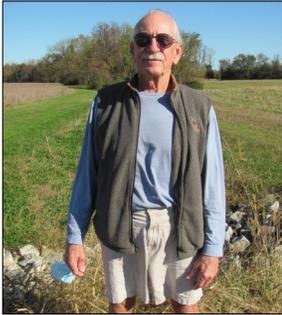


# CONSERVATION NEWS



Fall 2020

## BOB UNIATOWSKI NAMED 2020 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR



Bob continues to farm the land his father purchased in 1951 near Middletown. He no tills 120 acres on the home farm and another 255 acres of rented land. His father began no-tilling back in the 1970's under Dr. Bill Mitchell at the University of Delaware. He practices a corn and soybean rotation with a winter wheat cover crop. The biggest benefit of his conservation practices is controlling soil erosion and water quality as the land drains to Noxontown Pond. Grassed waterways and buffer strips around the fields assist in this effort. The District congratulates



Buffer strip around fields



Aerial seeded cover crop in corn stubble



Upper and lower end of clover seeded grassed waterway and outlet protected with riprap

Bob on being our Cooperator of the Year!

Bob promotes #team No-Till with photo taken on November 4th.



## #TEAM NO-TILL THIS FALL FOR NO-TILL NOVEMBER



**I no-till because:**  
*it protects the soil, builds organic matter, holds carbon, saves fuel and minimizes wear on my equipment.*

**Bill Alfree**

*Deer Crossing Farm  
Middletown, DE*



The New Castle Conservation District and the Delaware Conservation Partnership encourages farmers to join “#team no-till” this fall by leaving the residue on harvested crop fields to improve soil health during No-Till November. Improving soil health increases soil biological activity, provides nutrient benefits, reduces soil compaction, controls soil erosion, and improves water quality. To share how you use no-till on your farm contact Dastina Wallace, NRCS Public Affairs Officer at [Dastina.wallace@usda.gov](mailto:Dastina.wallace@usda.gov). All participating farmers will receive a free #team no-till gaiter from the Conservation District while supplies last. Additional resources and request form at [www.dacdnet.org](http://www.dacdnet.org).

Conservation District while supplies last. Additional resources and request form at [www.dacdnet.org](http://www.dacdnet.org).

# FALL A BUSY TIME FOR INSTALLATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Good weather late summer and early fall allowed for a number of projects to be installed around New Castle County. Recent projects include:

- ◆ Duncan Woods
- ◆ Brookmeade
- ◆ Calvarese Farms
- ◆ Woodburne
- ◆ Kirkwood Gardens
- ◆ Skyline Ridge
- ◆ Pike Creek Road and Pennock Road
- ◆ Melody Meadows—Misty Court
- ◆ Melody Meadows—Lullaby Lane
- ◆ Stones Throw Condominiums
- ◆ Caravel Farms—Forrestal Drive
- ◆ River Ridge
- ◆ Sunnybrae
- ◆ Timber Farms
- ◆ Weldin Park
- ◆ Brandywood



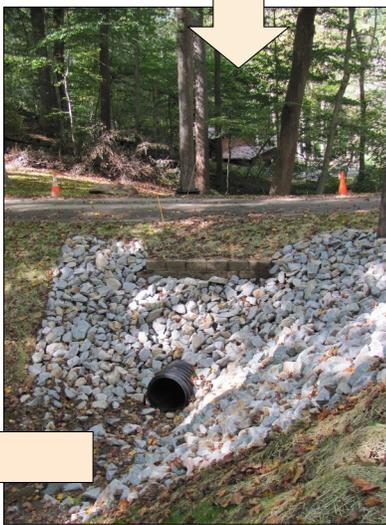
Brookmeade drainage



Embankment behind Kirkwood Gardens protected



Emergency road culvert repairs made after early August storms in the community of Skyline Ridge. Culvert pipe was filled with sediment and road was damaged. New pipe installed along with riprap to protect embankment from erosion.



Drainage system installed on residential lots in Timber Farms - Old Baltimore Pike



Drainage system in Melody Meadows—Lullaby Lane



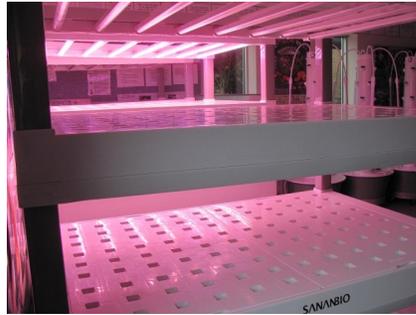
Yard in Sunnybrae protected with stone.



River Ridge drainage system

# URBAN AG COST-SHARE GRANT RECIPIENTS COMPLETE 2020 PROJECTS

The eleven funded urban agriculture projects wrapped up at the end of October. A video about vermicomposting was completed and a talk about season extension was part of the Village Tree’s virtual “Planting Hope” round table discussion. A Facebook Live session about pickling green tomatoes was held with the Rose Hill Community Center. The Odyssey Charter School garden and the Bellevue Farms gardens were two of the featured stops on the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition garden tour in late August.



Clockwise from left to right: hydroponic units at Odyssey Charter School, community garden at Newark Church of Christ, new fence at Delamore Place garden in Wilmington, and new recycled plastic raised garden beds at the Downtown Community Garden in Wilmington.

# CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROJECTS QUITE VARIED



Manure structure and concrete pad for beef cattle farm



Seven watering units for the beef cattle installed under EQIP through USDA NRCS



Fencing installed for rotational grazing under EQIP



Seed mixture being planted for new hay field



Drainage system in Heritage Park



Hay field near Middletown

Fall 2020 Cover Crop Update:  
There was a total of 67 applications approved for a total of 9,132.40 acres of unharvested cover crop and 2,010.50 acres of harvested cover crop.



## NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2430 Old County Road  
Newark, DE 19702

Phone: 302-832-3100 ext. 3

Fax: 302-832-5060

Email: [ncastleconservationdistrict.org](mailto:ncastleconservationdistrict.org)

Website: [www.newcastlecd.org](http://www.newcastlecd.org)

 Instagram: [Instagram@newcastle\\_conservation](https://www.instagram.com/newcastle_conservation)

 Like us on Facebook

 YouTube Channel/[New Castle Conservation District](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

The New Castle Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Board of Supervisors (L to R): Norman Pierce (Associate Member). Mike Harris (Representing County Executive Matt Meyer), Julian Pellegrini (Associate Member), Dan Severson (Secretary), Richard Morris (Vice-Chair), Robert Emerson (Chair), Brandon Yerkes (Member), Gwen Pierce (Treasurer), and S. R. Smith, III (Member). Board meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WILMINGTON, DE  
PERMIT NO. 493



The 2021 Soil and Water Stewardship theme stresses the important link between healthy forests and healthy communities. Food, shade, water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat are a few of the benefits.

 Printed with 30% recycled content

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The 2020 Conservation Poster Contest deadline was October 23rd with 122 posters being submitted via email, mail, or dropped off at the District office. Once the county winners are determined the first place posters are sent to a panel of judges to determine the state winners. The state winning posters are sent to the National Association of Conservation Districts for national judging. Winners will be announced in February during the national virtual conference.

The Delaware Envirothon is making plans to hold a virtual competition in April 2021. A virtual on-line training workshop for teachers and students is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th with additional resources being shared beginning in January 2021. Visit [www.delawareenvirothon.org](http://www.delawareenvirothon.org) for more information.

