



# The Conservation Strip

## John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

### Continuing Conservation Initiative

Fall 2017

Stream protection fence along water bodies prevents stream bank erosion, direct deposition of animal waste, and contamination of water from non-point pollution sources, while riparian buffers can help to filter pollutants before reaching the water body.

There are three Continuing Conservation Initiative (CCI) practices which offer an incentive payment to landowners who have excluded livestock from waterbodies and/or changed the land use of their buffer.

The CCI-SE practice offers a one-time payment of \$1.00 per linear foot of stream bank protected. While no minimum fencing standards are required, a fence must exclude livestock from the stream at all times during the life span of these practice (5 years). This is an ideal practice for landowners wishing to continue a SL-6 livestock exclusion practice which is coming out of its 10-year lifespan.

The CCI-HRB and CCI-FRB practices offer payments to maintain a land use change. For the CCI-HRB practice, incentive payments of \$50/acre will be provided to maintain herbaceous riparian buffers that are located adjacent to streams and

water bodies. Buffers must be between 35 and 100 feet wide. The CCI-FRB practice offers payments of \$100/acre for land that has been converted to a forested riparian buffer within the past 15 years. Buffer widths are the same as for the CCI-HRB.

Practices must not be under contract with any other conservation program.

Participants are responsible for inspecting and maintaining all fencing. In the event the fence is damaged or destroyed it is the responsibility of the participant to repair or replace the damage.

For more information, contact the District at 540-347-3120 x3.



*The CCI program protects streambank and riparian buffers.*

#### Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide leadership, technical assistance, information, and education to the citizens of Fauquier County in proper soil stewardship, agricultural conservation methods, and water quality protection so as to ensure the wise use of the county's natural resources.



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# First Fauquier County VCAP Project Installed

The first practice under the new Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) has been installed in Fauquier County. VCAP is an urban and suburban conservation program which provides 75% cost-share for best management practices which reduce erosion and stormwater issues.

The project that was completed was Conservation Landscaping which provides for plants, trees, and mulched beds to reduce soak up stormwater and reduce erosion. It was installed in one of the courtyards at Kettle Run High School.



*Conservation Landscaping VCAP project in the courtyard at Kettle Run High School.*

## LHS Government Internship Project

*by Ryan Lasher, Liberty High School*

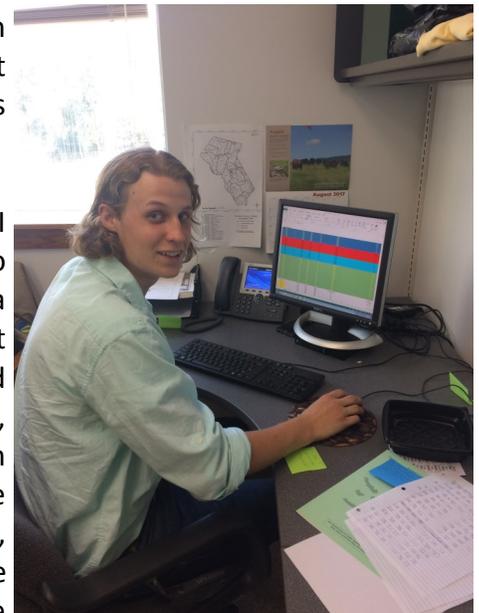
High school seniors are given the option of interning in a department within their local government for a semester. My name is Ryan Lasher, and I am interning at John Marshall SWCD for the fall semester. I decided to enroll in Liberty High School's internship program to experience what the opportunity would offer. In terms of having an understanding of what a professional job is like, and also to obtain important skills that I will utilize for the rest of my life.

The reason I decided to intern at JMSWCD was not only because I enjoy being outside and interacting with nature, but I am passionate about our environment. I believe that as humans we need to give back to the world we live in. Furthermore, our environment will affect everyone living on earth, now, tomorrow, and for future generations. This internship allows me the chance to expand my horizons and get experience with the type of career that I take an interest in.

Along with interning at JMSWCD, my goal is to help the department and simply, "add a page to their encyclopedia" as my Government Internship Supervisor told me on the first day of school. Within the first few weeks of being here in my placement, Tom

Turner, Michael Trop, and I, discussed the idea of assisting to create an application of water monitoring data that has been collected for nearly 20 years. The data must be converted and formatted by combining locations that are the same throughout the years. This data results from tests such as: *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen, pH, and macroinvertebrates. By doing this, the department will be able to show why water and soil conservation is important in our environment and how this affects our lives.

I must say that I am very lucky to have a role in a project that most people would love to be part of, and creating an awareness for the world I live in, makes the entire experience more satisfying.



*Ryan Lasher works on his project at the JMSWCD office.*

# EQIP Signup Deadlines Approaching

Virginia farmers and forest landowners can now apply for assistance to protect the health and productivity of their land under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This program offers technical and financial assistance to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland. NRCS accepts applications year-round but makes funding selections at specific times. For Fiscal Year 2018, Virginia NRCS has established two application-batching periods (see table for dates).

To be considered for a given Application Batching Period, an applicant MUST submit a signed and dated *Conservation Program Application* to the local NRCS service center by close of business on the application deadline. NRCS will not accept applications from individuals/entities without farm records established through USDA’s Farm Service Agency. The name, tax identification number, and address provided must also match IRS income tax records.

Some funding will be allocated to socially disadvantaged and new and beginning farmers, and new and beginning veteran farmers who will be eligible for a higher payment rate along with limited resource pro-

ducers.

At least 60% of available FY18 funds will be allocated to livestock-related resource con-



cerns and a minimum of 5% will be committed for wildlife concerns. EQIP fund pools will also be available to offer assistance for the following focal areas as well as a number of landscape based initiatives:

Application Batching Period	Application Deadline	Batching Deadline
1	October 20, 2017	November 17, 2017
2	January 19, 2018	February 16, 2018

**Cropland** – Practices to enhance water and soil quality while improving plant health and productivity;

**High Tunnel (Hoop House)** – Steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner;

**Longleaf Pine** - Stand establishment and management within the historical range in Southeastern Virginia;

**Northern Bobwhite in Working Grasslands** – Native grass restoration to address habitat loss while maintaining or improving cattle production on the land;

**On-Farm Energy** – Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits to assess energy use and recommend ways to reduce it;

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**John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District**

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Hours: 7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Monday-Friday

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**NRCS Staff**

District Conservationist  
Roger Flint  
Soil Conservationist  
Casey Dietzen Iames

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# EQIP Signup Deadlines (cont.)

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**Organic** – Practices to help certified organic growers, those working to achieve organic certification, and specialty crop producers address resource concerns on their operations.

mation.

To learn more, call 540-347-3120 x3 or visit the NRCS office at 98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 32, Warrenton, VA 20186.

Applicants must meet USDA program eligibility requirements to be considered for funding. Those approved for financial assistance will receive a payment based on an NRCS determination of incurred costs and income sacrificed for practice implementation. If you previously applied for EQIP and were not funded, contact your local NRCS Service Center for more infor-



## Calendar of Events

October 9		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
October 11	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
November 8	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
November 10		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
November 23-24		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
December 3-5		VASWCD Annual Meeting	Portsmouth, VA
December 19	2:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
December 25-26		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	

**Staying Connected:** The John Marshall SWCD makes it easy to stay connected through social media. If you're on Facebook, "Like" our page to get updates on what's happening at the District.



The Conservation Strip is a quarterly publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. To be added to our email list, please send an email to Wendy Merwin at: wendy.merwin@fauquiercounty.gov.

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.