

Views From The Foothills

A Publication of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District
Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties
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 to remove yourself from our mailing list.

The Bay Bill, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Or maybe in reversed order: BMPs, RMPs and the Bay Bill.

In recent editions of this newsletter, we referenced the “Bay Bill” ([link](#)), the significant amount of funding currently being provided for Agricultural Conservation Best Management Practices and Plans ([link](#)), and also Resource Management Plans ([link](#)). Here we are again, all three together. They are necessarily all connected.

Approximately fifteen years ago, the concept of “certainty” arose; “certainty” that a farm met the expectations of Chesapeake Bay improvement thresholds and would be provided protection from regulatory changes. The agriculture community wanted to know what that level of implementation was. After several years of meetings and planning, the Resource Management Plan Program was established. That program establishes the requirements for a farm to be exempt from any regulatory change, at least for the life of the plan; 9 years. ([link](#))

To date, there are 143 Resource Management Plans within the Culpeper District. Of those Resource Management Plans on the books, many are fully implemented. Some of those acreages already met the requirements and only needed “The Plan” to be written and approved. Others needed a BMP, or two, or three, to be implemented to qualify for that “certainty” and The Plan written and approved for those acres.

So fast forward to today, there is cost share available for developing and implementing an RMP and as always, cost share available to implement necessary BMPs. And we don’t know what to expect from the Bay Bill. Interested in certainty? We can help you understand what we would be expected on your acreage and help you decide on a path forward.



Stream Bank Restoration Funding Increased

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District currently has significant funding available for restoring and stabilizing eroding stream banks through its funding for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share Program (VACS). Commonly known as “the cost share program”, VACS provides up to 75 percent reimbursement and up to 25 percent tax credit for engineer designed practices that are approved by the District Board prior to commencing any construction. Eligible properties include cropland, pastureland, hay land and forestland. Eligible expenses for reimbursement include stream bank grading and shaping costs, slope toe stabilization with riprap costs (if required), vegetative plantings that are temporary, permanent, and shrubs and/or trees and any engineering costs to design and verify the installation. The District has recently engaged several engineering firms to provide timely designs and permitting assistance to interested landowners. The funds cannot be utilized for in-channel design or construction although tax credits may be available if the project includes such. Neither the cost share program or tax credit program support stream straightening projects. Any lands under consideration for funding must meet basic program requirements and have been approved as eligible for the practice; must be at least 5 contiguous acres, have verifiable gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 from the production or sale of agricultural, horticultural or forest products per year for each of the past 3 years and must be in the Culpeper District (Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock counties). Non-industrial private forest lands may be eligible and are exempt from the \$1,000 requirement. Maximum cost share available per project is \$300,000 provided no other cost share is received by the applicant the same year. Maximum tax credit available is \$25,000. A District Board approved application and cost estimate are required. In addition, DEQ has 0 (yep, that’s zero) interest loans available that could be very helpful with upfront costs (see page 13). For more information on this opportunity, contact the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District at 540-825-8591 (Culpeper) and ask for David Massie or Amanda McCullen or 540-308-6301 and ask for Spencer Yager.



Graze 300 Promoted by VA Department of Conservation & Recreation

By: Carl C. Stafford, Senior Extension Agent, Livestock Forages

540-359-5532 ccstaffo@vt.edu

Graze 300 VA, a Virginia Cooperative Extension branded program, has reached another milestone in its progress with producer adoption of extended grazing practices. The Graze 300 team is concluding its grant commitment with the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture, Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture. This grant funded our work to develop and deliver training, educational resources and technical applications supporting advances in grazing livestock management.

And now, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is rolling out pilot testing of Graze 300 practices in two Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Culpeper and Headwaters) as part of an addition to an existing BMP. Grazing management advocated by Graze 300 will become part of the Pilot DCR SL10E pasture management cost share practice, a proposed upgrade to the existing SL 10 practice. In addition, measures of Soil Test Biological Activity (STBA) based on research by Dr Alan Franzluebbers, USDA ARS, NC State and implementation of Bale Grazing based on work by Dr Greg Halich, University of Kentucky, will be components added to the new practice. Under the Pilot, Graze 300 may receive added incentive of \$15/acre for grazing 300 days and \$25/acre for grazing 330 days. Bale grazing can receive an additional \$5/acre.

Adding grazing days to livestock production increases profitability to a point, when compared to a long winter of hay feeding. Reaching 300 days of grazing can be the sweet spot economically for many producers and case studies developed by Extension Agents across Virginia show this. Our examples point to profit increases when stocking rate is reduced because extra grass grown is carried forward for use during drought and as a primary feedstuff in winter. In the end, less hay feeding will improve the bottom line as our budgets show hay is responsible for at least 50% of cow calf production costs.

Adding STBA to the new SL10E practice offers the potential to limit another cost related to stockpiled fescue - nitrogen fertilizer. Testing soil reveals the potential for plant-available nitrogen to be released from decomposing organic matter. Soils under long-term pasture and in no-till cropping often have an active N cycle involving organic matter decay which is responsible for releasing stored N. Old sods are expected to contain organic matter sufficient to release N at levels supporting adequate stockpiled fescue production. Work by Chris Teutsch in VA suggests that these sods contain sufficient concentrations of organic matter to release enough N to stockpile 2500 pounds of hay equivalent fescue per acre. Adding more N to these soils is not expected to result in an economic response in fescue production. Current N and hay costs further support the value of using of this practice.

The Bale Grazing practice offers a chance to strategically spread out fed hay and animal waste across a landscape capable of absorbing most of the nutrients introduced from hay. When compared to centralized feeding areas, bale grazing will result in fewer nutrients being lost in run-off during wet winter conditions, while spreading out impacts to pasture sods. Some reseeding may be required on these feeding sites but nutrients from fed hay can be recycled for future production, while improving water quality.





8th Annual Culpeper SWCD Tree Sale

Five of one species for \$5 (except American chestnut)
PICK UP FOR ALL PLANTS IS 3/17/2023 and 3/18/2023



American chestnut hybrid (*Castanea dentata x mollissima x crenata*) Full Sun to Partial Sun

Seedlings from open-pollinated nuts collected from select (blight tolerant with American chestnut form and appearance) trees in the Lesesne State Forest chestnut breeding area. Exact pedigree cannot be guaranteed because they are open-pollinated (male parent unknown), but these likely contain more than 50% American chestnut DNA with the remainder a mix of Chinese and/or Japanese chestnut origin. Should have improved blight resistance and are more likely to survive than wild-type American chestnut, but still are likely to become infected and may not survive to maturity.



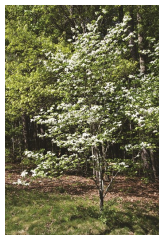
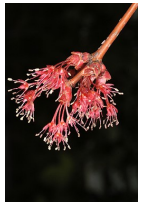
Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) Full sun

Norway spruce can grow 80 to 100 feet tall and spread 25 to 40 feet. It is best used as a specimen in a lawn area or as a wind break or screen, planted on 20-foot-centers. Also used for Christmas tree production. Rockefeller Center in New York City erects a Norway spruce each Christmas next to the skating rink and decorates it for the holiday season. Norway spruce tolerates most soils if moist and transplants easily if balled and burlapped or potted. Trees subjected to drought are much happier if they receive periodic irrigation although they tolerate drought well.



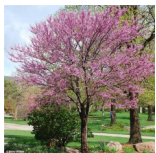
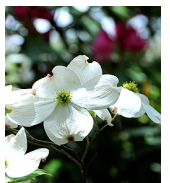
Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) Full sun to shade tolerant

Red maple reaches a mature size of up to 90 feet in height and 2½ feet in diameter. It grows on a variety of sites, from dry ridges to swamps. The light cream-colored wood is used for furniture, turnery, woodenware and paper pulp. Red maple can be tapped for syrup-making. The fruit and buds are a primary food source for gray squirrels in late winter and early spring. Birds and mice eat the seeds, and deer browse the young sprouts. Red maple is a popular shade and ornamental tree, with brilliant fall color.



White Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) Full sun to shade tolerant

White dogwood is a small tree with a short trunk that branches low, producing a slightly rounded to flat-topped crown. This species will reach heights of 20 to 30 feet with a mature diameter of one to two feet, making it a attractive ornamental tree. Growth is best on well-drained, clay, loamy, sandy soils. Very small, inconspicuous flowers that are surrounded by four large white bracts appear in mid-spring. The red to brown wood is hard, strong and very close-grained. Although the fruits are poisonous if eaten by humans, more than 35 species of birds and many large and small mammals are known to eat them. Deer and rabbits browse the foliage and twigs. The white dogwood, otherwise known as flowering dogwood, is the state tree and state flower of Virginia.



Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) Full sun to shade tolerant

Eastern redbud reaches a mature size of 15 to 30 feet in height and 6 to 10 inches in diameter. It grows on moist, well-drained woodlands. The wood is heavy, hard, not strong and rich, dark brown in color. Some birds and mammals eat the seeds. Redbud is planted as an ornamental tree suitable for small landscapes.



Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) Full sun to shade tolerant

Red mulberry reaches a mature size of 30 to 60 feet in height and 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Its habitat includes floodplains and low, moist slopes. The dark brown wood is light and soft, not strong, but quite durable. It was traditionally used for fencing, barrels, interior finish and agricultural tools. Produces fruit resembling a blackberry that is red when immature and turning deep purple when ripe in mid-summer. The fruit is sweet, juicy and edible and is a favorite food for squirrels, opossums, raccoons, turkeys and many songbirds.





Just clip the order part and send it to our office with a check. Ordering early is important because we usually sell out before the pick up date.

PICK UP FOR ALL PLANTS March 17 & 18, 2023

RETURNING: POLLINATOR MEADOW SEED MIX FOR SMALL AREAS OF YOUR YARD!

This meadow seed mix includes an already pre-mixed cover crop and will cover a 1,000 square foot area.

Limit one order per customer. The meadow mix does best in sunny areas that receive 6 hours or more of sunlight. See article on page 5: culp-swcd-nletter-09.21.pdf (culpeperswcd.org)

The mix is designed for both riparian and upland sites. Detailed instructions will accompany the seed mix at pick up. Anyone willing to plant more than the 1,000 square foot plot should consider contacting a qualified contractor.

RETURNING THIS YEAR: Live stakes to address streambank erosion and other uses

Silky dogwood (*Cornaceae cornus amomum*) and Streamco Willow (*Salix purpurea*)

These shrub cuttings come in bundles and root readily when planted in moist soils.



Whether you have an eroding stream bank or want to restore a riparian area, consider planting with live stakes. Live staking is the practice of using unrooted cuttings to propagate shrubs and some trees for establishing vegetation in difficult riparian areas such as stream banks and floodplains. Using cuttings from dormant multi-stem shrubs and trees which have the capacity to grow roots once they are tapped or hammered into the ground.

<https://extension.psu.edu/live-staking-for-stream-restoration>

Red osier picture from Virginia Tech Dendrology

Streamco willow picture from Sullivan County Conservation District



Species	Price	Quantity	Species	Price	Quantity
White dogwood (5 seedlings)	\$5		Red maple (5 seedlings)	\$5	
American Chestnut (5 seedlings) MAX 1 pack per customer	\$30		Norway spruce (5 seedlings)	\$5	
Eastern redbud (5 seedlings) MAX 2 packs per customer	\$5		Red mulberry (5 seedlings)	\$5	
Silky dogwood (25 live stakes)	\$25		Streamco willow (25 live stakes)	\$25	
Meadow mix MAX 1 per customer	\$30				
TOTAL COST: (check or cash only)					

Checks payable to CSWCD. Pick up dates are Friday March 17 and Saturday March 18, 2023 at Culpeper office.

Plants not picked up by 12pm on Saturday March 18, 2023 may be forfeited without a refund.

We do our best to insure quality control. However, no refunds on trees that do not grow.

Questions? Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org or 540-825-8591

Mail order form & payment to ATTN Tree Sale, CSWCD, 351 Lakeside Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701

Species descriptions & pictures from Virginia Tech Dendrology <https://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm> & VDOF

Virginia Working Landscapes: Conservation Opportunities for Private Landowners

Are you a landowner in Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange, or Rappahannock County? Are you interested in knowing which birds use your property, the plant community, or how pollinators respond to your management practices? Would you like to know how the biodiversity on your piece of the world compares to the landscape beyond your boundaries?

Each year Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL) works with landowners who join our network in order to learn about biodiversity and conservation on private, working farms in Virginia. In many cases, landowners are interested in VWL conducting our suite of biodiversity surveys on their properties. Our surveys are conducted by trained citizen scientist volunteers. These survey data help us better understand the factors that affect our region's biodiversity and may be useful in informing best management practices for each landowner.

At the end of each survey season VWL compiles a summary report for landowners documenting the species observed on each property. By using the same monitoring protocols across many properties VWL can examine relationships between land-management and native species biodiversity across a large study area and across many years. In the long-term, such studies help scientists understand the present state of nature and may help us predict the future of our region's landscapes.

Current Grassland Biodiversity Survey Opportunities

The following are surveys we conduct on private properties that are contributing data to current VWL research projects. Not all surveys will be conducted at each property, and suitable surveys for each property will be determined by a site visit from VWL staff. The **breeding bird survey** investigates the relationship between grassland birds and both plant diversity and structure during the nesting season. The **grassland plant survey** explores the plant species composition of each site to provide insight on native species richness. The **soil composition survey** is useful for understanding plant communities and can provide information to landowners to improve management practices.

Survey period: May-August

Necessary land features for survey: 20-30 acres of grassland habitat (grazed pastures, hay fields, fallow fields, pollinator meadows)

To find out if your property is a fit for VWL biodiversity surveys, or to ask questions about our work, please contact VWL Survey Coordinator, **Erin Shibley**, at ShibleyE@si.edu or (540) 635-0073. To learn more about Virginia Working Landscapes, visit: www.vaworkinglandscapes.org

Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative

Did you know that there are over 50 species of birds that rely on Virginia's working grasslands for breeding, nesting, foraging, and refuge throughout the entire year? Unfortunately, many of those birds are in decline. North America's native grasslands—the habitat these birds depend upon—have suffered the most intense impact by humans of any of the country's terrestrial ecosystems, resulting in grassland birds experiencing a steeper decline than any other guild of birds. Remaining grassland birds have now adapted to using hayfields and pasturelands as *surrogate* habitat—an ecological trap under the wrong conditions or a unique opportunity for conservation under the right conditions.

Research has demonstrated that implementing a specific suite of best management practices on agricultural land can actually *benefit* grassland birds, as well as restore ecosystem functionality to those working landscapes. With the majority of remaining grasslands in Virginia currently held in private hands and under agricultural use, both farmers and their working landscapes have become instrumental in the future of grassland bird conservation.

Financial Incentives Program

VGBI has its own in-house financial incentives program for producers and landowners who adopt either of two specific best management practices that protect grassland birds during their vulnerable nesting season. Qualifying producers can receive up to \$35 per acre for: 1) delaying their first cut of hay until July 1, 2023 or later, and/or 2) rotating livestock out of select fields from April 15 to July 1, 2023 or later. In addition to protecting nesting habitat, these practices can also be used strategically to stockpile forage for late summer grazing, rest and re-seed fields, and reduce feed expenses.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Delayed Haying

How it works: Delay the first spring cutting of hay on select fields until July 1 or later and withhold livestock, tractor/UTV activity, and other disturbances such as herbicide and fertilizer applications during this time.

Benefits: Allows producers to strategically spread out labor requirements and could lead to marketing potential to label farms and products as “bird-friendly.” Higher fiber, more mature hay is suitable for feeding dry cows, horses, and retired animals, as well as for mushroom hay and bedding. The land stays eligible for agricultural land use tax deferral.

Summer Pasture Stockpiling

How it works: Rotate cattle off select fields by April 15 and withhold livestock, tractor/UTV activity, mowing, and other disturbances such as herbicide and fertilizer applications until July 1 or later.

Benefits: Bridges the summer dormancy gap by providing standing forage in late summer without the risk and cost of planting summer annuals. Provides the opportunity to rest and prepare other fields for fall/winter stockpiling with the goal of reducing hay feeding days and annual feed cost.

Site Selection

Most grassland bird species require wide expanses of grasses for nesting, so acreage that best mimics a large, contiguous patch of grass, distant from thick forest edges and human development, is best suited for this incentive program. Here are some habitat characteristics to consider when selecting fields and/or pastures:

- Size: 20 or more acres are preferred.
- Shape: Square or rectangle fields are preferred over long, narrow fields, fields with many twists and turns, and fields with patches of shrubs or trees throughout.
- Surroundings: Fields surrounded by other hay fields or pastures are preferred over those bordered by forest or development.

The application for enrollment in VGBI’s 2023 Incentives Program will remain open until November 15, 2022. Even though you will likely be reading this after that date, please contact **VGBI Co-Coordinator October Greenfield by email at ogreenfield@pecva.org or by phone at (540) 347-2334 x7051**. To learn more about the program, visit: vagrasslandbirds.org/incentives/.

Nest Box Program

Many species of birds that use grasslands for forage and cover do not necessarily nest directly in the grasses. Some require natural cavities, which often come in the form of old woodpecker holes in snags (dead, standing trees). For this reason, you should leave snags untouched on your property so long as they don’t pose a safety hazard. Fewer available snags mean fewer cavities, so installing nest-boxes can help fill the gap. Nest-boxes also allow researchers to band and track adult and fledgling birds, providing insights to breeding biology, movement, foraging, and habitat preferences. Finally, nest-boxes are another way landowners can connect and engage with many at-risk bird species, generating an even greater level of stewardship over those birds and the habitats on which they depend.

V

VGBI offers the following services for nest-boxes:

- Advice on which cavity-nesting species could benefit from nest-boxes on your property
- Advice on where to place those nest-boxes
- Options for procuring the boxes you need

Contact VGBI’s Coordinator Justin Proctor (ProctorCJ@si.edu) or Co-Coordinator October Greenfield (ogreenfield@pecva.org) for assistance.

For more information on the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative, including upcoming events, programming, and ways to get involved, please visit: www.vagrasslandbirds.org



FORESTRY MULCHING

- LAND CLEARING
- WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS
- RECREATIONAL TRAIL CLEARING
- POST LOGGING CLEAN UP
- POND RESTORATION
- FENCE LINE RESTORATION
- RECLAIM PASTURES

Forestry Mulching is the perfect way to clean up your property, without leaving any stump holes or brush piles behind. This process also leaves a mulch bed that helps prevent erosion and replenish nitrogen into the soil.

- LIVESTOCK WATER TROUGHS
- STREAM CROSSINGS
- WELL PUMP & PREASURE TANK INSTALLATION
- SHELTERS
- RESIDENTIAL TRENCHING
- WATER AND SEWER LINE REPAIR
- CULVERT PIPE INSTALLATION

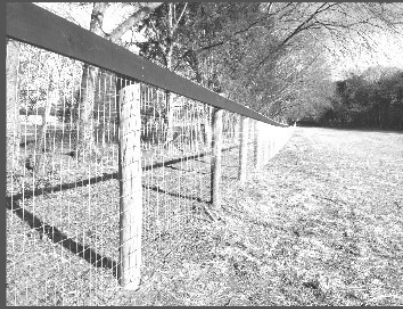


LIVESTOCK WATERERS

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540-219-2075

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Custom kiln-drying services also available

Sources of lumber include local, family-owned
Virginia sawmills.

Help Available for Septic System Maintenance and Repairs

Homeowners in several areas of Orange, Madison, Rappahannock and Culpeper Counties continue to be eligible for reimbursement of 50-80% of the expense of pumping, inspecting, maintaining, repairing or replacing on-lot septic systems. The watersheds include:

- **Rush River:** The area goes from just slightly upstream of the Town of Washington, downstream to the confluence with Big Branch Run and includes all properties in the Big Branch drainage.
- **White Walnut Run:** begins at Buckner's Corners and Ashby's Corners near Rte. 231 and also includes most of the Slaughter Mountain area and flows through the Woodville area continuing downstream until it reaches the Thornton River.
- **Blue Run:** The area goes from the Barboursville area, just slightly upstream of US Route 33, downstream to the confluence with the Rapidan River, and includes all properties on side tributaries that drain to the same place.
- **Robinson River:** Part of the Robinson River as it flows downstream from the new bridge at Mulatto Run on Route 231, including all of White Oak Lake and White Oak Run areas and south to Route 230 is in the eligible area. This area includes both Deep Run and Muddy Run near Brightwood. The second area is all of the Robinson River east of U.S. Route 29.
- **Upper York River:** Mountain Run (Gordonsville), Pamunkey Creek, Terry's Run and Beaver Creek. This is nearly all of the section of Orange County which is both south of Route 20 and east of US 15, except for very few areas.

These grants are focused on reducing any existing or potential impacts on local ground and surface water quality. E. Coli bacteria in some local streams has long been identified as being higher than expected by state water quality standards, although other pollutants can also be involved, particularly nutrients. An additional benefit to the property owner is the assurance that their system is up to standards and functioning properly. It is a win-win for both water quality and property value.

Program participants are eligible for several different payments depending on the actual needs of their system. Reimbursement payments are typically 50% for anyone although can go as high as 80% for individuals that qualify for low-income status. Maximum payments to property owners at the 50% cost share level (80% in parentheses) are \$200 (\$320) maximum towards a pump out; \$2000 (\$3,200) maximum towards a pump out and inspection; \$2,500 (\$4,000) maximum towards a repair; \$4,000 (\$6,400) maximum towards a conventional system or \$6,000 (\$9,600) if a pump is required to move the liquids to the drain field; and \$12,000 (19,200) maximum towards an alternative engineered system.

Pump outs with an inspection extend the life of a system and prevent higher costs later on if the systems fail. If further repairs are indicated by the pump out and inspection, the owner is still eligible for the additional repair payments. Applications are required and need to be approved prior to the work being done or funding can be declined. Free assistance with initial assessments of individual system needs is available from the District. Reimbursement payments are made promptly once the work has been completed. The program is entirely voluntary and assistance from the District is free of charge.

Further information on the program is available from the District at 948-7531 or 825- 8591. Funding for these projects has been secured by the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Applications for College Scholarships, Camp Woods and Wildlife and Youth Conservation Camp will be available in January! Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org for more information!

New Landowner Update

Culpeper SWCD recently hosted a New Landowner Workshop at Graves Mountain Lodge on September 16. Nearly 100 people were in attendance. In preparation for the workshop CSWCD produced a binder for new landowners. If you would like to see the binder contents given to attendees, visit our website at: [New Landowner Binder - Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District \(culpeperswcd.org\)](https://culpeperswcd.org).



Free Lawn Soil Tests Still Available!

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

0% Interest Loans Available

Are you interested in conservation practices but do not have the money upfront to fund the project? No worries. Department of Environmental Quality's Ag BMP Loan Program offers funds for you with no money upfront with 0% interest, no long-term requirement, and potential for principal forgiveness. Fortunate for you, projects are accepted year-round and reviewed monthly. Debt repayment begins 6 months after project completion with 1-to-10-year repayment schedules depending on loan amount and asset useful life. DEQ will prioritize applications and tentative authorization will be granted. Contact DEQ today to find out if you're eligible. See page 13.

Welcome Lily Smith!

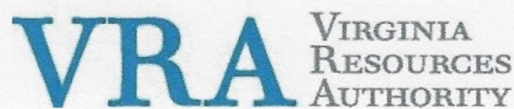
Lily joined the District in September 2022 as a Conservation Specialist. She grew up in Madison County on a small farm where she showed goats in the Madison Fair, played the banjo in a bluegrass band, and participated on various sports teams. Lily attended Eastern Mennonite University where she was a member of the women's soccer team. In 2022, she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. Lily now lives in Madison with her husband, Kyle, and their dog and cat, Skye and Hickory. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, animals, and time outdoors. Lily can be reached via e-mail at lilys@culpeperswcd.org.



Woods and Wildlife Conference

The 19th Annual Woods and Wildlife Conference returns to the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper on Saturday February 23, 2023! This all-day conference is for owners of large or small tracts of land and is a one stop/first stop for individuals, families and managers to learn about woods, wildlife and other natural resources. It provides multiple links to information, sources of assistance and a broader community of landowners and professionals and will explore a myriad of forest issues relevant to woodland owners.

Contact Adam Downing at adowning@vt.edu or 540-948-6881 for more info!



Virginia DEQ Agricultural BMP Loan Program

Cost Effective Financing for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Loan Terms

All loans at 0% interest

Debt repayment begins 6 months after project completion

Up to 10 year repayment schedules available, depending on loan amount and asset useful life

Disbursements of loan proceeds made on a reimbursement basis

Program Incentives

Potential for principal forgiveness

Expanded list of eligible practices

Expanded list of eligible applicants



Eligible Practice Types

BMPs for water quality

Surface Water and Groundwater Protection Practices

- Stream Fencing and Alternative Watering Systems
- Tree Plantings Along Streams
- Stormwater Impoundment and Sediment Retention
- Streambank Stabilization and Stream Crossings
- Water Table Control Structure and Constructed Wetlands
- Sink Hole Protection

Livestock and Structural Practices

- Roof Runoff Management Systems
- Animal Waste Structures and Pumping Systems
- Manure and Animal Composting Systems
- Animal Mortality Incinerators
- Chemical and Fertilizer Handling Facilities
- Relocation of Confined Feeding Operations
- Grazing Systems, Animal Travel Lanes and Loafing Lots

No Till Drill Equipment



For more information, visit www.deq.virginia.gov (Search for AG BMP) or www.virginiaresources.org. You can also send an email to Lars.Bolton@deq.virginia.gov or call 804-698-4006.

Agricultural Cost Share Practices

Culpeper & Rappahannock (540) 825-8591

- David Massie davidm@culpeperswcd.org
- Amanda McCullen amandac@culpeperswcd.org
- Brandy Harris brandyh@culpeperswcd.org
- Lily Smith lilys@culpeperswcd.org

Green, Madison & Orange

- Kendall Dellinger kendalld@culpeperswcd.org (540) 825-8591 ext. 1009
- Spencer Yager spencery@culpeperswcd.org (540) 308-6301

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

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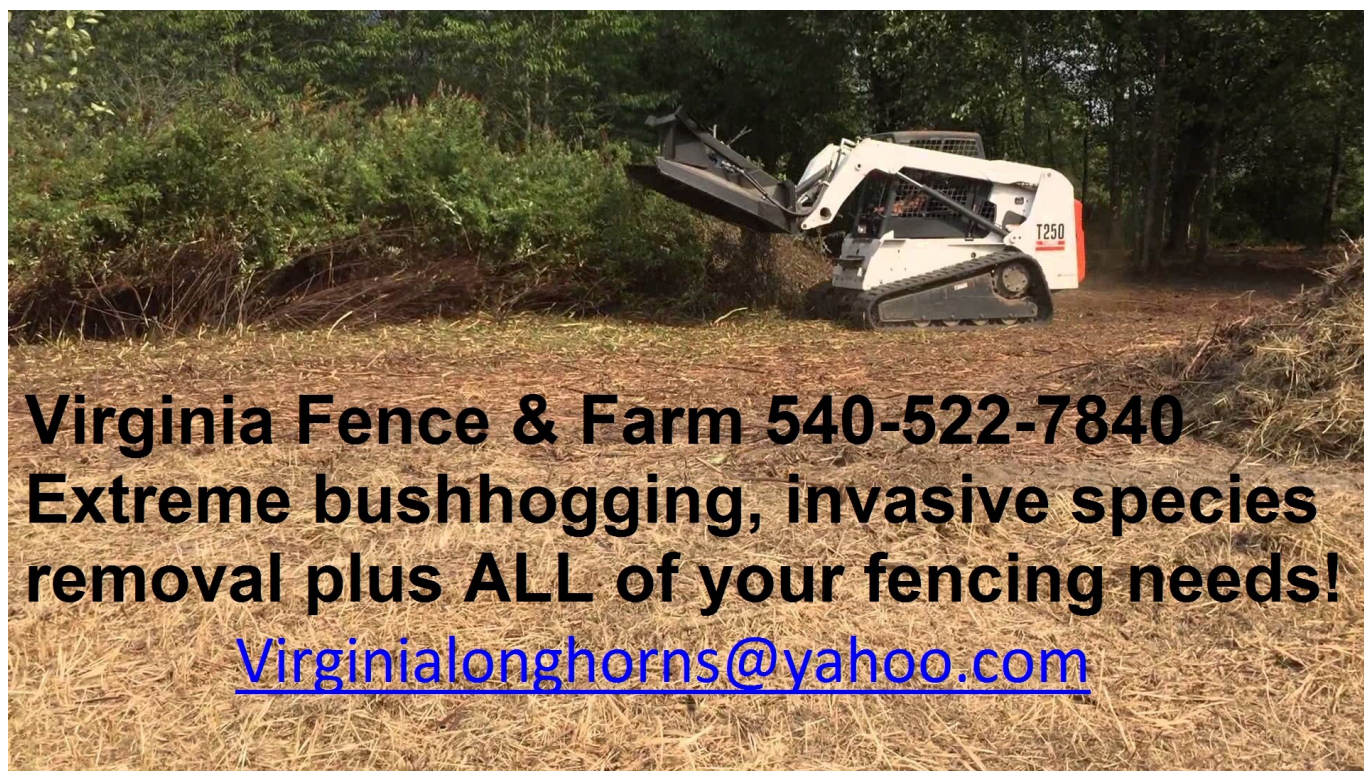
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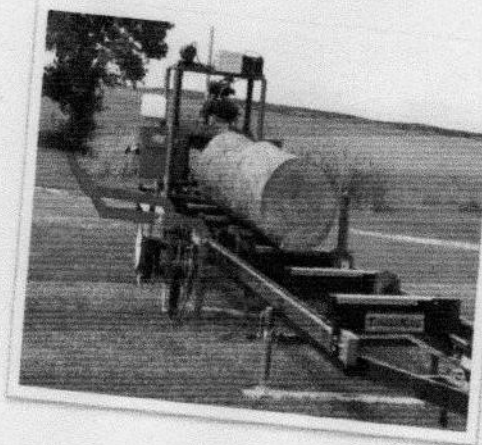
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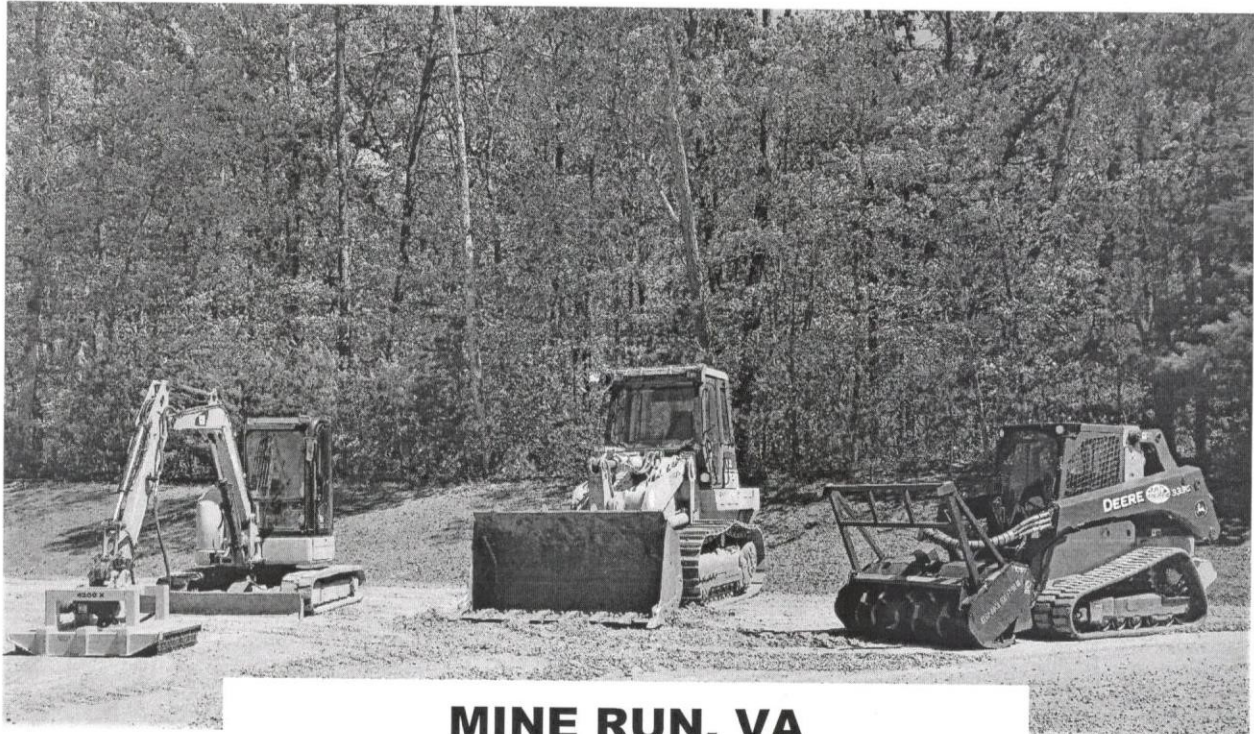


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Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Editor

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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