

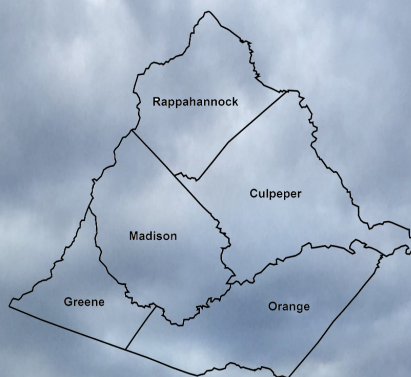
Views From The Foothills

A Publication of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District
Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties

Vol. 23 Issue 3
Summer 2023

M. Johnson

Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District Presents **New Landowner Conservation Services Workshop** September 15, 2023 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

Lunch will be provided \$15 per person registration required

Limited to 75 attendees.

Conservation District Receives Statewide Dam Safety Recognition

The Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association (VLWA) recently attended the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting in Madison County to present to the District Board the 2023 Best Maintained Dam Statewide—Publicly Funded category. Nominated by Schnabel Engineering LLC, a leader in corporate dam safety engineering, the Award recognizes the Culpeper District's many achievements towards maintaining and upgrading its 8 flood control dams in Madison County and highlighted one specific dam as well as one large project involving 6 dams together. VLWA Representative Cameron Smith presented the award to Board Chairman Lynn Graves and District Technical Committee Chairman Robert Bradford. Mr. Smith acknowledged both the District's many repair projects to its dams over the most recent 6 years and the efficient project management provided by District staff. "The Culpeper District has not only led the way amongst Virginia Conservation Districts maintaining, repairing and upgrading their dams but been very efficient in accomplishing it."

The VLWA is a professional organization of engineers, contractors, consultants, government officials and interested others whose mission is to promote and educate the public on good lake and watershed management and protect water resources in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Left to right: CSWCD Board Chair and Madison Director Lynn Graves, VLWA Representative Cameron Smith and CSWCD Orange Director Robert Bradford

NEW YEAR — NEW FUNDING

Record setting year after year — that's what has been occurring here at Culpeper Soil and Water the most recent few years. Newsletter readers and recipients of our outreach letters have heard from us numerous times over recent years "chatting up" all the financial commitments made by our Virginia General Assembly towards accomplishing water quality improvements and protections in Virginia. Well here we are once again. Robust funding.

During the most recent fiscal year which just ended our staff allocated over \$7 million in conservation incentive funding across our five counties. That is a real bell ringer for sure. To put that in perspective, it wasn't that many years ago that \$7 million was the level of all state funding for the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Virginia and now it's happening in just our five counties. And ... as you read this, staff here are already allocating the next \$7 million which we recently received for this year that just commenced. That's correct. Another \$7 million for on the ground management practices that benefit the farm, benefit the environment and help Virginia continue on its trajectory towards Chesapeake Bay restoration. So big kudos to Culpeper District staff for all their hard work and enduring efforts, kudos to all the land owners and producers who keep stepping up to engage our services and the incentive programs and make a difference in Virginia and kudos to the General Assembly and all those along the way who are involved in securing competitive levels of funding to "move the needle" on the "Bay meter". As we have said before and probably will say again, we are 100 percent in favor of the voluntary approach to environmental management. It is the preferred pathway forward and certainly involves education AND IT NECESSARILY INVOLVES YOU. So stay tuned. And call us. An assessment of your opportunities and strategizing a possible path forward come at no cost and no obligation from you. You can turn this page and see a chart of the most common BMPs utilized in the District. This newsletter comes out quarterly each and every year, there are numerous workshops coming soon and if you are a new landowner or operator — put Friday September 15, 2023 on your calendar right now (see front page). You need to hear all this. Call Stevie at 540-825-8591 and make the reservation. Lunch provided.

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 were recently adopted that have considerably improved options for producers to participate, and even increase their acreage in cover crops. Planting date deadlines were extended for both the nutrient management cover crop program (crop is terminated in the spring) and the harvestable cover crop program. These deadlines were extended 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, 2023, while the new deadline for regular planting of nutrient management cover crops is November 15, 2023. 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.

Agricultural Cost Share Practices

Culpeper & Rappahannock (540) 825-8591

- David Massie davidm@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1004
- Amanda McCullen amandac@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1003 (on maternity leave until September 2023)
- Brandy Harris brandyh@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1008
- Lily Smith lilys@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1010

Green, Madison & Orange

- Kendall Dellinger kendalld@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1009
- Spencer Yager spencery@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1012

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, hay-land 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

Virginia Tech, Land Grant Universities, Cooperative Extension and You: Did You Know?

Having grown up on a dairy farm in upstate New York in the shadows of Cornell University, and having had a dad who engaged the local soil conservation district way back in the 1950s and 1960s to overseed legumes into weak pasture stands, and having obtained a couple college degrees from a land grant university and having been employed by a different one, the land grant university system comes as no surprise to me. What does surprise me is how many people I encounter who are totally unaware of what a land grant university is, unaware of the land grant university system and unaware of the vast resources available; unaware people who own farmland. And unaware of Cooperative Extension. At least in my opinion, this is NOT good! So, in the interest of conservation education programming, I offer this brief article so all readers can become more informed about what is available to them right there at their computer or phone. Warning; It is enormous! I should also say that we are all aware of the tremendous amount of information “out there” as the saying goes, but one thing to know is that the land grant university information available through Cooperative Extension is both science based and peer reviewed, fact checked. No hocus-pocus. If you want hocus pocus, go elsewhere.

So, if you want to read the background information go here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university

More to the point, let's start with Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. They have more publications on-line than you can ever read and it will challenge you. That said, go surfing and check it out. <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/>

Beyond that, and it is good to go beyond that, there is North Carolina State University, Penn State University, Cornell University, Purdue University, etc..... It's a long list! They all have a lot to offer. Check the list of the land grant institutions and Google it all. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_land-grant_universities

If agriculture is your topic, there a 6 or 8 of them that, at least for me, typically rise to the top for my needs. You will figure that out quick enough for yourself. This is your tax dollars at work for you.



New Forester Assignments (effective 5/11/2023):

Culpeper & Rappahannock: Peter Schoderbek 434-282-4169 peter.schoderbek@dof.virginia.gov

Greene & Madison: Ed Furlow 540-395-1164 ed.furlow@dof.virginia.gov

Orange: Stuart Baker 434-987-8326 stuart.baker@dof.virginia.gov

Save Money with Soil Testing to Improve Your Lawn

Caring for the environment also means caring for your lawn. By using proper mowing and maintenance practices, you can enjoy a healthy, beautiful lawn while protecting local streams, rivers and lakes.

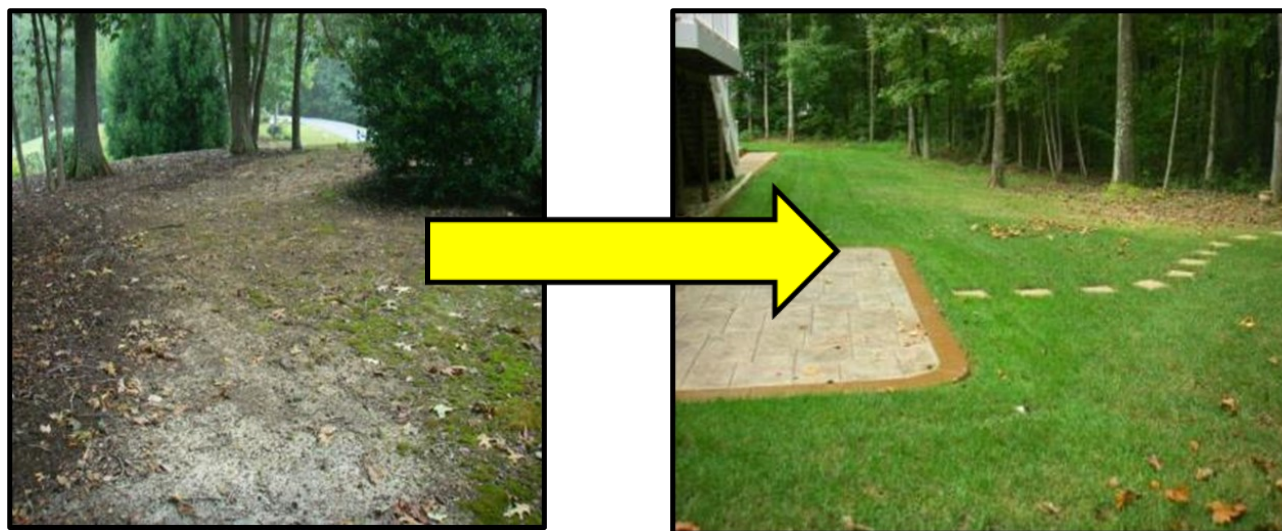
Our homes contain impervious surfaces (rooftop, patio, and driveway) that can't absorb and filter rainfall. The underlying soil characteristics of the lawn can affect how the lawn absorbs and filter the impervious runoff. Soil compaction, low pH (e.g. acid soils) and low nutrients can impact how you grow vegetation in your lawn. Improperly applied or excess fertilizer and other chemicals are not retained in the landscape, and can contribute to harmful algal blooms and other water quality problems.

What is lawn care? It's not just seeding, watering and mowing. We must amend the soil not only to feed the grass but to improve soil structure. Managing clippings and leaves are all part of lawn care too. Returning these byproducts improve the soil and vegetation. How we care for our lawn determines the degree of the environmental benefits and impacts we achieve.

Healthy lawns can help prevent erosion, reduce runoff, and filter rainwater. A healthy lawn has uniform and mature vegetation that inhibits erosion and retains nutrients. A healthy lawn can capture over an inch of rain; traps dust and dirt; convert carbon dioxide to oxygen; and reduces the heat island effect with air temperatures up to 30 degrees cooler than pavement. A sparse lawn with bare soil needs improvement either by amending the soil or selecting different landscape plants.

The soil should be tested every three years. A composite soil sample of the whole yard is collected. A soil test includes information on the amount of nutrients, organic matter and pH level. The proper balance is essential to a healthy lawn. Additional assessments of patchy bare spots could be done to verify foot traffic, recent disturbance, disease or standing water.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is working with your local Extension agent to make sure homeowners like yourself have the knowledge and resources to do your part. The District is offering a voucher to cover the cost of the soil test. For these vouchers please contact the District at 540-825-8591 or stephanieD@culpeperswcd.org. For more information on lawn care see the Virginia Extension Publication list: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html?tag=pubs_ext_vt_edu:lawns.



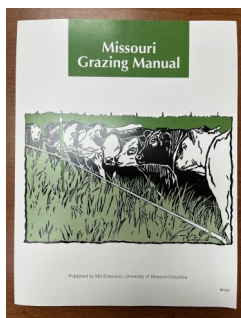
Missouri Grazing Manual Available

By David H. Massie, CSWCD Conservation Specialist III

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District has copies of the Missouri Grazing Manual available to producers interested in expanding their grazing knowledge. This grazing manual encompasses so many different aspects of grazing management – soils, plant growth, nutrient cycling, water system and fence layout, grazer's arithmetic, and economics of grazing. This manual also brings together different groups of researchers, educators, and producers with broad experience in land management, forage, and livestock systems to provide a comprehensive guide to understanding and managing grassland ecosystems.

This manual will assist producers with furthering their knowledge of grazing management and provide more detailed, specific information they will need to enhance their grazing techniques. Jim Gerrish, a nationally recognized, well-respected grazer, is one of the key contributors and editors of this manual. His background in agronomy, as well as forage management and research, adds an unparalleled perspective which is useful for the beginning grazer as well as the seasoned grazer.

The distribution of these manuals will be on a first come, first serve basis. We also have pasture grazing sticks for sale for \$5 each. Pasture grazing sticks are a great tool for helping producers “train their eyes” to the amount of forage available for their livestock. A two page instruction manual comes with the pasture grazing stick, and District Staff will be happy to assist using this valuable tools on your farm.



Courtesy of South Dakota State
University Extension



Practice Spotlight: FR-3M

Reprinted with permission from John Marshall SWCD

Have you implemented a riparian buffer tree planting either voluntarily, through private funding or by partnering with a non-profit organization(s) in the last 3 years? If so, you may be eligible for assistance to maintain your planting area!

Research and experience show that forest buffers that receive proper care and management during the first few years after planting have a higher success rate for establishment and land conversion to wooded habitat. Proper maintenance of riparian forest buffers will accelerate the ability of the buffer to protect water quality by filtering and removing pollutants like sediment and nutrients, as well as promote ecosystem services of the buffer and stream itself.

The new **FR-3M: Woodland Buffer Filter Area Maintenance** practice can provide **\$350/acre** towards maintenance activities that include, but are not limited to, invasive plant management around trees, replanting or replacing dead saplings, and checking and maintaining tree shelters and stakes. This practice requires that participants work with a Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) forester to complete a DOF Form 84 to review the state of the existing buffer and provide management recommendations. Reimbursement will be issued only after the Virginia DOF forester certifies that the necessary management activities were conducted as prescribed. Participants are eligible to apply to re-enroll the same buffer in this annual practice up to three times.

If you are interested in applying to participate in this practice, please call our office at (540) 825 - 8591 to speak to a Conservation Specialist. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Drinking Water Testing Clinic for Residential Wells

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 Culpeper and Rappahannock was July 19. If you missed this date you may still be eligible to participate so contact the appropriate person below. The date for Greene, Madison & Orange is September 27.

- Culpeper: Linda Baldwin at lindab75@vt.edu or 540-727-3435 x353
- Greene: Sarah Sharpe, seweaver@vt.edu or 434-985-5236
- Madison: Brad Jarvis at bjarvis@vt.edu or 540-948-6881
- Orange: Clare Lillard at lclare4@vt.edu or 540-672-1361
- Rappahannock: Linda Baldwin at lindab75@vt.edu or 540-727-3435 x353

Culpeper SWCD regionally sponsors these clinics to help reduce the cost of the tests for participants.

It is our understanding that in Culpeper and Rappahannock Counties there may be additional opportunities for low income households.

Since 2006, 510 samples in the Culpeper District have been tested, covering over 850 people.

Your Guide to Safe Well Water

www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/resources.php

1. Make sure your well is properly constructed.
2. The ground should slope away from your well to prevent surface water pooling.
3. Ensure your well is at least 100 feet away from potential contamination sources.
4. Keep the area around your well clean and accessible.
5. Have your water tested once a year for total coliform bacteria. Test for pH and total dissolved solids every three years.
6. All water tests should be conducted by a certified lab.
7. Inspect your well annually.
8. Keep careful records of installation, maintenance, inspections and all water tests.
9. If a well on your property is no longer in use have it properly abandoned.
10. If you have a spring instead of a well make sure the spring box is sealed to prevent contamination.

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, Madisyn Corron was chosen to receive the annual John H. Boldridge Memorial Scholarship and Abby Lynn Johnson was chosen to receive the first annual Laura Campbell Memorial Scholarship. The full listing of recipients:

- Madisyn Jean Corron graduated from Eastern View High School. She will attend University of Mary Washington, where she will major in Agriculture (\$2,000 award).
- Abby Lynn Johnson graduated from Madison County High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Agribusiness (\$2,000 award).
- Lindsey Breeden graduated from Orange County High School. She will attend George Mason University, where she will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 award).
- Bryant Chiles graduated from Orange County High School. He will attend Christopher Newport University, where he will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 award).
- Blane Jennings graduated from Orange County High School. He will attend the Germanna Community College, where he will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 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.



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Small Farm Outreach

The Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP), a part of Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University, educates and empowers small, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to own, operate and sustain farms and ranches independently with agricultural training programs that improve farm management skills and quality of life. For more information, visit <https://www.ext.vsu.edu/small-farm-outreach-program>.

Ranching For Profit Workshop: October 10 & 11, 2023

**By Jacob Gilley, Senior Technical Livestock and Grazing Specialist Eastern US,
American Farmland Trust**

Preserving the region's natural resources such as soil, water and wildlife are all key elements to a sustainable future for our region's farmers and livestock producers. Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) plays an integral part in educating landowners and farmers about conservation practices and providing cost share to assist with conservation practice implementation. However, soil, water and wildlife aren't the only resources that need preservation. Profitability on agricultural operations is also a critical resource that is often neglected the attention it deserves. Without profitable agricultural operations, a focus on soil, water and wildlife may be overlooked.

On October 10th and 11th, the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council and American Farmland Trust are excited to offer livestock producers in the region an opportunity to dial in their business skills and participate in an exciting two-day Ranching for Profit workshop led by instructor, Dallas Mount. Don't let the term ranching throw you off, this info packed workshop is just as relevant to farmers/ livestock producers on the east coast as it is to the "ranchers" of the west. Dallas has sat at hundreds of kitchen tables and delivered workshops to thousands of farmers and ranchers across the US, Canada, and Australia to help them improve profitability and overall health of their business. He has hands-on experience working in cow calf, yearling, feedlot, and hay enterprises. This world-renowned curriculum is known to change paradigms (the standard way we see and do things) and create break throughs for enhanced producer lifestyles and profitability.

Attendees will have the option of attending one or both days of the workshop and a discounted rate is provided for those attending both days. Day one is titled, *Three Secrets for Increasing Profits*, and will dive into whether you own a business or a pile of assets and jobs. It will help attendees set a profit target and determine which aspects of a farming business are most profitable and therefore should be scaled. On day two, *Cattlemen vs. Grassman*, attendees will learn the value of cattle verses the value of grass. Discussions will be had on stocking rate verses carrying capacity and the aspects and importance of a healthy soil.

A locally sourced lunch will be provided on both days and the workshop will take place at the Best Western Plus Waynesboro, VA from 9 am-4pm each day. A block of rooms has been reserved and attendees are encouraged to stay and network between days 1 and 2 as we have found some of the best ideas to increase profit are found through informal discussions after day 1. Attend either Oct 10 or 11 for \$100.00 or or attend Oct 10 and Oct 11 for \$150.00, **that is a discount of \$50.00**. If attending both days select the \$150.00 option which also includes a FREE book titled "The Turnaround" by Dave Pratt and a 1-year membership to the VA Forage and Grassland Council.

To register, visit <https://vaforages.org/event/2023-vfgc-ranching-for-profit-workshop/> or scan the QR code.

For further questions please reach out to Jacob Gilley (540) 219-5015 or jgilley@farmland.org.



Students Chosen for Summer Camps

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supported two students to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife held June 19-23 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, Virginia. The students representing the District were:

- Lincoln Stuart (Culpeper)
- Hannah Tolson (Culpeper)

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District also supported two students to attend Youth Conservation Camp held July 9-15 at Virginia Tech. The students representing the District were:

- Grace Faulk (Rappahannock)
- Will Lillard (Madison)

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 at 804-929-5085 to find out if you're eligible.



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BEE-FRIENDLY BEEF

Producer Workshop

When: Thursday, August 3, 2023
9:00am-3:00pm

Where: Smithsonian
Conservation Biology Institute,
Front Royal, Virginia.

Includes lectures led by researchers from Virginia Tech, University of Tennessee, and Virginia Working Landscapes, followed by lunch and a Bee-Friendly Beef farm tour in Flint Hill.

Virginia Working Landscapes, Virginia Tech, American Farmland Trust, and University of Tennessee will be hosting our Bee-friendly Beef Research team at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal on Aug 3rd for a workshop and field day. Speakers include researchers from Virginia Tech, University of Tennessee, and Smithsonian.

Morning lectures will highlight results from our research integrating wildflowers into grazing systems – including presentations on restoration success, forage quality, consumer preferences, and pollinator responses, and will also include case studies from several participating research farms in the VWL network.

In the afternoon, we'll head over to one of our demonstration farms in Flint Hill, VA to see one of our Bee-friendly Beef fields in action.

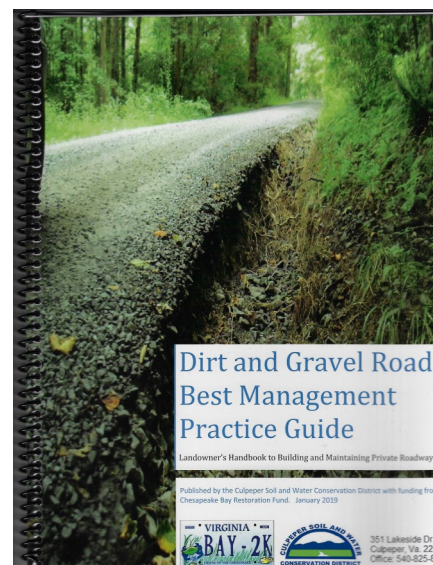
Please share with anyone who might be interested in joining us. Space is limited so registration is required. Hope to see you there!

Register here: www.eventbrite.com/e/621146033507.

Road and Driveway Maintenance Guide Available

Spring is a great time to start maintenance of your road or driveway! Over time, many roads and driveways deteriorate for a variety of reasons: poor initial design or construction, poor maintenance, extreme weather or heavy traffic. In addition to costly repairs, many roads and roadside ditches drain into local streams delivering both sediment and gravel into stream channels. This is destructive to the stream, resulting in loss of stream bottom habitat and channel capacity. Improved maintenance incorporating best management practices (BMPs) can save money and better protect waterways.

Currently available to property owners is the Dirt and Gravel Road BMP Guide, published with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The guide can be found at the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District website (www.culpeperswcd.org) under Publications. Hard copies can be picked up from CSWCD as well as your local Extension office or Building office. For technical assistance, contact Richard Jacobs at 540-825-8591 or RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org.



INVASIVE ALERT



IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:

Found April to November

Small 4 petaled pink flowers

Triangular, toothed leaves, often red underneath

Seeds are green, then black in autumn



Have you seen this plant?

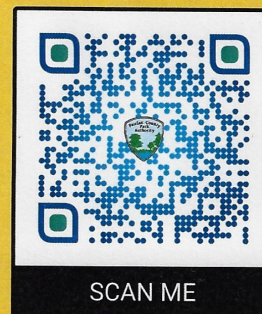
- **Two-horned trapa** (*Trapa bispinosa*), also known as two-horned water chestnut is a floating, rooted weed of lakes, ponds, and rivers.
- Large mats clog waterways, disrupt boating, fishing, and harm wildlife.

What you can do:

- ✓ Take photos and report using the QR code below.
- ✓ Pull out, throw away from the water, spread on land to dry.



REPORT



Caution! Mature seeds are sharp and attach to fabric, skin, and animals.



Translation
Services Available

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F

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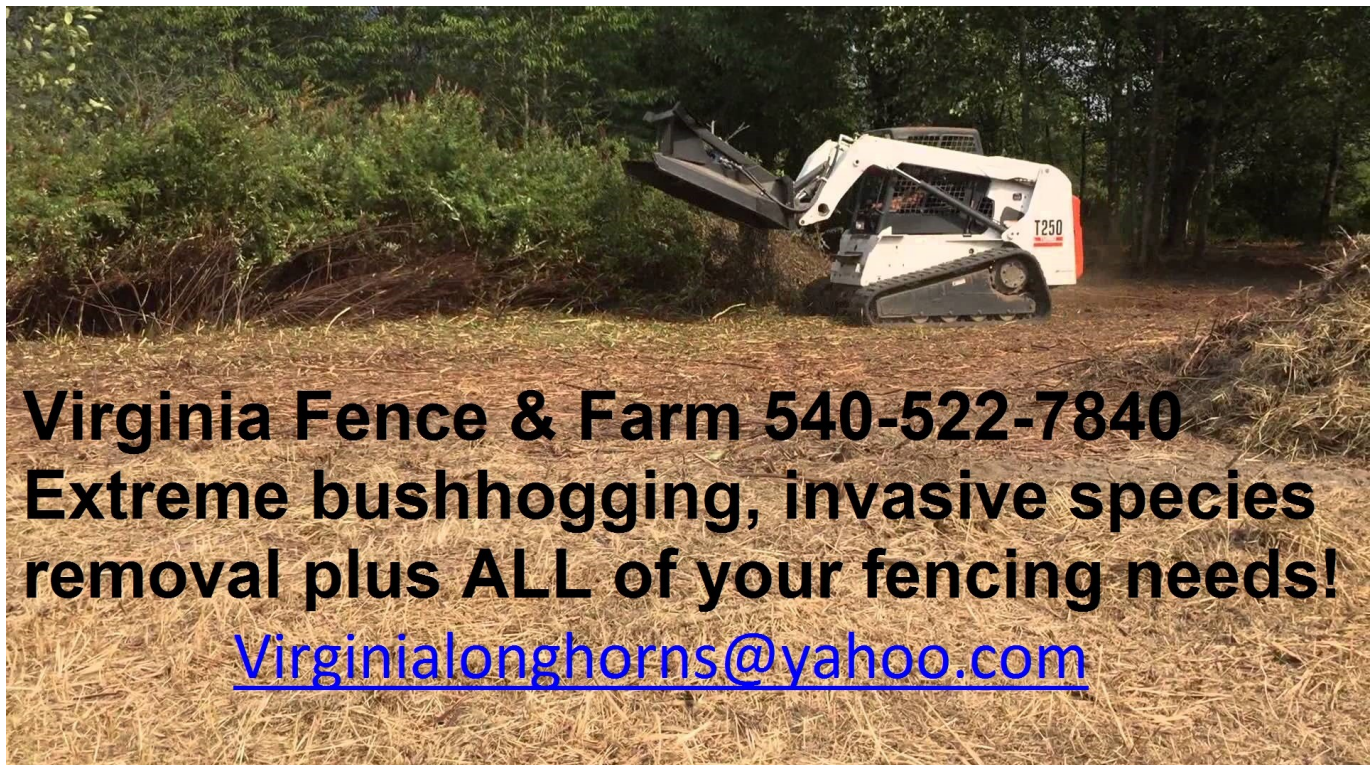
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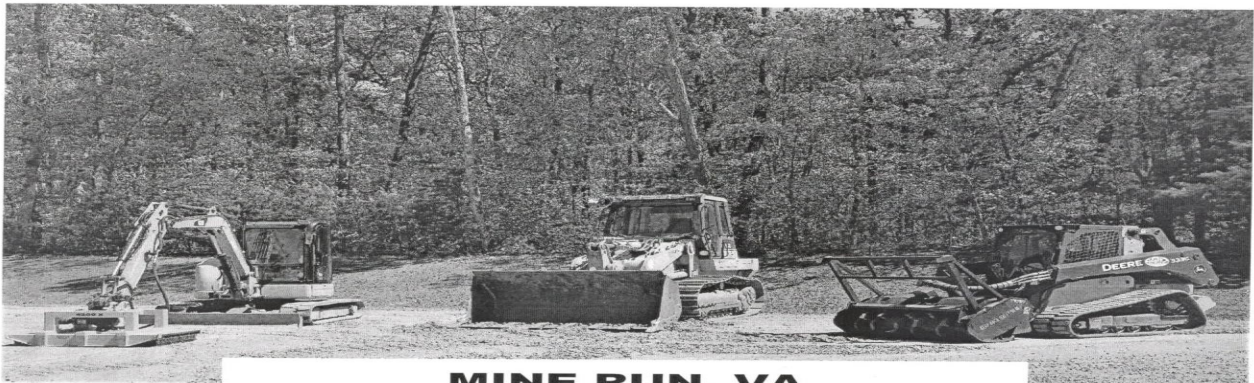
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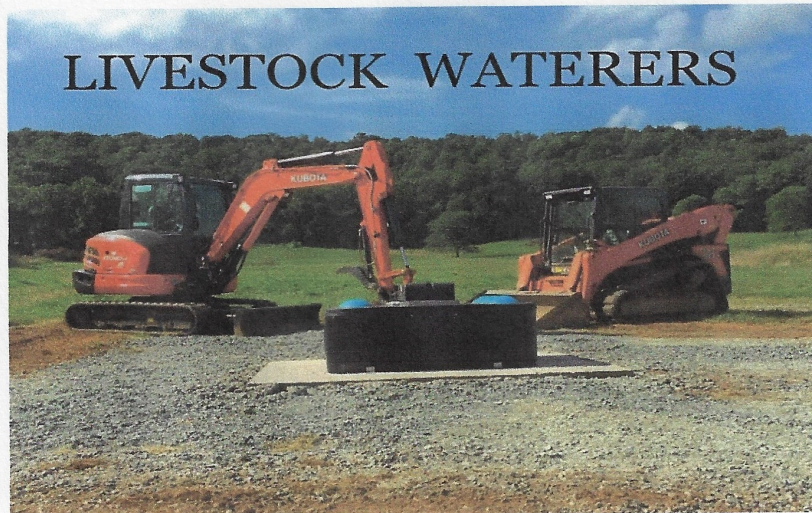
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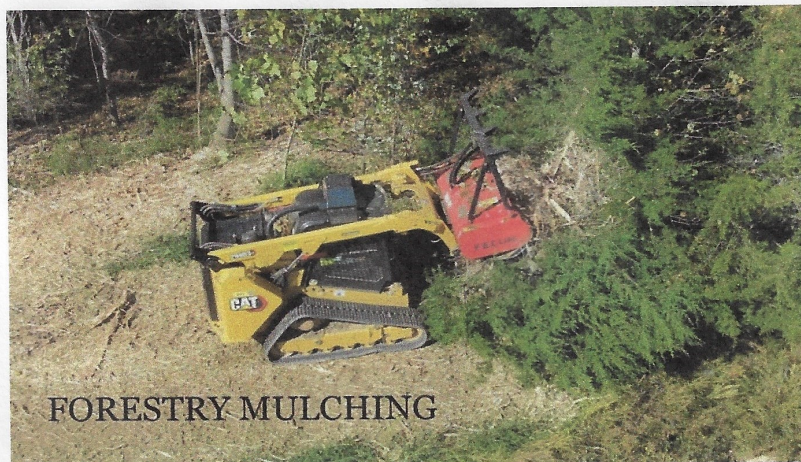
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