



2009 HIGHLIGHTS SOMERSET SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Our Mission

The Somerset Soil Conservation District is located in the southernmost region of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Broilers, corn, soybeans, vegetables, swine and dairy operations comprise the agricultural makeup of the area. Because of its agricultural productivity, Somerset County is ranked among the top 100 agricultural counties in the United States. Developing Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs) to protect the environment and implementing the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program are chief priorities for the district’s technical staff. Additionally, district staffers are involved in planning and implementing strategies to reduce agricultural nutrients in Lower Eastern Shore watersheds as part of the Chesapeake Bay’s Tributary Strategies. Drainage is a major concern for district staff. Many of the streams and rivers in the county are tidal, and approximately two-thirds of the soils have impeded drainage. Moreover, only about ten percent of the county’s soils can be farmed without artificial drainage. Helping farmers maintain good drainage is a major concern for the Somerset Soil Conservation District.

Staffing	District	County	State	Federal
District Manager			1	
District Conservationist				.5
Soil Conservationist				1
Soil Conservationist Technician				1
Agricultural Planner			2	
Secretarial/Support Staff			.5	
Grant Planner	1			

Current Staff and Operating Budgets		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$ 75,362	\$ 11,304
State	269,198	22,979
Grants	40,000	0
Total	\$ 384,560	\$ 34,283

## 2009 Accomplishments

**Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)**—Developed 56 comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 2,069 acres of farmland. Updated 75 additional plans covering 3,296 acres.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**—Worked with farmers on 82 projects which included numerous BMPs.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**—Reviewed 28 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects affecting 918 acres of land.

**Forestry Plans**—Developed 21 forestry plans for 902 acres of land.

**Cover Crop Program**—Provided technical assistance to farmers who planted 8,216 acres of cover crops during the 2009-2010 planting season.



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