Rappahannock Residents**

The Virginia Household Water Quality Program (VAHWQP) is a Virginia Cooperative Extension program that is designed to improve the water quality and health of Virginians by evaluating private water supplies. Initiated in 1989, VAHWQP drinking water clinics have been conducted in nearly every county across Virginia, and 35,000 samples have been analyzed and results confidentially returned to participants. The best part: your water test results are explained in a helpful meeting, where ways of preventing contamination and treating water quality problems are also addressed. Drinking water clinics are organized by your local Extension Agent and Virginia Tech faculty in the Biological Systems Engineering Department. ***Participation is voluntary and all information is kept strictly confidential.*** Anyone with a private water supply system (including wells, springs, and cisterns) may participate.

The Virginia Well Owner Network (VWON) is a linked, capacity-building program. A group of Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and volunteers are trained in proper well construction and location, maintenance and protection of wells and springs, interpretation of water analysis, and water treatment options. The network is an excellent resource for homeowners.

Samples are analyzed for the following: iron, manganese, nitrate, lead, arsenic, fluoride, sulfate, pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, copper, total coliform bacteria and E. Coli bacteria. Confidential reports are easy to read and accompanied by a sheet explaining what the numbers mean.

The local date for 2022 is October 26. Residents and landowners in Culpeper and Rappahannock are eligible for a clinic to test your well water.

- Culpeper residents: Ashley Appling at 540-727-3435 ext. 355 or [ashappling@vt.edu](mailto:ashappling@vt.edu)
- Rappahannock residents: Kenner Love at 540-675-3619 or [klove@vt.edu](mailto:klove@vt.edu).

Culpeper SWCD regionally sponsors this clinic to help reduce the cost of the tests to \$55.



## **Free Lawn Soil Tests Still Available!**

Contact Stephanie DeNicola at [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) for information. Photo credit: [Soil Testing Service \(uri.edu\)](http://SoilTestingService.uri.edu)



## Your farm can benefit.

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you qualify to receive up to 100 percent reimbursement for the cost of fencing the streams on your farm and providing an alternative water source for your livestock (SL-6 practice only).

Streamside livestock exclusion also can benefit your bottom line by:

- Improving herd health.
- Promoting greater weight gain in beef cattle.
- Increasing the quality and quantity of milk produced by cows.
- Supporting better management of available forage by using an alternative source of water (i.e., well or spring) and distributing watering troughs on pastures.

Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

## Who may apply?

Any individual or private business that operates a grazing farm bordering a live stream, wetland or Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Resource Protection Area is eligible to apply for up to 100 percent reimbursement on the installation of a livestock stream-exclusion system. To receive reimbursement, landowners must have a Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share program (VACS) contract for Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management (SL-6N or SL-6W) approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

## How and where they work.

Excluding livestock from streams reduces streambank erosion and decreases the amount of sediment that local waterways carry. It also eliminates the bacteria associated with livestock waste that cause illness in both animals and humans.

Fencing works anywhere a creek, stream or river crosses your property. Cost-share technical specifications require fences to be set back from the water by a certain distance. Installing a riparian buffer can enhance economic and environmental benefits.



## Here's the payoff.

In State Program Year 2022, the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program reimbursement rate will be up to 100 percent of the cost of all eligible components based on the width of the buffer and the practice lifespan. Additionally, a per-acre buffer payment will be added for all buffers 35 feet or greater. Fencing must be permanent and is subject to technical standards.

Farmers also can experience lower operating costs, because fenced livestock have:

- Fewer incidents of mastitis, which decreases milk productivity.
- Lower rates of foot rot, which is readily transmitted.
- Decreased opportunities for injury and accidental death.

## Take the next step.

Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement stream exclusion best management practices. District staff also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.

Culpeper Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
540-825-8591  
[www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org)







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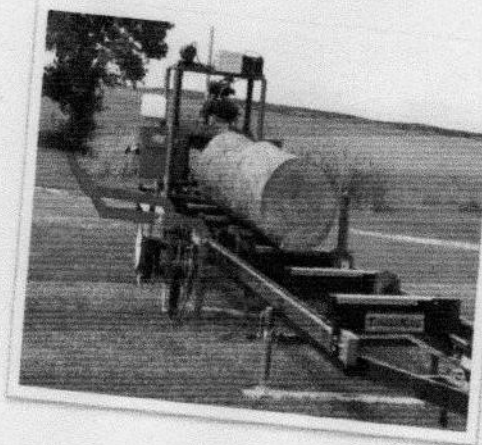
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Call Brian Hawley, PWS for more details.  
540.785.5544



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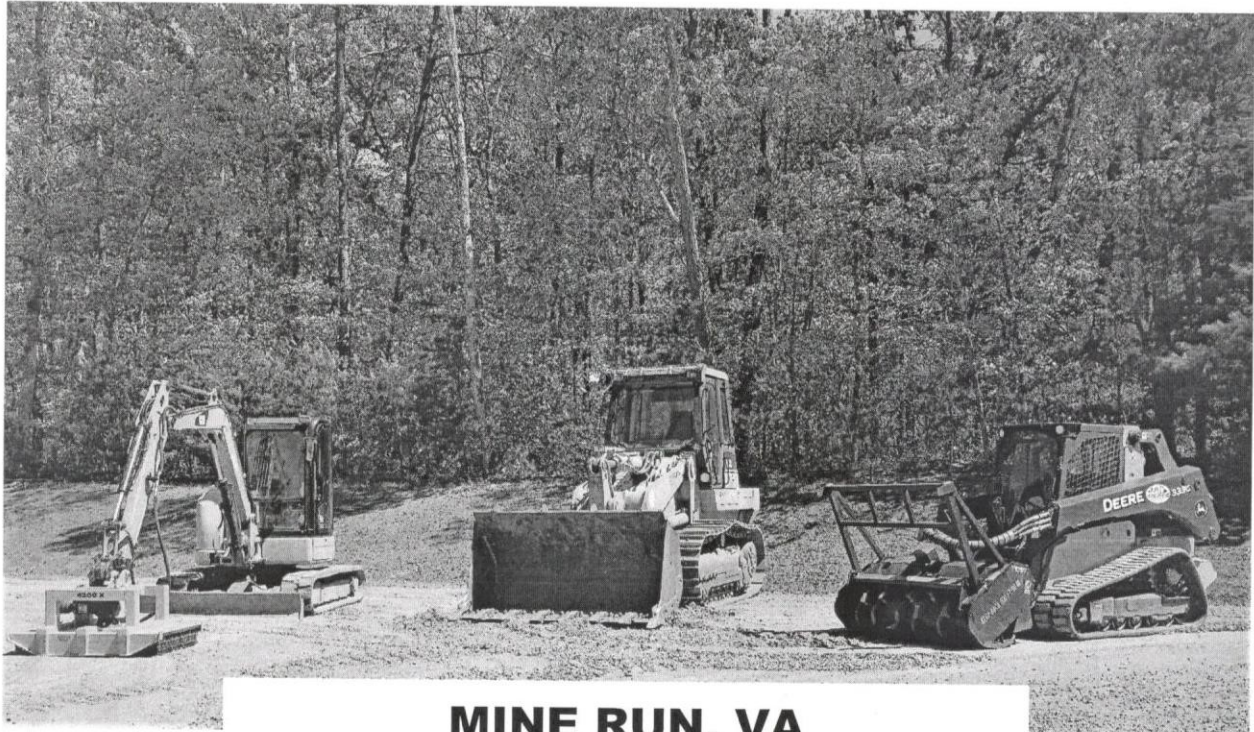
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## *Views From The Foothills*

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Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Editor

Culpeper Office  
351 Lakeside Drive  
Culpeper, Virginia 22701  
540-825-8591  
540-645-6624 (F)

Orange Office  
325-B Madison Road  
Orange, Virginia 22960  
540-308-6301

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