



Annual Report

2005



DISTRICT STAFF

Timothy M. Riley
District Coordinator

Michelle V. Jacobs
Administrative Manager

Gayle R. Wills
Accountant

Glenda L. Kohout
Administrative Assistant

Beverly Brandt
Receptionist

Jared C. Adkins, P.E.
S&S Program Manager

Raymond Richter, P.E.
Engineer

David C. Cahill
Engineering Inspector

Brian DeYoung
Engineering Inspector

Gene A. Mullen
Engineering Inspector

Bill Tanner
Engineering Inspector

Kelly Wilson
Engineering Inspector

John Bushey
Conservationist

Kerin Hume
Conservationist

Paula Long
Conservationist

Rodney L. Morehart
Conservationist

Gene Vanderwende
Survey Technician

Wayne Wheeler
Drainage Technician

T. Townsend Yerkes
Equipment Foreman/Operator

John W. Lucks
Equipment Operator

Ronald S. Argo
Equipment Operator



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CONSERVATION SERVICE
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District Conservationist

Douglas V. Mosley
Soil Conservation Technician

Richard P. Garlich
Agricultural Engineer

Janice B. Pertuzzi
Soil Conservationist

Jayne Arthurs
Soil Conservationist

All District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Kent Conservation District (KCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of Delaware authorized by state legislation in Title 7 of the Delaware Code, Chapter 39 and responsible for conservation work within Kent County. In Delaware there is a conservation district in each county. KCD functions to focus attention on land, water and related resource problems; develop programs to solve the problems; enlist and coordinate help from public and private sources to accomplish the District goals; and increase awareness of the relationship between human activities and the natural environment around us. It is the Board of Supervisors' responsibility to plan and direct the District programs, coordinate the help of governmental agencies, assign priority to requests for conservation technical assistance from private landowners, and serve as a community clearinghouse for information services. The KCD Board of Supervisors meets monthly and all meetings are open to the public.

Kent Conservation District's Mission is to put each acre of land to the use for which it is best suited and to economically develop and improve our environment to its highest potential according to sound planning and conservation practices.

Much of the districts' effectiveness is due to their ability to work with local, state, and federal agencies to solve local environmental problems. KCD enters into agreements (memorandums of understanding) with cooperating agencies and organizations that outline the obligations of each party and the assistance available. KCD operations are supported by federal, state and local governments and private individuals. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) provide technical leadership to KCD. Additional cooperating agencies include: the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA Farm Service Agency, the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA), and the First State Resource Conservation and Development Council.

KCD receives an annual allocation from the State of Delaware administered through DNREC, which is used to cost-share with landowners for environmentally sound improvements of their land. This funding also provides a portion for personnel and administrative costs to run the program. KCD also receives funding from the state and county government to address the needs of the tax ditch systems within Kent County. Still another source of funding from the state goes to KCD's Sediment and Stormwater Program which helps to fill the void between total program expenses and the fees received for project plan review and inspection. Additional funding is received through special conservation grants and equipment rental.

Employees within KCD provide technical, administrative, and clerical support to district programs. At times, Earth Team Volunteers assist with carrying out the District's conservation programs. KCD works directly with farmers, landowners, and municipalities on the following types of challenges: water quality protection; stormwater management; aquifer protection; land use planning; erosion and sediment control on land undergoing development, farmland, critical areas and public lands; flooding problems; wetlands protection; soil survey information; and sustainable agriculture.

State and National Associations

Delaware's district supervisors have a statewide organization known as the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD). DACD is a voluntary, non-profit alliance, providing a forum for discussion and coordination among the districts as they work to ensure the wise use and treatment of renewable natural resources.

The 3,000 conservation districts across the United States belong to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). This organization's primary goal is the conservation, orderly development, and judicious use of the nation's resources.

Both of these organizations make the effort of conservation districts more effective by providing a vehicle through which conservation districts can band together to promote their causes at the state and national levels. The District's cooperators were well represented by the KCD Board at the NACD annual meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia. Those in attendance included Robert Killen, Edwin Alexander, Terry Pepper and Gordon Johnson. Also attending were Timothy Riley, District Coordinator, and Michelle Jacobs, Administrative Manager. Later in the year, Robert Killen, Timothy Riley and Gene Vanderwende represented the District at the NACD Northeast Region annual meeting, which was held in Teaneck, New Jersey.



EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

Heavy Equipment

Use of the District's equipment enables the equipment crew to work with our cooperating landowners to establish new conservation practices and/or enhance existing practices on their lands. The heavy equipment was utilized for 2,463 hours. The District owns the following heavy equipment: one hydraulic track excavator; two bulldozers; a farm tractor with loader; four pickup trucks; one low-boy tractor trailer; one backhoe; one six-wheel truck with a dump body which pulls a trailer used to move equipment; and one AIV for seeding.

No-Till Equipment

The District currently owns one Lilliston no-till drill and two Great Plains no-till drills, one of which can be used to plant native grasses. The drills are rented to our cooperators on a first-come-first-served basis. They are delivered to the farm, and our technician works with the cooperator to ensure that the equipment is functioning properly and to the satisfaction of the cooperator. During 2005, 38 different landowners planted 897 acres of small grains and three other landowners planted 37.5 acres of native grasses.

TAX DITCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The District employs a survey technician whose main responsibility is to assist with the tax ditch program in Kent County. DNREC's Division of Soil & Water provides assistance in tax ditch planning and organization. There are 73 tax ditches totalling 692.2 miles in the county. The District's survey technician responded to 165 requests for assistance on the tax ditches. The requests for assistance concerned pipe sizing, flooding, ditch bank erosion, seeding, tax ditch maintenance, tax ditch construction, beaver control, and requests to stake, grade and survey ditches, etc. The District's survey technician attended 27 annual meetings.

3921 Matching Funds

To maximize the efforts of providing a beneficial drainage system for county residents, the Kent County Levy Court and the State of Delaware again provided the District with a total of \$150,000 to be used for the construction of new tax ditches and the maintenance of existing tax ditches. These funds, combined with \$28,320 from FY04, were used in conjunction with tax ditch funds to perform the necessary work. After the work was completed, the projects were inspected by the District's surveying technician before any matching funds were released. During 2005, the 3921 funds were used as follows:

Ditch Dipouts	\$ 27,091
Pipe Installations	\$ 26,426
Ditch Mowing	\$ 58,192
Technical & Admin. Assistance	\$ 62,888
Brought Forward to FY-06 3921 Funds	\$ 3,723
Total	\$178,320

Weed Wiper Bar

The Kent Conservation District worked in cooperation with DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife, the First State Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Sussex Conservation District, and the University of Delaware's Bioresources Engineering Department in the development of a weed wiper bar. The bar is used to chemically control vegetation on tax ditch slopes and horizontal areas by environmentally friendly means. During 2005, the weed wiper bar was used on 14 different tax ditches. The treated area on these ditches totalled 125 miles, affecting 875 acres. The mileage reported is the total miles of the ditches. Each mile of ditch requires at least one swipe, maybe more.

DRAINAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At times the District is called upon to assist landowners with drainage concerns that do not fall under the Sediment & Stormwater or Tax Ditch programs. These requests for assistance concerned flooding problems, ditches that need cleaning out, erosion problems, etc. The District handled 83 requests for drainage assistance during 2005.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency provided technical and financial assistance through a cost-sharing program to cooperating landowners for conservation practices. Cost-sharing through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enabled the District to continue work toward the reduction of non-point source pollution (NPS). Funding from the State of Delaware and Kent County Levy Court allowed the continuation of the community drainage program and resource development.

Conservation Cost Share Program

The General Assembly provided \$720,000 in cost share funds, which were utilized by different cooperating landowners. Projects implemented emphasized water quality, water management, and erosion/sediment control. Funds were allocated for the practices below:

Poultry Heavy Use Area Protection	113	Pads
Deer Management Program Participants	19	Each
Poultry Manure Structures	9	Each
Horse Manure Structures	1	Each
Dead Bird Composters	4	Each
Manure Spreaders	4	Each
Front-end Loaders	8	Each
Dairy Heavy Use Area Protection	5,621	Sq. Feet
Cover Crops	6,842	Acres
Tile Drainage	14,470	Feet
Farm Drainage	5,310	Feet
Urban Grassed Swale	300	Feet

Funds were also provided for one each of the following: beef manure waste system, dairy manure waste system, and fencing for intensive grazing.

Conservationists completed 149 inspections of installed practices to ensure the practices are working properly and do not need any maintenance.

State Revolving Loan Fund Program

The State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program is designed to provide low-interest financing at the rate of 3% for the implementation of best management practices.

Cooperators were assisted in the SRF application process on the following projects:

Composters	9	Each
Front-End Loaders	4	Each
Poultry Manure Structure	2	Each
Dead Bird Incinerator	1	Each
Manure Spreaders	1	Each
Heavy Use Area Protection (Poultry)	1	Each
Dairy Ag Waste System	1	Each

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

This money was used to install conservation practices on marginal cropland to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. A total of twelve contracts were signed on nine farms.

Cost-share funds in the amount of \$60,441 were obligated to cover the estimated costs for establishing the practices. The practices cover 146.9 acres and are broken down as follows:

Hardwood Tree Planting	74	Acres
Wildlife Upland Habitat	15	Acres
Shallow Water Area for Wildlife	2	Acres
Filter Strips	29	Acres
Wetland Restoration	27	Acres

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The total amount of EQIP cost-share funds allocated for the year was \$2,366,695. This money was used for the implementation of the water quality practices listed below:

Alum Treatment of Poultry Litter	4	Each
Composters	9	Each
Comprehensive Nutrient Mngt. Plans	4	Each
Fencing	3,420	Feet
Forage Harvest Management	158	Acres
Heavy Use Area Protection	19	Acres
Incinerators	1	Each
Microirrigation	3	Systems
Irrigation Sprinkler System	406	Acres
Irrigation Water Conveyance	425	Acres
Irrigation Water Management	3,755	Acres
Manure Transfer	3	Each
Nutrient Management	21,809	Acres
Pasture and Hay Planting	10	Acres
Pest Management	18,541	Acres
Residue Management	533	Acres
TA Design	10	Each
Waste Storage Facility	12	Each
Waste Utilization	208	Acres
Water Wells	3	Each
Windbreak Establishment	1,000	Feet

SEDIMENT & STORM WATER PROGRAM

The Kent Conservation District has been the delegated agency in Kent County for the State's Sediment and Stormwater (S&S) Program since its inception in July 1991. The District is responsible for plan review and approval, construction inspection, and maintenance inspection for all construction projects within the County. The Stormwater staff included the program manager, five engineering inspectors, a part-time engineer, and an administrative assistant. During the year the staff performed the following:

Plan Review

Development Advisory Committee (DAC)	
City of Dover	57
Kent County	54
City of Milford	13
Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS)	
Kent County	68
Detailed Plans	
Minor Subdivisions	141
Plans Approved	
General Permits	
Permits Issued	791
Temporary Permits	615
Inspections Completed	
Regular	796
Certificate of Occupancy (CofO)	2061
Temporary	721
Annual Maintenance	3



Stormwater Management Ponds

The average number of detailed plans reviewed per month was 31 and the average number of C of O and Temporary Inspections performed per month was 232. Regular inspections averaged 66 per month. Compared to 2004, plan review has increased by 11% and Temporary and C of O inspections increased by 18%.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Poultry Manure Storage Structure with Lean-to Channel Composter

The District, in cooperation with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service, continued to provide pre-sidedress soil nitrate tests (PSNT) to all interested corn growers in Kent County. Use of this test can result in economic savings and reduce the chance of groundwater contamination by nitrates. In 2005, a total of 61 samples were tested covering 1,904.5 acres. The District's conservationists also worked with cooperators in testing manure as well. Last year the following number of manure samples were tested: dairy - 3; poultry - 31; and horse - 3. The conservationists also completed 46 animal waste plans and 21 nutrient management plans covering 6,080.4 acres.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES & AWARDS

Governors Conservation Awards

Governor Ruth Ann Minner presented the 11th Annual Governor's Conservation Awards to winners from all three counties during a ceremony proclaiming Soil & Water Stewardship Week in Delaware. The recipient of this award representing agricultural conservation in Kent County was Gregg & Stephanie Knutson of G&S Dairy in Harrington. The Knutsons resurrected a family dairy that had been shuttered for more than 30 years into a state-of-the-art small dairy operation.

The recipient of this award representing urban conservation in Kent County was Meadow Ridge Homeowners Association. The Homeowners Association, with help from Carl Solberg of Kent County's Department of Community Services and Bryan Hall of Delaware's Forest Service, converted stormwater areas that proved problematic for proper aesthetic maintenance into a low maintenance reforested community open space area. Over 14,000 native hardwood and evergreen seedlings were planted along with six acres of native species. A jogging path with informational signage was also constructed. Lower maintenance costs of the open space resulted in reduced homeowners association dues.

Delaware Envirothon

The District again supported the Envirothon, a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students. The competitive nature of the program motivates students to expand their knowledge of natural resources and realize their responsibility as stewards of our natural resources. The students answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigations of environmental issues in five categories: aquatic ecology, soils/land use, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue which was Managing Cultural Landscapes. Twenty-one teams competed in the competition. Kent County teams included Caesar Rodney FFA, Polytech High School, Polytech FFA, and Kent County 4-H. Honors for the Kent County teams included the following:



Kent County 4-H: 3rd Place - Overall; 1st Place - Kent County; 3rd Place - Forestry; 1st Place - Wildlife; and 1st Place - Public Speaking

Polytech High School: 2nd Place - Kent County; 3rd Place - Aquatic Ecology; 2nd Place - Forestry; and 3rd Place - Wildlife

Polytech High School FFA: 3rd Place - Kent County and 3rd Place - Wildlife

8th Annual Barn Dance

The 8th Annual Barn Dance was held on August 19th at the Delaware State Fair Exhibit Hall. Guests enjoyed a fantastic barbecue pork and chicken dinner cooked by Ron & Kay Argo. Other activities included a silent auction, a live auction by Bruce Betts, and dancing to Just Kidding Around Entertainment. The 266 attendees helped to raise a little over \$7,000 for the Delaware Envirothon.

Thanks to all who helped make this event a big success!!!

The 9th Annual Barn Dance will be held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds on September 15, 2006.

Cooperator of the Year

Ted and Maria Bobola of Bobola Farms and Florist were selected as the District's Cooperator of the Year for 2005. In addition to farming over 1300 acres, the Bobolas operate a wholesale and retail nursery as well as three poultry houses. They have installed a manure structure, a channel composter, and two low-pressure center pivot irrigation systems. They are enrolled in Tier IV nutrient management and Tier I pest management under the EQIP.

Outreach Efforts

The District participated in the following activities in our continuing effort to promote environmental awareness:

- *distributed Soil and Water Stewardship Week materials to local churches, schools and libraries

- *staffed the Delaware Conservation Partnership display at the Delaware State Fair

- *provided news releases announcing the NACD Annual Photo Contest

- *participated in the Science Alliance's "What in the World" career awareness program at two middle schools and nine elementary schools

- *sponsored an environmental poster contest

- *participated on the planning committee and provided volunteers for DNREC's Make-a-Splash event

- *staffed the District's display at Science Fair night at Lake Forest East Elementary School

- *gave a soils presentation to all four second grade classes at Hartly Elementary and at South Dover Elementary School's Super Science Day

- *co-hosted a stormwater pond maintenance workshop

- *co-hosted workshops on power equipment and tree plantings for new rural landowners

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