



We work with the people who work the land.

## **2010 ANNUAL REPORT (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)**

### **Rural Conservation Program**

● Prepare conservation farm/land management plans for farmers and other land users to help them implement ag BMPs designed to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality and meet requirements of Federal, State, and local government programs including:

#### State Programs

- VA Ag BMP Cost-Share & Tax Credit Program  
(104 plans on 5,635 acres)

#### Local Programs

- Small Acreage Grazing Plans (under 5 acres)  
- Ag and Forestal Districts Program  
- Land Use Tax Valuation Program  
- County building permits re: barns, sheds, etc.

#### Federal Programs available through the District

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program  
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program  
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative  
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program  
- Wetland Reserve Program

● Provide technical assistance to landowners/users re: natural resources conservation

● Administer VA Ag BMP Cost-Share Program to help farmers and land users pay for costs incurred in implementation of BMPs designed to improve water quality and quantity of surface and ground water, control point source and nonpoint source pollution, and prevent erosion.

VA Ag BMP Cost-Share paid 2010: \$ 305,786.46, including carryover funds.

TMDL Ag Cost-Share paid 2010: \$ 61,795.44

TMDL Residential Cost-Share paid 2010: \$ 81,558.15

● Monitor activities and legislation affecting local agricultural and conservation issues VASWCD, NACD, federal, local, state government.

● Work with environmentally oriented groups and organizations to monitor streams, encourage good soil and water conservation habits and appreciation of the environment

Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance  
Earth Day at Loudoun Planning Committee  
Arbor Day Planning Committee  
Loudoun Watershed Watch  
Regional Agriculture Working Group  
Rural Economic Development Council

● Provide information to HOAs, individual homeowners regarding soils information and drainage and erosion concerns

### **Urban Conservation Program**

● Provide speakers for HOAs and other civic groups to address suburban homeowner's environmental concerns

Earth Day, Broadlands Wildlife Habitat Committee, Town of Leesburg, Town of Purcellville, and Elysian Heights HOA

● Provide technical assistance to watershed committees and other environmental groups  
Leesburg Watershed Committee, Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission

## **Information and Education**

- Provide Watershed Education Program for students and teachers including
  - water quality field trips for middle/high school students and teachers from Monroe Vo-Tech Center.
  - assistance to students working on environmental projects for class, Science Fair, etc.
  - exhibits for schools, libraries, community centers, special events

- Provide/sponsor special programs for teachers/educators.

As a part of Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, the District organized 2 environmental education teacher workshops for Loudoun teachers. Assisted in obtaining a \$1,000 grant for the LESA program.

- Provide and administer mini-grant program for teachers/educators for projects to enhance environmental science education programs.

Mini-grants were awarded to: Potowmack Elementary, Forest Grove Elementary, and Seneca Ridge Middle School.

- Provided 29 conservation education classroom programs to Loudoun elementary school students .

- Support and help to organize Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations. Earth Day at Loudoun was held April 25, 2010 in Broadlands and the Arbor Day Celebration was held April 24, 2010 at Morven Park.

- Develop and distribute fall/winter newsletter to more than 3500 cooperators and other interested individuals plus an Annual Report is available on the website.

- Prepare and submit articles to local news media as warranted/needed. District information is now included on the District website, [www.loudounsoilandwater.org](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.org) and the District Facebook page.

- Provide education materials to teachers, at no cost, for special programs such as Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

2010 S&W Stew. Week: materials sponsored by County School Board; 8,588 materials distributed to 37 schools by the District.

- Awarded a scholarship to a Loudoun student to attend Youth Conservation Camp.

- Sponsor annual Tree Seedling Sale, 12 Rain Barrel Workshops to encourage conservation awareness and to raise funds for the District Environmental Education Program.

- Participate in 4-H Ag Day. The soil tunnel was on display with students participating in a soils activity and constructing soil tubes.

- Hosted Catocin TMDL Final Meeting.

- Participated in Loudoun Valley High School Career Fair. Spoke to students about agriculture and conservation.

- Assisted with Extension/Virginia State University High Tunnel Raspberry grant proposal.

- Participated in the Loudoun County Science Fair. The District sponsored 3 awards and staff served as judges.

- This year the District was awarded "Education District of the Year" by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The District received a plaque and recognition at the VASWCD Annual Meeting.