

Cost-Share Program

The Prince William SWCD is anticipating a sizable disbursement of state cost-share dollars for fiscal year 2019. If you have a natural resources concern on your farm, now is the time to talk with district staff about developing a plan to address these concerns and utilize these funds to help finance the implementation of practices, to solve your concerns. We can provide cost-share funding for practices to address soil erosion on crop and pasture land, exclude livestock from waterways, implement nutrient management plans, adopt new precision nutrient application technology, establish tree plantings along streams, plant cover crops, construct manure storage facilities, and many other things that improve water quality. If you feel you have a need to implement these practices on your farm contact Mike Miller (conservation@pwsxcd) or Nicole Slazinski (nicoleethier@pwsxcd) and they will assist you with developing a plan and applying for funding.

Farm Field Days 2018—Save the Date!

Farm Field Days 2018 will be on October 17th and 18th this year. If you have volunteered in the past, it will be wonderful seeing you again! If you have never volunteered, you are missing out on a couple of fun filled days. I can promise that you will be tired and energized when the two days are over. It's impossible not to enjoy yourself interacting with all the excited 4th graders that pass through the seven barns. No previous experience needed, there is plenty to do and extra hands are always welcome. Everyone who volunteers gets a t-shirt and lunch. For more information please contact education@pwsxcd.org

Welcome our new Administrative Assistant Linda Dunn

Originally hailing from Upstate NY, Linda recently relocated from Frederick MD to Haymarket. Linda quickly rose to the top of the massive resume pile. She's very happy to be a part of our team and is looking forward to learning more about the district. She enjoys playing golf, tennis and enjoying nature while hiking and biking.



Conservation InFARMation

8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 • (571) 379-7514 • pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org • www.pwsxcd.org • facebook.com/PrinceWilliamSWCD

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.

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Cost Share Program

Farm Field Days

Welcome Linda Dunn

Fenced out your livestock out from waterways? Get credit for your hard work!



If you have your livestock (including equine) fenced out of a waterway and are not under any active cost-share practices, then we need your help! The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model is based solely on farms that have an active cost-share practice(s). The Model assumes that if you are not under a cost-share practice and have a waterway on or adjacent to your property, then you are just letting your livestock access these waterways all willy-nilly. That is why we are looking for anyone interesting in signing up for a Voluntary Best Management Practice (VBMP). A VBMP means you have fenced out your livestock on your own dime or your cost-share practice has expired.

Requirements for a VBMP:

- Farm/equine property is located in Prince William County (farms located outside of the county can contact their local soil & water conservation district)
- Currently have livestock fenced out of a waterway that is on or directly adjacent to your property.
 - Waterways include streams and creeks
 - Ponds are not included UNLESS they drain into a waterway

Why bother signing up?

- Makes the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model more accurate
- Can shift the focus of contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay coming from farmers to a more precise culprit
- Shows that Prince William County farmers are doing the right things for the environment!

VBMPs have a lifespan of 5 years; the District is subject to spot-checks within this time period. If during a spot-check it is noted that the fencing is in disrepair or no longer exists, the landowner is not required to fix/reinstall the fencing or will be penalized; VBMPs are completely voluntary and the District is non-regulatory. The model will be updated that your VBMP no longer exists.

To sign up, or for more information, please contact the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail Jay Yankey (jayyankey@pwsxcd.org), Nicole Slazinski (nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org), or Mike Miller (conservation@pwsxcd.org).

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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.

Board Members: John Price, Chairman Jim Gehlsen, Vice Chairman Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer Paige Thacker, Secretary Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Stephanie Cornell	Associate Directors: Deb Oliver Harrison Glasgow Steve Danziger	Staff: Jay Yankey, District Manager Linda Dunn, Administrative Assistant Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist Mike Miller, Conservation Planner Alice Martewicz, Education & Outreach Specialist Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator
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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 pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org. For our events calendar and board meeting dates, visit www.pwsxcd.org/calendar.html (board meetings are open to the public). PWSWCD 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.

Emerald Ash Borer Cost-Share Program

This cost-share program by the Virginia Department of Forestry aims to help landowners and organizations (non-profits, schools, HOAs, municipalities) treat ash trees to prevent death by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). If you have an ash tree and want details about the program, contact Meredith Bean (EAB Coordinator) Phone: 434-220-9034 or Email: meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov. For more information about EAB, visit <http://emeraldashborer.info/>. To participate in free webinars, see <http://emeraldashborer.info/eabu.php>.



Retirement News

It's with mixed emotions and sincere gratitude for her service that we are announcing the retirement of Jeannie Heflin. Jeannie has been the office manager extraordinaire of the District for 13 years.

She started in June 2005 and has been the back bone and mover and shaker of the office ever since.

We would like to congratulate Jeannie on her retirement from the District. The current staff and everyone that went before us

enjoyed working with her during her time here. We consider her not only

a valuable asset to the district but an enjoyable presence in the office, as well. Our daily touch stone is the best way to describe how much she meant to us.

While she will be missed by all of us at the district, she certainly deserves her retirement. Her hard work and diligence have greatly benefited the district.



Save The Date

August 25th At Windy Knoll Farm

The Third Annual Farm to Table Dinner to Benefit the Prince William Environmental Education Foundation.



Youth Conservation Camp

The 42nd annual Youth Conservation Camp will be held Sunday, July 8th through Saturday, July 14th 2018, at Virginia Tech. Students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 are eligible to attend and will gather with other students throughout Virginia for a week-long, jammed packed adventure. Each year the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts coordinates this environmentally focused camp.

Prince William County and City of Manassas high school students must apply directly through the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (PWSWCD). Topics for past camps have included: lake ecology, GIS technology, fisheries management, forestry and wildlife issues, turf grass management, land use planning, water quality, soils, agricultural best management practices including tours of swine and dairy facilities, beekeeping, stream study, and more. The

cost of the camp is \$550.00 per student. The local chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau are each providing a \$500 scholarship to enable two students to receive partial funding. Scholarship recipients will be responsible for paying \$50 and providing their own transportation to/from Virginia Tech. Applications must be completed and submitted on or before Friday, April 13, 2018. For an application and more information, please contact Alice Markiewicz at 571-379-7514 or e-mail at education@pwsacd.org or visit <http://vasacd.org/conservation-camp>. To apply for this opportunity, please send your completed application to: Prince William SWCD, Attention: Youth Conservation Camp Review Committee, 8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109.