



**2009 HIGHLIGHTS WORCESTER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## Our Mission

The Worcester Soil Conservation District is located on the southern tip of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Worcester County is unique because it drains to both the Chesapeake Bay and the inland bays of the Atlantic Ocean. The region is strongly influenced by the poultry industry, with cash grain farms comprising a large portion of the agricultural market. The Pocomoke River provides drainage to four of the top 30 priority watersheds for pollution potential to the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Development pressures in the coastal areas have increased over the past several years. The district’s urban responsibilities now include the review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans for county and municipal construction projects. On the farm, district staff works to develop Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs) to protect natural resources and farm profitability. The district promotes the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program, which has been widely used by farmers to help cover the costs of water quality improvement projects. The district also develops shallow water wildlife areas to help protect this environmentally-sensitive area. Additional priorities include implementing a shoreline stabilization and coastal dune maintenance program, and helping farmers comply with the Nutrient Management Law and new MAFO/CAFO regulations.

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

Current Staff and Operating Budgets		
	Staff	Operating
Federal	\$ 245,710	\$ 36,856
State	232,674	31,059
County (agricultural)	32,000	4,000
Total	\$ 510,384	\$ 71,915

## 2009 Accomplishments

### Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—

Developed 55 comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 3,500 acres of farmland. Updated 41 additional plans covering 5,700 acres.

### Best Management Practices (BMPs)—

Helped farmers to install 211 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality.

### Erosion and Sediment Control—

Approved 51 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects to ensure their effectiveness in protecting 311 acres of land.

### Financial Incentive Programs—

Increased farmer participation in the cover crop program and other federal and state cost-share programs; provided technical assistance to farmers who planted 15,500 acres of cover crops during the 2009 planting season.



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