

More Updates

Farm Field Days 2020 Update

This year Farm Field Days will be a virtual event.

We are looking for volunteers to film what normally takes place in the various barns. We still need animals and crops. If you happen to have videos or would like to make some of your farm and your animals please contact Alice Markiewicz at: education@pwsacd.org.

Adopt-A-Stream/Pond

Our Adopt-A-Stream/Pond program is still active! For more information on how to adopt a stream/pond, visit our website at pwsacd.org/adopt-a-stream or contact Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org.



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If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, or would prefer to receive it by e-mail, call 571-379-7514, or e-mail pwsacd@pwsacd.org

If you would like to join our mailing list, e-mail pwsacd@pwsacd.org or visit our website at www.pwsacd.org (left hand column). For our events calendar and board meeting dates, visit www.pwsacd.org/calendar.html (board meetings are open to the public). PWSACD is a non-regulatory political subdivision funded by Prince William County Public Works and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District programs and employment are open to all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.



Conservation InFARMation

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Fall 2020

You can count on it like the leaves changing colors in the fall.....

Kinner Ingram, Urban and Community Forestry Specialist with the Virginia Department of Forestry

There are few things you can count on that will happen as they have in the past. You can still put bets on the sun coming up, the bills never being late, and around this time of year, you can count on the leaves changing. As summer winds down, the days get shorter, temperatures start to drop, and our trees don their best gowns just before dropping them to give way to the winter cold.

During photosynthesis, trees absorb sunlight mostly through a molecule called chlorophyll and convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar. The abundance of chlorophyll allows the leaves to stay green throughout the summer, but as the days become shorter, the trees stop producing this little green molecule. With the lack of chlorophyll available, leaves begin to lose the green pigment and other pigments become visible.

- Chlorophyll - Green Pigments
- Xanthophylls - Yellow Pigments
- Carotenoids - Orange Pigments
- Anthocyanins - Red Pigments



So if all of those pigments are in the leaves in the summer time, why can't we see them? The reason is that photosynthesis uses these pigments in the summer, but chlorophyll is a stronger pigment that suppresses them. These pigments take longer to break down than chlorophyll does, so they become more evident in fall leaves.

Year round weather can affect leaf color intensity!

Leaf colors in the fall will be brightest with:

- A warm, wet spring
- A summer that is not too hot or dry
- A fall with plenty of warm sunny days and cool nights

A warm, prolonged wet period in the fall will lower the intensity of colors in the leaves. Also, a severe early frost can kill leaves, causing them to turn brown and drop early.

According to the fall foliage map at smokymountains.com, peak fall color for Northern Virginia should be October 12-19, 2020.

The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance information and education.

You can count on it like the leaves changing colors in the fall.....
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Women for the Land Learning Circle (Virtual)

Calling all Prince William County women farmers!

Did you know that 43% of agriculture land is farmed or co-farmed by women? Women farmers play a major role in sustainable agriculture, yet they face many challenges as land owners, land managers, and/or land seekers. The Women for the Land Learning Circle is an excellent opportunity to connect with other women farmers who are in the same boat as you!



These circles will take place virtually during the mornings and early afternoons of Tuesday October 20th, with a follow-up on Thursday October 22nd. Times and an agenda are coming soon. Though there is no fee, pre-registration is required so we can give you materials ahead of time. You can pre-register at farmland.salsalabs.org/midatlantic_womenfortheland/index.html; **deadline to pre-register is October 10th**.

For more information, please go to farmland.org/project/women-for-the-land. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Slazinski at nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org.

Women for the Land Learning Circles are brought to you by the American Farmland Trust with partnership from NRCS. They are funded by a generous grant from Southern SARE—Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education.

All links are also on our website at pwsxcd.org.



E-Mailing Lists Reboot

Stay in touch with the District!



We are giving our E-mailing Lists a much needed reboot! We've created some new Constant Contact lists in order to better reach out to people on their specific interests. In the near future, we will start removing e-mail addresses who have not signed up for any of our new e-mailing lists. If you don't want to miss out on any of our upcoming events/news, make sure to sign up by going to www.pwsxcd.org/maillinglist and select the topic(s) that interest you.

If you can't access the website for some reason, please e-mail nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org with the e-mailing list (s) you want to sign up for. The lists available are:

- Adopt a Stream/Pond
- Agriculture
- Equine
- Farm Field Days
- General Interest/Education
- Media (NEW)
- Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation (PWEEF)
- VCAP (New)
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Youth Education (For Teachers, Home schools, Students, etc.)

Friend's of the Occoquan's Fall River Clean Ups

The Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) have two fall clean-up events on **Oct. 10th** and **Oct. 17th**! For more information and to sign up for a slot, go to: friendsoftheoccoquan.org/home.html (scroll towards the bottom).

Deadline to sign-up is Oct. 2nd.

For questions, please e-mail: foto@friendsoftheoccoquan.org



Financial Assistance for Farmers



New Practices Available

We have new cost-share practices available for this program year! They include:

Practice	Brief Description	Long Description
WP-4FP	Feeding Pad	For the installation of a permanently hardened feeding pad
WP-4LC	Animal Waste Control Facility for Confined Livestock Operations	For the installation of a covered facility where livestock are confined 100% of the time; includes a manure storage area
WP-4LL	Loafing Lot Management System w/ Manure Management	For the installation of a sacrifice lot (hardened pad); can include a manure storage area
WP-4SF	Seasonal Feeding Facility w/ Attached Manure Storage	For the installation of a covered concrete facility that includes a feeding area and a manure storage area.

Our typical practices for fencing livestock out of waterways, providing alternative water sources, cover crops, etc. are still available.

Before you can sign up for any of our cost-share practices, we must first do a site visit to see if you qualify. We will also need to provide you with a conservation plan specific to your farm, or a renewal plan if your current plan is out of date.

For more information on our cost-share program, please visit our website at pwsxcd.org/costshare. You can also call us at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail Mike Miller

at conservation@pwsxcd.org, Nicole Slazinski at nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org, Duane Mohr at conservationtech@pwsxcd.org, or Jay Yankey at jayyankey@pwsxcd.org.

We look forward to working with you!

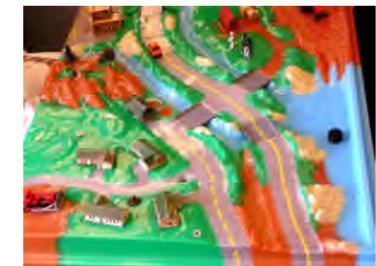
Please Note: Due to COVID-19, there is a good chance we will not have as much cost-share funding in Program Year 2022 (which starts July 1, 2021). We advise anyone interested in our cost-share programs to contact us sooner rather than later. Even if you're not sure if you qualify, it never hurts to ask!

Capsule Program

Variety of Educational Programs for K-12

Our Capsule Program is still available to all educators in Prince William County and the City of Manassas (including homeschoolers!). Consider doing the capsule live or filming it and then sharing the video with your other teachers. All capsules will be cleaned between uses.

As we will not be using the school districts courier, you must make arrangements for pick up and drop off of the capsules at our office. Available Capsules and instructions for requesting a capsule are on our website at pwsxcd.org/capsules.



Watershed Model



Regions of Virginia Capsule