

GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND THROUGH SOIL HEALTH



Our 73rd Year

2017 Annual Report

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Looking Back at 2017

Robert L. Emerson, Chair



Improving soil health continued to be a priority of the District in 2017. Many thanks to Governor Carney and the General Assembly for providing Conservation Cost Share funding for cover crops and other conservation practices. We also thank our partners at USDA and at DNREC for their support of financial and technical assistance programs that improve New Castle County. The combined efforts of NCCD, USDA NRCS, and DNREC support the needs of the agricultural and urban/suburban landowners in the county. These needs include soil health, nutrient management, water quality and drainage issues, and tax ditch maintenance.



Cover crop

NCCD hired an urban agricultural coordinator using a grant provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District also provided education and outreach through public events, school programs, and our continued support of the Delaware Envirothon, an environmental program for high school students.

As we enter 2018, the District is looking for ways to expand the support of improving soil health among our farmers and producers. The NCCD Board and staff are here to serve and assist the citizens of New Castle County.

Awards and Recognition

The John R. Stinson and Sons mushroom farm in Hockessin received the Governor's Agricultural Conservation Award for their installation of a 257,000 gallon rinse water storage tank and heavy use protection area for their mushroom compost. The Delaware City Refinery and the town of Delaware City were honored with the Urban Conservation award for the Dragon Run Tide gate Repair Project. David H. Daniels Sr. and his father David R. Daniels were recognized as the 2016 Cooperators of the Year while George Whitehead was selected as the 2017 Cooperator of the Year. The Cooperator of the Year award recognizes local farm producers for outstanding conservation practices.



David H. Daniels Sr. and David R. Daniels



Matt, Chris, and Randy Stinson



Delaware City Refinery staff and Town Manager accept award



George Whitehead (right) with son and daughter-in-law

Agricultural Conservation Through NRCS



Gully erosion repaired



Field border for nutrient management and habitat

NRCS obligated 37 contracts for a total of \$690,121.68 in FY 2017. Of that amount, \$270,298 was used for cover crop payments.

Top Practices in FY 2017

Cover Crop	4,037 acres
Nutrient Management	569 acres
Fencing	1,408 feet
Forage and Biomass Plantings	26 acres
Phragmites Spraying	960 acres
Residue Management	991 acres
Underground Outlet (tile drain)	518 feet

Agricultural Cost Share Assistance

The District funded 57 applications for cover crop totaling 7,513.2 acres and \$329,250 dollars.



Lombardy E. S. garden



Heavy use pad for manure management on dairy farm



Hay and pasture plantings

The District provided cost share funds to **10 urban and community garden projects** as a match for their receipt of micro-grants from the state Department of Agriculture. The Board also approved funding for **6 farm producer projects for water quality and erosion control.**



Urban Ag Symposium

Technical Assistance



View of stormwater pond at new poultry farm



Stormwater pond in New Castle

The District rents three drills/seeder for use by landowners. **A total of 381.3 acres of crops and pasture** were planted by producers and growers.

The District **investigated 126 requests for assistance** during FY 2017 while the **survey crew provided assistance on 44 drainage projects.** As a delegated entity for the Sediment and Stormwater Program, District staff provided assistance to the City of New Castle, Bellefonte, Townsend, and Delaware City. NCCD staff provided stormwater inspection services during the site work and construction of six poultry houses installed south of Townsend.



Urban drainage meeting

Urban Water Management



Cheltenham Road Bridge Project



Erosion control project near Beech Hill



Concrete gutter replacement behind homes in School Bell Gardens



Phragmites control for the South Wilmington Marsh stormwater project



Rock-lined swale in Caravel Farms



Drainage improvements in Canby Park



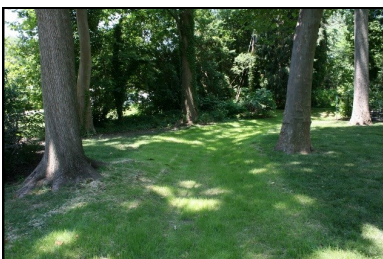
Mowing Guthrie Tax Ditch ROW

The District began work on 41 projects and completed final inspections on 43 projects in FY 2017.

Urban Cost Share Assistance

The District approved cost share assistance to 10 urban/suburban landowners with smaller-sized drainage and erosion control issues.

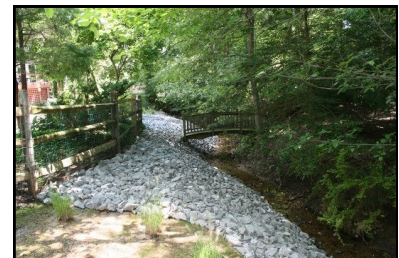
The District provides project design and construction management services for projects throughout New Castle County.



Grassed swale in residential yard



Meadow project at Shue Medill Middle School



Riprap protection for erosion

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Electronic Service Requested

NCCD Board of Supervisors

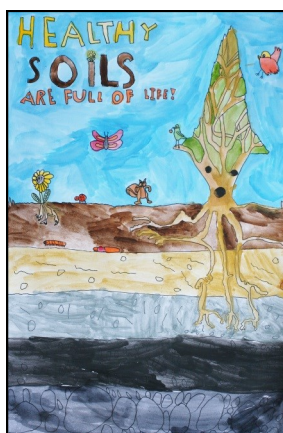
Robert Emerson	Chair
Richard Morris	Vice-Chair
Dan Severson	Secretary
Meghan Lester, P.E.	Treasurer
S. R. Smith	Member
Dee Durham	Member
Gwen Pierce	Member
Norman Pierce	Associate Member
Julian Pellegrini	Associate Member
Matthew Meyer	County Executive
Mike Harris	County Executive Rep.



Monarch Workshop



Gardening Workshop



The poster contest had 301 entries with winners representing 11 different schools. This winning poster is from Aaron Markey at Downes E. S.



Soil education at UD's Ag Day



DE Envirothon at UD's Webb Farm

Education and Outreach



Glasgow Park Farmers Market

The District provided support to many community events including the Blackbird Creek Fall Festival, UD Ag Day, Glasgow Park Farmer's Market, Earth Day at Rodney Square, the Delaware Center for Horticulture's Urban Ag Symposium, DNREC's Make A Splash Water Festival, White Clay Creek Fest, and the Delaware Association for Environmental Education annual conference. Educational materials were provided to teachers upon request and the District sponsored the annual conservation poster contest. Eason Li, a student at The Independence School, was a 1st place national winner for the 2016 poster contest and recognized at a ceremony in May 2017.

