

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Catoctin Soil Conservation District

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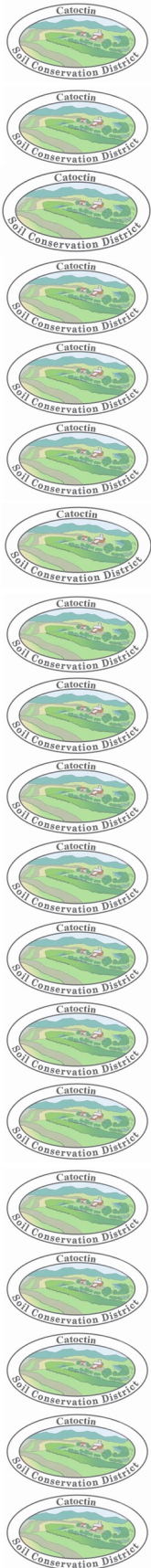
2021 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR - BRAD & LANE DAMAZO

The 2021 Cooperator of the Year for the Catoctin Soil Conservation District went to brothers, Brad and Lane Damazo. These two work together to farm 650 acres in a way that promotes a high level of stewardship. This is achieved by implementing a crop rotation that includes: corn, beans, and cover crop on all 650 acres. To help the Damazos achieve 100% cover crop coverage they customized their equipment to save time, money, and limit compaction in fields. For example, they worked with Hooper to customize an accelerator turbo till by adding an air seeder on top. This allows for cover crop seed to be planted and incorporated all in one pass while keeping maximum residue coverage. They also they updated their no-till drill with GPS driven hydraulics that allows for more control while seeding, especially on turns. The Damazos work hard on correcting any erosion issues by installing and maintaining many grassed waterways. Currently, the Damazos are working with the district to improve their nutrient management on their farms by using nitrogen stabilizers, more efficient fertilizers, and precision application to include variable rate. By implementing these practices, the Damazo brothers will continue to improve

their stewardship threshold level well into the future.



2021 DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



- Past Catoclin & Frederick Soil Conservation District Manager, **Denny Remsburg** was awarded the **Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Presidents Award** at the summer meeting. Denny was honored along with 4 other District Managers who retired in 2021.
- Two local students earned top honors in the Poster Contest at the Summer MASCD meeting!
Cadence Offutt of New Midway Elementary School was the local winner for grades 4-6.
Ariellen Lowery of Middletown High School was the local winner for grades 10-12.
Winners of the local contest were eligible to compete at the State Contest held at the Summer MASCD meeting where both were again victorious!
- Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) **Manure Injection and Transport** programs provided **\$135,562** in assistance to help district cooperators inject **657 acres** with manure and transport **48,403 tons** of manure from fields with high phosphorus to fields where phosphorus was needed.
- The **Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program** provided **\$199,762** in cost share assistance to cooperators in the Catoclin District to assist with the installation of various best management practices.
- Frederick County Farmers enrolled **30,560 acres** in MDA’s Cover Crop program which provided **\$1,257,286** in assistance to help offset the cost of purchasing seed and planting small grains that provide winter cover but are not harvested.
- Frederick County cooperators received over **\$3.1 million** in payments for completed contracts through **NRCS programs including: EQIP, AMA, RCPP, and CSP.**
- The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) distributed over **\$7.5 million** to Frederick County cooperators enrolled in programs such as **CFAP, CFAP2, CRP, MAL, DMC, WHIP, FSFL, ARC/PLC.**
- With both state and federal funds our district **installed 299 BMPs**
- Planners wrote conversation plans covering **1,441 acres.**

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) IMPLEMENTED :

SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM:

Qty:	BMP:
2	Waste Storage Structures
1.2 Acres	Grassed Waterways
2	Roof Runoff Structures
921 Feet	Streamside Fencing
13	Watering Facilities

Qty:	Type:
57	Sediment Control Plans Reviewed
111.95 Acres	Approved Sediment Control
9	Forest Harvest Permits
0	Site Plans
0	Pre-Construction Meetings
0	Inspections

CATOCLIN SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Sowers, Chairman
 John Falkenstein, Vice Chairman
 Adam Holter, Treasurer
 John Orłowski, Assistant Treasurer

Eric Arnold, Supervisor
 Bill Brennan, Associate
 Rene Grossnickle, Associate
 Wes Shafer, Associate

2021 MASCD OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR—THE LEWIS FAMILY

The Mike and Brandy Lewis Family of Whispering Acres Farm was selected by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) as the 2021 Outstanding Cooperator. The District nominated the Lewis Family following their selection as the Catoclin SCD Cooperator of the Year for 2020. They were recognized at the MASCD summer meeting awards banquet and presented a certificate from MASCD. The Lewis Family worked with the district to install practices including: a roofed heavy use area with waste storage structure complex, livestock trails, fencing, a pasture planting, and watering facilities and a prescribed grazing plan.



INTRODUCING NEW STAFF

2021 brought changes to management and staffing at the District. Heather Hutchinson became District Manager in July. She may be a familiar face to some from her time with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland Extension Nutrient Management Program.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service have each added staff to the District team to help us better address the needs of the Farming community.



Heather Hutchinson, District Manager

MDA STAFF

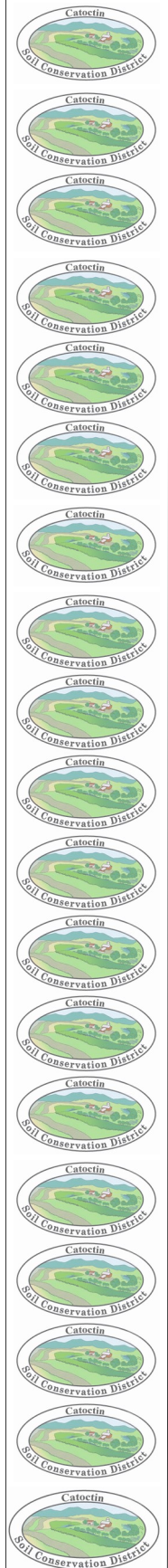


(L to R) Christopher Zawitoski, Technician; Cassidy Marquis, Conservation Planner; Nicholas Parrish, Technician.

NRCS STAFF



(L to R) Sean Daly, Civil Engineer; Teala Ficks, Soil Conservationist; Grace Siu, Program Assistant

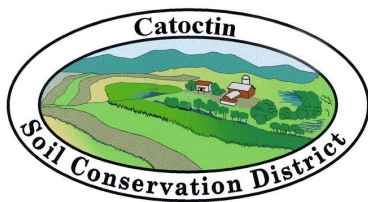


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SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF



District Staff:

Heather Hutchinson, District Manager
Steve Leatherman,
Asst. Dist. Mgr/Urban Tech.
David Huffer, Urban Technician
Wanda O'Brien, Admin. Specialist

NRCS Staff:

Brent Cammauf, District Conservationist
Grace Garst, Soil Conservationist
Andrew Zimmerman, Soil Conservationist
Cara Green, Soil Conservationist
Teala Ficks, CNMP Planner
Barry Feaga, Soil Technician
Mark Buccholz, Soil Technician
Marshall White, RC& D Planner
Grace Siu, RC&D Program Support Spc.
Matt Drury, Civil Engineering Technician
Sean Daly, Civil Engineering Technician



MDA Staff:

Holly Boyer, Conservation Planner
Emily Doney, Conservation Planner
William Rawlings, Conservation Planner
Cassidy Marquis, Conservation Planner
Jason Watt, Engineering Technician
Mark Freese, Technician
Nick Parrish, Technician
Chris Zawitoski, Technician

