



2009 HIGHLIGHTS MONTGOMERY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Our Mission

The Montgomery Soil Conservation District (MSCD) provides soil conservation and water quality guidance and assistance to county farmers and landowners. MSCD is dedicated to helping cooperators make sound management decisions and implement effective conservation practices to protect natural resources. MSCD encourages landowners to participate in incentive programs offered by state and federal agencies to help cover the costs of installing conservation practices on their property. With a growing equestrian community, MSCD focuses conservation efforts on horse farms. Montgomery County passed a law in 2004 requiring equestrian facilities with more than 10 horses to have a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan written by MSCD. This law is unique in the state and should encourage horse farm operators to practice sound conservation on their land. MSCD has established an Equine Resource Conservationist position to address the needs of the growing horse industry. MSCD also provides information to the public on drainage, soil erosion and agricultural issues and offers a variety of workshops and training opportunities for residents.

Staffing	County	State	Federal	Needs
District Manager	.75	.25		
District Conservationist			1	
Soil Conservationist			1	
Soil Conservationist Technician				1
Agricultural Planner		1		1
Soil Conservation Engineer Technician		1		
Resource Conservationist	1			
Equine Planner	1			
Secretarial/Support Staff	.5	.5		

Current Staff and Operating Budgets		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$ 194,732	\$ 29,210
State	190,186	12,335
County (agricultural)	343,590	11,280
Total	\$ 728,508	\$ 52,825

2009 Accomplishments

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 39 SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 4,504 acres of farmland.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Worked with landowners to install 283 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality

Environmental Education—Partnered with Montgomery Cooperative Extension to provide the hands-on education program, *Close Encounters with Agriculture*, to more than 2,700 4th grade students.

Equestrian Outreach—Conducted pasture walks and other educational events to educate horse owners about soil conservation and water quality planning.

Cover Crops—Provided outreach and technical assistance to 26 farmers who planted 7,182 acres of Cover Crop to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

