



# RUNOFF

HANOVER-CAROLINE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



VOLUME 30

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EDITION 4

## Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District 2009-2012 Strategic Plan

The Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) began its 2009-2012 Strategic Planning Process in February 2009. The Strategic Plan is a proactive document that is intended to guide the District through the next four years, from fiscal year 2009 to 2012. It assumes that the future of our organization will be based on different circumstances and priorities than exist today. Thus, the purpose of this document is to direct the District toward more effective programs in soil and water conservation within its boundaries. The Strategic Plan will be used by our Board of Directors and our staff to develop and manage District programs.

Five major goal areas, along with objectives and strategies, are presented in the document to help the District develop its Annual Plan of Work and guide day-to-day operations. These goal areas are:

1. **Conservation Implementation** through emphasis on best management practices and conservation planning
2. **Additional Natural Resources Conservation Efforts** to address non-traditional conservation requests for assistance
3. **Education**, both youth and adult, as the primary tool for bringing conservation issues into the public eye
4. **Leadership** by continued involvement and participation in committees in response to ever changing non-point source pollution and agricultural issues
5. **Flood Management** to protect citizens from flood hazards association with Site 52-B, Springfield Lake

All Hanover and Caroline County citizens have a voice in resource conservation by attending monthly board meetings, communicating their concerns, and participating in District programs. Our purpose is to give citizens the ability to work on conservation problems at the local level. Our philosophy of natural resources management is to provide the necessary technical expertise that assists the community in identifying, discussing, and solving local conservation issues. Our community constituents are farmers, homeowners and homeowner associations, teachers, youth, environmental groups, developers, elected officials, local businesses, and civic organizations. We recognize that our constituency base continues to evolve. As such, we strive to remain flexible in developing programs to meet its changing needs.

In order to effectively meet the needs of the citizens of Hanover and Caroline Counties, our strategic planning process must involve the general public. A public comment period and discussion will be held on May 12, 2009 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Department of Social Services in Ashland. We invite our citizens to participate in this work session to help the District evaluate its mission and vision statements and offer input on our focus for the next four years. Prior to this meeting, we have developed a questionnaire to collect ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Please take the time to offer your thoughts. Visit [www.h-cswcd.org](http://www.h-cswcd.org) where you will find a link to the questionnaire.

It is our hope that the strategic plan will help the Hanover-Caroline SWCD meet the challenging future of natural resource conservation in Hanover and Caroline Counties. We thank you for your input!

## Upcoming Programs & Events

- April 18 **Master Gardener Earth Day Plant Sale** DSS Facility, Ashland  
The District will be selling wildlife boxes throughout the day, and hosting rain barrel assembly demonstrations at 10am & 12pm.
- April 21-22 **Rain Barrel Pick-up Days**, Hanover-Caroline SWCD  
You *must* register at our website to purchase barrels: [www.h-cswcd.org](http://www.h-cswcd.org)
- April 27 **Rural Land and Agribusiness Update**, Virginia Farm Bureau, 9:00am-4:30pm  
Updates to educate attorneys, accountants, financial planners, appraisers, and land owners with interests in agricultural and rural lands.  
Call 540.231.7508 for more information.
- April 30 **Area III Envirothon Competition**, Dorey Park, Henrico
- May 2, 30 **Hanover County Master Gardener Home Gardening Series**, DSS Facility, Ashland  
Contact Pattie Bland for more information: [pbland42@vt.edu](mailto:pbland42@vt.edu), 804.752.4310
- May 5 & 7 **“Back to the Farm” Workshop Series: Starting a Beef Cattle Operation**  
Visit two farms and learn about starting your own beef operation.  
View the agenda and register on our website: [www.h-cswcd.org](http://www.h-cswcd.org)
- May 12 **Hanover-Caroline SWCD Strategic Planning Session**, DSS Facility, Ashland, 4:00-6:00pm  
Take this opportunity to offer your input in the District’s strategic planning process.
- May 14 **Virginia Small Grains Field Day**, Corbin Hill Farm, Middlesex  
[www.viriniagrains.com](http://www.viriniagrains.com)
- May 21 **Small Grains Field Day**, New Kent Extension Office, Providence Forge
- May 27-28 **Hanover AG Day**, Poor Farm Park, Ashland  
Every 3rd grade student in Hanover County has the opportunity to learn about agriculture at this 2-day event.
- May 28 **“Last Ditch” Commercial Pesticide Recertification Workshop**, Hanover County  
Contact Rose Bradshaw, VA Cooperative Extension for more information: 804.752.4310
- June 2 **No-Till Vegetable Twilight Meeting**, Mt. Olympus Farm, 6:30-8:30pm  
[www.viriniagrains.com](http://www.viriniagrains.com)
- July 31-  
Aug 2 **Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Summer Expo**  
Contact Rose Bradshaw, VA Cooperative Extension for more information: 804.752.4310
- August 7 **Virginia Ag Expo**, hosted by J.N. Mills & Sons, King William
- April 14, May 19, June TBA **H-CSWCD Board Meetings**

### **Conservation Equipment Rental**



Are you interested in better soil quality, water infiltration and residue management? If so, take advantage of the benefits of no-till planting. Contact the District office to inquire about renting a no-till drill (7 or 10-foot). The minimum rental rate is \$100 plus tax, which covers the first 10 acres. Each additional acre is \$7 plus tax.



Please help conserve natural resources—Receive our newsletter “Runoff” electronically by sending your e-mail address to [Rebecca.Jones@va.nacdnet.net](mailto:Rebecca.Jones@va.nacdnet.net)

## **2010 Cost-Share Sign-up** **July 15-August 14, 2009**

The Hanover-Caroline SWCD will be accepting sign-up for the 2010 Virginia State Cost-share program from July 15-August 14, 2009. This program provides cost-share and technical assistance to landowners and agricultural operators that voluntarily install selected best management practices (BMP). Livestock exclusion, riparian buffers, nutrient management, cover crops, vegetative cover and continuous no-till are all designated as priority practices. Most cost-share requires nutrient management planning. The District offers a 3-year contractual program and record keeping for nutrient management. Sign-up early!

### **Mt. Olympus No-till Twilight Meeting**

**June 2, 2009**

No-till systems have proven to be very efficient in cash-grain production. They are gaining increased attention as a practical way to raise vegetables and improve soil quality at the same time. Growing and managing cover crops to provide killed mulches and living mulches is an important component of these production systems. The combination of organic mulches on the soil surface and reduction of tillage have numerous benefits to soil biology, soil structure, and soil health.



*No-till vegetable planting at Mt. Olympus*

Ron Morse, a vegetable specialist at Virginia Tech for many years, has developed a production system for no-till or reduced till vegetable production which utilizes cover crops and a no-till planter and lends itself to much reduced chemical use, soil building benefits, and even organic production.

This system will be demonstrated at Mt. Olympus Farm at a twilight meeting on **Tuesday, June 2, 2009, from 6:30 until dusk**. Ken West, the manager of Mt. Olympus Farm, has been working with Ron, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Extension service to implement a no-till vegetable production system that utilizes cover crops, organic mulches, fertilizers, and composts. If you are interested in adapting this soil saving, beneficial production system to your operation, please mark the evening of Tuesday, June 2, 2009 on your calendar.

Contact Mac Saphir, Virginia Cooperative Extension, for more details: 804.633.6550.  
Hope to see you there!

### **Back to the Farm:**

#### ***Starting a Beef Cattle Operation***

In Spring 2009, the District will begin a new series of educational workshops, entitled "Back to the Farm: Bridging the Urban-Rural Gap". Workshops will focus on a variety of topics, all designed to encourage a heightened awareness of agriculture and gardening in Virginia.



The first workshop, "Back to the Farm: Starting a Beef Cattle Operation" will be offered as Part I and II over two evenings in May. Topics covered will include considerations for those interested in beginning a beef operation, conservation practices, organic farming, animal health, and marketing.

We invite you to attend our workshops from 4:30-7:00pm on May 5 and 7, 2009. View the agenda and register on our website: [www.h-cswcd.org](http://www.h-cswcd.org). Please call the District at 804.537.5225 ext 102 with questions.



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