



### Adopt-A-Stream (AAS)

Would you like to volunteer to help clean up a stream? Stream cleanups involve volunteers walking along a stream or paddling a stream channel while collecting trash. Cleanup efforts foster a sense of community and are an effective way to improve habitat, water quality, and aesthetics.



If you would like to volunteer to help clean up a stream, please contact the AAS coordinator, [kellyjimenez@pwsxcd.org](mailto:kellyjimenez@pwsxcd.org) or (571) 379-7415 or visit [www.pwsxcd.org](http://www.pwsxcd.org).



## Farm Field Days 2013

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District

It's that time of the year again! We need volunteers for the 2013 Farm Field Days at the Prince William County Fairgrounds October 23 & 24!

Please visit: [farmfielddays.wordpress.com](http://farmfielddays.wordpress.com) for more information.

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.

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 email [pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org](mailto:pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org).

Electronic Address Service Requested

8850 Rixlew Lane  
Manassas, VA 20109



# Conservation InFARMation

**OUR MISSION...**  
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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## Livestock Exclusion Program: Cost-Share Rate Now 100%!

The District is excited to announce, for a limited time, we are now able to provide up to 100% funding to cover the cost of installing practices needed to facilitate the exclusion of livestock to streams, wetlands, and other surface waters. These practices include:

- fencing
- watering systems
- and stream crossings



If you have not yet fenced out your livestock from waterways on your property, you should consider signing up for this lucrative program. With increasing water quality regulations implemented each year, it is very likely that livestock surface water exclusion will become mandatory sometime in the future. If/when it does, who knows what programs will be available to help the producer with the cost of implementation. The one thing we do know is that this program is only being offered through the end of June 2015.

Cost-share funds may not be immediately available at the time you apply for the program. However, just by submitting an application, you will be guaranteed that your project will be 100% funded when the money becomes available. Contact the District office at (571) 379-7514 for more information on the program and how to enroll.



## Hay Clinic

If you are thinking, "Hay! What's the next District seminar going to be about?" then you're in luck! Our next seminar will be a hay clinic, aimed for hay producers and hay purchasers.

We will provide tips on quality and nutrients, how to get your hay tested, storage and feeding recommendations, and more!  
The **FREE** Hay Clinic will be on **Friday, Nov. 8th** at **Windy Knoll Farm** in **Nokesville, VA** from **1-4pm**. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the information below. **Pre-registration is required.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Snail mail:) Attn: Hay Clinic, 8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109  
(E-mail:) [nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org](mailto:nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org)  
(Phone:) (571) 379-7514 (ask for Nicole)

8850 Rixlew Lane  
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(571) 379-7514  
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[www.pwsxcd.org](http://www.pwsxcd.org)

[www.facebook.com/PrinceWilliamSWCD](http://www.facebook.com/PrinceWilliamSWCD)

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Kelly Jimenez – *Outreach & Education Specialist*

**Conservation Aide Interns:**

Barbara Wallace  
Chris Lund

If you would like to join our mailing list, e-mail [pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org](mailto:pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org), or visit our website at [www.pwsxcd.org](http://www.pwsxcd.org) (left hand column). Future newsletters may only be delivered electronically to save paper and be more environmentally conservative.

For our events calendar and board meeting dates visit: [www.pwsxcd.org/calendar.html](http://www.pwsxcd.org/calendar.html) (board meetings are open to the public).

*PWSWCD is a non-regulatory agency funded by Prince William County Public Works and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.*

### State Agencies Conducting Farm Assessments to Avoid Issuing Virginia Pollution Abatement (VPA) Permits

In an effort to meet new federal requirements and keep small farm operations from having to obtain VPA permits, the Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) have teamed up to conduct the Virginia’s Small Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) Evaluation and Assessment Strategy. This program has been designed to assess the more than 2,000 farms in Virginia that meet the definition of an “animal feeding operation,” yet have few enough animals to remain below the VPA permit threshold of 300 animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lb. animal). These operations are most commonly small dairies, beef feedlots, and horse boarding facilities. An “animal feeding operation” is defined as an operation where animals (other than aquatic animals) are stabled or confined, and fed or maintained, for 45 days or more in any 12 month period. Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the facility.

Producers who do not currently have a VPA permit, but are believed to possibly meet the AFO criteria, are being notified via letter about participating in this process. The first step in the assessment process is a survey to be filled out by the farmer. From this survey, if it is determined that the operation meets the criteria of an AFO, the farmer will be asked to allow an inspection to be conducted by DEQ or VDACS staff. If water quality concerns are identified, the producer will be directed to available existing voluntary programs to address the concern.

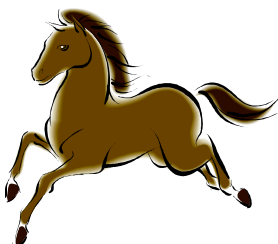
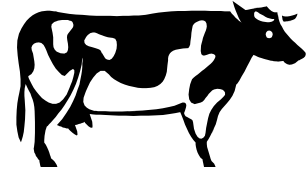

The entire program is voluntary. However, DEQ has indicated that if the program is not successful in evaluating and addressing water quality issues identified on these operations, the Federal Government may require that all livestock feeding operations, regardless of size, obtain a VPA permit. For more information, please go to our website at <http://www.pwsxcd.org/farmers.html> under the topic “Virginia Pollution Abatement (VPA).”

**Have you seen me?**

Our step-in auger/soil probe has gone missing. We really need it back. If you’ve seen it, please let us know. It should have our contact information on it.

If you have it, please drop it off at our office. You can do so anonymously and put it by our door.

Thank you!



### Johnsongrass: A Farmer’s Nemesis

Johnsongrass is an invasive and aggressive plant, typically found in hay and crop fields, that can be hazardous to livestock.

**How did I get it?**

The spreading of seeds from wind, birds, animals, and farming equipment, cows fed contaminated silage (seeds will pass through their manure and germinate), etc.

**What does it look like?**

- ♣ Purplish seed heads between July– September
- ♣ 8-12’ in height (when mature)
- ♣ Leaves are flat and skinny, typically smooth and hairless
- ♣ Aggressive root system with rhizomes



*Mature Johnsongrass*

**Toxicity Information**

- ♣ Under certain conditions, such as drought, frost, secondary growth, and trampling, Johnsongrass will produce cyanide, a toxin that is particularly harmful to cattle.

**What is the best way of controlling it?**

- ♣ Natural: Mow it continuously (at least 2-3 times a month) at a height less than 3”.
- ♣ Chemical: Glyphosate (an active ingredient found in products such as Roundup). As with all pesticides/herbicides, ALWAYS follow the directions on the label.

The best time to control Johnsongrass is before it goes to seed, typically between July and September.

For more information, please visit [www.pwsxcd.org/images/F\\_JohnsongrassBrochure.pdf](http://www.pwsxcd.org/images/F_JohnsongrassBrochure.pdf)

### Conservation Aides Spotlight

**Chris Lund** has worked 24 years in the civil engineering and environmental fields. A focus of much of his work has been in the conservation and protection of water resources and non-point source water pollution control, as well as stormwater management. Currently, Mr. Lund works for a nationally known solid waste management consulting firm and uses his engineering background to effectively manage waste in agriculture, commercial, and residential areas. As a Professional Civil Engineer, he is providing vital help to the District with his assistance in several agriculture projects.



**Barbara “Babs” Wallace** began volunteering with the District in June 2013. She is a 2012 graduate of GMU with a Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Conservation Studies. Passionate about environmental issues in her community, she established a multi-disciplinary peer-to-peer education program, The Mason Green Patriots, to support GMU’s Office of Sustainability and other campus environmental organizations. Upon graduation, she interned at White Flint Farm in Keeling, VA to gain experience in sustainable farming practices and learn about community ties to farming. Barbara enjoys hiking, reupholstering furniture, and tending to her garden.

