



CHARLES SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Organized 1941

P.O. Box 269
101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106C
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(301) 934-9588/Fax (301) 934-2845

CONSERVATION UPDATES SEPTEMBER 2008 www.CharlesSCD.com

No-Till Drill Rental

Hugh Gardiner, Inc., with the assistance of Charles Soil Conservation District, offers a Great Plains Model 1005 no-till drill for rent. The model 1005 has a 10 ft. planting width and a 12 ft. transport width with 7-1/2 inch rows. The drill is capable of planting soybeans, small grains, cool season grasses and small seeded legumes. A 50hp full size tractor on nearly flat land and 65hp on gently sloping land is required to pull this implement. Steeply sloping land will require greater than 65hp or a 4-wheel drive tractor. This drill also requires an auxiliary valve (hydraulic) to raise and lower the implement.

The goal of this program is to increase the amount of farms implementing no-till and offer equipment that enables small acreage farmers' access to no-till cropping without the significant expense of purchasing equipment.



Great Plains Model 1005 No-Till Drill for Rent

If you're interested in renting the drill:

- First, stop by the Charles Soil Conservation District (SCD) office and fill out the Conservation Assistance Agreement and schedule a day to use the drill.
- Next, pick up the drill at Hugh Gardiner's on your scheduled day and return it when finished.
- Finally, pay Hugh Gardiner \$2 per acre and \$25 per day for the drill rental. The lower rental rates are possible because the Charles SCD is subsidizing this drill rental program.

Bermuda Grass Hay Walk

Elmer Dengler led a Bermuda Grass Hay Walk earlier this month on Jack Welch's farm. The well-attended event illustrated first-hand the advantages and issues related to sprigged and seeded Bermuda grass varieties. Much success has been experienced in a variety of situations in the Southern Maryland area including heavy usage areas, pasture planting in buffered areas, low-carb forage, and horse operations.

Bermuda grass should be planted in areas with buffers such as tree lines or natural buffers, not along other crop fields. Bermuda grass is a good forage providing less carbs than other grasses and it is a successful alternative for horses with laminitis (better known as founder).

If you'd like more information about the use of Bermuda grass in your operation, please contact Charles SCD and we will be glad to discuss its potential with you.

2008-2009 Winter Cover Crop Program

Thanks to all who have signed up for the cover crop program this year. Please see reminders below for the programs(s) for which you have been approved.

Traditional Cover Crop Reminders:

- Last day to plant cover crop at maximum payment rate /acre is October 1, 2008; Last day to report to Charles SCD office is October 8, 2008
- Last day to plant cover crop for mid-range payment rate/acre is October 15, 2008; Last day to report is October 22, 2008
- Last day to plant cover crop for minimum payment rate/acre is November 5, 2008; Last day to report is November 12, 2008
- All seed test results or seed tags must be turned in to receive payment
- Please visit FSA prior to coming in for official FSA aerial maps of your planting location(s)
- If you can't come into our office, please call us at 301-934-9588 ext. 3
- All payments will be made in Spring 2009

Commodity Cover Crop Reminders:

- Last day to plant commodity crop (\$30/acre) is November 5, 2008
- Last day to report commodity cover crop to Charles SCD office is November 12, 2008
- All seed test results or seed tags must be turned in to receive payment
- Please visit FSA prior to coming in for official FSA aerial maps of your planting location(s)
- If you can't come into our office, please call us at 301-934-9588 ext 3
- All payments will be made in Fall 2008

2007 Cooperator of the Year

William T. DeVane

At the Charles SCD annual dinner held on May 14, 2008, the District recognized William T. DeVane as the Charles SCD 2007 Cooperator of the Year.

Mr. DeVane operates his 74.2 acre family farm on New Cut Road in Marbury, MD. The primary agricultural operations on the farm include hay and livestock production.

William T. DeVane has been a cooperator with the Charles Soil Conservation District since 2005. During this time he has successfully installed various soil conservation and water quality practices including heavy use area protection, animal waste storage structure, watering facility, pasture and hayland planting and the implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

During the dinner program, numerous other groups also recognized Mr. DeVane and presented him with Proclamations and Certificates of Appreciation. Included in this group are: the Charles County Commissioners, the Maryland House of Delegates, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Congratulations are again extended to William T. DeVane for his exemplary conservation ethic as demonstrated by his application of best management practices on his land.



Luis Dieguez, Charles SCD District Manager; Bill DeVane, 2007 Cooperator of the Year; Charles Rice, Charles SCD Chairman

Maryland State Conservation Award

Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc.

Also recognized during the dinner was Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc. The organization received the 2007 Charles SCD Conservation Award, recognized for its participation with the District in its no-till drill rental program. Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc. has been instrumental in launching the program and has supported the

conservation district and the agricultural community throughout the years.

On July 16, Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc. was subsequently awarded the 2007 Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts' Outstanding Contribution Award at its Annual Awards Banquet held at Wisp Resort, McHenry, Maryland.

Congratulations and appreciation are extended to Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc. for their outstanding support of the agricultural community.



Hugh C. Gardiner, III accepting award from MASCD President, Lee McDaniel

MASCD Service Award Carl Walters



Carl Walters Receiving 35-Year Service Award

Carl Walters was recognized at the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Annual Awards Banquet with a Service Award for 35 Years of Service. Carl has served on the Charles SCD Board since August 21, 1973. Charles SCD appreciates Carl's dedication.

Charles County Envirothon

Five students from Westlake High School represented Charles County at the Annual Maryland Envirothon Competition held June 17-18 at Harford Glen Environmental Education Center in Harford County. The Charles County first place team from Westlake High School and representing the county was: Kathleen Seay, Kimberly Wiman, Sean Michael Price, Sean Cannon and Farhan Saifudin, coached by science teacher, Charles Newcomb. The second place team was from Thomas Stone: Courtney Flerlage, Michelle Edelen, Emily Trefry, Jane Lightfoot, Charles Kahahawai, coached by science teacher Jan Milman.



Westlake Envirothon Team at Maryland Envirothon Competition

Students from all six Charles County High Schools will kick-off the 2008-2009 Envirothon program with their first training on October 23, 2008 at the Izaak Walton League farm in Waldorf. Students receive training in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a fifth topic which this year is: "Biodiversity in a Changing World" (this topic changes each year and relates to a current environmental issue). The 16th Annual Charles County Envirothon Competition will be held at Gilbert Run Park on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

This program is made possible by financial support from the Charles SCD, Charles County government and local businesses and organizations. We offer our thanks for

your continued support of this natural resources education program.

Staff Updates



Terry Heinard

Terry Heinard, NRCS District Conservationist, started this spring at Charles/St. Mary's NRCS administrative area and splits her time between the two offices.

Terry graduated from the University of MD, College Park College of Agriculture in 1979 with a BS degree in Agronomy. She has worked in District offices for the past 21 years.

She worked for MDA for 8 years as a Farm Planner in the Howard and Anne Arundel Districts. For the past 12 years, she worked for NRCS, starting as a Soil Conservationist in the Calvert office, then District Conservationist in the Caroline office on the Eastern Shore.

If you are in the District office, please take the time and say hello. Terry would like to meet you.

Dee Dee Saunders, Administrative Specialist, joined the staff in March trying to fill the "big" shoes of retiree Aggie Higdon.

Dee Dee has a BS in Marketing from The American University and an MSBA in Finance from the University of Maryland, University College. She has worked with a Fortune 500 company as well as small businesses.

Dee Dee and her husband, Dave, along with their four active children reside in La Plata. If you haven't already met, Dee Dee welcomes the opportunity to meet you.



Dee Dee Saunders



Sara Lewis

Sara Lewis joined Charles SCD in June as an MDA Soil Conservation Planner Regional Equine Specialist serving Southern Maryland. Sara was born and raised in St. Mary's County and spent over 30 years on a nearby farm. She's familiar with equine boarding, cattle, and a variety of crops including tobacco, hay, corn and beans. Sara has over 35 years of equine experience ranging from showing, training, and breeding to managing a large equine boarding facility. As an active rider, she participates in local events such as organized trail rides, fox hunts and hunter paces.

Sara was awarded an art scholarship and attended St. Mary's College of Maryland. In addition to her extensive equine background, she has over 15 years of professional graphic design experience.

Sara and her horses reside in Charles County and she looks forward to helping the equine community better themselves and their land. Please call or stop by and meet Sara if you're a horse owner or would like information about equine programs.

Susan Davis returned to Charles County in July wearing a different hat. After 14 years as a Soil Scientist with NRCS, including doing the soil survey update for Charles County, she is converting to a Resource Conservationist.

Susan received her BA from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and pursued graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Along with her husband, Joel, and two daughters, Grace and Melissa, Susan lives on a small farm in Port Republic with a growing passel of critters.

Susan will be working on conservation planning, NRCS programs, and she is happy to answer questions about soils anytime.



Susan Davis



Donnie Gilroy

Donnie Gilroy, MDA Soil Conservation Technician, joined the staff in August. He has worked with grain, produce and timber products over the past 18 years on his family farm in Accokeek.

Donnie comes to Charles SCD after working in the Charles County Government as a supervisor in Public Facilities, working mainly with stormwater maintenance and repair projects. His background also includes work with Maryland DNR as a technician at Myrtle Grove WMA and Smallwood State Park.

Donnie looks forward to meeting and working with the Charles agricultural community.

Aggie Higdon, Administrative Specialist, retired at the end of February after 27 years with the District. Aggie has enjoyed her summer biking, golfing, playing tennis and taking care of her new "child" Emmy (a beautiful dachshund).

Jim Cary, NRCS District Conservationist, also retired at the end of February. Jim and his wife moved to sunny Surprise, Arizona.

Kyong Chung, NRCS Soil Conservationist, remains out on extended sick leave. Please contact Terry Heinard here at Charles SCD if you are awaiting plans or information from Kyong. Continued thoughts and prayers for her continued improvement are appreciated.

Gail Myers, NRCS Civil Engineer, and her family welcomed a beautiful baby girl into their family. Emma Renee Myers was born Tuesday, August 26th. Congratulations Gail and family.

Conservation Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with the Charles Soil Conservation District

and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has several programs to assist with the installation of best management practices on agricultural lands.

Conservation planning is the first step when considering installing best management practices. Charles SCD staff will work with you to identify your resources and suggest solutions to your resource concerns. In some situations you may wish to participate in either the NRCS or State of Maryland cost share programs.

Many of the same best management practices are offered under several programs. Our staff can help you to determine the best option for your operation.

NRCS programs that might be of interest to you are:

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): the objects of WHIP are the restoration and management of upland and wetland habitats. Practices include but are not limited to:

- Plantings of grasses, trees
- restoration of wetland habitats

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): the objectives of EQIP provide assistance to install and maintain conservation practices that enhance soil, water and related resources (including grazing lands, wetland and wildlife habitats). Practices include:

- Animal waste storage
- Pasture plantings
- Livestock watering systems
- Wind break/shelter belts
- Residue and tillage management, no-till
- Enhanced nutrient management
- Transition to organic production

Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost – Share Program (MACS): the objective of the MACS program is to control and reduce agriculturally related water pollution from erosion, animal wastes and nutrients.

Practices include but are not limited to:

- Grass waterways
- Filter strips
- Roof runoff
- Heavy use areas
- Fencing animals out of streams and ponds

Advance planning for your farm operation is vital to assuring that you can achieve the greatest benefit from these cost share programs. So come in or call if you have a question or wish technical assistance from our staff.

Charles SCD
101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106-C
La Plata, MD 20646

Standard Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 16
LaPlata, MD
20646

To receive our
newsletter via email,
call: 301-934-9588 x 3
and provide your email
address

Charles Soil Conservation District

www.CharlesSCD.com

301-934-9588 x3

Save the Date.....

- Fall 2008 Cover Crop Fall Certifications
- Oct 1/8 CC Planting/Reporting Due (Max)
- Oct 2 Horse Workshop: Frederick
- Oct 9 Anne Arundel SCD Annual Dinner
- Oct 15/22 CC Planting/Reporting Due (Mid)
- Oct 22 "Green Card" Class: St. Mary's
- Oct 29 So Md SCD Dinner, Annapolis
- Nov 5/12 CC Planting/Reporting (Min \$)
- Nov 5/12 Comm Crop Planting/Reporting Due