

PRINCE WILLIAM SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

13061 Fitzwater Drive, Nokesville, VA 20181

(703) 594-3621 www.pwswcd.org

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Jeannie Heflin, Office Manager
Beata Coss, Conservation Specialist
Nicole Ethier, Conservation Specialist
Joan Patterson, Education Specialist
Kelly Jimenez, Outreach & Education Specialist



Award Winners

Ducks Unlimited - Conservationist of the Year

ERIC VANNORTWICK, ADOPT-A-STREAM STEWARD

Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Bay Friendly Clean Water Award

HERON RIDGE FARM

HARRY AND STACY DAUGHERTY

Prince William Soil and Water
Conservation District



*Inspiring personal responsibility
for our environment and natural
resources*



Our Mission:

The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance, information, and education.

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Agriculture

Our Mission: To educate, motivate, and inspire agricultural landowners and other interested members of the community to recognize, value, and protect our natural resources.



Buffer on a Horse Farm

Accomplishments:

Pounds of Nitrogen Reduction: 657.62

Pounds of Phosphorus Reduction: 42.47

Soil & Water Quality Conservation Plans written: 32

Soil & Water Quality Conservation Plans re-evaluated: 13

Number of Acres Affected: 828.9

Number of Animals Affected: 234

Conservation Articles Published: 23

Attendees at Conservation Seminars: 79



Horse Farm #2

Kennedy Farm

 5 acres

 4 horses

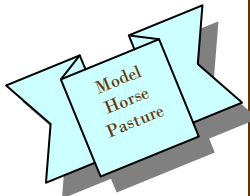
Project goals and objectives:

Horse farms on small-acreage continue to replace large-scale, traditional farming operations throughout the state, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas. These horse farm operators lack the knowledge of land management that traditional farmers possess through generations of farming and agricultural higher education. Small-acreage horse farm operators typically try to manage (or mis-manage) their 5-10 acre property in much the same way as they did their suburban lawn. Misapplication of amendments such as lime and fertilizer combined with high stocking rates and poor manure management lead to significant and readily apparent water quality concerns. Nutrient-rich, sediment laden, and even pesticide polluted, runoff enters local waterways, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. We will:

- Estimate the current nutrient-rich sediment runoff using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) data and from use of the Virginia Tech rainfall simulator; assess stream condition
- Identify or develop Best Mgmt. Practices (BMPs) to comprehensively address NPS pollution generated by farming practices
- Install BMPs and adopt improved management strategies with a contractual commitment from the landowners to maintain the practices
- Re-evaluate runoff using RUSLE and rainfall simulator data; reassess stream condition using consultant expertise
- Share results with horse community locally, with the County Public Works Department, State and federal partner agencies, and with colleges and universities across Virginia
- Model farms will be monitored and used for ongoing education



Chesapeake Bay ~ Friendly Horse Farm Project



Healthy and happy horses enjoy grazing on a picturesque, small-acreage and environmentally-savvy horse farm in Gainesville, Va.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay depends upon cooperation by all land users-- including our horse farms.

The Board of Directors and Staff of PWSWCD applied for a Water Quality Improvement Fund grant through the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to identify two horse farms that do not meet the DCR cost-share program definition of agriculture and address their non-point source (NPS) pollution impacts, such as, pasture management, manure management, mud management and waterway protection.



Horse Farm #1
McDonnell Farm

 5 acres

 3 horses



Education

Our Mission: We will improve the local and downstream water quality for the future and reduce soil loss in our community by educating youth about the importance of natural resources. They will learn how to sustain a healthy environment that balances human, plant, and animal needs for habitat.



Soils Program Capsule

Accomplishments:

Youths in conservation programs: 14,237

Teachers receiving assistance: 927

Citizens stream education participants: 340

Farm Field Days participants: 1,450

Schoolyard Habitats supported: 2

Citizens Receiving Information: 4,668

Teacher Newsletters distributed: 23,527

Participants in Arbor Day: 1,140

Adopt-A-Stream

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District locally promotes the Adopt-A-Stream program with support from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and PWC Watershed Mgmt. Branch. There are about 1,100 miles of streams in Prince William County. Currently we have 51.2 miles of stream which have been adopted from program inception-to-date.



Veteran's Park Clean Up

Accomplishments:

New miles adopted in FY 2008: 11.05

Miles currently in the program: 49.62

Pounds of trash removed from streams FY '08: 29,439

Participants in clean-ups in FY 2008: 444

Pounds of trash removed from streams inception to date: 54,255

Participants in clean-ups inception to date: 2,266

Farm Field Days -- Awesome volunteers, one and all!



Mrs. Patterson enlightens students about organics and sustainability



Tree Growth program presented by a Master Gardener



Osborn Park students teach the agricultural regions of Virginia



PW Farm Bureau Women's Committee member talks about crops



Children's Farm provided by PWC Animal Control



Tractor talk by Jim Yankey

Farm Field Days

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors and staff hosted 1,450 fourth grade students over two days at Prince William Fairgrounds. Students came from 13 Prince William County schools, 1 private school, 1 home school, 1 special education class, and 1 City of Manassas school. Two hundred teachers and chaperones were served and 100 volunteers provided support to the Board of Directors and six District staff members.

PWSWCD Staff (l to r): Joan Patterson, Linda Johnston, Kate Norris, Beata Coss, Nicole Ethier and Jeannie Heflin



Volunteers from the following agencies make Farm Field Days happen: Prince William/Fairfax Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Staff of Prince William/Fairfax Farm Bureau, PWC Animal Control, PWC Cooperative Extension & Master Gardeners, PWC 4-H, Veteran Farm Club, PWC Public Works, Va. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, PWC School Staff, City of Manassas Schools, John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Lake Jackson Fire and Rescue, Nokesville Horse Society, Osborn Park High School as well as many local farmers and community members.

And many thanks to our sponsors: Prince William/Fairfax Farm Bureau, Nokesville Ruritans, BB&T, Harris Teeter, Chick Fil-A, Panera Bread Co., Prince William Farm Club, and the Wild Bird Center at Lake Ridge.

Eric VanNortwick "Conservationist of the Year"



Joan Patterson, Adopt-A-Stream coordinator (left), Eric VanNortwick (center) and Chip Rohr, Chairman, Ducks Unlimited (right)

Mr. VanNortwick was recognized for his extraordinary commitment to improving the water quality of Neabsco Creek. Mr. VanNortwick joined the Adopt-A-Stream program by agreeing to clean up a one mile segment in Andrew Leitch Park. He also joined the Adopt-A-Spot program sponsored by Prince William Clean Community Council. In a 9 month period Mr. VanNortwick cleaned Neabsco Creek 26 times, devoting 78 hours of his time, removing 2,320 pounds of trash from 11 miles of Stream-bank. Additionally Mr. VanNortwick mentored students from Benton Middle School as they organized and conducted their first clean up.

We appreciate his efforts and the efforts of all the Adopt-A-Stream volunteers. Together we can all do our part to help "Clean Up the Bay".



Tree Seedling Sale



“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they shall never sit in”.

A Greek Proverb



Accomplishments:

Citizens served: 59

Seedlings distributed: 1,987

Seedling varieties sold: sixteen varieties listed below

Bald Cypress

Chinese Dogwood

Eastern Redbud

Persimmon

Sassafras

Tulip Poplar

Red Maple

Sugar Maple

Northern Red Oak

Willow Oak

Loblolly Pine

Virginia Pine

Sweetbay Magnolia

Virginia Sweetspire

Winterberry Holly

Witch Hazel

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

Martin Luther (1483-1546)