

# 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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\*\* If you are outside of VA, MD and DC please OPT IN with an email for future issues.

## **Stream Exclusion Fencing Changes, Buffer Payments and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan III**

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled to receive historically high levels of cost share funding from the Commonwealth for implementing agriculture conservation practices (BMPs) in the District; available funds are nearly tripling to \$4.3 million. Why? Two reasons. One, the Culpeper District has been identified as one of eight districts in the Bay watershed area of Virginia that contribute nearly seventy percent of the nitrogen pollution entering the Bay from agriculture. Two, the Commonwealth is funding the state ag cost share program at record levels: about 2.5 times as much. The Commonwealth is seeking to accelerate the adoption of practices using the voluntary program approach. These two decisions have put a very significant amount of money into the Culpeper District for projects. Our job: get the practices on the ground.

The recently released draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan III (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/PhaseIIIWatershedImplementationPlanning.aspx>) calls for record levels of all BMPs across all sectors: ag, urban and residential. Stream live-stock exclusion practices are not the only practices prescribed for major increase in implementation but these are clearly very significant here in the Culpeper District. The WIP III suggests that the Commonwealth will consider setting a date by which all perennial streams would be expected to be fenced (see page 61 of the above link). Beyond that date ... who knows. Right now, the Commonwealth is putting a lot of money on the table for the voluntary approach.

Coupled with the increase in funding and increase in state expectations comes significant changes to what the cost share program offers for stream exclusion practices. (Previously producers were eligible for 50, 80 or 85 percent reimbursement and 25 percent tax credit on their out-of-pocket costs, with no consideration for income lost due to the loss of buffer acres.) Now included are higher cost share rates, increased practice flexibility and new buffer “rent” payments to help producers reduce any losses due to buffer setbacks. The maximum amount

*Continued on page 4*

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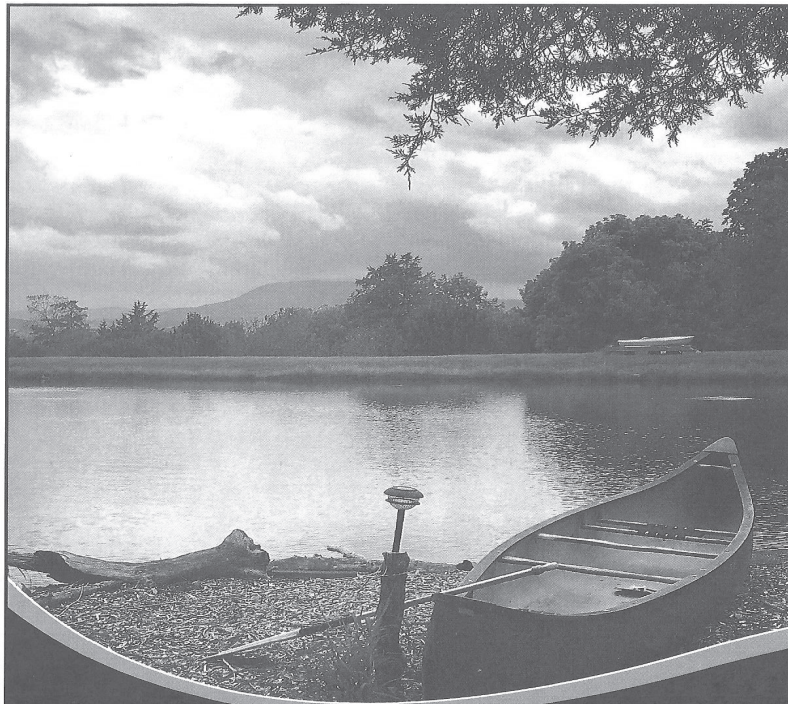
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## **DGIF REPORTS ONE CWD-POSITIVE WHITE-TAILED DEER IN CULPEPER COUNTY**

### **Press Release from VDgif**

RICHMOND- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has confirmed Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a male deer (buck) legally harvested in Culpeper County in November 2018. A cooperating taxidermist submitted the sample to DGIF in late January. At the time this deer was harvested, the hunter did not notice any outward signs of disease and the buck appeared to be in good condition. While CWD has been documented in northwest Virginia for over nine years, this deer was harvested more than 40 miles from the nearest CWD-positive deer in Frederick or Shenandoah counties. Because of the distance from other known positives, DGIF conducted an extensive forensic investigation to confirm the harvest location of this deer, resulting in a delay in releasing the information to the public.

This spring and summer, the DGIF will be working with cooperating partners and members of the CWD Response Team to determine the most appropriate measures moving forward. These measures may include regulation changes, enhanced CWD surveillance, and other methods designed to assess and manage the spread of the disease in Culpeper and surrounding counties. Additional CWD surveillance efforts will be launched in fall 2019 utilizing predominately hunter-harvested deer. In order to address questions and concerns from the community about the Department's planned management approach to CWD in this area, a public meeting will be scheduled for late summer in Culpeper County.

This past hunting season, the DGIF worked with fifty taxidermists statewide to enhance Virginia's CWD surveillance. Of the more than 1,600 samples submitted by participating taxidermists, CWD was only detected in the single Culpeper deer. The DGIF also tested over 1,550 deer harvested from Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Shenandoah counties and detected CWD in 2 deer from Shenandoah County and twenty-six deer from Frederick County. An additional doe from Shenandoah County, reported to the Department by a member of the public and showing symptoms of the disease, was diagnosed with CWD in April. DGIF staff are very appreciative for the enthusiasm and cooperation demonstrated by taxidermists and deer hunters who aided in this sampling effort.

CWD has been detected in twenty-six states and three Canadian provinces. In Virginia, a total of sixty-eight deer have tested positive since 2009. This incurable disease, found in deer, elk, and moose in North America, is a slow and progressive neurologic disease that ultimately results in death of the animal. The disease-causing agent is spread through the urine, feces, and saliva of infected animals. Noticeable symptoms, though may not appear in animals for over a year, include staggering, abnormal posture, lowered head, drooling, confusion, and marked weight loss.

There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans, livestock, or pets, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise hunters to test all deer harvested from known CWD-positive areas and to not consume any animals that test positive for the disease.

Regulations pertaining to CWD, maps of affected states, and information about CWD can be found on the DGIF website at: [www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/disease/cwd](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/disease/cwd).

Contact: Dr. Megan Kirchgessner, [megan.kirchgessner@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:megan.kirchgessner@dgif.virginia.gov), 804-837-5666

**\*\*\* NEW REGULATIONS ON PAGE 10!**

*Continued from page 1*

available per applicant has also been increased to improve planning flexibility. Payments to producers for the buffer “rent” are for buffers 35 feet or greater and will be made upfront for the full life of the contract.

### **Stream Exclusion Practices**

<b>Buffer width</b>	<b>Life span</b>	<b>Cost share rate</b>	<b>Buffer payment</b>	<b>Tax credit</b>
10' to 25'	10-15 years	60%-75%*	NA	25%***
35' to 50'	10-15 years	85%-100%*	\$80/acre/year**	25%***

\* Rate varies with buffer width and life span.

\*\* Full 10 year or 15 year buffer payment is made all upfront at the time of project installation completion; maximum amount \$8,000 for 10 year contract or \$12,000 for 15 year contract.

\*\*\* Tax credit on eligible out of pocket expenses.

For more information contact David Massie or Amanda McCullen at 540-825-8591 or Spencer Yager at 540-308-6301.

### **Student Scholarships for Summer Camps**

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supported six students to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife June 17-22 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. The students representing the District were:

- Jeremiah Adams (Madison)
- Alyssa Allgaier (Culpeper)
- Keegan Bosford (Orange)
- Austin Clem (Rappahannock)
- Everette Kennon (Orange)
- Clay Morris (Orange).

### **2019 Tree Seedling Sale a Success!**

Thank you for helping make our 4th annual tree sale a success! Over 3,300 seedlings were distributed. Contact Stephanie at 540-825-8591 or [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org). Orders will begin for the 2020 sale in October 2019.

## Free Soil Tests for Lawns

Thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, also known as the Bay License Plate Grant Program, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is offering free routine soil tests for lawns. This program is funded by the sale of Chesapeake Bay License Plates. The goal of the lawn testing program is to better inform property owners on the use of fertilizer and other soil amendments for healthier lawn and cleaner water. Your purchase of a Bay plate would contribute towards funding similar grants across the Bay Watershed in Virginia. (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CB>) To participate, visit your local Extension office or any Culpeper SWCD office for the sample box, form and voucher. You ship the sample and the Virginia Tech lab will bill CSWCD. The deadline to mail samples is September 15.

## Stream Exclusion Practice Maintenance Cost Share Payments Available

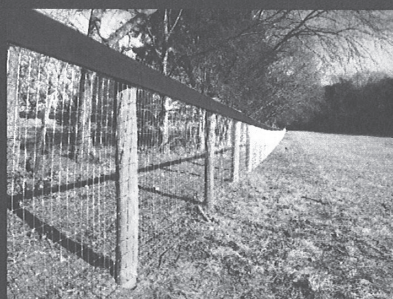
The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications from agriculture producers for support payments to maintain existing fences and supporting infrastructure along streams and other surface water in the District. Fences must be preexisting, must be capable of keeping livestock out of the streams and cannot be under any other contract lifespan with the District, NRCS or other entity. Successful applicants are required to continue to maintain the practices for 5 years after payment. Payments range from \$0.50 to \$1.25 per foot of stream bank excluded by fence. Maintenance payments are also available for water troughs, stream crossings and water systems; \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 respectively. For more information contact David Massie or Amanda McCullen at 540-825-8591 or Spencer Yager at 540-308-6301.

## 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. For 2019, the District chose to recognize Culpeper County resident Cassandra Patton as our top candidate with the John H. Boldridge Academic Scholarship.

- **Cassandra Patton** graduated from **Culpeper County High School** with a 3.812 GPA. She will attend **Virginia Tech** in the fall, where she will major in **Agriculture Education**. (\$2,000 award)
- **Carter Lamm** graduated from **William Monroe High School** with a 3.88 GPA. He will major in **Natural Resource Conservation** at **Virginia Tech**. (\$1,000 award)
- **Gene Flecker** graduated from **Orange County High School** with a 4.3103 GPA. He will major in **Sustainable Civil Engineering** at **Virginia Tech**. (\$1,000 award)
- **Lesley Morales-Sanchez** graduated from **Orange County High School** with a 3.9 GPA. She will major in **Biology** at **University of Mary Washington**. (\$1,000 award)

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

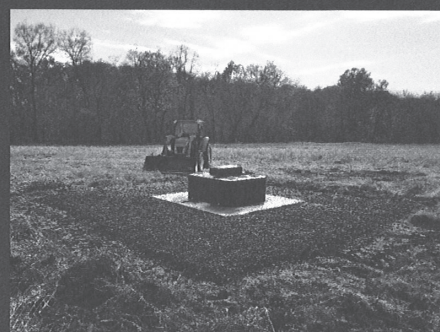


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## **Culpeper SWCD Launches Road and Driveway Maintenance Guide**

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 results in loss of channel capacity. Improved maintenance incorporating best management practices (BMPs) can save money and better protect local 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's website ([www.culpeperswcd.org](http://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](mailto:RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org).

A black and white photograph of a skid steer loader, specifically a T250 model, clearing a large pile of brush and debris. The machine is positioned in a field with trees in the background.

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## **Water Testing Clinic for Greene, Madison & Orange County Residents\***

- Kickoff: October 10, 2019
- Samples due: October 16, 2019
- Follow-up meeting: November 14, 2019

Locations TBA. To sign up, contact Katie Jenkins Woodward at [kjenk@vt.edu](mailto:kjenk@vt.edu) or 540-948-6881.

\* Open to Culpeper & Rappahannock residents too but they must deliver the sample to an Extension office in Greene, Madison or Orange.

## **New Direct Phone Numbers for USDA-NRCS Staff**

- Rex Rexrode 540-317-7724
- Nancy Utz 540-317-7727
- Ashleigh Cason 540-317-7731
- John Jeffries 540-317-7726
- Courtney Pooton 540-317-7728



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## **NEW REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) IN DEER**

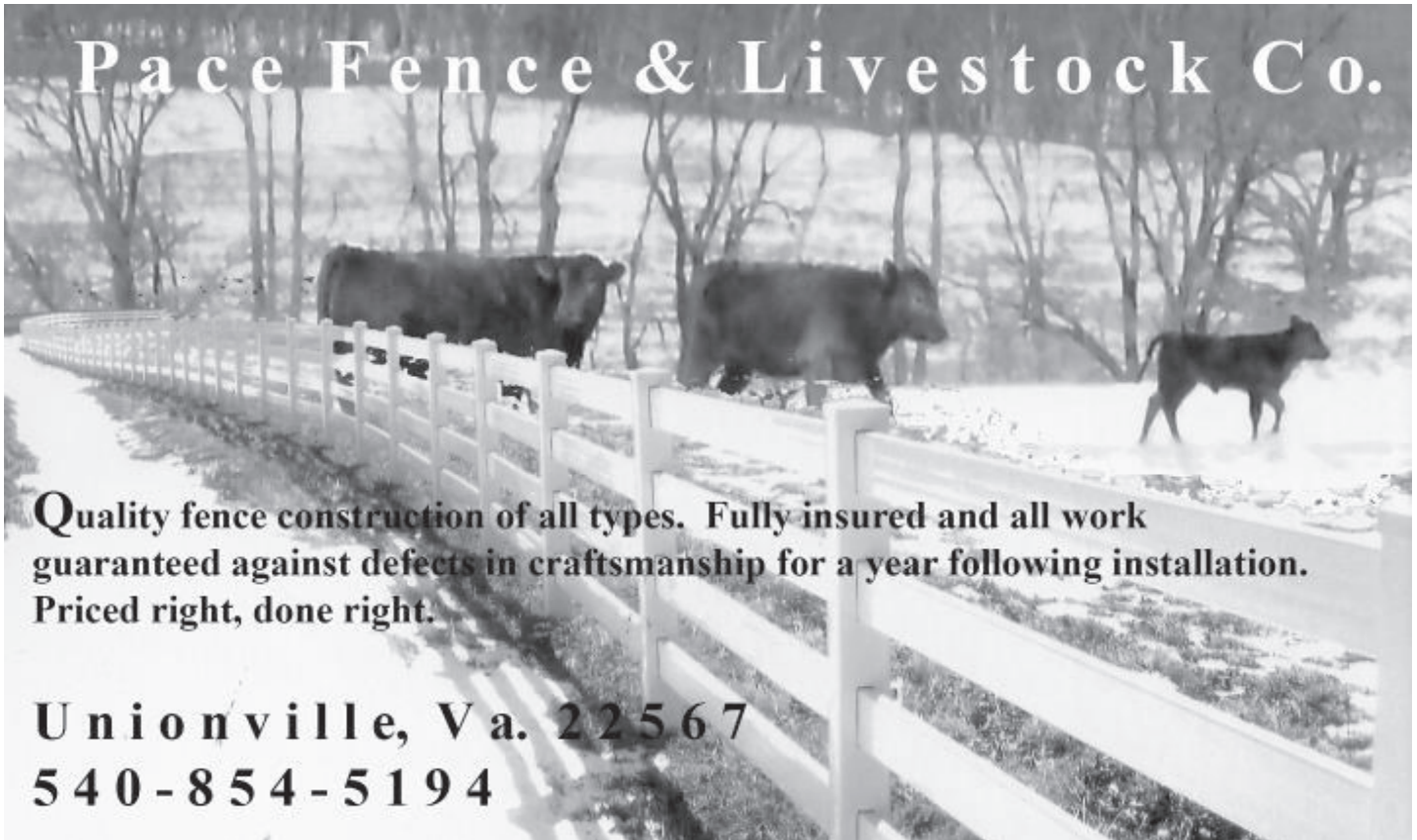
The following regulations were passed by the DGIF Board in May 2019 in response to a CWD positive deer in Culpeper:

- It is now illegal to feed deer year round within 25 miles of Culpeper. This includes: Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Albemarle, Louisa, Spotsylvania and Stafford.
- It is now illegal to move a whole carcass out of Culpeper, Madison or Orange Counties
- Culpeper County is now in Earn a Buck regulation (Must kill a doe in order to kill second buck, second doe to kill third buck)

Hunter killed samples are the backbone of the program:

- Taxidermists and processors will be paid to submit samples
- There will be drop-off fridges in various parts of Culpeper
- There will be mandatory sampling stations on opening day of firearms

Also, if you have any wildlife issues, such as reporting sick deer or detecting feral hogs call 855-571-9003.



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## RAIN BARREL SALE!

Rain barrels are available! Prices are \$75 for one and \$140 for two. For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at 540-825-8591 or send an email to: [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org).



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## *Views From The Foothills*

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Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

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  
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