



CONSERVATION NEWS

Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District
6969 Fox Hunt Lane, P. O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061
Phone : (804) 693-3562 ext. 5 Fax : (804) 694-5921
www.tidewaterswd.org

Spring 2011 Serving the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex

New Employee Carl Thiel-Goin

Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District proudly welcomes Carl Thiel-Goin as their new Conservation/Education Specialist. Carl will be administering Virginia's Agricultural Cost-Share Best Management Practice program to local farmers and landowners. This program offers cost share assistance as an incentive to implement Best Management practices. The basis of the program is to encourage voluntary BMP's to meet VA's non-point source pollution water quality objectives. Also he will be providing conservation educational programs to students and the community.



Message from Carl

I am very happy to be back with the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District. In my prior role I was a director on the board now, on the other side of the fence, I am directly helping the community through our programs.

A little about me, I received a BS from Old Dominion University and a Masters degree from Virginia Tech. I enjoy a vast variety of music, working on the home places, just about any outdoor activity and spending time with my family. I have been married for 13 years to my college sweetheart Heather. We have a daughter, Emily, who is five and about to finish kindergarten. We reside on a small farm in Mathews with our dogs. My brother and I are the fifth generation on our family's farm in central Virginia. Modesto Farms is a beef cattle, hay, and greenhouse operation on over 600 acres.

I look forward to working closely with the farmers in this area. I have already been busy with educational programs for the local youth and am excited about continuing to give support and education.

In This Issue	
New Employee-Cost Share	Page 1
Envirothon	Page 2
Farm Service Agency	Page 3
Martin Menges Scholarship	Page 4

Cost Share Update

If you currently approved for any cost share practice make sure the practice has been completed and documents submitted to Tidewater SWCD **before June 15th.**

We are anticipating a substantial increase in Cost Share funding for fiscal year 2012. Signup is expected to be held July 11th – August 12th.

The Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the Area III Envirothon on April 14, 2011 at Thousand Trails Campground in Gloucester. Six teams, plus an alternate team, competed in the event that focused on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, estuary, and an oral presentation relating to water quality improvement in the Chesapeake Bay. The winner of the Area III Envirothon was Commonwealth Governor's School. The top three teams, which included Jamestown High School and Northern Neck 4-H, all earned a spot in the Virginia statewide competition May 22-23, 2011 at Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville. The winning team from the state level can go on to the National competition, which hosts teams from the United States and Canada.

The Virginia Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. Students who participate learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real and hypothetical environmental problems. The program is field oriented, community based, and gives students the opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

The Tidewater Soil and Water District would like to congratulate all the teams that participated and thank all the sponsors and volunteers that helped make this a positive success. Sponsors included **Virginia Farm Bureau, Colonial Virginia Bank, Curves, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Colonial Farm Credit, Food Lion, Whitley's Peanut Factory, Fleet Brothers Inc, Twin Springs Farm, Crop Production Services, Theresa Townsend, and Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.** Judges for the event included **Daniel Maxey of VIMS, Ken Sterner and Jeff Darr VDOF, Mike Combs NRCS, Dwayne Dunlevy VDGIF, David Moore VCE, Carrie Hagin DCR, May Sligh DCR, Kendall Tyree VASWCD, and Jeff Davis FSA** all provided expert input into the competition and the tests that the youth completed. If you would like more information about Envirothon and how you can get involved please call the Tidewater SWCD office at 804-693-3562 ext. 5.

Congratulations Area III Envirothon winner -Commonwealth Governor's School!





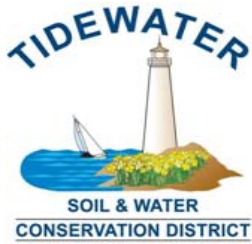
FSA 2011 County Committee Nomination Process begins June 15

The Gloucester Farm Service Agency will begin accepting nominations for the 2011 County Committee elections beginning June 15, 2011. Your local farm service agency serves Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex counties. In 2011 the Gloucester local administrative area will be conducting an election to nominate and elect a new committee person from Gloucester. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

County committee members make decisions on how federal farm programs will be administered locally. A newly elected member serves a 3 year term beginning January 1st.

County committee members are elected to office by their peers and serve as the representative voice for agriculture producers in the county, and they are responsible for communicating with USDA to ensure that national programs are adapted to fit local needs. County committees are responsible for making decisions on issues including commodity loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster assistance programs and emergency programs.

It is important that the county committee is comprised of members who reflect the demographics of the local agriculture community. For more information on FSA elections or any FSA farm programs contact 804-693-2691, ext 2.



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Gloucester, VA
Non-Profit
Permit No. 53

P.O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061

District Directors

- Tyler Crittenden-At Large-Chairman
- David Moore -At Large-Vice Chairman-VCE
- Jason Bray-Middlesex-Secretary
- Keith Horsley-Gloucester-Treasurer
- Ronnie Lewis-Mathews
- Daniel Rilee-Gloucester
- Robert Respass,Jr-Mathews
- Alan Sutherland-Middlesex

Return Service Requested

All programs of the Tidewater SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis; without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, political affiliation, marital/familial status, or handicap. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

District Personnel

- LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
- Carl Thiel-Goin - Conservation/Education Specialist
- Rene Moring - Conservation Assistant

NRCS Personnel

- Mike Combs-District Conservationist

Martin Menges College Scholarship

Tidewater SWCD proudly announces that Lee Anderson, of Gloucester County, has been selected as the recipient of the \$1,000.00 Martin Menges college scholarship. Lee will continue his education at Virginia Tech and major in environmental engineering. Congratulations Lee on your achievements and best of luck to you in your future academic goals.

The Martin Menges scholarship was established in memory of Mathews County resident, Mr. Martin J. Menges, a former District Director. Mr. Menges was co-founder and past president of the York River Chapter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and co-founder of the watershed group Save the Ole Piankatank. Recipients must plan to major in natural resources conservation or environmental studies, and also have 3.0 or greater grade point average. Selection is based on scholastic ability, educational goals and leadership qualities.