



SHENANDOAH VALLEY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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WWW.SVSWCD.ORG

MISSION: *To promote stewardship and conservation of our natural resources.*

FACT SHEET

- ⇒ **Founded in 1940**
- ⇒ **Serves Rockingham and Page Counties and the City of Harrisonburg**
- ⇒ **8 Directors, 8 Associate Directors, 6 Staff Members**
- ⇒ **District funded by local, state, and federal sources**
- ⇒ **MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC**
- ⇒ **www.svswcd.org**

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

Virginia Agricultural Best Management Cost-Share Program

- ◆ Improve water quality in the State's streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.
- ◆ Offers cost-share and technical assistance to landowners as an incentive to voluntarily implement BMPs to meet Virginia's non-point source pollution water quality objectives.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL)

- ◆ Eligible Watersheds:
 - ◆ Cooks Creek/Blacks Run-Rockingham County & City of Harrisonburg
 - ◆ Mill Creek/Hawksbill Creek-Page County
- ◆ 2 staff dedicated to this program (1 Agricultural Technician, 1 Residential Technician). TMDL programs are for targeted watersheds that include streams on Virginia's list of impaired waters. These streams are impaired for excessive amounts of bacteria and/or sediment and are not suitable for recreational uses.
- ◆ Technicians provide technical and financial assistance for both Agricultural and Residential BMPs available to landowners in the TMDL watersheds.

Dam Maintenance

- ◆ The District is responsible for the maintenance of 8 out of 11 Flood Control Dams/Structures in Rockingham and Page Counties.

Education & Outreach

Envirothon

- ◆ One day field oriented environmental competition for high school students focusing on topics including: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils & an environmental issue
- ◆ With help from partner agencies the District annually organizes and sponsors a local competition where students can advance to the area, state and national competition

Scholarships

- ◆ District annually provides scholarships to students pursuing careers in environmental or agricultural fields
- ◆ District sponsors high school aged students to attend Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech. This camp is a week of hands on fun & learning with a focus on agricultural and environmental issues

Annual Recognition & Awards

- ◆ Provides the Clean Water Farm Award to a farm in each county to recognize outstanding conservation achievements
- ◆ Recognizes the outstanding conservation efforts of farmers and other groups and individuals

Outreach Activities

- ◆ Rockingham and Page County Fairs, Clean-up Day Events, Earth Day Events, Teacher Workshops, Tree & Shrub Program, Farmer Field Days, Trade Shows, Presentations to Schools, Civic and Community Organizations



GLOSSARY

- ◆ **SWCD**—Soil & Water Conservation District
- ◆ **VDACS**—Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- ◆ **DEQ**—Department of Environmental Quality
- ◆ **NRCS**—Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ **DOF**—Department of Forestry
- ◆ **VCE**—Virginia Cooperative Extension
- ◆ **NPS**—National Park Service
- ◆ **EPA**—Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ **CBF**—Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- ◆ **SRC&D**—Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council
- ◆ **USFS**—United States Forest Service
- ◆ **TMDL**—Total Maximum Daily Load
- ◆ **BMP**—Best Management Practice
- ◆ **NPS**—Non-Point Source Pollution
- ◆ **Cost-Share**—Financial assistance provided to landowners as an incentive to install a Best Management Practice
- ◆ **Riparian**—of or relating to or located on the banks of a river or stream