



Conservation Practices

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan

- Commonly referred to as a Conservation Plan
- Constructed to identify and address all resource concerns on the subject property
- Written as a result of a request for assistance from a landowner or tenant on the property.
- All resource concerns are addressed and placed on a schedule of implementation during the 10 year life of the plan.
- Strictly voluntary implementation except violations of nutrient management regulations.

Frederick County numbers

- There are approximately 188,000 agriculture acres in Frederick County based on the 2017 Ag Census
- There are 83,000 acres covered under current conservation plans.
- Planners update the plans when a new practice is added to the plan
- They also update expired plans that are older than their 10 year life.
- Currently the district is understaffed with planners but are hiring for the position at both the federal and state level.
- Conservation plans are the first step in applying for cost share assistance for the installation of Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices

- Commonly referred to as BMPs or simply practices.
- Designed and constructed to address resource concerns in the Conservation Plan such as erosion and sediment entering streams and rivers, exclusion of livestock from streams, manure management, and nutrient management.
- Some examples are Tree and Grass Stream Buffers, exclusionary stream fencing for livestock, Grassed Waterways, Manure Storage, Roof Runoff structures, watering facilities to provide water for livestock excluded from streams, and conversion of crop ground to pasture for grazing livestock.
- Cover Crop is also a BMP that plants fall small grain to utilize leftover nitrogen from row crops and maintain a root system through the winter to help prevent soil loss through erosion.

Frederick County numbers

- During the past 12 months, Frederick County has completed the installation of the following practices:
 - 6.5 acres of Grassed Waterways to prevent erosion and loss of topsoil.
 - 667 acres of Pasture and Hay planting
 - 30 Watering Facilities and 4 Spring Developments
 - 6 Waste Storage Structures for livestock
 - 4 Roof Runoff structures to channel rainwater away from barnyards and into gutters and downspouts to be discharged into grassy areas.
 - In the fall of 2021, county farmers planted over 30,000 acres of cover crop as part of the MACS cost share program.

Frederick Soil Conservation District

Annual	Unit	2020 Progress	Progress Towards Goal	2025 WIP III Goal
Conservation Tillage	Acres	12,261	61%	20,000
Conservation Tillage - High Residue	Acres	40,871	100%	40,871
Cover Crop - Commodity	Acres	15,693	442%	3,549
Cover Crop - Traditional	Acres	32,043	99%	32,385
Crop Irrigation Management	Acres	-	0%	1,000
Dairy Precision Feeding	Animal Units	-		-
Manure Incorporation & Injection	Acres	11,808	129%	9,169
Manure Transport	Dry Tons	1,555	189%	823
Nursery Capture & Reuse	Acres		0%	25
Nutrient Management Core N and P	Percent Compliance	68%	97%	70%
Poultry Litter Amendments	Animal Units			-
Soil and Water Conservation Plan	Acres	75,664	80%	95,000

Cumulative	Unit	2020 Progress	Progress Towards Goal	2025 WIP III Goal
Agricultural Drainage Management	Acres Treated	-		-
Agricultural Stormwater Management	Acres Treated	-		-
Alternative Crops	Acres	-		-
Animal Waste Management Systems - Livestock	Animal Units	19,152	113%	16,997
Animal Waste Management Systems - Poultry	Animal Units	3,336	21%	16,207
Barnyard Runoff Control & Loafing Lot Management	Acres	164	114%	144
Ditch Filters (P-Sorbing)	Acres Treated	-		-
Forest Buffer Exclusion	Acres in Buffers	83	131%	63
Forest Buffers	Acres in Buffers	2,203	73%	3,000
Grass Buffer Exclusion	Acres in Buffers	85	38%	222
Grass Buffers	Acres in Buffers	474	81%	582
Horse Pasture Management	Acres	122	154%	79
Land Retirement (Open and Conversion to Pasture)	Acres	2,922	89%	3,269
Mortality Composting - Poultry	Animal Units	383	33%	1,167
Non Urban Shoreline Management	Feet	-		-
Non Urban Stream Restoration	Feet	570	38%	1,500
Pasture Alternative Watering	Acres	9,222	491%	1,878
Prescribed Grazing	Acres	1,274	67%	1,900
Tree Planting	Acres	211	94%	225
Wetland Restoration	Acres	-		-