



Shore Conserver

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

promoting locally led conservation

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301 (757)302-4431 www.esswcd.org

May 2023

Board of Directors

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Kyle Sturgis
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Associate Directors

Hunter Blake
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District Personnel

Carmie M. Savage
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carmie.savage@esswcd.org

Bill Savage
Conservation Specialist
bill.savage@esswcd.org

Palmer Smith
Conservation Technician
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Julie Head
Education Director
julie.head@esswcd.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jenny Templeton
District Conservationist
(757)302-4435

Ben Young
Soil Conservationist
757-302-4432

Maggie Herrman
Natural Resources Specialist
757-302-4434

Do I Need a Nutrient Management Plan?

Every Best Management Practice (BMP) offered through the VA Agricultural Best Management Cost Share Program requires a current Nutrient Management Plan. Every acre enrolled in a BMP needs to be included in the plan. This includes not only cropland acres but pastures, specialty crops, and acres used for hay production. A producer is responsible for contacting either a private planner or the State planner through DCR to have the plan written or revised.

Once a planner has been contacted, the planner will request soil sample results and crop rotations from the producer. A soil sample represents no more than 20-25 acres. The soil sample is then sent to the Virginia Tech Soil Sampling Lab or a private lab for testing and the results will be sent to the producer. The soil sample results have to come from a DCR approved lab and cannot be more than 3 years old. If manure is used on the land, a manure analysis is also required. The producer must submit the soil sample results to the planner. After the planner receives the soil sample results, a nutrient management plan will be written.

Plans are typically written or revised on an annual basis but some farms are eligible for 3 year plans. Nutrient management plans are critically important for not only the producer but for the environment as well. Following a nutrient management plan may increase profitability by applying the right amount of fertilizer to produce top yields without wasting the producers money and decrease over-fertilizing that can be harmful to the environment.

Right fertilizer source at the **R**ight rate, at the **R**ight time and in the **R**ight place!

Make Your Appointment Now!

Cost Share Sign Ups for the 2024 Program Year

July 13 to August 17, 2024

Contact:

Bill Savage, Conservation Specialist, 757-302-4437

Carmie Savage, District Manager, 757-302-4431

Palmer Smith, Conservation Technician, 757-302-4421



www.facebook.com/ESSWCD

FISCAL YEAR 2024

**COST SHARE SIGN UPS ARE
COMING!!
MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT
TODAY!!**

When:
Wednesday, July 13 to
Wednesday, August 17



**To schedule an appointment
contact:**

Bill Savage, Conservation Specialist
757-302-4437

Carmie Savage, District Manager
757-302-4431

Palmer Smith, Conservation Technician
757-302-4421

ATTENTION

Public Notice

An Election of Directors for the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District will be held in the general election on November 7, 2023. The District encompasses the Counties of Accomack and Northampton, which includes any incorporated towns therein..

Candidates for elected directors must reside with the boundary of the county (includes incorporated towns with the county) which such candidates shall represent upon election. Two directors shall be elected to represent all citizens within each county, which includes incorporated towns withing the county.

Persons who wish to file as candidates for the office of district director must fully complete and file the requisite nominating petition, statement of qualification, and declaration of candidacy with the general registrar of the county where the candidates resides by 7:00 p.m. on June 20, 2023.

for further information contact your local registrar's office, visit the VA State Board of Elections website at <http://elections.virginia.gov>, or contact the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District office:

Spring Programs

Arbor Day

On April 29th, 2023, the ESSWCD joined forces with the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners, the Cape Charles Tree Advisory Committee, and the Virginia Department of Forestry to celebrate Arbor Day. This years focus was native plants. Those who attended were able to choose from native plant seeds, native plant plugs, and native tree seedlings.



Upcoming Programming and Events

Ag Camp at the Barrier Islands Center Farm



Tuesday, August 1, 2023 - Wednesday, August 2, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

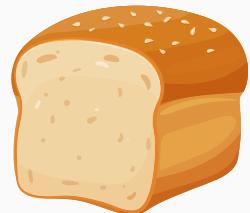
Ages 8 - 12, \$40 per camper



Campers will make their own butter and ice cream and interact with real sheep, goats, and calves. Other activities include making bread and learning about the role agriculture plays in their everyday lives. Campers should bring a lunch both days, wear close toed shoes, and clothes that they can get dirty in. ESSWCD, BIC, and 4-H are partnering together for this educational fun on the farm camp.



Register at barrierislandscenter.org



NEW!!

Junior Ag Camp at the Barrier Islands Center

Thursday, July 27, 2023 - Friday, July 29, 2023

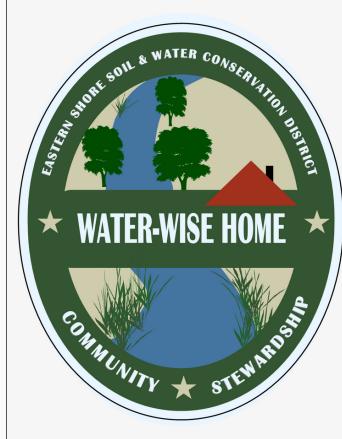
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages 5 - 7, \$20 per camper

Campers will make their own butter and ice cream and interact with real sheep, goats, and calves. Other activities include making bread and learning about the role agriculture plays in their everyday lives, but geared for younger students.. Campers should wear close toed shoes, and clothes that they can get dirty in. ESSWCD, BIC, and 4-H are partnering together for this educational fun on the farm camp.



Water Wise Home Challenge



Protecting Our Planet Starts with You!

Take the Water-Wise Home Challenge from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and see how you can help protect our natural resources.

Do your part!

Everyone has a part to play in protecting our natural resources. Adopt at least three of the challenge actions to receive your Water-Wise Home garden flag or sign to proudly display on your property.

Water Wise Home Challenge – scan the QR code for more information!

Plant a Pollinator Pocket



Commit to Scoop the Poop



Install a Rain Barrel



Participate in a litter Clean-Up Day



Start a Vermicomposter



Reduce or Eliminate Your Use of Fertilizer or Pesticides



Install Conservation Landscaping



Plant Three Native Plants



Mulch Leaves and Grass



Claim Your Flag

Once you have adopted at least three of the action challenges, let us know about it. Contact us at julie.head@esswcd.org, and we'll send your flag or sign. Please allow several weeks for delivery.

While we encourage everyone to participate in the Water Wise Home Challenge, yard flags and signs are only available to residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties

2023 VASWCD Photo Contest

2023 VASWCD Photo Contest



The VASWCD is committed to conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs and we want to see it through your eyes. The theme this year is "Conservation through the local lens". Capture those vibrant moments and express what conservation looks like through your lens! The contest is open from January – August 1, 2023. To learn more about the contest please click [here](#). All photographs must be taken within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Photographs taken outside the state of Virginia will be disqualified.

The Commonwealth of VA supports the Eastern Shore SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Eastern Shore SWCD programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of disability, race or color, national origin, traits historically associated with race or religion including traits associated with hair, religion or creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy status, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, veteran status, whistleblower status or genetic information.