



NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 2023
Winter Newsletter

Conservation Around the Neck

PROUDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF
LANCASTER, NORTHUMBERLAND, RICHMOND & WESTMORELAND
COUNTIES



Robert G. "Bobby" Vanlandingham of Callao, VA is a farmer, realtor and Elected Director representing Northumberland County on the NNSWCD Board. Bobby was recently recognized for his **20 years of service** to the Board.



H. Shirley Powell of Colonial Beach, VA is a farmer and an Elected Director representing Westmoreland County on the NNSWCD Board. Shirley was recently recognized for his **15 years of service** to the Board.

In October, our office welcomed Kelly Brann, the new Marketing & Outreach Specialist. Kelly has been a lifelong resident of the Northern Neck. "I started this position on October 3, 2022 and I was able to

jump right in with three straight weekends of HHW Events. I enjoy working with the farmers and the community. I am excited for this new position and look forward to working within my community."



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February:

- VCAP Application Due — **February 3, 2023**
- Report Planned Corn Acres — **February 8, 2023**

March:

- VCAP Application Due — **March 3, 2023**
- Scholarship Applications Due — **March 3, 2023**
- Cover Crop Burndown Begins — **March 15, 2023**
- Nutrient Management Plans Due — **March 17, 2023**
- Lancaster Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste Event — **March 25, 2023**

April:

- VCAP Application Due— **April 7, 2023**
- Area III Envirothon—**April 26, 2023**

OUTREACH EVENTS IN THE NNK

Fall Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste (HHW) Collection Events:

Every Spring and Fall, in cooperation with the local counties, the Virginia Cooperative Extension office and MXI, NNSWCD holds Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection Events. In October we had an event in Lancaster County, Richmond County and Northumberland County.

For more information on upcoming HHW Events, please contact Kelly at 804-313-9102 x105 or email kelly.brann@nnswwcd.org

Upcoming HHW Events for Spring 2023:

- ⇒ **Lancaster County — Saturday, March 25, 2023**
- ⇒ **Northumberland County — Saturday, April 22, 2023**
- ⇒ **Westmoreland County — Saturday, May 20, 2023**



Lancaster County
10.15.2022

- 117 Vehicles
- 7,536 lbs. E-Waste
- 21,508 lbs. Household Waste



Richmond County
10.22.2022

- 34 Vehicles
- 1,590 lbs. E-Waste
- 7,707 lbs. Household Waste



Northumberland County
10.29.2022

- 145 Vehicles
- 4,667 lbs. E-Waste
- 8,688 lbs. Household Waste

Trunk-or-Treat:

On Halloween, Kelly decked out the NNSWCD's van and headed over to the Warsaw Town Park for the annual *Trunk-or-Treat* hosted by the Warsaw Richmond County Main Street Program. *Twist or Treat* was the name of the game. The kids were able to spin the wheel and get a piece of candy based off the color. The kids loved this interactive game! We were told over a 1,000 children participated in this year's event.



New Cover Crop/BMP Signs:

In November, our office invested in durable field signs. These signs will be placed in fields throughout our service area to showcase farmers who participate in the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program.

Attention Farmers — important upcoming dates:

- Report Planned Corn Acres by **February 8, 2023**
- Cover Crop Burndown Begins **March 15, 2023**
- Nutrient Management Plans due **March 17, 2023**

If you have any questions, give Brandon or Aaron a call:

- Brandon—804-313-9102 x102
- Aaron—804-313-9102 x106



EDUCATION CENTER

Watershed Lesson at Montross Middle

NNSWCD joined the Menokin Foundation to provide a lesson on watersheds to the sixth-grade students at Montross Middle School. Students “developed” their own property and learned how the ways we use the land impact the health of the water downstream. Additionally, Lowery used erosion boxes to show how different land coverings handle runoff, including cover crops, loose soil and impervious pavement. They then evaluated how quickly, how much and how polluted the runoff was from each. The cover crop was a clear winner as it slowed the water down, soaked up the runoff and contained the pollutants. This program is a partnership with VA Cooperative Extension/4-H, Belle Isle State Park, Friends of the Rappahannock and Menokin Foundation.



NACD Poster Contest:

"One Water" is the theme for the 2023 NACD Poster Contest. The contest is open to K-12 students, including public, private or home school students, girl scout/boy scout troops, etc. For more information on the contest, visit www.vaswcd.org. If you have any questions, please email Lowery at lowery.becker@nnswwcd.org



4-H Teen Leaders for Camp:

The Westmoreland/Richmond County 4-H program is recruiting teens who are interested in serving in a leadership role at the 2023 4-H camp. Teen Leaders must be at least 14 years old by 1/1/2023 and be available to serve for the Westmoreland and Richmond County's camping week—July 3-7, 2023. Please contact Wendy Herdman if you have any questions or concerns at 804-238-5396 or email wherdman@vt.edu

Deadline for application is **February 24, 2023.*



VASWCD Photo Contest

The 2023 VASWCD Photo Contest is now open! The theme this year is “**Conservation: Small Actions, Big Impact.**” All photographs must be taken within the Commonwealth of Virginia. This is a wonderful opportunity to capture what conservation in the Northern Neck looks like through your camera lens. The contest is open from January—August 1, 2023.



2023 PHOTO CONTEST 

Presented by the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Enter up to 10 digital images that represent:
"Conservation:
Small Actions, Big Impact"

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.VASWCD.ORG/PHOTOCONTEST

- Images must be taken in Virginia
- One Overall Winner, People's Choice, & Young Photographer will be selected
- Full list of rules can be found online

 **ENTRIES DUE
8.1.2023**

THE HOLIDAY SEASON: IN-PERSON!

Our office kicked off the holiday season by hosting a Holiday Brunch in our new conference room. Federal partners from the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) came together to share a meal and take a quick break during the busy season.

We are enjoying this new, larger space but we are thankful we still remain just a parking lot away from our USDA family.



Annual Holiday Dinner:

After COVID-19 placed a hold on the Annual Holiday Dinner for a few years, we were finally able to join together again for a delicious meal at the Old Rapp Taphouse in Warsaw. Our staff greatly enjoyed reconnecting with our partners in person outside of the office. Elected Directors H. Shirely Powell and Robert G. Vanlandingham were recognized for their respective years of service to the NNSWCD Board.



USDA CORNER

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and that you all enjoyed some time with family and friends! For anyone who was in the office before the new year, you already know we were running full speed to beat deadlines, but we're getting back on track now with finalizing payments for the 2022 growing season and preparing for our new FY23 contract application rankings. We continue to staff up our offices to make sure we're doing all we can to help with general, technical, and financial assistance to all farmers and landowners across the NNK. Below are introductions to two new staff members in the office. I believe neither is a "new" face to many of you, but they're fantastic new additions to the office, and we're certainly happy to have them join the NNK USDA team!



"My name is Brody Ellis and I am a Soil Conservationist here at the NRCS office in Warsaw! I graduated from Virginia Tech in the fall of 2019 with an associate degree in Crop Production and a B.S. in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. I grew up on my family farm in Champlaine, VA where we grow corn, wheat, barley and soybeans. Agriculture has always played a big role in my life, and I enjoy being able to contribute to this rewarding field of work. I look forward to seeing many of the producers that I already know and getting to know many new faces as I transition into my new career path with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. I look forward to learning as much as I can so that I can be of assistance to the many producers of the Northern Neck in any way possible!"

"Hi! I'm Kelsey Keyser and I started as a Program Technician in the Warsaw service center in August 2022. I was born and raised in Northumberland County and went to Christopher Newport University, where I graduated in May 2021. I have a love for horses, restoring old furniture, and adding to my collection of cowgirl boots. I look forward to getting to know all of the producers in the Northern Neck!"



Onto other news... Here is some info from the NRCS side of the building and a few reminders for those of you with active contracts, applications, or just in need of additional information...

We are still making payments on CSP contracts through mid February. If you have a CSP contract and did not receive your payment in December of 2022, we will be calling you in the next month to come in to sign your paperwork. If you lost land in

your contract, we will have to modify the contract prior to certifying for payment. This takes a week or so to do, so if you know you lost land that was in your contract, please call us soon so we will have time to accomplish both tasks in order to meet the payment deadline of 2/24/23.

If any producer is receiving a nutrient management or precision agriculture payment through any program, we will need a copy of your nutrient management plan (which we can often get from Brandon or Aaron with your approval), your fertilizer records, and potentially yield maps or yield monitor data out of your combines. If you have questions about what we will need, please feel free to call us so we can let you know what to bring before you make a trip to the office.

Lastly, please remember that we are always accepting applications for EQIP, CSP, and soon enough, RCPP. We may not be able to submit the application for funding consideration right away, depending on our deadlines, but I've had several folks ask for reminders. I will absolutely do the best I can, but there are A LOT of NNK farmers, and it may slip my mind (I'm no spring chicken anymore y'all!). If you submit an application at any time, we automatically enter that into our database and I'm automatically sent reminders after our FY programs are announced. It's just an easy way to ensure no one is overlooked and you're welcome to do this at any time to avoid my "seasoned" memory forgetting!

Last thing...FSA has a couple deadlines coming up that I wanted to remind folks of if they apply to you...First is that the deadline for small grain acreage reporting is January 17th. The second deadline is for the Agriculture Risk Coverage Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) that falls on March 15th. If you have questions about either of these deadlines, or to set up an appointment to come in, please call the main office line to speak with Abby or Kelsey at 804-333-3525.

There will probably not be another newsletter until late spring, so I hope everyone has a productive AND SAFE planting season!

Lucee

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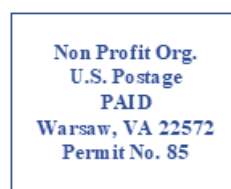
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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Staff:

Kathy Clarke, District Operations Manager
Brandon Dillistin, District Technical Manager
Joanna Balderson, Administrative Assistant
Lowery Becker, Education Conservation Specialist
Kelly Brann, Marketing & Outreach Specialist
Aaron Saunders, Agricultural Conservation Specialist

Elected Directors:

Robert E. Pickett, Chairman (Northumberland)
Frank A. "Bert" Johnson Jr., Vice-Chairman (Richmond)
J. Vince Garland, Treasurer (Richmond)
Faye A. Andrashko (Lancaster)
William A. "Billy" McCarty (Lancaster)
Robert G. "Bobby" Vanlandingham (Northumberland)
H. Shirley Powell (Westmoreland)
Richard E. Wilkins (Westmoreland)

Appointed Directors

R. Trent Jones, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent
Louis Gregory "Greg" Basye—At Large Appointed Member (Northumberland)



The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of disability, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion/religious creed, veteran status, or genetics. An equal opportunity affirmative action employer.