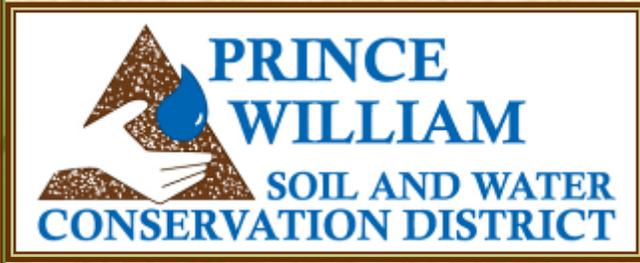


Inspiring personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources



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Manassas, VA 20109-3733
571.379.7514
www.pswxcd.org

Annual Report
July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019



Cattle in a field in Nokesville that is part of a rotational grazing system created by a recently installed stream exclusion cost share practice.

Our mission:

To provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance, information, and education.



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 District receives funding via a Memorandum of Agreement with Prince William County to provide technical assistance, as well as compliance programs that solve and prevent natural resource problems for landowners, and encourage good stewardship of the environment.

Board of Directors



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**Linda
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**Mike
Miller**

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

About our county



According to the USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture for Prince William County (latest census available), there are 22,874 acres of farmland in the county, approximately 10% of the total acres. This represents a 30% decrease in farmland over the 2007 census. The average size of farms is 75 acres. The market value of products sold is \$11,612,000. Farmland is mainly located in three districts; Brentsville, Gainesville and Coles.

What is the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District?

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District encompasses all of Prince William County. Our mission 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. The District accomplishes this mission by administering the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program in the county and developing and administering educational programs to youth and adults. The District plays a role in the larger objective of improving water quality not only in local watersheds, but also in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds.

Nationally—Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts - almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.

More than 17,000 volunteers serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. They work directly with more than 2.3 million cooperating land managers nationwide, and their efforts touch more than 778 million acres of private land.

Among other things, conservation districts help:

- implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- protect groundwater resources;
- assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction; and
- reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.
- Work with local partners to address special conservation concerns of the community.

"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery." —Wendell Berry

Awards

Clean Water Farm Award & Potomac Grand Basin Award



*Yankey Farms
The Yankey Family*



No till planting



Rotational grazing

Farm Name: Yankey Farms

Location: 14841 Glenkirk Road, Nokesville, VA

Watershed: PL33: Kettle Run & PL34: Broad Run—Rocky Branch

Farm acreage: 120 acres of cropland, 5.5 acres of hayland, and 19 acres of pasture.

District: Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (PWSWCD)

Yankey Farms is a diverse crop and beef cattle farm located in Nokesville, VA. It is owned and operated by Jay and Sonja Yankey. Even though both Jay and Sonja come from multigenerational farming families, their operation was started by the two of them after getting married in 2002. Yankey Farms currently maintains a herd of approximately 15 beef stocker steers, which are sold annually in the spring as freezer beef. In addition to the cattle, approximately 111 acres of traditional row crops, 9.0 acres of mixed fresh market vegetables for a CSA and on farm produce stand and 5.5 acres of hay are raised to support the cattle and for cash sale.

Conservation

Yankey Farms implements the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). All practices are used to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil and pasture quality, and increase water infiltration.

- Stream Bank Exclusion Fencing
- Alternative Watering System
- No-Till Planting
- Cover Crops on Cropland
- Nutrient Management Planning and Split Applications
- Conservation Intercropping





How we served our agricultural community

Prince William County deliverables:

Nutrient Reductions for writing 60 conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
4,928 pounds	558 pounds	1,732

DCR Cost-Share Best Management Practices (BMPs) in production, providing nutrient and sediment reductions:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres	Sediment Reduction
2,649 pounds	70 pounds	4,051	63 tons

These numbers represent 240 head of livestock and poultry eliminating approximately 1,562 tons of manure per year.

We partner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation under grant agreements to provide technical assistance in designing and installing Best Management Practices for natural resources conservation. Under these agreements for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Cost-Share Program we gave technical assistance for the following: agricultural production, BMPs, drainage/stormwater management, urban erosion, agricultural erosion, land disturbance, partner agency assistance, pond management, trees, native plants, water quality, weeds, and wildlife management.

Water Awareness Milestone; Clean Streams and Water Quality Update

We continued to see a growing interest among residents in 2019 to learn more about water quality and to promote clean streams with the District. This shows the important role water plays in our communities, in relation to human health and vitality.

At the end of June 2019, 2,066 volunteers put in over 25,109 hours under the District to support the course of clean streams and improved water quality. Compare this to 2018, where there were 1,657 volunteers who put in 5,800 hours. The number of active monitoring sites increased from 15 sites in 2018 to 17 sites in 2019. 48 cleanup events took place under the Adopt-A-Stream program in 2019.

This District continued to develop partnerships to help with water quality outreach. Data collected from our monitoring and outreach is shared with Prince William County Environmental Services and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Water is the earth's lifeline and therefore the need to protect and conserve this natural resource for the coming generations is vitally important. Residents are already making a difference in the community, but we can always use more help to further our goals. Join the Soil and Water Conservation District for more water quality awareness in Prince William County. You can contact the district at (571) 379-7514 or Veronica Tangiri at

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

-Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



The **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)** is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMP's) in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.

The Prince William SWCD completed three urban BMP projects, using the VCAP, in FY19. One project was permeable pavement for an individual homeowner in Manassas and the other two were conservation landscaping projects. District staff assisted several other landowners in 2019 with VCAP projects that are still awaiting funding.



“Dedicated to Helping Provide Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Conservation Education Beyond the Walls of the Classroom.”

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit affiliated with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District. The foundation raises money to support PWSWCD educational and outreach activities. In 2019 the foundation raised over \$20,000 by holding their second annual Farm to Table Fundraiser Dinner and securing a Dominion Energy Grant, and a Fairfax Water Grant.

PWEE Foundation

Board of Directors

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- Jim Gehlsen, Vice Chair
- Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer
- Linda Dunn, Secretary
- Harry Glasgow, Director
- Paige Thacker, Director
- Pam Popovich, Director
- Kathy Coughlin, Director

Volunteers and Partners

In FY19 the PWSWCD has worked with numerous partners, including DCR, NRCS, Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and Town of Dumfries governments, the Prince William Conservation Alliance, VCE Master Gardeners, VCE Staff, VDOF, local watershed and civic groups, the Merrimac Master Naturalists, Prince William/ Fairfax Farm Bureau, public and private local schools, Windy Knoll Farm, Prince William Veterans Farm Club, Nokesville FFA chapter, Stonewall Jackson HS Ecology Club, PWC 4-H, VDGIF, adjoining SWCDs, scout groups, The American Nepal Society, Friends of the Square, Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition, Keep Prince William Beautiful, Fairfax Water, The Prince William County Service Authority, and the Prince William Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Committee to implement and deliver our diverse programs.

The District also utilizes an amazing group of volunteers to accomplish our goals. We have a wide array of volunteer opportunities for citizens who want to get involved with local conservation and natural resources education efforts. Opportunities range from an hour or two helping with a one time stream cleanup to part-time in office volunteer positions coordinating programs. In FY19 PWCWCD's 2,198 volunteers logged over 26,550 hours of donated time to see that local conservation and education programs are thriving in their community. This donated time is valued at over \$544,275.

If it weren't for the tireless dedication of these volunteers the District wouldn't be able to accomplish much of what we do in our community. Even the directors who lead our organization are volunteers. Here is how some of our programs utilize volunteers.

Agricultural Conservation Planning– 25% of our work is done by volunteers

Water Quality Monitoring– Other than program coordination, this program runs completely on volunteers

Stream Cleanup Programs- Other than program coordination, this program runs completely on volunteers

MWEE Field Trip Program– Completely organized and run by volunteers

Farm Field Days– 75% of the workload is accomplished by volunteers



Pam Popovitch
Volunteer
MWEE Coordinator



**A Small Group of our Water Quality
Monitoring and Stream Cleanup
Volunteer Leaders**



Duane Mohr
Volunteer
Conservation Planner

Adopt-A-Stream

Stream cleanup results:

# volunteers	miles cleaned	pounds of trash removed
1,746	67.4	39,572

A HUGE thanks to all the stream stewards who participated in stream cleanups. You made a 39,572 pounds of trash difference in our community! **Great job!!!!!!**



Adult-centered Watershed Education results:

377 adults attended:

2 PWC Neighborhood Summits, Native Plant Symposium, America Recycles Day, Blue Bell Festival

Youth-centered Education Events results:

Conservation Capsules-to-go:

- 4,918 students were given environmental sciences and natural resources education through our capsule program
- 216 teachers reserved these capsules for in-classroom presentations

Farm Field Days:

- 1,240 fourth grade students from county schools attended Farm Field Days in October
- 57 teachers attended Farm Field Days
- 50 chaperones attended Farm Field Days

Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Science Education Programs offered in FY 2019

All Conservation Capsule programs are based on Virginia Standards of Learning and are available to all Prince William County schools, private schools, community clubs and youth organizations.

A Drop in the Bucket	6th Grade & up
Build an Ecosystem	2nd Grade
Get Outside	K-5
Incredible Journey	3rd Grade
Introduction to Natural Resources	1st Grade
Land Beneath Your Feet	9th Grade
Plant Anatomy & Non-Vascular Plants	4th & 5th Grades
Plants of the Powhatan	2nd & 4th Grades
Regions of Virginia	4th Grade
Soils	3rd Grade
Sum of the Parts	4th Grade
Tree Talk	1st Grade
Virginia Natural Resources	4th Grade
Water Cycle	2nd Grade
Watershed Enviroscape Model	K - Adult
Weathering and Erosion	2nd & 5th Grades
Who Polluted the Bay?	K & 1st Grade

Land Beneath Your Feet



Soils



"But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr Seuss

Hooray for Farm Field Days!



They all love the animals.
Thanks to their owners
for sharing.



The Farm Bureau Women's
Committee members teach the
structure of corn



How much horse power
can the 4th graders
muster? We know!

Hats off to our faithful
volunteers: Farm Bureau Women's
Committee, Master Gardeners,
John Marshall SWCD, PWC Public
Works, PW Beekeepers, Stonewall
Jackson High School Ecology Club
students, our cooperators, local
farmers, educators, and many
individuals.

We can't do it without YOU!



The Tree Team talk about
the importance of Trees as a
Virginia crop



And they all say "hooray for
Farm Field Days!"

Words are inadequate to describe the dedication and generosity of all 130+ volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy to 1,240 of our youth. (No wonder you were exhausted at the end of the day!)

Our most grateful thanks to each and every one of you!

1,240	4th grade students
57	teachers
8	PWC schools
3	City of Manassas schools
7	Title 1 schools
60	high school student volunteers
2	high school teacher volunteers
50	chaperones



"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

— Theodore Roosevelt

Hooray for Arbor Day!



*Poet's Tree
Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me,
And watch the way the word-web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.
The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and dream, or come and climb-
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.
-Shel Silverstein*

Arbor Day ceremonies were held on April 27, 2019 at:

Henderson Elementary

Clean Cut Trees ran the ceremony and different programs for the students. Mark Hawthorne ISA Certified Arborist had his team lead the students through a series of discussions and activities.

"The kids were jumping with excitement."

They planted two Dogwoods.

Arbor Day Tree Ceremonies/Festival activities allow students to investigate and understand that plants produce oxygen and food, are a source of useful products and provide benefits in nature.

Clean Cut Trees donated their time and resources to plant the Arbor Day trees for the ceremony this year. Thank you!

