



# Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District

## Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report

**Colonial**  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
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### Officers

#### Chair

Stephen Lueke

#### Vice Chair

Peter Henderson

#### Secretary

Archer Ruffin

#### Treasurer

Norman Hofmeyer

### Locality

*New Kent*

*James City*

*Charles City*

*Charles City*

### Directors

Jordan Anglin

*Williamsburg*

Charles Carter

*At Large-Charles City*

Charles Evelyn

*New Kent*

Harry Hager

*York*

Dan Leonard

*York*

Jim Orband

*At Large-VCE*

Ed Overton

*James City*

Billy Scruggs

*Williamsburg*

### Associate Directors

Elizabeth Rogers

*York*

Paul Davis

*New Kent*

### Personnel

Brian Noyes, Conservation Specialist & District Manager

Valerie Temple, Administrative Officer

Jim Wallace, Agricultural Water Quality Specialist

The Colonial SWCD directors and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals and organizations that helped the District accomplish so much in the past year. Thanks in part to you, the stakeholders, the District has upheld its commitment to the preservation and restoration of our natural resources in Charles City County, James City County, New Kent County, York County and the City of Williamsburg, as well as, the surrounding areas. This annual report highlights our activities from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

**Colonial SWCD Mission:** To cooperate, communicate and educate landowners and operators, government agencies, schools, businesses and civic groups to preserve and protect our local natural resources. Use funds entrusted to provide technical and financial assistance as responsible stewards.

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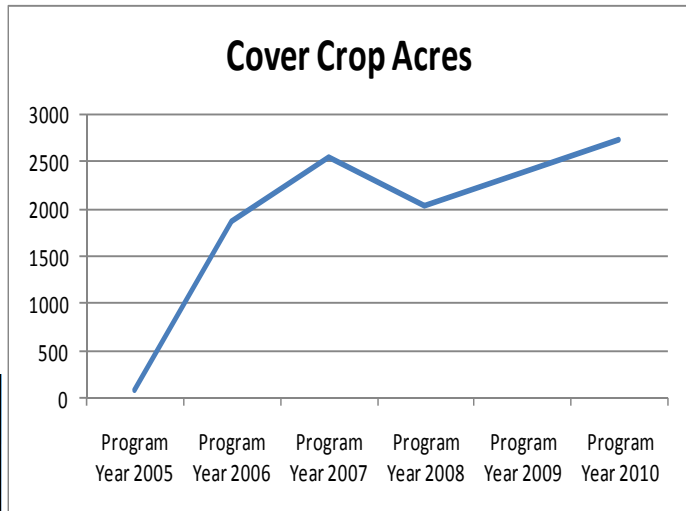
# Colonial SWCD Agricultural Program

## Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program

The District continued to generate significant interest in the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS) during the fiscal year by recruiting previous participants, as well as targeting agricultural producers who had never participated in the program before. The table below shows the participation level of some of the more familiar practices for the 2010 program year.

Conservation Practice	Long Term Continuous No-till	Cropland Cover Crops	Specialty (Vegetable) Cover Crops	Nutrient Management Practices
Acres Benefitted	5,158.6	2,728.2	78.0	12,688.2

Thanks, in part, to a more stable funding source, participation in the district's cover crop program has been increasing over the past few years and is currently at record levels. This year's increased participation was due, in part, to the supplemental funds offered by USDA to aerially seed cover crops. Below, a crop duster drops



vetch seed into a standing soybean crop. Cover crops have been identified by the Commonwealth as one of the most cost effective conservation practices farmers can implement.

## Corn Growers Come to Visit

In late March, the National Corn Growers Association's Production and Stewardship Action Team convened in Williamsburg, VA to discuss corn production nationwide along with the political and conservation issues relevant to Chesapeake Bay area farmers. After their informational sessions, the group which consisted of corn growers from several states and regions was treated to a tour of the some of the Colonial District's agricultural points of interest including stops at Renwood Farm and a dinner along the banks of the Pamunkey River.

The CSWCD is very appreciative of the opportunity to network with all groups which hold common water quality interests and values.

David Hula of Renwood Farm describes the farm's seed business to members of the NCGA



# Colonial SWCD Educational Program

## JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES AT CANON ENVIROTHON

Having won the 2010 Virginia State Envirothon competition held May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Skelton 4H Center in Wirtz, Virginia, Jamestown High School moved on to the national competition where they represented the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District. Team members in attendance – as pictured - included: Mandy Bowers (captain), Billie Meacham, Nola Liu, Kelly Ceriani, Alex Hughes and alternate Paul Brosnan (not pictured). Coached by Charlie Dubay and sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District, the team placed 25<sup>th</sup> overall.



Envirothon success in general and the accomplishments of the Jamestown High School team would not be possible without sponsors. Team sponsors provided needed funds for the team. Numerous donations were made by more than 38 individuals along with several primary sponsors to include the Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District, The Virginia Farm Bureau – JCC, CCC, NKC & YC, The Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc., Newport News Charles Barker – Lexus, Staff and Board of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, ECS Mid – Atlantic LLC, and as a special memorial to Andrew Bridge Outlaw – JHS Class of 2003.

## Recertification Program for Teachers

The Colonial SWCD, in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension, hosted a teacher recertification training in July of 2009. The two day training exposed participants to various agricultural, horticultural, and aquacultural enterprises within the District. Teachers received 8 recertification credits for their participation.



(1 to r) Top: Atlantic Growers Greenhouse,  
Riverside Sod Farm,  
Riverside Farm - Aquaculture (crayfish)

Bottom: Poplar Spring Farm (beef cattle),  
Renwood Farm (grain, certified seed)





# Colonial SWCD Urban Program

## Community Conservation Partnership Comes To New Kent

Thanks to the financial support of a Small Watershed grant provided to New Kent County through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Colonial SWCD planned and installed multiple conservation practices in the Brickshire and Woodhaven Shores neighborhoods. The project focused on installation of low cost and high return practices such as roadside stabilization as well as stormwater inlet and outlet protection.

The project will conclude during the 2011 fiscal year and by the end of the project, a total of \$120,000 of conservation practices will be installed—as each project requires a 1:1 match contribution.



Lespedeza planting along the roadside in New Kent. Lespedeza is a drought tolerant legume which tolerates low fertility



Excessive mowing on this steep slope led to scalping and rutting by the landscape crew. The goal of this planting was to remove the mower from the maintenance equation and break-up the length of the slope.



## Colonial District and Cooperative Extension Partner on Project

One of the first orders of business for the New Kent Cooperative Extension staff, after relocating their offices to the historic New Kent High School site, was to re-create their demonstration garden. The garden site, adjacent to the gymnasium, suffered from severe roof top run off from the 10,000 sq. ft. gym. A 2,500 gallon tank was donated and the District staff purchased a few hundred dollars worth of materials and built an oversized rain barrel to capture storm water for use as drip irrigation. Due to drainage obstructions in the remaining downspouts, the rain barrel system receives about 80% of the water falling on the roof. While the water pressure out of the tank varies, the system provides enough water pressure to irrigate the garden's 10 raised beds.

