



CONSERVATION NEWS

Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District
6969 Fox Hunt Lane, P. O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061
Phone : (804) 693-3562 ext. 5 Fax : (804) 694-5921
www.tidewaterswcd.org

Summer 2016 Serving the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex

You are invited to attend our Strategic Planning Meeting

Wednesday, July 27th @ 8:30 a.m.

**At Daffodil Gardens, 5954 Garden Grove Lane
Gloucester VA**

RSVP by Thursday, July 14th

at 804-693-3562 Ext. 5 or email lcalhoun@tidewaterswcd.org

The Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District is requesting your assistance in preparing our new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. In order to effectively serve Mathews, Middlesex, and Gloucester citizens we need to be aware of your natural resources concerns. Our mission is to promote the conservation of natural resources through stewardship, outreach, and education. We welcome your suggestions and comments on how we can successfully fulfill this mission. Please share this invitation with anyone who would be interested in assisting us draft our new Strategic Plan. For your review follow the link to our current [Strategic Plan](#). You may also request the current Strategic Plan be mailed to you by calling at 804-693-3562 Ext. 5. Written comments are welcomed and should be submitted by July 22nd.

Registration will begin at **8:30 a.m.** with a **free light breakfast**. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 11:00 a.m. Tidewater SWCD will hold a Board of Directors meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Strategic Planning meeting. We look forward to your participation at our Strategic Planning Meeting.

Stay safe and enjoy your Summer!

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Cost Share Sign-up

Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District would like to announce the Cost Share Sign-up of the new program year (PY17) will **begin in July and end in August**. Exact dates will be shared soon in a separate mailing. This is the time to sign up for Winter Cover Crops, Nutrient Management Plan Writing, Split Application of Nitrogen on small grains, Side Dressing Nitrogen on corn or any other BMP practice. There is a new Precision Ag BMP this year and more specific details will be available at sign-up.

Nutrient Management plans are all on a one year sign up now. Please remember that if a private plan writer prepares your plan to sign up in our office and contact your writer as soon as possible to get this plan completed and into our office. These plans are required by many BMP practices before payments can be completed. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions at 804-693-3562 Ext 5.

We look forward to working with all of you in 2016-2017.

Welcome Kristal Evens

Tidewater SWCD proudly announces that Kristal Dawn Evens (McKelvey) assumed the role of Conservation Assistant on December 1, 2015. She graduated from Mathews High School and while in attendance there she served as an Associate Director on the Tidewater SWCD Board. She then earned a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Biology from Warren Wilson College. Kristal has a variety of work experience including protecting endangered species in South Carolina and Virginia. She also worked for the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage while living in Richmond. She says, "I am honored to be a part of the Tidewater SWCD team and to have this opportunity to contribute to my hometown community through the conservation of natural resources and environmental education. I have enjoyed getting to know the local producers and working with them on our programs. Also I look forward to learning about ways to help individual residential landowners too!" We are glad she has joined us – come by and say hello to our newest team member.



FSA County Committee Nomination Period in Middlesex County Now Open

The nomination period for the Gloucester/Mathews/Middlesex Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Gloucester/Mathews/Middlesex County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016. County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level. To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in LAA 3, Middlesex. Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members. FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the Gloucester/Mathews/Middlesex Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

Important Meeting Dates

For more information on any of the meetings contact David Moore Extension Agent Phone: 804-758-4120

Hay and Pasture Clinic

July 26, 2016 Nick's Restaurant 10:00 am (Conclude with Lunch)

Speakers Include

Dr. Chris Teutsch, Forages Specialist, Southern Piedmont AREC

Graduate Student-Dr. Teutsch

MacKenzie Moore, VCE Summer Intern

David Moore, VCE Middlesex

AG Road Law

August 2, 2016 Nick's Restaurant 10:00 am (Conclude with Lunch)

Speakers Include

Representative of Virginia State Police Common Carrier Division

Representative Virginia State Police

Middle Peninsula Field Day

August 10, 2016 beginning at 4:00 pm (Concludes with Dinner at Nick's)

Old School Farm-Route 14 Cologne, VA

Topics include:

Corn Hybrid Evaluations

Soybean Plant Populations

New Soybean Herbicide Technology and Weed Science Update

Pest Management and Marketing Updates

Agency Updates

Pending approval for Category 90 Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification



Bulk Rate
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Gloucester, VA
Non-Profit
Permit No. 53

P.O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061

District Directors

Daniel Rilee-Gloucester-Chairman
William Richardson, Jr.-At Large Vice Chairman
Keith Horsley-Gloucester-Treasurer
Jason Bray-Middlesex-Secretary
David Moore-At Large-VCE
Robert Respass, Jr-Mathews
Ronnie Lewis-Mathews
Alan Sutherland-Middlesex

Return Service Requested

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All programs, services, and employment opportunities of the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, handicap, or political affiliation.

District Personnel

LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
Carl Thiel-Goin - Conservation/Education Specialist
Kristal Evens - Conservation Assistant

NRCS Personnel

Mike Combs-District Conservationist
Sean Allen- Soil Conservationist

Newsletter Mailing

In order to help us conserve our natural resources please notify the office if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to you.

Call 804-693-3562 Ext. 5
or
Email lcalhoun@tidewaterswcd.org