

The Mountain SWCD assisted with the 6th annual 4-H Agriculture/Natural Resources Field Day held Friday, October 30th, for all 5th graders in the City of Covington and Alleghany County Schools. The Field Day was held at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College.



Teresa Reed, Ag Teacher at Alleghany High School, explains the enviroscope (A portable interactive educational watershed model on loan from Mountain SWCD)



There was a "milking station" that included a cow. Here the students learned about the daily operation of a Dairy.

<u>Soil Surveys</u>
Bath, Highland, and Alleghany County surveys are available on the internet at http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov . There are instructions to help guide the user in outlining an area of interest and producing a soil map and information. Additional soil reports and descriptions can be obtained at Soil Data Mart @ http://soildatamart.nrcs.gov which is fairly easy to navigate.



Let's talk about turtles.

4-H Center Station



The students had several different stations to visit on Ag. Day. Many included animals, such as goats, turtles, pigs, and chickens.

Thank You

We would like to thank all cooperating agencies and governmental units at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the fine people that encompass the Mountain District for their cooperation and support. The Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District program is a program for the people, and only through the cooperation of the people will it succeed.



We work with the people who work the land.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, BATH COUNTY, HIGHLAND COUNTY, and the CITY OF COVINGTON July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

MOUNTAIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
65 Courthouse Hill Rd.
P.O. Box 310, Warm Springs, Virginia 24484
540-839-4616 or 1-800-254-3854

The Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District, a legal subdivision within the state of Virginia, is charged with conserving the soil and water resources of Highland, Bath, and Alleghany Counties, and the City of Covington. The District works closely with the following agencies in order to help farmers, other landowners and land managers, businesses, and local units of government in the wise management and protection of their natural resources.

U.S. Government

National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)-Technical Assistance and Planning in conservation, Soil surveys

Forest Service-Management of National Forests and related Environmental Issues

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Cost Sharing for conservation practices

STATE OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Division of Soil & Water Conservation-The Administrative Agency for Conservation Districts provides guidance for employees, Erosion and Sediment Control, Conservation Tax Credits, and Nutrient Management Planning

The District is governed by a Board of Directors, who serve without salary and are elected by the voters of the District. Two Directors are elected from each county unit. Berkley C., Extension Agent, Bath/Highland County, is appointed by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board for a 4-yr. term. Ellen Ford, Bath County, is also appointed by the

Board to serve as a Director-At-Large for a 4-yr. term. The composition of the Board as of January 1, 2020 is as follows:

Chair Ellen Ford
Bath County

Vice Chair Terry King
Asso. Director Bath County

Secretary Dave Peters
Asso. Director Bath County

Treasurer L. Ryan Hodges III
Bath County

MEMBERS:

Allen Dressler
Robert Short, Sr.

City of Covington
Rodney P. Leech

Ari Daniels
Highland County
Christine Hodges

John Quantz, Sr.
Alleghany County
Floyd C. McCoy, Jr.

Bath County
Douglas Horn
Ext. Agent Appt.

Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the **Department of Conservation and Recreation. (DCR)** Also, with the help of local funds, and self-generated funds from the equipment program, the District employs Lorie Baldwin, Office Administrator; Sue Ailstock, part-time BMP Coordinator; and Chris Swecker, Conservation Specialist.

All of the District's programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, regardless of age, color, race, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, marital or familial status, or any other basis protected by law.

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Mountain



MOUNTAIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Sue, Chris and Lorie

The Mountain Soil & Water District meets the third Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

District donations and activities

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

GRASSWORKS WEED WIPER

The Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District's now owns a GrassWorks Weed Wiper. It helps eliminate noxious weeds fast, effective, and economically. It allows the landowner to run the specialized synthetic carpet covered steel rotating drum very saturated. Therefore an ample amount of chemical is available to apply to the targeted weeds. With this constant rotation, any drip issues are eliminated. It applies the chemicals to the stems and the underside of the leaves. This is the weakest portion of the plants which provides an excellent kill. With the adjustment height chemicals are only applied to the targeted weeds and not wasting chemicals on the desirable crops, grasses, and clovers that the landowner wants to keep. (3) landowners rented the Weed Wiper this year which resulted in 62 acres being treated.

NO-TILL SEEDER

A major emphasis of any soil & water conservation district is reducing soil erosion and improving water quality. One thrust of the Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the use of no-till seeding. The District owns two seeders. During the year 721 acres of orchard grass, clover, timothy, rye, and alfalfa were seeded, resulting in a soil savings of 1,911 tons of soil that would have been downhill, possibly entering our streams and rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.

POULTRY LITTER SPREADER

The Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District owns three poultry litter spreaders. They are used to help landowners spread their litter more efficiently and therefore help to improve water quality. It gives landowners a better understanding of nutrient management and the importance of following nutrient management plans. The District rents the spreaders out on a daily basis. During the year 65 days were utilized spreading litter and lime (61 days for poultry litter and 4 days of spreading lime.). This resulted in 2,996 acres being applied using "Mini-Nutrient" plans.

PASTURE & CROP DRAG

The MSWCD owns a pasture drag to better distribute manure into the ground and reduce runoff in early spring months. We had (14) landowners rent the Drag with 681 acres being treated.

MULTI FLORA ROSE PROGRAM

The Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District is heavily involved in the administration and coordination of Bath County's multi-flora rose program. During the year 59 landowners were serviced with 2,530 acres of land treated. This resulted in 116 mixes of spray being distributed. The County of Bath purchased 143 (2 oz.) containers of Ally and 71 gallons of Aquagene.

CHESAPEAKE BAY COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District includes both the James River Watershed, and is the headwaters for the Potomac River. The Virginia Agriculture Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program (VACS) is administered by (DCR) Department of Conservation & Recreation through local SWCD's as well as the state portion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The program's goal is to improve water quality in our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. We paid out the following in Cost-Share Payments from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:

VACS Total Paid : \$212,693.62 (\$ 10,295.26 for 2017 CB VACS Transfer, \$ 24,508.39 2018 CB VACS, \$ 58,078.97 2019 CB VACS, \$119,811.00 2020 CB VACS)

Several Best Management Programs (BMP's) funded by the state help the district to implement the Nutrient reduction strategies. Some of the more popular practices used were:

SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/ wide buffer & grazing land mgmt.
SL-6N Stream Exclusion w/ narrow buffer & grazing land mgmt.
WP-2N Stream Protection (fencing w/narrow width buffer)
WP-2W Stream Protection (fencing w/wide width buffer)

SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop
SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop
SL-1 Long Term Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland
FR-3 Woodland Buffer and Filter Area