



# The Harford Resource

A Publication of the Harford Soil Conservation District

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JULY 1, 2020

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Street, MD 21154

(410) 638 - 4828  
[www.harfordscd.org](http://www.harfordscd.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 8**

Board of Supervisors  
Meeting - **CALL IN ONLY**

**July 18**

Harford Streams  
Summer Adventure  
Poker Run  
Annie's Playground  
8:30 AM—1:00 PM

**August 12**

Board of Supervisors  
Meeting - **CALL IN ONLY**

**September 9**

Board of Supervisors  
Meeting - **CALL IN ONLY**

**October 30**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Annual Cooperator's Dinner  
Havre de Grace  
Community Center

### If you would like to:

- Receive a digital version of this newsletter or
- Would like to submit an article or
- Have an idea for an article...

Please contact the Editor,  
**Leslie Zink**, at  
[leslie.zink@maryland.gov](mailto:leslie.zink@maryland.gov)



## Best Management Practices Spotlight



### Exclusion Fencing:

*The Best Way to Keep Animals in Place*

By **Jeremy Carnucci**

Ask a farmer about the key features of their operations or land and you'll get information about the view from their fields and total acreage, where and how they store their animals, and other prominent points on their farm. Often overlooked though is one of the most basic and essential parts of any farm with animals, their fencing. As we're all aware, the basic function of a fence is to keep people or animals out of a particular area. Industries around the world use fencing to secure and protect their resources, but farming is the oddball in that fencing also serves the additional purpose of managing and controlling their animal resources. What's even more overlooked though is the impact that proper fencing can have on the natural resources of a farm by benefitting the soil, water and overall environmental health of the land. By utilizing the proper type of fencing in the proper location, the operator, animals and land can all benefit.

Just as parents everywhere have told their children for generations, it's important to use the right tool for the job. While all of the different forms of fencing achieve the same end result, different fences work best for different purposes. For critical confinement fencing, the type or types of animals present on a farm will largely determine the type of fencing needed. Horses and foals for example will require a more visible form of fencing, such as wooden board fencing with a minimum of three boards, or high tensile fence with at least one strand substituted for a vinyl coated wire. Cows, steers and heifers are a bit more versatile, with most forms of fencing being suitable so long as they maintain a certain minimum height off the ground. Most cattle operations will utilize barbed wire or electric fencing to keep the animals from stretching the fence. Hogs are ideally managed with woven wire mesh fencing that contains a single strand of electrified or barbed wire towards the bottom, whereas chickens are well confined with woven wire mesh fence that covers a height of six feet off the ground and contains a single strand of electrified or barbed wire at the top.



4 Board Wooden Fencing dividing a horse pasture

*Continued on Page 2*

## Exclusion Fencing *continued...*

Goats and sheep can be managed with barbed wire or electric high tensile wire, as well as woven wire so long as there is also a single electrified or barbed wire set above the top of the woven wire. For the other unusual and less seen animals on farms, bison can be well managed with either electrified high tensile wire or woven wire, and emus and ostriches are best managed with woven wire reaching at least six feet off the ground with another single electrified or barbed wire set above it.

In addition to installing the appropriate type of fencing for a livestock operation, the location of the fencing is also important. To keep animals out of waterways and wetland areas, stream exclusion fencing is often required. Guidelines set forth by State and Federal agencies require a minimum of 10' be maintained between the edge of a fenced-out field and the stream banks to prevent manure and nutrient deposition from livestock, as well as to prevent erosion and degradation of the stream banks by the animals. Along pasture edges not bordered by streams, maintaining this 10' distance between the fence line and woods, buildings and other structures also serves as a way for landowners and operators to easily access and maintain fencing. Along a woods line for example, replacing old fence posts and repairing loose sections of fencing is easier when there's space to drive equipment through. Leaving space between the pasture and woods or even other pastures can also be an easy way to create a riding trail for horses and allow for easier transportation of equipment and supplies to various areas of a farm. The location and spacing between individual fence posts is also worth considering, especially for high tensile wire fences. Too large of a gap between fence posts can allow for more 'give' in the fence, whereas too small of a gap can unnecessarily raise the cost of a fencing project. The soil and ground conditions that the fence posts will be driven into should also be considered. If the fence is located along a steeply sloping hillside or in an area where visible soil erosion is already present, driving the fence posts deeper than what would be minimally required may be necessary. If an area contains particularly soft and loose soil, it may even be necessary to set the fence posts in cement for added stability. A fence is only as good as its weakest post, and an ornery bull or hog could easily force its way through an unsecured or faulty section of fence line.

Along with the considerations for the placement and type of fencing used, it is also important for landowners and operators to think about the extra features and functions they may want to include in their fencing projects. Besides restricting access to bodies of water or enclosing a pasture, exclusion fencing can also be used to



Wire Mesh Fencing dividing pastures

split fields and pastures to create several smaller pastures for rotational grazing. Rotational grazing allows the operator to better manage their animals by controlling when they have access to each pasture, thereby allowing the grass and vegetation to recover sufficiently between grazings. Rather than having one larger field where animals can gather and graze in their preferred spots, creating multiple smaller fields and managing which fields the animals have access to can both reduce the amount of supplemental feed needed as well as improve the soil health of the pastures. Operators can also utilize gravel or stone gate pads for high traffic areas around gates to reduce the physical degradation of the ground by the animals and equipment. Gate Pads are simple and easy to create and can extend the longevity of a fence or gated area. Another feature to consider for fencing off fields and pastures is the animals'

access to water. If the only access to water for the animals would be the stream that is being fenced off, a watering trough should be considered for the pasture as well. Watering troughs can be added to fields individually or they can be placed along fence lines so that both pastures can be serviced by one trough in an economical and efficient manner. Fences can also be erected across previously existing troughs when fields are split, so that the existing watering troughs can be used without needing to install another. Some other features and practices to consider when planning to install exclusion fencing include the width of gates and entry points, whether run-in sheds or a barn will be included in the area, and whether temporary fencing can be used to further restrict access to key areas or section off pastures.

*Continued on Page 3*

While exclusion fencing is often overlooked when considering the intricacies of farming and raising livestock, the importance of proper fencing can't be understated, as this article shows. For a full list of fencing guidelines for various animals or to find out more about the fencing materials that would work well for your animals and operation as well as general fencing questions, please contact the **Harford Soil Conservation District directly at (410) 638-4828**. Together we can help make sure that your land works for you!

## NEW: Mail-In Enrollment - 2020/2021 Cover Crop Program



To ensure everyone's safety and peace of mind, this year's sign-up will be conducted by mail. There is no need for farmers to sign up in person at local soil conservation district offices.

Farmers who participated in last year's cover crop program were mailed applications from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), with instructions and a return envelope. If you did not participate last year, click on the link below, or call Harford SCD at (410) 638-4828 to receive an application by email.

Applications, instructions and soil conservation district mailing addresses will be available on the MDA website beginning July 1, 2020.

Completed applications must be mailed to the local soil conservation district and postmarked between **July 1, 2020 and July 17, 2020**.

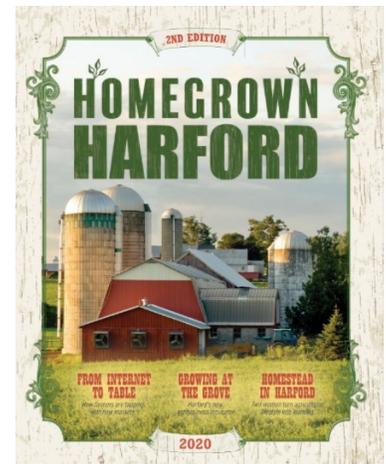
For more information, visit: [https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Pages/cover\\_crop.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/cover_crop.aspx).

2nd Edition of *Homegrown Harford* is Now Available!

A digital copy can be accessed at:

<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2907/Homegrown-Harford>

Magazines are available at the Harford County Agricultural Center. Please call **(410) 638 - 4828**, Harford Soil Conservation District, or **(410) 836 - 7773**, Harford County Farm Bureau, to arrange pick-up.



The Harford Soil Conservation District Website is **Under Construction**



Due to technical difficulties we have not been able to update our website for several weeks. We are working with our IT Department to correct the problem and hope to have it resolved as soon as possible. Please continue to check back with us.

[www.harfordscd.org](http://www.harfordscd.org)

## Harford Soil Conservation District Partners with the City of Havre de Grace

By Erik Hill

Harford Soil Conservation District has been part of the Concord Point Park expansion in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Together with the City of Havre de Grace, a Stormwater Infiltration Basin was designed and built along Concord Street. The basin allows for the collection of stormwater run-off from the surrounding buildings and streets. Native plants in the basin soak up the water and remove nutrients in the stormwater. The native plants also provide habitat for insects and birds. Native plants are best adapted to survive and function in the stormwater basin. The soil will also hold and absorb the stormwater and much of the water



infiltrates deeper into the ground. If there is more water than the plants and soil in the basin can handle there is an underground drain that removes the excess water to a nearby stormwater pond. This underground drain prevents water from ponding in the basin and possibly harming the plants. The Stormwater Infiltration Basin is another project that Harford Soil Conservation District has been involved with in an urban environment.



*Ribbon Cutting on October 29, 2019.*

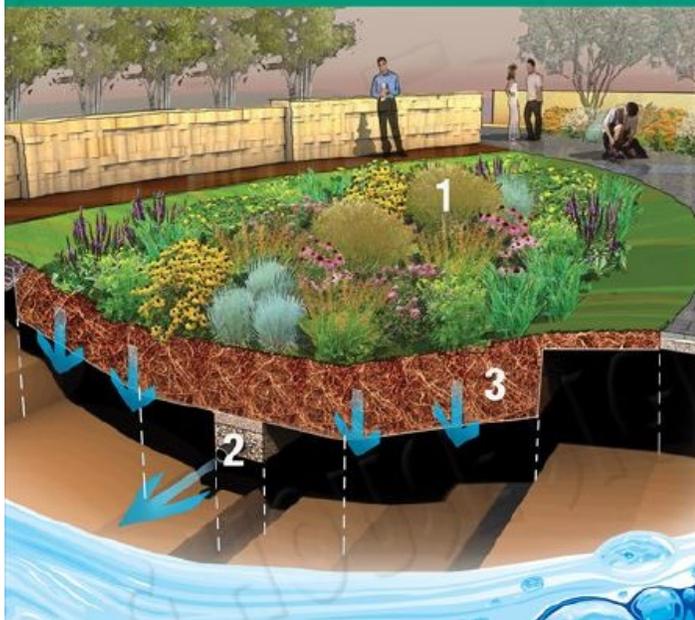
*Left to Right: Tim Whittie, Director of Public Works; William. T. Martin, Mayor; Lee McDaniel, Board Chairman, Harford SCD; and Stephanie Noye, MS-4 Permit Coordinator*



# Stormwater Infiltration



By City of Havre de Grace Department of Public Works and Harford Soil Conservation District



- 1** **Native Plants** help to manage stormwater runoff from buildings, landscapes and the surrounding watershed. The deep rooted native plants and grasses help build soil structure and allow water to infiltrate the ground better than traditional turf grass. Native plants also are low maintenance, are adapted to the surrounding region, resist pests and diseases as well as provide habitat for local birds and butterflies.
- 2** To help remove excess water from the stormwater planter, the **under drain** insures that water will not pond on the surface for extended periods of time.
- 3** To support plant growth and promote infiltration, rain gardens are often supplemented with organic compost and sand. The **"amended soil"** also removes pollutants from contributing waters and helps restore "life" within the soil.



## Resources for Growers Through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

Provided by Paul Goeringer, Agricultural Law Specialist, University of Maryland

USDA has recently announced a new program to provide assistance to growers and livestock producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. The new Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will begin to signup on **May 26 and close on August 28th**. See <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> from USDA.

CFAP will provide support to eligible livestock, wool, dairy, non-specialty crop, and specialty crop producers. The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the University of Maryland Extension has developed resources to assist growers to better understand CFAP. The following resources have been developed:

- Beef Producers Infographic from UME is available [here](#).
- Dairy and Beef Producers: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP): [What Dairy and Beef Producers Need to Know](#), Sarah B. Potts, University of Maryland Extension, 2020.
- Dairy Producers Infographic from UME is available [here](#).
- General overview: [New Coronavirus Food Assistance Program May Provide Relief to Maryland Growers Due to COVID-19 Losses](#), Paul Goeringer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2020.
- Grain Infographic from UME is available [here](#).

Make sure you schedule an appointment with your County Farm Service Agency\* office or fill out the online application before the end of the signup period.

**\*USDA Farm Service Agency  
 2205 Commerce Road, Suite C  
 Forest Hill, Maryland 21050  
 (410) 838-6181, Ext. 2**



*Harford Streams* **SUMMER ADVENTURE 2020**

**VISIT HARFORD STREAMS  
 UPLOAD SELFIES & COMMENTS  
 WIN PRIZES!**

[Click Here to Register](#)

Program for all ages runs May 22 - September 7



Barry Glassman  
 County Executive

The *Harford County Agricultural Center* is still closed to the public until further notice, but the Harford Soil Conservation District staff are available in the office and ready to assist you, although we may look a little different these days...

Give us a call at **(410) 638-4828**. Office visits are *by appointment only*.



# District Squares



**Bessie**



**Yvonne**



**Andrew**



**Jeremy**



**Quintin**



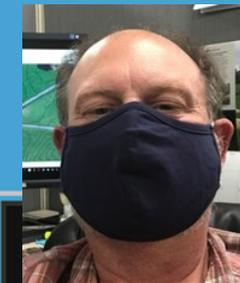
**Patrick**



**Leslie**



**Pookie**



**Eric**

**MISSING:** As employees of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Brian and Chris are currently on mandatory tele-work from home, until further notice.

# The Grove



*Opening Soon!*

The Grove is an outlet for local area farmers, artists and food processors to sell their products directly to consumers and to actively promote agriculture commerce and sustainability in Harford County.

### Site Amenities

- Visible from Route 1
- Adequate parking
- Access to indoor and outdoor water
- Hours of operation: 7 days a week, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Home of the Harford County Agricultural Center & Joesting Gorsuch House
- Future educational trails and playground

### Indoor Rental (\$250/month)

- 8 secured indoor stalls (16x12)
- One dedicated duplex electrical outlet
- Maximum 4.5 cu ft. freezer/refrigerator may be used
- Goods may be left in secured stalls

### Outdoor Rental (\$150/month)

- 8 unsecured outdoor stalls (16x12)
- One dedicated duplex electrical outlet
- Maximum 4.5 cu ft. freezer/refrigerator may be used
- All goods and staging items must be removed daily

### Schedule & Rental Rates

- Annual (April - March)
- Semi-annual (April - Sept. & Oct. - March)
- Quarterly (June - Aug., Sept. - Nov., Dec. - Feb., March - May)
- **Indoor/Outdoor: \$300 per month**
- Camera surveillance

**Application and additional information available at:**  
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2799/The-Grove>



**Harford Soil Conservation District**  
3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 500  
Street, MD 21154  
(410) 638 - 4868

Find Us on the Web at [www.harfordscd.org](http://www.harfordscd.org)

# HWDC COMPOST AND MULCH FREE STATION

## DID SOMEONE SAY FREE?

Yes, Harford County Residents can fill (3) 30-gallon containers for FREE (per visit) at our Compost and Mulch Free Station. Bring your own containers and your own shovels and filler up. If you choose to purchase compost and mulch that will be \$10 cubic yard loaded.

At this time, purchased mulch and compost are available to County, Out of County, and Out of State residents. All Compost sales are currently limited to 5 cubic yards per transaction. Bulky loading ends at 2:45 p.m. daily. Arrive early as we are experiencing high traffic volume later in the day.

For More Information:  
HWDC Scalehouse- 410-638-3638  
HWDC Recycling- 410-638-3417  
HWDC Main Office- 410-638-3018



**(3) 30 Gallon Containers  
Free to Self Load Per Visit**

**Harford County  
Residents Only**

**Monday through Saturday  
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**3135 Scarboro Road  
Street, MD 21154**