

Why are we interested?

The Upper Hazel River Watershed has numerous **smaller streams that have elevated levels of E.Coli** bacteria that are considered impaired or unhealthy by state standards. To improve the water quality by lowering the bacteria levels the state has developed a **plan of action known as the TMDL plan to facilitate better management of both Residential and Agricultural sources of bacteria.** The management practices developed by the state are called BMP's or Best Management Plans, plans which are deemed the most efficient ways to lower bacteria levels.

Why should you be interested?

There is grant money available to implement these practices if you act now!

As a homeowner, landowner or livestock producer you have an impact on the watershed, which means we are a part of the improvement plan! Without your voluntary involvement and action these plans are not effective at lowering the bacteria levels.

One of the identified sources of bacteria in the Upper Hazel watershed system is failing or non-existent septic systems.

When septic systems fail excess bacteria can enter both the ground and surface water and contribute to high levels of bacteria in the watershed system. The same situation can also lead to high levels of nutrients in streams.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWD) have grants available to help homeowners pay for maintenance, repairs and installations of septic systems!

Call us to find out more!



Upper Hazel River Watershed

What is a watershed?

An area of land where all water running off the land drains into a particular stream, river, lake, wetland, bay or ocean

The Upper Hazel River Watershed is over approximately 130,000 acres located in the Rappahannock River basin in Rappahannock, Madison and Culpeper Counties and empties into the Chesapeake Bay.



There is grant money available to implement these practices if you act now!

Please contact us if you have any questions about the programs we offer.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District office is here to help!

Call the office at 540-825-8591

Visit our office at

351 Lakeside Drive, Culpeper VA

Go to our website www.culpeperswcd.org

Another identified source of bacteria in the watershed is livestock manure in streams and manure run-off from streamside areas.

The CSWCD along with other agencies have grants available for Agriculture management practices. These practices can include **stream exclusion fencing, installing livestock waterers, developing springs and wells, grazing management, stream crossings, and planting vegetated buffers.** These practices can receive up to 85% cost reimbursement from the grants, sometimes even higher reimbursements.



By reducing the bacteria levels in our streams and rivers we increase our property value in various ways. We start to eliminate the possible contamination of well water and ground water; we increase the potential recreational usage for rivers and streams and have positive impacts on the health of our animals as well as the animal habitats in and around the rivers and streams.

