

# 1200 Md. farms need conservation plans

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — About 12,000 farms in Maryland need a new or updated soil conservation plan to help meet state goals for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, according to Wayne A. Cawley, Maryland secretary of agriculture.

"Soil conservation districts have never been in a better situation to accomplish the mission for which they were established," he told conservation officials at the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts' (MASCD) meeting in Ocean City, Md.

"You have the expertise and my department has the resources that will allow you to do the job. The

public is not going to brook any excuses," he added.

The state will be hiring 40 new employees this year to help farmers with soil and water conservation efforts. This will mean program adjustments, said Cawley. "Districts will be carrying the program to the landowners instead of waiting for landowners to come to them," he said. "You may run into a muleheaded individual who won't cooperate. If you do, you come to old Wayne and I'll get him to cooperate."

Cawley's remarks were just one indication that the state is getting more serious about controlling agricultural sources of nonpoint

pollution. Gerald F. Talbert, who heads the farmland preservation program, announced changes that would require anyone applying for the state to purchase development rights to have had a conservation plan developed within the past 10 years. That plan would have to be fully implemented within 10 years after actual payment.

About 250 people attended the three-day meeting including officials from the state's 24 local soil conservation districts, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and Maryland Department of Agriculture. Topics discussed ranged from cleaning up

the Bay to urban sediment control and storm water management to forestry and wildlife.

At their business meeting on Thursday, district supervisors passed a resolution recommending that the state eliminate the \$5,000 limit for animal waste management projects under the state's agricultural water quality cost share program. If their recommendation is accepted, farmers could receive up to \$25,000 for installing animal waste systems. The \$5,000 limit on soil erosion control projects would remain, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per farm.

"In my opinion, we're talking about the same thing as sewage treatment plants because animal waste is running off land into streams," said Y.D. Hance, a Calvert District supervisor.

In other actions, MASCD members voted to:

- encourage the Dept. of Natural Resources to put more emphasis on improving habitat for the dwindling black duck population,
- formulate a policy for coordination with the MDA including sharing of personnel and space, and

- sponsor a banquet next spring to celebrate the 50th anniversary of soil and water conservation.

An awards banquet was held. The Cecil Soil Conservation District received a plaque for placing first in the state in the 37th annual Goodyear Conservation

Awards Program. The Washington County District placed second in the contest, sponsored in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Kent District was named an honor district in recognition of its continued excellence.

Lee McFarlane, MASCD president, made the following presentations:

- Ann Horner Granados, Worcester County, outstanding contributor award for her leadership of the Ocean City Dune Stabilization committee;

- Agnes C. Higdon, secretary for the Charles District, outstanding employee award;

- George Price, Baltimore District, outstanding associate award for his 33 years as a cooperator and supervisor;

- John McGinnes, Baltimore District, outstanding cooperator award for maintaining a model conservation farm;

- Norman J. Fike, Talbot District, for outstanding leadership; and

- G. Steele Phillips, Dorchester District, for special achievement in providing leadership to the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development area.

Also, Robert Turnbull from Montgomery County received the NACD-Allis Chalmers Conservation Teacher of the Year Award. The Cecil District placed first in environmental education.

## White named Outstanding Conservation Educator

CHAMBERSBURG — The Pennsylvania Keystone Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America recognized five individuals for special conservation achievements according to John Akers, member from Chambersburg. The awards were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Keystone Chapter held at Elizabethtown College in July.

Charles White of Franklin County was recognized as the Outstanding Conservation Educator; Charles Hess of York County was recognized as Outstanding Conservation Farmer; Charles Nehf St. of Lehigh County was recognized as the Outstanding Urban-Rural Conservationist; William Einsig of York County and Warren Bucher of Lebanon County received Special Recognition for their outstanding contributions to conservation.

Charles White is in charge of the 60-acre Tayamentasachta En-

vironmental Education Site of the Greencastle-Antrim School District. His responsibilities include teaching, curriculum, program, site development, maintenance, energy and community education. He has developed programs for social studies, biology, ecology, art, home economics, math and other subjects. All age levels of students, kindergarden through 12th grade, use the center as well as teachers and citizens from the community.

White has also designed and held on his own time a variety of community programs and workshops throughout the state on environmental and energy education. Educators from across the state come to learn about this outstanding environmental education program.

A few of the other activities that White is involved in include the Pennsylvania Alliance for En-

vironmental Education, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Environmental Education Advisory Committee, Community Environmental Advisory Committee, Advisor for the High School Ecology Club, National Audubon Society, Arbor Day Activities, Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scouts in conservation and related subjects.

He also presents environmental programs at Shippensburg University and participates in Conservation District environmental education programs.



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Page 47

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