

Farm Field Days!

Looking for volunteers and livestock!

This year Farm Field Days will be on Wednesday October 11 and Thursday October 12 from 10am-1pm at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Rd, Manassas, VA 20112. Help teach 4th graders the importance of protecting our environment through a variety of fun and educational activities! Refreshments and lunch will be provided for all of our wonderful volunteers, along with a shirt! Come one day, or both days!

If you're interested in volunteering, or have livestock you'd like to bring, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at www.pwsxcd.org and click on Volunteer for Farm Field Days, Oct. 11th & Oct. 12th at the top. If you have any questions, please contact our Education Specialist Kim Lowther at education@pwsxcd.org.



This is the last hard copy of our District Newsletter!

Due to expenses, and to save on paper, we will be sending our newsletter out electronically. This will be the last hard copy you will receive in awhile (though we may do hard copies once a year in the future). We will still be posting our newsletters on our website.

To get the latest District Newsletter and/or to sign up to other e-mailing lists pertaining to your specific interests, please scan the QR code below or go to our website at www.pwsxcd.org and click on Check out our latest e-mailing lists! at the top of the page. This will take you to a google form. As no one likes spam, we will not add you to any e-mailing lists unless you specifically ask.

We hope to continue working with you :)



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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Summer – Fall 2023

After a fairly dry winter and now a dry summer, we are certainly feeling the heat!

Drought Advisory



Rainfall in PWC is 7"+ below

Every time my two-year-olds start singing "Rain, Rain, Go Away!" I can't help myself from saying "no, we WANT the rain to stay!" The drought has slowly been taking its toll. Prince William County is currently more than 7" below their average rainfall. On August 30, 2023, The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a drought advisory for the county, along with several other counties throughout Virginia.

Drought Advise for Livestock

Even if your pastures are in good condition, start feeding hay now! An Important Message from Dr. Fike, VCE Forage Specialist:

The call to stockpile may seem off base when conditions are dry and grass is limited, but it's important to know that resting pastures now is essential for their quick recovery when the rains do return. Some of you may recall we had a very dry fall a few years ago, but we got moisture starting in October. Those who'd stayed off the grass saw rapid growth and reasonable productivity/ recovery. It is essential to rest pastures now and feed hay, as well as keeping a watchful eye on the bottom 10% of your herd.



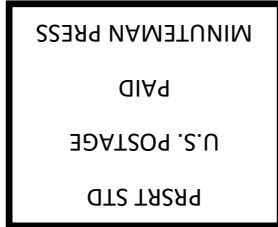
See back for more info.

What can you do? According to DEQ, "All Virginians are encouraged to protect water supplies by minimizing water use, monitor drought conditions, and detect and repair leaks." Though these are things we are already doing, they're important more than ever.

For more information, and to get the latest updates, go to DEQ's website at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quantity/drought>.

Drought damage on your farm?

If you are seeing drought damage on your farm, whether it be crops and/or forage, please contact Thomas Bolles, our Associate Extension Agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension for Prince William County: tbolles@pwcgov.org. The more data we get on the effects of our drought conditions, the better prepared we'll be in making a drought declaration.



8850 Rixlew Lane
Manassas, VA 20109

If you would like to be added or removed from our newsletter emailing list, e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org or visit our website at www.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.

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 Will Lintner, Vice	Clay Morris	Staff
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	Thomas Bolles, Secretary Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent	Rose Anderson, Water Quality Assistant	

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

Our Land use Changes and Water Quality

Land use in Virginia is fast changing as a result of human development. The greater population of Northern Virginia depends on surface water as the main drinking water source. A greater portion of Prince William County drains into the Occoquan River. This river also harbors the Occoquan Reservoir, which is the main drinking water source for both parts of Prince William and Fairfax Counties.

How can you promote clean water in Prince William for the next generation?

Volunteer with the Conservation District's Water Quality programs, of course!

- **The Chemical Monitoring program** supports the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) with professional chemical data on conductivity, pH,



turbidity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen (tier II) from any location of choice.

- **The Biological Monitoring program** promotes community science, supports personal projects, and help students gain community service hours. This program provides an outdoor biological field experience and samples benthic macro invertebrates that determine the quality of local streams.
- **The Adopt-A-Stream/Pond program** allows individuals, families, or groups to promote environmental stewardship in the community through streams/ponds cleanup events supported by the Conservation District.

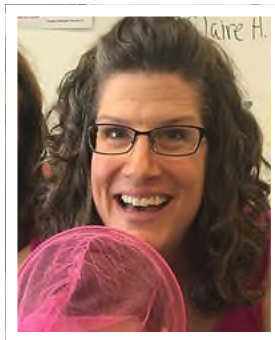
For more information about the Water Quality programs, please contact us at 571-379-7514, e-mail waterquality@pwsacd.org, or use the QR code to the right.



Welcome our Newest Employees!

Kim Lowther, Education Specialist

Kim joined the District in April 2023. She has an MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University of New England in Keene, NH and a BS in Environmental Science from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. Kim has taught Environmental Education for 27 years in many capacities that include working at: a Nature Center in Michigan, an Outdoor Education School in Wisconsin, Discovery Creek Children's Museum in D.C., and Glen Echo Park Aquarium in Maryland! Most recently she's worked as a Teacher Naturalist at Walker Nature Center in Reston, VA which incorporated Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE). In 2023, Kim earned her Certificate of Interpretive Guide and became a Certified Water Quality Monitor through Virginia Save our Streams and the District.



Josie Anderson, Water Quality Assistant

After volunteering in 2022, Josie met water quality specialist, Veronica Tangiri. Soon after Josie joined the team for an internship as Veronica's water quality assistant. Josie is currently studying at Coastal Carolina University for her Bachelors of Science Degree in Marine Science. She has interest in chemically monitoring the community's water for issues such as Harmful Algal Blooms and phytoplankton blooms.



Conservation Plans

Free Service for Farmers!

Did you know that the District can provide a free Conservation Plan for your farm if it is located in Prince William County?

If you did know about conservation plans, did you know you can get a renewal every 3 years?

If you've never heard of a Conservation Plan, it is a voluntary plan written specifically for your farm. The District has been writing conservation plans for Prince William County farmers since 1998.



Every Conservation Plan includes:

- maps of your property (e.g. fields with acreages, topography, soils, hydrology, Best Management Practices, etc.)
- Nutrient Management Plan (includes soil test results)
- Yields
- Prescribed grazing plan (for livestock)
- Supply/Demand spreadsheets (for livestock)
- And more!

We'll meet with you on your farm to get an idea of your goals and objectives. Then we'll take soil samples and write a conservation plan that's specific for your farm! This conservation plan is completely voluntary. It is written to not only protect our soils and water, but also to save you time and money!

If you are interested in a conservation plan, please contact us at 571-379-7514 or e-mail duanemohr@pwsacd.org. For more information on our conservation plans and other services we provide to farmers, please visit our website at: www.pwsacd.org/agriculture.

Cost Share for Farmers!

Program Year 2024 is now open! If you've been in agriculture production for the past 3 years and you have/had a **water quality problem** on your farm, such as:

- Livestock has/had access to a water body
- No cover crops when main crops aren't growing
- No proper manure storage
- Etc.

then contact us to see if you qualify for cost-share! We have cost-share practices that cover a variety of things such as:

- Stream crossings
- Frost-proof automatic waterers (including pipeline)
- Buffer fencing (to keep livestock out of waterways)
- Buffer fencing already installed
- Winter Cover Crops
- And more!

For more information, please visit our website at pwsacd.org/costshare or call our office at 571-379-7514. or e-mail duanemohr@pwsacd.org.

2023 CFAW Symposium (Virtual)

Rooted in Responsibility: Connecting Sustainability, Animal Welfare, and Agriculture



September 29th, 8 am-2 pm.

Topics for this free symposium include:

- You're not operating in a vacuum: assessing how the structure of the beef industry impacts cattle welfare
- Gotta walk before you can trot: What we currently know about equine welfare
- Gateway to sustainability: how the environment shapes the walking ability and welfare of meat poultry
- And more!

Please use the QR code above to register for virtual attendance (In-person attendance is in AR).

Hosted by the Center for Food Animal Wellbeing (CFAW)