

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Middlesex & Monmouth Counties Since 1938

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



**2012 Freehold SCD Photo Contest
First Place Winner
“Country Road”
By James Lagan, of Middletown**

Freehold Soil Conservation District

is a special purpose subdivision of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture serving Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Freehold SCD is one of 15 New Jersey soil conservation districts empowered to conserve and manage soil and water resources in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee. We address stormwater, soil erosion and sedimentation problems that result from land disturbance activities. We also provide environmental education outreach programs within the two counties.

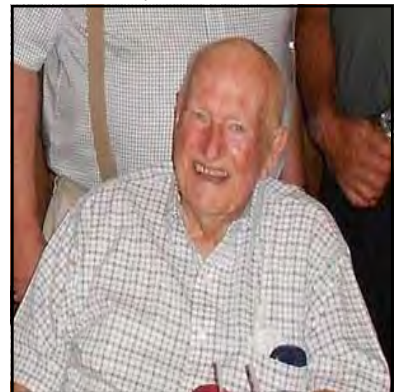
In response to growing concern for water quality, the District has become the primary local agency responsible for controlling nonpoint sources of pollution associated with construction, agriculture and mining. Technical services of the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service are made available through the District.

With ongoing cooperation between residents, contractors, developers, educators, landowners, farmers, municipalities and engineers, Freehold Soil Conservation District personnel continue to work to help to ensure environmental resource quality for years to come.

George Rue 1924 ~ 2012

Our Annual Report is dedicated in memory of George R. Rue who served the Freehold District for 25 years. George passed away at home in August, surrounded by his loving family .

George, a fourth generation farmer, was born on the family farm that dates back to 1803. He enjoyed working the land and dedicating time to his community. George had an outstanding tenure of leadership and involvement in the community by representing Upper Freehold Township as an active member of both local and regional agencies. George joined the Freehold SCD Board of Supervisors in 1986 and served as treasurer for over 17 years.



George received acknowledgment for his commitment to conservation over the years, which include the NJ Association of Conservation Districts Outstanding Supervisor Award in 2003. His dedication will be missed.

Chapter 251 Report

2012 marked the 36th year of the Freehold Soil Conservation District's enforcement of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, Chapter 251. Under the Act, all activities with a land disturbance of 5,000 square feet or more are required to submit soil erosion and sediment control plans to the district for review and certification. These activities include residential, commercial, mining, storage or landfill projects.

In 2012, the District received 677 new plan applications, a 5% increase from 2011. The District staff logged in over 7,792 inspection and enforcement hours and 1,177 Reports of Compliance were issued. There were 381 exemptions requested and granted and a total of 185 Storm Water Discharge Permit (RFA) applications issued for projects over one (1) acre in disturbance.

This year saw a change in staffing positions as well. Karen Rowe, an employee with the district for 18 years, left her position as Education Coordinator and Holly Reynolds, a former district senior site inspector, became the new Public Information Specialist. Longevity awards were given out to Brian Governale (5 years), Steven Grosch (10 years), Tim Thomas (15 years), Ben Shotland (20 years) and Michael Hill (25 years). In addition, Michael Infanti was accepted into the NJ Agriculture Leadership and Development Program. Michael is our farm audit data collection technician for the Rural Energy for America Program.

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy's devastation in October 2012 to New Jersey and the shore area, the district will be working diligently to assist all towns in Middlesex and Monmouth counties with any soil erosion control needs.

The district staff has continued to expand their knowledge by attending training in various areas including:

- * Soil Health Conference
- * Revised Chapter 251 Standards Training
- * Defensive Driving, hosted by the District, which not only updated staff in proper safety in driving, but also provided attendees with discounted auto insurance premiums.
- * CPR and First Aid

We will continue to serve the communities within Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, helping to protect our Natural Resources. We look forward to meeting our goals in 2013 and hope to achieve even more in the years to come.

Ben Shotland — Resource Conservationist II

Manager's Message

This has been one of the most memorable years in the history of the district. In October 2012, Superstorm Sandy challenged our state and our neighbors like never before. Unfortunately much of our coastline and surrounding areas in Monmouth and Middlesex counties were battered. Yet, the communities looked to rebuild and come together very quickly. Although the rebuilding process has a long way to go, it is remarkable to see how far they have come in a short amount of time. As we are able, the Freehold Soil Conservation District will look to offer assistance wherever possible. We are prepared to give residents and municipalities the assistance they need and will offer an expedited process to handle erosion control plans.

We had many accomplishments in 2012. This year the District hosted the New Jersey Envirothon at Camp Sacajawea Girl Scout Camp in Farmingdale. Many hours of planning and organization resulted in a very successful event for teams from 33 New Jersey high schools around the state. (Read more on the Envirothon in the Conservation Education Report)

We also partnered with Monmouth County Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Monmouth County Buildings and Grounds and an Eagle Scout to create a pollinator/rain garden. This garden was built to enhance the detention basin area adjacent to the Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center off Kozloski Road. Many of the native and deer resistant plants were donated by Pinelands Nursery of Columbus, NJ, while others were purchased from Coastal Nursery of Freehold. Volunteers helped with the Eagle Scout project and it was ultimately a success.

The goal for 2013 is to find new challenges and opportunities in conservation. Michael Infanti, a district Resource Conservationist II, will explore the entrepreneurial aspects of agriculture in New Jersey and help us connect to the farming community on a personal level through the NJ Agriculture Leadership Program. We will look for ways to offer services and determine the best way to enhance conservation for the future.

Ines Grimm — District Manager

Conservation Education

This year we have 12 returning schools and 12 new schools joining the Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom (PPIC) Program for a total of 24 schools participating in this unique, hands-on learning experience where students discover the important role pollinators play in our food supply.

In our seventh year in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, we had 19 schools and one environmental center raising brook trout. In May, over 200 students and teachers attended Trout Field Day to release the trout they raised, from eggs to 3-4 inch fingerlings, into the Toms River at the Forest Resource Education Center. Students also participated in programs in soil, forestry, water and trout life. It is estimated that over 600 trout have been released into NJDEP permitted waters this past year through Freehold SCD TIC tanks.

“Soil to Spoon” was the theme for Stewardship Week and for the Conservation Poster Contest. District prizes were awarded in four grade divisions. All first place winning posters were submitted to the State level contest and all four students won 2nd place.

Freehold Soil Conservation District was the host district for the 2012 NJ Envirothon, which was held at Camp Sacajawea in Farmingdale in May. The 19th annual event tested 33 teams of high school students from throughout NJ in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the current environmental issue of “Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development.” MATES Team #1 (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science) from Stafford won the event for the second year in a row. MATES Team #2 won second place for the event. Mates Team #1 went on to represent New Jersey at the National Canon Envirothon at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania in late July, where they placed 19th out of 54 teams.

The NJ Conservation Partnership display at the 2012 NJ Flower & Garden Show promoted the important role that pollinators play in the production of over 150 food crops in the United States. “*Spy Pollinators Out the Rear Window*” was very popular and was viewed by over 25,000 show visitors. The garden earned awards for “Most Eco-friendly” and “Most Colorful.”

Three \$2,000 scholarships were awarded by our Board of Supervisors. Kelsey Brennan, Howell, received the Neal W. Munch Scholarship, Victoria Bartley, Monroe Twp., received the Mac Clark Scholarship, and Timothy Von Thun, Monmouth Junction, received the Bill Schauer Scholarship. This was the 33rd consecutive year awards have been provided by the district. Students majoring in conservation related fields from Middlesex or Monmouth County are awarded these scholarships.

Holly Reynolds — Education Coordinator



The MATES Team #1 won the 2012 Envirothon and team members are: Ryan Sullivan, James Geddis, Alex Hascha, Kelsey Lardiere, and Michelle Predi. Team advisors are David Werner and Adam Sprague.



Karen Rowe with the Soil Tunnel at Rutgers Ag Field Day 2012



The NJ Conservation Partnership’s “Spy Pollinators Out the Rear Window” display at the Flower & Garden Show was viewed by over 25,000 attendees.

USDA



Farm Service Agency

2012 had been a year of change for FSA at the Freehold Service Center, most noticeably a change in staff. With one less Program Technician, a new County Executive Director and with budget cuts we continue to strive to meet the needs of the agricultural community. Program payments (including commodity loans, programs, conservation, and disaster payments) made in the Freehold District area came to just under \$500,000 for fiscal year 2012.

The FSA is proud to report that in fiscal year 2012 over \$10.4 million was made available statewide in the form of Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans to help New Jersey farm operators plant crops, purchase livestock, or to reorganize their operations.

Farm and Price-Support benefits totaled \$3.9 million going to New Jersey producers through numerous commodity programs including Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

Conservation payments were made to the tune of \$801,410 through the Conservation Reserve Program Payments (CRP). Funding was also approved for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), a cost-sharing alternative used to make repairs when cropland is severely damaged by storms and return it to productive agricultural use. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), which helps landowners restore and protect grassland and pastureland, and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) which offers relief to producers of eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters, were also used in some counties.

To begin to repair damages brought on by the weather, relief was also made available in NJ through agricultural disaster assistance programs to help recover from drought, floods, wind, and hail damage to crops in the amount of \$2.5 million.

These programs include FSA's Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program, which provides payments to producers when significant farm revenue losses are due to natural disasters, and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) offering financial assistance when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster.

Fiscal year 2013 began with large storms creating tremendous amounts of property damage throughout our counties. Due to the lateness of Sandy in the growing season many crops had long been harvested; still some grains and corn crops were knocked down and blown around by Sandy's powerful winds. Fisheries and marine based aquaculture were devastated by storm surges. As in 2012, with Hurricane Irene, FSA had available programs to help our customers cope with the damage. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) helps restore cropland to pre-disaster conditions while Emergency Loans are available to help bridge financial shortfalls or to replace/repair capital losses. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) may also be available in the near future to assist in rehabilitating storm damage to woodlands.

While the Farm Bill was expected to expire on September 30, 2012, Congress extended the current Farm Bill for an additional year. Not all programs from the previous Farm Bill will be available. Aside from our Farm Loan Programs, the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC), the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), the Noninsured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be available in 2013.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency**

4000 Kozloski Road

Freehold, NJ 07728

732-462-0075

www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Staff

Gabi Grunstein — County Executive Director

Beth Pine — Program Technician

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Activity Highlights of 2012

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) professionals help land managers assess resource problems and concerns and offer alternatives for improving conditions. For agricultural operations, NRCS works with the farmer to develop a Conservation Plan, a document that provides a framework for carrying out the improvements the farmer agrees to make.

NRCS can also assist land managers with resource information for land no longer farmed, offering technical reports and interpretations. NRCS is responsible for implementing Farm Bill cost-share programs and providing technical assistance for some State programs as well. Participation in NRCS programs is voluntary.

In 2012 NRCS staff provided the following technical services in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties:

- Developed conservation plans for 600 acres. Applied conservation practices on 1,900 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of soil improvement projects on 900 acres.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality on 1,025 acres.
- Helped agricultural producers improve irrigation efficiency on 70 acres of cropland.
- Assisted agricultural producers with the implementation of conservation practices on 105 acres of forest land.
- Assisted land managers with the implementation of conservation practices for fish and wildlife on 72 acres of non-federal land.

CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance is simply about helping people help the land. For more than 75 years, NRCS has used CTA successfully to reach out to New Jersey farmers and other private landowners and managers. New Jersey's farmers invest in conservation with help from CTA; to care for the more than 70 percent of our land, water and other natural resources that are in their hands. In FY2012 New Jersey received \$4 million in CTA funds. NRCS employees work with customers to identify natural resource problems, inventory resources, develop conservation alternatives and help individual farmers, local governments and urban landowners with their conservation decisions. This prepares the way for using Farm Bill and other conservation funding.

NRCS Farm Bill program activity in the district service area included:

EQIP – The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is available for active agricultural lands owned or operated by non-governmental entities. Seventeen active contracts are currently underway throughout the Freehold District, supporting forestry management practices, cover crop, organic cover crop, nutrient management, pest management, low-flow pivot irrigation systems, drip irrigation systems, irrigation water management, erosion control, leaf mulching, residue management, grazing lands management, agrichemical storage facilities, grassed buffers, and air quality practices. Multiple diesel irrigation engines were replaced with tier 3 and 4 engines to improve air quality.

Newly added to the EQIP program are Season High Tunnels (SHT). These structures help our farmers extend the growing season, in an environmentally safe manner, by protecting valuable crops grown directly in New Jersey soils. 2012 brought the district 4 new SHT contracts. The first one in NJ was installed in Monmouth County by Brett Bullock in Cream Ridge. (See photo above)



This Season High Tunnel was the first installed in NJ in Cream Ridge

WHIP – The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides funding to enhance grassland habitat, to improve forest, bog turtle habitat and riparian areas through five year contracts. Four active contracts on approximately 40 treated acres are in place in the District supporting the creation of grassland habitat, the improvement of wetland habitat, pollinator habitat by planting trees and shrubs.

CSP – The Conservation Security/Stewardship Program is a watershed-based voluntary program. Producers qualified for stewardship payments by applying and documenting high levels of on-farm conservation and management while also having the ability to earn increased payments by adding and/or expanding conservation activities. Within the Raritan watershed, three contracts covering 700 acres are being implemented and are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

AMA – Agricultural Management Assistance offers an opportunity to limited resource and beginning farmers to use new or innovative conservation practices by offsetting the cost of implementation to reduce risk to the farmer. Four active agreements on 55 acres are currently supporting water conservation practices, prescribed grazing practices and soil protection practices in Middlesex and Monmouth counties.

NJ Farmland Preservation – NRCS provides the planning, surveying, designing, and construction oversight assistance for conservation projects on lands enrolled in the State's farmland preservation program. The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) in Monmouth County approved three completed projects in 2012. The practices approved for payment included: 3,600 feet of irrigation mainline and 1,900 feet of sub-surface drainage. These projects totaled \$18,300 in cost share assistance.

GRP – The Grassland Reserve Program, administered by the Farm Service Agency, offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property, which in turn protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat. There are currently two GRP contracts in Monmouth County, covering 151 acres.

Nicole Ciccaglione — District Conservationist

NRCS 2012 Staff – Freehold Office
 District Conservationist – Nicole Ciccaglione
 Soil Conservationist - Laura Coover
 Soil Conservationist - Doug Kauffman
 Program Assistant - Maria Iannuzzelli

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Freehold Service Center
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Forest Resource Education Center

- **Interpretive Programs:** The staff at the Forest Resource Education Center (FREC) hosted a large number of interpretive programs during the 2012 year. A total of 1,820 students enjoyed programs focusing on forestry and wildlife. The annual Fall Forestry Festival was a success and featured exhibits, demonstrations and interpretive hikes. Trail Exploration Day and the Full Moon Hike brought thousands of visitors to the FREC property for naturalist-led programs.
- **Outreach Programs:** FREC staff lent their expertise at several outreach events including: the NJ Envirothon, ANJEE Conference, Teach at the Beach, Wild Outdoor Expo, Cattus Island Nature Festival, and the Barnegat Bay Festival.
- **Trail Work:** Hurricane Sandy spared most of the grounds at the FREC, unlike Irene in 2011, with the most significant damage occurring at the nursery to the Fire-Wise Greenhouse. Downed trees made some trails inaccessible but, foresters cleared trails for visitors. Continued funding from the Federal Highway Administration grant was used for trail improvements as well as the development of new solar-powered kiosks known as “talking trees”.
- **NJ Volunteers in Forestry:** The effects of Hurricane Sandy have not only been felt at the FREC, but also at many state parks. Volunteers from Burners without Borders collaborated with the FREC staff to clean-up the picnic areas at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in preparation for maple sugaring. NJ Youth Challenge Academy Volunteers helped with the planting and care of thousands of seedlings at the greenhouse.
- **Master Naturalist Program:** FREC staff provided training workshops for participants in the Volunteer Master Naturalist program hosted by Richard Stockton College.
- **Eagle Scouts:** Several scout volunteer projects improved the grounds at the FREC. Scouts worked to repair the remaining damage to the banks of the Toms River from Hurricane Irene, built duck boxes, and improved the butterfly garden by creating a visitor friendly walkway.
- **Project Learning Tree:** Based out of the FREC, NJ Project Learning Tree offers professional development workshops to both formal and non-formal teachers around the state. These workshops give teachers resourceful curriculum guides which allow them to bring environmental education to their classroom. In total, Project Learning Tree reached out to 403 teachers in 2012.

• **Trout in the Classroom:** In cooperation with the Freehold and Ocean County Soil Conservation Districts, New Jersey Trout Unlimited, and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, FREC staff hosted the annual Trout in the Classroom Field Day. The program incorporates environmental education and a trout release into its curriculum. Over 200 students and teachers from local schools participate in a day of interpretive programs and a trout release into the Toms River. Students were proud to see their trout, which they raised all year, back in their natural setting.

- **Maple sugaring:** The tradition of making delicious maple syrup at the sugar shack continued in 2012. FREC foresters tapped sugar maple trees at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in late January and into February. The sap was then prepared at the FREC and eventually boiled to become maple syrup.

- **Events in 2013:** Visit our website for more information

Lindsay Harrington — NJPLT Coordinator

Forest Resource Education Center

370 East Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527
732-928-0987
www.njforestrycenter.org



Visitors at the Fall Forestry Festival painted pumpkins, enjoyed hayrides and interpretive programs



South Jersey RC&D

South Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council area includes: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties.

The South Jersey RC&D mission to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, to improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in our designated RC&D areas is ongoing.



In 2012, the Council faced restructuring due to the withdrawal of Federal funding. NRCS can no longer support the two locally-sponsored independent RC&D Councils so we are without the assistance of an NRCS Coordinator. Our long time and well known Secretary, Nick Cassetta, retired from the Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District and the Council. He has passed the duties of "Team Habitat" onto David Reilly, who is also from the Cape-Atlantic District.

RC&D continues to plan, develop and carry out many programs for resource conservation and development. As a member of the Mid Atlantic Regional Association, the council works with other RC&D councils to enhance our efforts throughout the region in such projects as:

Wildlife Habitat: "Team Habitat" conducted 72 acres of wildlife habitat rehabilitation in 2012. The Team Habitat manager coordinated the completion of projects throughout the South Jersey RC&D area and beyond.

Tour des Farms: The sixth annual Tour des Farms bike ride in Burlington County was another successful RC&D event. Over 250 riders cycled from farm to farm with "Farm Bucks" (coupons) redeemable at the local farm markets along the route. Tour des Farms educates residents on agricultural topics and practices. We intend to increase ridership and sponsors in 2013 and are considering adding more farms to the route.

No-Till Pumpkins: The Council continues to promote soil health on farms by renting out a roller/crimper. This tool allows vegetable crops to be planted directly into crimped cover crops. This method reduces soil erosion, pesticide use, and creates a cleaner pumpkin crop. The roller/crimper is available to farmers and is located at the Burlington Soil Conservation District office, which also houses the South Jersey RC&D.

Soil Health: The Council promoted soil health through the Soil Health website at www.njsoilhealth.org and by participation in the 2012 S.O.S. Sustainable Opportunities Through Soil Health Conference.

Delaware Estuary Levee Organization: The inventory of 70 aging levees along the Delaware Bay shoreline was completed in 2010. Potential partnerships are being pursued for restoration work on the identified levees, with submittals already in place to the DEP and Army Corp for action.

Water Conservation: The Council turned over its lawn watering program to Rutgers University climatology program. Newspapers are alerted by email and a website is updated each day during the summer to provide homeowners with accurate information on how much irrigation their lawn needs that day. This is based on an area's soils, evapotranspiration and rainfall measured at local weather stations. The Council, through its partnership with the State Climatologist from Rutgers, has promoted this program to all New Jersey municipalities.

Michael Hill — SJRC&D Treasurer

Council

Jack Sworaski — Chairperson
Victor DeVasto — 1st Vice Chairperson/Secretary
Peggy McNeil — 2nd Vice Chairperson
Michael Hill — Treasurer

South Jersey RC&D

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Email: Victor DeVasto <victor-devasto@hotmail.com>



Award Winning Shot

Tara Downing, of Freehold, won 2nd place for her "Perching Place" entry for the 2012 Freehold SCD Photo Contest.



Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

The Agricultural & Natural Resource Management

department provides programs and research to serve the needs of the public as well as small businesses and related organizations. This includes agricultural producers, landscape companies, pest control companies, IPM program companies, and open space managers. We also provided educational support to environmental organizations and schools.

2012 staff accomplishments include:

- Provided educational training and crop diagnostics for over 236 farmers comprising a \$42 million dollar agricultural industry in Middlesex County.
- Provided training to 278 teachers, principals and school managers on School Integrated Pest Management.
- Facilitated an agricultural tour for 20 agricultural educators from China who learned about Extension programs.
- Readied two new lines of strawberry cultivars for patent in late 2012 and 2013. New cultivars are expected to stimulate a 10 to 20% increase in early season profits for farmers with direct markets.
- Staff worked with Environmental Agent Michele Bakacs and trained 40 Spanish speaking residents to protect themselves from lead exposure in urban soils. We tested 36 yards for lead and 12 have been found to be significantly contaminated.
- Provided training to 39 volunteers, including educators and municipal representatives, on best practices to conserve water and to prevent pollution from their landscapes through the rain barrel program.
- Delivered an *Introduction to Organic Land Care* program to 40 land care professionals on organic practices including management of soil, organic options for turf, and ID of common insects.

Master Gardeners

In 2012 there were over 125 active Master Gardeners who contributed 9,455 hours of volunteer service at a value of over **\$242,426**. Some of their efforts included:

- Master Gardeners helpline aided residents on over 1,000 calls on gardening and environmental topics.
- Speaker's Bureau educational programs included 26 presentations on many gardening with over 700 people reached.
- Maintained EARTH Center Demonstration projects including: rain barrel demonstration areas, children's garden including a "green roof" playhouse, our garden for the needy, aided in beautification of Davidson's Mill Pond Park's herb and vegetables gardens.
- Weekend tours of the Butterfly House taught over 5,000 adults and children about butterflies and native plants.
- Provided horticultural assistance to attendees of Middlesex County Fair which attracts over 20,000 residents annually.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Youth Development teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to young people in Middlesex County. Participants in grades K-13 explore science, the arts, food, outdoor adventure and more through Middlesex County 4-H Clubs. 4-H utilizes hundreds of trained adult and youth leaders each year. Many adult leaders have been actively involved for 10 years or more which reveals their dedication of the program in the

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

■ Cooperative Extension
Middlesex County

community. Hundreds of parents trust 4-H to help their children become leaders in the community each year. The Middlesex County 4-H program has 41 clubs and a membership of 582 youths including 11 project area

clubs that make up the New Brunswick Urban 4-H Youth Program.

SNAP-Ed: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program assists limited resource adults and youth to improve nutrition and food safety habits, use resources more effectively and increase physical activity for better health. In 2012 1,439 family members benefitted from SNAP-Ed programs 1,613 youths participated in nutritious food choice workshops

EFNEP: The Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program of Middlesex County is part of the state and national effort to educate low-income families with children. The hands-on classes demonstrate better nutritional skills and habits and encourage participants to select and obtain foods that satisfy their family's nutritional needs. In 2012, 198 family members benefitted from EFNEP programs and 1,188 youths participated in nutritious food choice workshops.

David Smela—Public Information Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

At the Earth Center @
Davidson's Mill Pond Park

42 Riva Ave.

South Brunswick, NJ 08902

www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices

Main office: 732 398 5260

Master Gardener Helpline 732-398-5220



Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County

Agriculture and Resource Management

The Monmouth County clientele base includes commercial agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, homeowners, governmental agencies and natural resource interests. Department Head William Sciarappa, Horticulturist Diane Larson and Program Assistant Vivian Quinn again reached record numbers of clientele in 2012 through new programs, services and applied research activities. Our agents provide technical and educational programs on a regional basis in the fields of vegetable, nursery and greenhouse production.



We work with USDA-NRCS, USDA Farm Service Agency, Freehold Soil District and Shade Tree Commission, all housed within the Agricultural Building to efficiently serve county clients. With our external outreach programs in agri-chemical education and stormwater runoff, we partner with the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board, New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Farm Bureau and regional watershed committees. Forty public demonstration rain gardens were constructed to create water conservation awareness and promote public construction. Additional work went into emergency service and farm disaster relief due to several severe storms.

Marine

Marine Extension Agent Gef Flimlin is embarking in a new programmatic area for fisheries and aquaculture in NJ. Partnering with the NJ Sea Grant Consortium, he is seeking to infuse seafood into Community Supported Agriculture farms or CSAs.

Master Gardeners

In 2012, there were 180 active Master Gardeners (MG) in Monmouth County volunteering a total of 23,400 hours. The Plant-A-Row for the Hungry and Junior Master Gardener gardens yielded over 3,000 pounds of produce donated to the Open Door Food Pantry in Freehold. Additionally, MG's are involved with community gardens, rain gardens, school programs and educational outreach at public venues.

Family & Community Healthy Sciences (FCHS)

The main initiative for the Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) is helping residents gain a better understanding of healthier lifestyles and being more active in turn reducing health care costs. Through science based advice, FCHS encourages residents to make personal choices to improve health. This educational outreach spans much of the county with our collaborating partners as local agencies, nearby Hospitals, Senior Centers, the FoodBank of Monmouth and

Ocean Counties, Monmouth County Vocational Schools and the SNAP-ED Program. Other presentations, events and demonstrations include Monmouth County Wellness Day, Health Fairs and the Monmouth County Fair also give us the opportunity to improve overall well being.

4-H Youth Development

The Monmouth County 4-H Program offers youth a hands-on, informal educational environment – a place where they can feel both connected and valued. In 2012, over 1,750 youth, grades K-13 in Monmouth County participated in a variety of 4-H opportunities including community and project-based clubs, school enrichment programs, after school programs, special interest events, and local, state and national events. Participation in

the 4-H Program helps youth master life skills and gain a deeper understanding of generosity by becoming active, engaged citizens. In addition, there are various opportunities for teens to improve leadership skills, while achieving a great deal of personal growth and independence.

Vivian Quinn - Program Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County

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FSCD 2012 Financial Report

| Sources of Income (approximate) | Amount |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Interest & previous fees | 50% |
| Erosion control fees | 49.5% |
| Monmouth County grant | .5% |
| Expenses (approximate) | |
| Salaries, taxes & benefits | 74% |
| Rent, utilities & insurance | 12% |
| Materials, supplies & postage | 4% |
| Professional services | 3% |
| Vehicles expenses | 2% |
| Training & conferences | 2% |
| Scholarships, awards & education | 2% |
| Capital expenditure | 1% |

The Freehold SCD Board of Supervisors meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the District office.
April — October at 7:30 pm
November — March at 1:30 pm

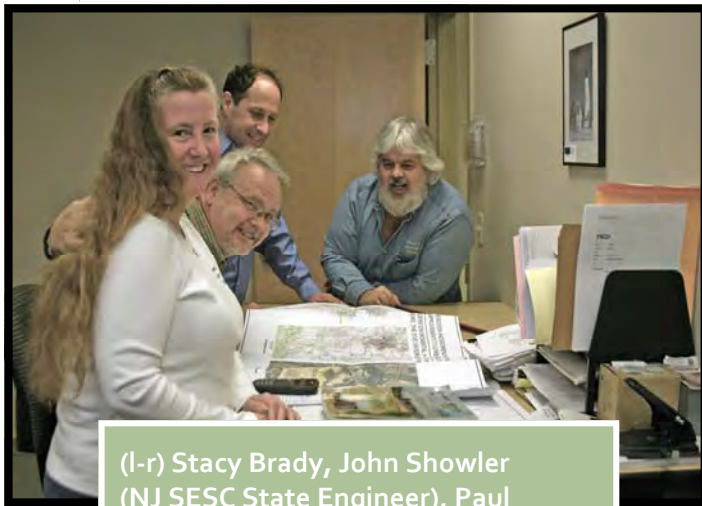
Freehold Soil Conservation District Staff



(l-r) Ines Grimm, Tim Thomas, Mike Hill, Christina LaBianca & Sharon Robertson



Brian Governale & Courtney Davidson



(l-r) Stacy Brady, John Showler (NJ SESC State Engineer), Paul Califano & Mike Hill



Ben Shotland & Mark Alliston



Michael Infanti & Steve Grosch



Donna Cramer, Andrea Farparan & Karen Rowe



Holly Reynolds

Freehold Soil Conservation District

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**Serving Middlesex & Monmouth
Counties Since 1938**



Editor: Holly Reynolds

Primary Photographer: Paul Califano

New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts consist of paid staff plus a volunteer Board of Supervisors. The operation of the Freehold Soil Conservation District is supported by the collection of plan review and project inspection fees paid by developers for construction projects.

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Charles Buscaglia | Chairman |
| Robert Dreyer | Vice Chairman |
| Donald Patterson | Treasurer |
| Roger Gravatt | Member |
| Wayne Van Hise | Member |

DISTRICT STAFF

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ines Grimm | District Manager |
| Michael Hill | Assistant District Manager |
| Stacy Brady | Senior Resource Specialist |
| Timothy Thomas | Resource Conservationist |
| Ben Shotland | Resource Conservationist II |
| Paul Califano | Resource Conservationist II |
| Michael Infanti | Resource Conservationist II |
| Steve Grosch | Resource Conservationist II |
| Mark Alliston | Resource Conservationist II |
| Courtney Davidson | Senior Site Inspector |
| Brian Governale | Senior Site Inspector |
| Holly Reynolds | Public Information Specialist |
| Karen Rowe | Public Education Specialist |
| Christina LaBianca | Administrative Services Mgr. |
| Sharon Robertson | Receptionist — Secretary |
| Donna Cramer | Application Processor |
| Andrea Farparan | Secretary |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Douglas Widman, Esq. | District Attorney |
| William Antonides Co. | District Accountant |

NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Douglas Fisher | Secretary of Agriculture |
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STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Nicole Ciccaglione | District Conservationist |
|--------------------|--------------------------|

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blanquita Valenti | Freeholder Director |
| John Kranz | Mosquito Commission Supt. |
| Richard Wallner | County Engineer, P.E. |
| George Ververides | Planning Board Office Director |
| Ralph Albanir | Parks Department Head |

MONMOUTH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thomas Arnone | Freeholder Director |
| Douglas Guthrie | Mosquito Commission Supt. |
| Joseph Ettore | County Engineer, P.E. |
| Robert Clark | Planning Director |
| James Truncer | Parks Department Secretary-Director |

COOPERATING AGENCIES

USDA Farm Service Agency

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Gabi Grunstein | County Executive Director |
|----------------|---------------------------|

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| William Sciarappa | County Agent |
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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Middlesex

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| William Hlubik | County Agent |
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NJ Division Parks & Forestry

Forest Resource Education Center

NJ Department of Environmental Protection