Supply multiple pastures with water. One watering facility can supply two pastures. Cost share is available through both the Maryland Department of Agriculture cost share program and NRCS programs. Maintenance on a pressure fed system is minimal. One drawback of this system is drought. During dry times the water table may drop below the perforated underground collection pipe, causing the waterer to go dry. This type of waterer guarantees a source of fresh water and is only used when the livestock needs it. Maintenance on a pressure fed system is minimal. One disadvantage is the need for electricity. If power goes out, the trough will not refill. And some designs require constant use to keep water from freezing which could be a problem with small herds. These systems may also be more expensive if a pressure tank is not already available. Watering facilities become high traffic areas, so it is important to also install a Heavy Use Area Protection around them. Waterers can stand alone or be placed in series to supply multiple pastures with water. One watering facility can supply two pastures with water if it is placed on the fence line. Contact us for more information about watering facilities. Cost share is available through both the Maryland Department of Agriculture cost share program and NRCS programs.

**ANNE ARUNDEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
Chair: Brian Riddle
Vice Chair: Gary Palmer
Treasurer: Vaughn Foxwell
Secretary: Dave Myers
John Colhoun, Member
Emily Wilson, Member
Mike Superzynski, Associate
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**THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION!**

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**REST STOP & FAST FOOD**
A message from the District Manager, John Czajkowski
Most people can relate to stopping to eat along the way when taking a long road trip. Whether it be fast food or a full service restaurant, it’s a chance to replenish your body and regain energy to continue the journey. Sometimes an overnight stay is even required. For some, a long trip is 150 miles – for others, it may be 800 miles. For the monarch butterfly, it’s up to 3,000 miles. Well, that is stretching the truth a bit. You see, the individual monarch really doesn’t make the trip from Mexico to Maryland. Instead, the butterfly that arrives in Maryland is a distant relative of the one that started the journey from Mexico. None the less, as the monarchs fly north to recolonize North America, they stop along the way to breed and reproduce. Naturally they need specific plants to do both. Unfortunately, finding these “restaurants” and “accommodations” is becoming more difficult for the monarch. Native plants are not only a source of food but pharmacies as well. Some monarchs, when afflicted with parasites, seek out more toxic types of milkweed because they kill the parasites. Unfortunately, studies show Iowa has lost almost 60% of its milkweed. As we develop more land and farm more, there are fewer and fewer rest stops. We can all help by planting rest areas that have the supplies the monarch needs. Creating pollinator gardens can help not only the monarch but other beneficial insects as well. You can be part of the solution.

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The monarch butterfly is dependent on milkweed plants. It is where butterflies lay their eggs and larvae consume milkweed almost exclusively.
‘Rest Stops’ continued
NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners manage for monarch habitat on farms, ranches and forests. This assistance helps producers plan and implement a variety of conservation activities, or practices, that benefit the monarch, pollinators and many other wildlife species. The best part: the technical assistance is free to producers and financial assistance may be available. Contact our office for more information on how you can become a ‘rest stop’ for monarch butterflies and other important pollinators.

DIID YOU KNOW?
Pollinators’ ecological service is valued at $200 billion each year in the United States. The Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) offers more than three-dozen conservation activities that can benefit pollinators.

Visit nrcs.usda.gov for more information or contact one of our Soil Conservation Specialists to find out how you can install pollinator-friendly BMPs on your property.

COVER CROPS UPDATE
by David Scheler
Anne Arundel County farmers are helping to improve soil and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by planting cover crops on harvested farmland. Small grain such as barley, wheat and rye are planted following harvest of corn, soybeans, sorghum, and vegetables. Once established, cover crops will absorb any unused nutrients in the soil from the previously harvested crop. Also, cover crops help protect against water and wind erosion and help renew the soil.

For the 2018-2019 Cover Crop Program in Anne Arundel County, 29 farmers signed up to plant approximately 6,000 acres of cover crops. During that period, 26 farmers planted 3,937 acres of small grain in their harvested fields. Farmers received a total payout of $233,046.

MASCD SUMMER MEETING
by John Czajkowski
The Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) held its summer meeting on August 5th through the 7th in Ellicott City. One of the main topics of discussion was meeting the state’s Watershed Implementation (WIP) goals. Each District has a set of goals they need to reach by 2025.

We will reach our goals in Anne Arundel County (as will other districts in their counties) through the development of new or revised Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (Fann Plan) and the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). AASCD is tasked with meeting the WIP goals on the agriculture side. Anne Arundel County government is doing their part to reach their goals on the urban side by making improvements to waste treatment plants, stream renovation, stormwater management and septic tank upgrades.

Keeping your farm plan up to date is critical for our success. If your farm plan is more than ten years old or if there have been changes to your farm operation, please call us so we can bring it up to date. If you are a new farmer and would like a farm plan, please contact us. There is no cost for a farm plan and our soil conservation specialists are here to help you develop a plan that works for you.

Also, if you notice an erosion problem on your farm that you have been meaning to take care of, now is the time! Cost share assistance is often available for best management practices. Remember, we are all in this together. The AASCD is here as a resource and a partner - not an enforcer. Together, we can meet our WIP goals and help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

JOIN US FOR THE AASCD ANNUAL BANQUET
OCTOBER 10, 2019 AT 6 P.M. AT MICHAEL’S ON THE SOUTH RIVER
You’re invited to the AASCD Annual Banquet, held on Thursday, October 10 at Michael’s on the South River. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the evening program at 7 p.m. We will honor Chaney’s Promise Farm, the 2019 AASCD Conservationist of the Year, along with other groups and individuals who are making a positive contribution to conservation in the county. Tickets are $30 per person, available through the District office. Please contact Keli Kirby kkirby@aascd.org for more information and to register.

WATERING FACILITIES
by John Czajkowski
Watering facilities are arguably the most valuable Best Management Practices (BMP) that a landowner can install. On the conservation side, they allow a landowner to provide water for livestock without accessing a stream, thus reducing nutrients and sediment from entering the Bay. Most stream corridors are wooded or have steep slopes and watering facilities allow the landowner to visually monitor the livestock without worrying about what is in the water upstream.

There is peace of mind knowing the water is clean and landowners can also monitor the animal’s intake of water. There are many types of troughs or waterers that can be installed — and they fall in two broad categories: waterers fed by natural springs and pressure fed waterers.

Spring-fed waterers do not require electricity to pump or heat water. Gravity provides constant flow which in turn keeps the water from freezing. These waterers are usually a round concrete trough with a 12-inch hole in the middle of the floor. Perforated pipes in a bed of stone are used to collect the subsurface water and the underground line becomes a solid pipe that runs downhill to the concrete trough. Generally, the water provides a lightweight, easy-to-install solution for watering livestock and often comes with a guarantee.