

Views From The Foothills

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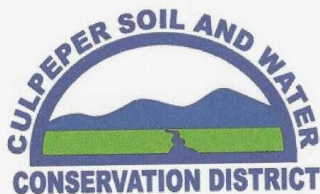
M. Johnson

The Culpeper Soil and Water
Conservation District Presents the

FOURTH ANNUAL NEW LANDOWNER CONSERVATION SERVICES WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
9:00AM - 2:00PM

GRAVES MOUNTAIN LODGE,
SYRIA, VIRGINIA



stevier@culpeperswcd.org
(540) 825-8591

REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

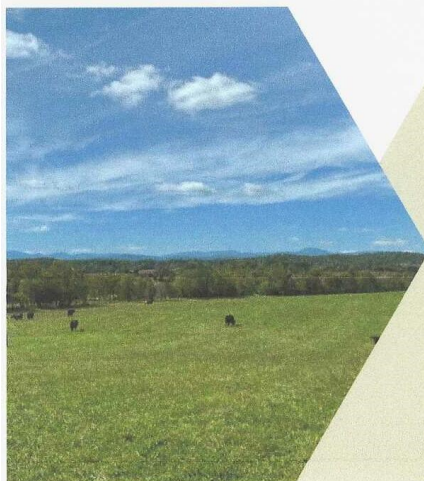
\$20

Limited
to 75
attendees

**LUNCH
INCLUDED!**

WITH PRESENTATIONS FROM:

- ✓ Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
- ✓ Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ✓ VA Department of Forestry
- ✓ VA Cooperative Extension
- ✓ VSU Small Farm Outreach Program
- ✓ Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- ✓ Piedmont Environmental Council
- ✓ Smithsonian - VA Working Landscapes
- ✓ Ponds



Water is Essential to Grazing Operations

By David Massie, Conservation Specialist III

Over the last two decades, I have worked with producers developing rotational grazing systems, and I have come to realize that fencing is not the biggest challenge during the planning process, it's the water system design and layout.

When designing a rotational grazing system, District Staff must include stream exclusion as a major component of the system, since our program's goal is to improve local and regional water quality. Through the program, livestock are fenced out of the riparian areas, and in turn the District assists with an alternative water source. Some farms naturally have abundant springs, reliable groundwater, ponds, and robust wells. However, over the past two years, particularly the summers, these water sources were put to the test. As creeks, springs, and ponds dried up, options were limited and expensive if you didn't have an adequate system already in place. Many producers resorted to hauling water. This quickly becomes expensive (fuel and vehicle maintenance) and time-consuming (think of all the other tasks you could be accomplishing).

Many farms have historically relied exclusively on surface water and have developed spring developments on their farm for the cattle and livestock. The first springs that were developed back in the 1960's that had an estimated lifespan of 20 years have lasted much longer and many are still functioning today. Early settlers often found the best, reliable springs to establish farms and homesteads. Droughts have tested these springs over the years.

An important consideration when considering stream exclusion and/or a rotational grazing system is how will the livestock have water delivered to the various fields or paddocks. Properly designing a water system will ultimately determine where livestock will spend their time. Studies from Missouri, Tennessee, and Canada have repeatedly shown that when cattle had to travel more than 800 feet to water, uneven grazing occurs. Overgrazing close to the water, undergrazing areas too far from water, uneven nutrient distribution, and loss in weight gain due to excessive travel distances are just a few major drawbacks.

In addition, when cattle must travel long distances to water, they tend to go in groups so an adequate supply of water needs to be available so all the cattle can receive an adequate supply. Water close to cattle does not need as much available water but needs the ability to re-fill the tank rapidly if it is small. Studies also demonstrate that water close to cattle will improve weight gain.

How about water quality and animal health/safety?

If you have ponds or streams in paddocks and use them as a water source, we know that when it is hot, cattle like to stand in water, especially non-moving, shaded water, which will reduce quality. Pollution can come from erosion along the banks of the ponds and streams, and from manure and urine while standing in the water. Streambanks can become slick and dangerous for cattle entering and exiting the stream. If your neighbors upstream have livestock with access to the streams that run through your farm, you have excessive bacteria already in the water, which can lead to a host of health issues for cattle which directly affect livestock performance.

There are different thoughts on what to do with streams in paddocks and I am not sure that there is a silver bullet for every grazing operation. I do know that rotating livestock to paddocks without streams limits can help limit their exposure to stream areas. Cattle are drawn to standing water, so if you do allow them access, use a portion where water is moving within a stone base to discourage loitering. If given a choice, cattle that have access to clean water from a controlled source will generally use that. I do know that during the summer, if your cattle are on fescue and you have a stream with standing water and shade, I bet I know where they will be during the day.

Just some last thoughts. Ideally, we want clean, fresh water in every paddock, within 600-800 feet of the forage, and smaller tanks need to have a quick recharge. If possible, if water sources are in a fixed location, they can serve multiple paddocks, such as located in a cross or subdividing fence line. Don't be afraid to think outside the box and explore all the options on your operation. Reach out to District Staff if you are interested in technical assistance and program opportunities. Remember, we are here to help you manage your natural resources, and being proactive will help alleviate problems down the road. Water is essential.

Selecting Cover Crops

By: Trevor Talley, Conservation Specialist I

As we begin to move closer to the fall season, it's time to start thinking about cover crops. Whether you are raising corn and soybeans or vegetable plants in your garden, cover crops can be beneficial for your operation in the Piedmont. Cover crops offer soil protection/erosion control during the non-growing season, they help keep nutrients on your land, act as weed suppressants, increase soil organic matter and increase soil microbial activity. There are many annual species that can be selected for your cover crop and each species can offer its own benefits. Some cover crop examples include winter wheat, barley, winter oats, triticale, cereal rye, annual ryegrass, crimson clover, hairy vetch, and daikon radish. Some of these species can be planted together to provide more soil health benefits. Cover crops can be broken out into 3 main categories/families: winter small grains and grasses, legumes and brassicas.

The cereal grains and grasses serve to protect soil during the non-growing season by offering ground cover to prevent erosion. They retain excess nutrients in your soil from prior fertilization of the spring/summer crops. Another benefit that these species offer when terminated in the spring is biomass, which increases the soil's organic matter and microbial activity. Allowing for the decomposition of the cover crop biomass is essential to helping soil structure and soil aggregation.

Legume cover crops (clovers and hairy vetch) have similar benefits to small grains and grasses, but legumes are best known for their nitrogen fixation in soils which benefits spring crops. Planting a small grain and legume together can also act as a sufficient weed suppressant, due to the thick vegetative mats they create.

Brassica cover crops, specifically daikon radish, are most effective when combined with small grains due to the brassica tops dying back in late winter. However, during peak growth of the daikon radish, the crop does a phenomenal job with soil aeration with its long tubular root. Daikon radishes are ideal in the Piedmont region due to the clay hardpans our soils tend to have.

Cover crops are essential for maintaining adequate soil and water health. The 3 main categories of cover crops offer many benefits to a producer raising crops and many of the benefits can be witnessed during the first year of implementation.

Resources: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-36>



Above left: Hairy vetch, crimson clover, winter wheat and cereal rye cover crop mix.

Above right: Pure stand of Barley cover crop

Landowner Legacy Planning Workshops

From the Generation NEXT Program

When Anne's parents passed away, they left the family farm equally to her and her brother James. That seemed most fair to them, but neither heir wanted to actively farm. Anne and her husband wanted to open a bed and breakfast and host events on the property. James and his wife wanted to sell the land and invest in other ways. The resulting conflict took years to resolve. Now Anne's nephews enjoy spending a month every summer at the farm, and she's working to make sure they and her two children have a smoother inheritance when the time comes.

Stories like Anne's are common. Many people don't have a written estate plan or even a testamentary will; others have a written plan but have not done the critical legacy-building work of sharing their plans, goals, and love of the land with their heirs. This leaves younger generations in a tough spot and puts farm and forestland at risk of being sold, subdivided, and developed.

Generation NEXT, a Program of the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, exists to help landowners and their families engage in legacy planning for their rural land. Now in its 16th year, the Program will offer three more learning opportunities in 2025.

- **Full Generation NEXT Workshop.** August 15th & 16th, evening plus full day, at Montpelier in Orange County. This standard full workshop offers presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts as well as experienced fellow landowners.
- *Registration open!*
- **Full Generation NEXT Workshop.** October 4, full day, in Farmville. This standard full workshop offers presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts as well as experienced fellow landowners. More information will be available when registration opens in early August.
- **Mini Generation NEXT Workshop.** November 8, half day, in southeast Virginia. This half-day workshop will offer shorter presentations and the opportunity to interact with legal, financial, and conservation experts. More information will be available when registration opens in early September.

Learn more, download fliers and other resources, or register on the [Generation NEXT website](#). Contact Karen Snape, Extension Associate, at 540-231-6494 or ksnape@vt.edu with any questions, including accessibility requests.

Contact:

Karen Snape
Virginia Cooperative Extension
540-231-6494
ksnape@vt.edu





VIRGINIA FARM VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY

Virginia is embarking on a year-long survey to learn more about voluntary conservation practices on Virginia farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed ... conservation practices that were not funded by conservation programs but installed at the farmer's or landowner's expense.

It is known that Virginia farmers have done much to improve water quality and soil health. Yet many of the conservation practices that farmers have implemented are not accounted for in tracking progress toward water quality goals, including cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. This is especially true where farmers have implemented practices voluntarily, using their own means to do so. This includes those years when no cost share was available to all farmers because of lack of funding and also may include practices done years ago. By capturing this information, we will be able to document unreported practices and have them count toward Virginia's agricultural water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay. This survey will inventory these practices and ensure that the agricultural community receives the credit it deserves for improving water quality.

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Nonetheless the survey administrators hope that all farmers will choose to fill out the survey and help tell a very positive story about Virginia agriculture's role in protecting and improving the quality of Virginia's streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. It is important to understand that farmers have to meet the nutrient reduction goals by 2027 or legislation that passed the 2020 General Assembly mandates practices for implementation by farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. If you have general questions about this survey contact Greg Wichelns, District Manager, at gregw@culpeperswcd.org. If you are interested in participating in the survey you can access it [here](#). If you need assistance with the survey, contact Courtney Kidwell at court96@vt.edu.

Anonymity assured. All names and location information about individual farmers and farms will be protected. The results reported by Virginia Commonwealth University will be cumulative by county and will not include individual names or locations. Names and addresses will be removed from all inventory and farm visit results to prevent identification of participants.

The survey was developed collaboratively by Virginia's Voluntary Agricultural Best Management Practices Task Force. Task force members worked closely together and include representatives from the: Virginia Farm Bureau (VFB), Virginia Cattlemen's Association, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD), Virginia Agribusiness Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Forestry, and VCU Evaluation and Research Laboratory, among other partners. Questions were pre-tested by a group of Virginia farmers, Extension agents, and conservation professionals with VCE, VASWCD, and VFB and the survey was refined based on their input.

Site Visits

By Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist II

"I want to sign up, but I don't know where to start. I don't have time to meet with anyone and discuss my concerns. What if I don't even qualify and I waste everyone's time?"

Have you thought about signing up for a BMP program and thought of any of the above? Site visits are used to assess the condition of a property and build relationships with the community. Our staff work with the landowner to help identify the landowner's concerns and address any potential water quality problems. This could be an area of erosion within a pasture or along streambanks. It could be an area near your home or cattle holding area. When a site visit is conducted, staff and the participants can gain a better understanding of resources that our organization can offer. We have numerous BMP programs but can also provide technical assistance on a variety of issues.

Building relationships with our clients helps enhance land stewardship. Site visits offer opportunities not only to get excited about the work the organization does, but also to answer questions that can be hard to determine otherwise: How do the programs operate on the ground? Is this something I can afford? What are my options for a particular area on my property? Knowledgeable staff will ask questions you may not have thought about before and bring experience from farmers all over the district. What is the vision for your operation? Our team may be able to bring that idea to life or provide new ideas to best utilize your land. Give us a call today!



New Forester Assignments:

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: Griffin Robeson (434)962-9266 Griffin.Robeson@dof.virginia.gov



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Deer scouting

Finding harvested deer (All hunting stops for the day once drone operations begin)

Mapping & Inspections



Back 40 Drone Worx

Eastern View High School Envirothon Teams Earn Honors at Area and State Competitions

Eastern View High School's Envirothon program is once again demonstrating its environmental leadership, with a team advancing to the state level Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon competition after an impressive showing at the Area II regional competition held Saturday at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, despite rainy conditions.

The EVHS team members include:

- Team Loblolly (Gray shirts): Caroline Bruner, Derek Zamora Cruz, Maxwell Norrod, Noah Stuart, and Hannah Tolson
- Team Sassafras (Light blue shirts): Madeline LaVenuta, Jaxson Norrod, Lincoln Stuart, Brett Howell, and Ilyana Rodriguez

They achieved strong results across multiple event categories. Team Sassafras placed 1st in Oral Presentation, 2nd in Aquatic Ecology, and finished 3rd overall, securing their place in the State competition at the University of Mary Washington on May 18–19. Team Loblolly also had a notable performance, placing 2nd in Forestry and Soils, 3rd in Wildlife, and finishing 4th overall.

Envirothon challenges students in five core environmental science areas: Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Oral Presentation. This year's current issue, *"Roots and Resilience: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change,"* centered on creating a land management plan for newly acquired property by the Monacan Indian Nation. To enhance their understanding, students visited the Monacan Indian Museum in Amherst, where they learned about the tribe's history, culture, and conservation goals. The experience had particular meaning, as the land Eastern View High School sits on today was once part of Monacan territory during early European settlement.

Coach and Sponsor Rachel Stuart expressed deep pride in her students' efforts and growth throughout the season. "I am so proud of both teams and thrilled to see the Envirothon program growing at Eastern View. This year's topic allowed students to connect more deeply with the land and learn about the Monacan Indian Nation, whose history is woven into our region. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring."

Stephanie DeNicola, Education and Information Coordinator for the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District, has worked closely with the teams and praised their commitment to environmental learning. "The Eastern View Envirothon team members have participated in every opportunity I have offered them this year: a wildlife bus tour in the Shenandoah Valley, a climate change conference in Charlottesville, a woods and wildlife workshop on a Saturday in Culpeper, and a visit to the Monacan Indian Nation Museum in Amherst," said DeNicola. "They are fully engaged, ask thoughtful questions and take notes. While I believe they have a good shot of winning the State competition, I am most excited for the people they will grow into and their impact on the world. I am grateful and humbled to be a part of their journey."

The Envirothon program continues to provide students with hands-on learning experiences that combine environmental science, civic engagement, and career exploration in conservation and natural resource management.

Culpeper SWCD congratulates both teams and looks forward to another great year!



Students Recognized with College Scholarships

Each year, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District awards up to \$10,000 in educational scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in a conservation-related field. These scholarships are available to eligible students living in the five-county area the Culpeper SWCD serves — Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock. This year, Culpeper SWCD chose to recognize five students with \$2,000 each.

Eligible individuals are full time students enrolled in, or who have applied to, a college undergraduate or graduate program in an area that supports soil and water conservation, natural resource management, environmental science or a related field.

The 2025 Scholarship Recipients are:

- Hannah Tolson graduated from Eastern View High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Water Resources, Policy and Management (Laura Campbell Memorial Scholarship).
- Rhylie Shifflett graduated from William Monroe High School. He will attend The College of William & Mary, where he will major in Environmental Science.
- William Lillard graduated from Madison County High School. He will attend Randolph College, where he will major in Environmental Science.
- Katherine Slagel graduated from Orange County High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation.
- Benjamin Maclean is a Rappahannock resident and 2024 graduate of Highland School. He attends Virginia Tech, where his major is Agriculture Technology (John Boldridge Memorial Scholarship).

Culpeper SWCD wishes these students the best in their future endeavors.



Left: Willard Lillard
Right: Rhylie Shifflett



Left: Hannah Tolson
Right: Katherine Slagel



Continued on page 9

Agricultural Cost Share Practices

All staff can now be reached at (540) 825-8591

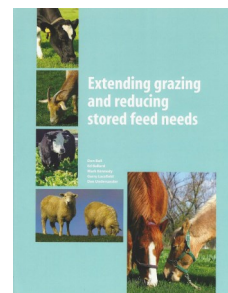
- David Massie davidm@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1004
- Amanda McCullen amandac@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1003
- Cheyenne Sheridan cheyennes@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1008
- Spencer Yager spencery@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1012
- Kendall Dellinger kendalld@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1009
- Lily Smith lilys@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1010
- Trevor Talley trevort@culpeperswcd.org ext. 1014

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. • Pays 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. • Pays 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"> • Pays 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; \$1500/acre for site prep • Pays 95% of eligible cost for planting hardwoods or conifers. • Conifers: \$100/acre for 10 years OR \$150/acre for 15 years. • Hardwoods: \$350/acre for 10 years OR \$500/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: \$30/acre to harvest, up to \$100/acre to kill & \$45/acre for legumes.
Nutrient Management Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays 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"> • Pays 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"> • Pays up to \$70/acre to convert from conventional tillage to a no-till system for 5 years. • Pays up to \$400/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"> • Pays up to 75% to grade & seed gully erosion. • Pays 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> • Pays up to 75% to grade, fill & seed critically eroding areas.
Continuing Conservation Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays \$0.50-\$1.25/linear foot of stream bank protected with fencing. • Pays \$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"> • Pays 75% of the cost to stabilize &/or grade eroding streambanks on ag or forest-land including cover slope toe rip rap for protection (if required), vegetative planting, trees/shrubs • Requires engineered design which is a reimbursable expense

Free Publication!

Several years ago, Auburn University Extension gave Culpeper SWCD permission to reprint their excellent publication, *Extending Grazing and Reducing Stored Feed Needs*. This highly popular publication includes examples on extending grazing that are applicable to our area.

To pick up your free copy, just stop by the Culpeper office or your local Cooperative Extension office.



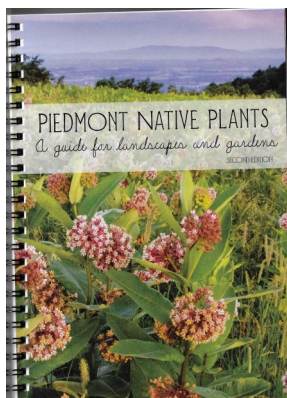
0% Interest Loans Available

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. Fortunately 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.

Backyard Conservation Funds Available

By Richard Jacobs, III, PE, CSWCD Conservation Specialist III

Conserving water while using attractive gardening and landscaping practices beautifies your yard, attracts beneficial pollinators, adds curb appeal and also helps improve the environment by reducing the amount of storm water runoff from your property. Creative management of those small areas of your front or backyard to address problem areas (too wet, too dry, doesn't drain, won't grow grass, etc...) now has funding available to support simple, on the ground landscape practices that benefit both you and the local environment. The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program or VCAP provides financial assistance to residential, institutional and commercial property owners to implement such practices. Payment rates vary among the practices but generally are focused on providing up to 80 percent of the cost. The District will provide technical resources for your planning efforts and visit your site to better understand what you hope to achieve. For more information on VCAP visit <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> or contact the District at 540-825-8591 or richardj@culpeperswcd.org.



Hot Off the Press: Piedmont Native Plants 2nd Edition!

The Second Edition of Piedmont Native Plants is available for purchase through our office for \$20. This beautiful, full color resources includes pictures, descriptions and growing needs for wildflowers, ground covers, ferns, shrubs short trees, tall trees and edibles.

To purchase, email Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org.
Check or exact cash accepted.

Students Chosen for Summer Camps

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supported one student to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife held June 16-20 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, Virginia. The students representing the District were:

- Samantha Anderson (Culpeper County Middle School)

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District also supported four students to attend Youth Conservation Camp held July 13-19 at Virginia Tech. The students representing the District were:

- Rhyley Golon (William Monroe High School)
- Matthew Harmon (Culpeper County High School)
- Lincoln Stuart (Eastern View High School)
- Noah Stuart (Eastern View High School)

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 manuals are available for sale (\$20) at cost at the Culpeper District office. 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.

Attention! New Orange Office!

Effective October 28, the Culpeper SWCD Orange office has moved to 591 N Madison Road. We are located at the north end of the Food Lion shopping plaza. The phone number is still 540-825-8591.





VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION HOMESTEADING SERIES

Explore practical skills for self-reliance in Virginia Cooperative Extension's Fall Homesteading Series! For just \$25 per person, you can attend as many fall classes as you'd like. Youth ages 9 and up are welcome with an accompanying, enrolled adult. Classes are led by Extension Agents and partners and focus on hands-on, research-based techniques for today's homesteaders.

COVER CROPS - AUG. 26 - 5:30-7:00 PM - CARVER CENTER

Learn about fall cover crops with NRCS Soil Conservationist Bella Brush, who will share insights on cover crop types, benefits, and cultivation techniques.

CATTLE - SEPT. 16 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM - CARVER CENTER

Discover effective pasture management techniques for grazing livestock and explore practical strategies to extend your grazing season with the Graze 300 VA program.

BEEKEEPING - OCTOBER 21 - 10:00 -12:00 AM - BEES AND TREES

Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping and how to care for your hive year-round in this introductory class designed for aspiring and beginner beekeepers.

DEHYDRATION - OCTOBER 27 - 5:00 - 7:00 PM - CARVER CENTER

Learn the basics of dehydrating and freeze drying by making apple fruit leathers and freeze-dried apple slices—take home your own batch and make an extra to share with a local food pantry.

WOODLAND CARE - NOVEMBER 5 - 5:00 - 7:00 PM - CARVER CENTER

Got Woods? Did you know you can improve your woodlot and get firewood at the same time? Learn more about this as well as basic chainsaw safety!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR VISIT:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MPRC3B48](https://tinyurl.com/MPRC3B48)



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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the LOCAL OFFICE Extension office at 540-727-3435#/TDD* during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



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Custom kiln-drying services also available

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

Small Farm Outreach

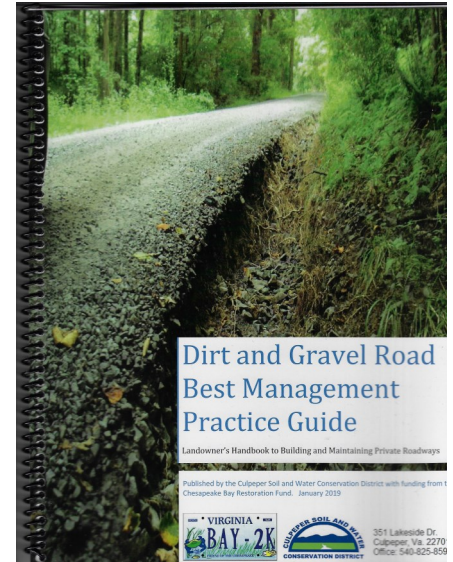
The Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP), a part of Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University, educates and empowers small, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to own, operate and sustain farms and ranches independently with agricultural training programs that improve farm management skills and quality of life.

For more information, visit <https://www.ext.vsu.edu/small-farm-outreach-program>.

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.



FREE LAWN SOIL TESTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!
CONTACT STEPHANIE DENICOLA AT
stephanied@culpeperswcd.org for info!

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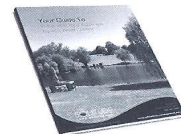
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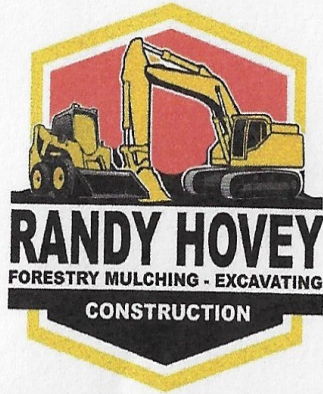
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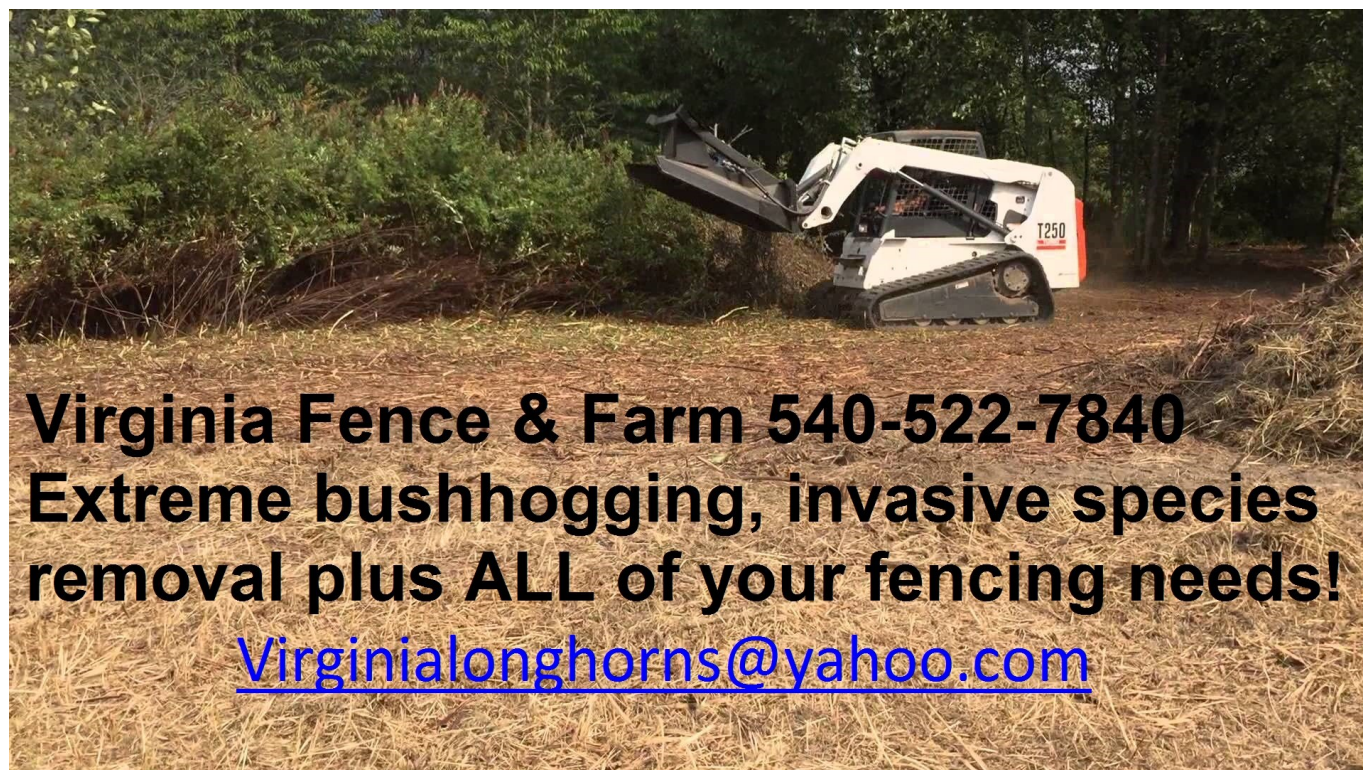


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The District carries nonwoven geotextile (filter fabric) for sale that meets most state and federally funded project requirements, as well as many on-farm needs. Geotextile is sold by the foot, which comes in 12.5' widths. Please call the Culpeper Office at 540-825-8591 for pricing and more information!





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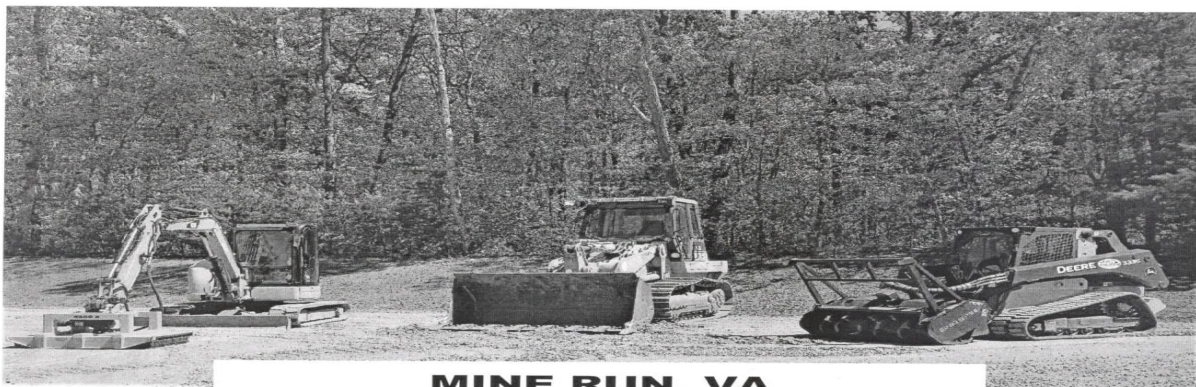
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Attention! New Orange Office!

Effective October 28, the Culpeper SWCD Orange office has moved to 591 N Madison Road. We are located at the north end of the Food Lion shopping plaza. The phone number is still 540-825-8591.

RAIN BARREL SALE!

We have rain barrels! Prices are \$90 for one and \$175 for two! This includes barrel, lid, hardware and instructions. For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at 540-825-8591 or send an email to: stephanied@culpeperswcd.org.



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

Orange Office
591 N. Madison Road
Orange, Virginia 22960
540-825-8591

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