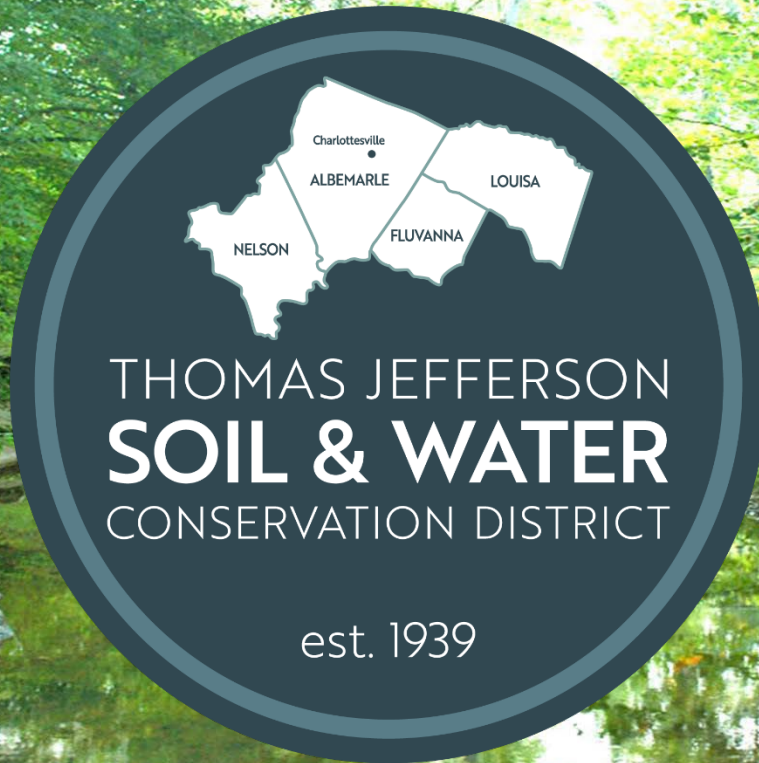


# Your Local Partner in Conservation

V B





# Programs & Technical Services

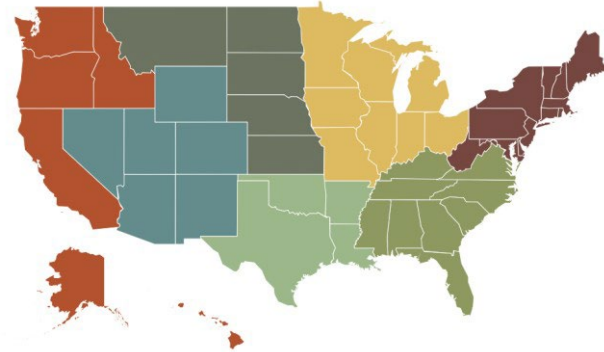
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- ✓ **Overview of Conservation Districts**
- ✓ **TJSWCD Overview**
- ✓ **Agriculture Program**
- ✓ **Septic Program**
- ✓ **Education and Residential Program**
- ✓ **Looking Forward**

# What is a Conservation District?

**Formed in 1930s in response to Dust Bowl to create local influence**

- **Local directors**
- **Local landowners**
- **Local decisions**
- **Local programs**



**3000 in U.S.**

**47 in Virginia**

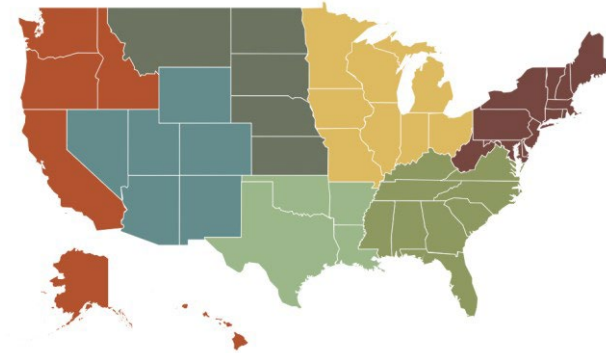
**98% of land in U.S.**

Following the ecological devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all State Governors. This Act gave states a step-by-step guide to create Conservation Districts and listing their powers and responsibilities.

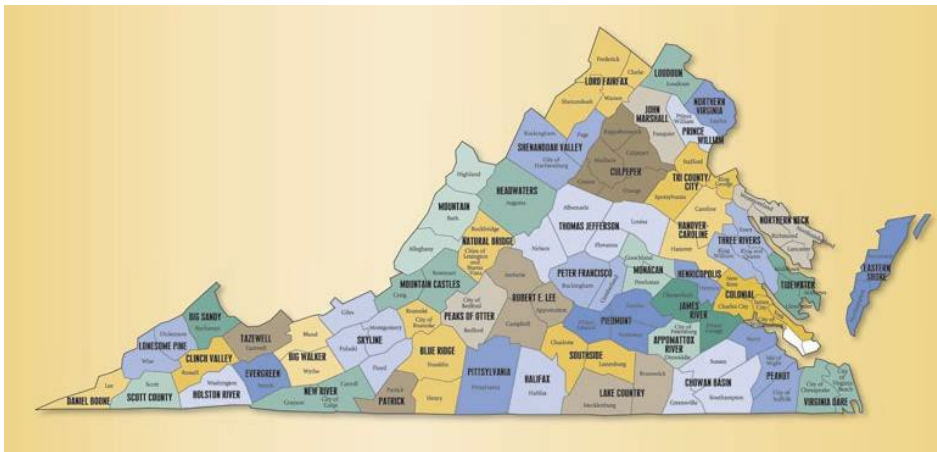
**By July 1, 1945, 48 States had passed District-Enabling Acts.**

# TJSWCD Established in 1939

## National Association Conservation Districts



<https://www.nacdnet.org/>



## Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

<https://vaswcd.org/>

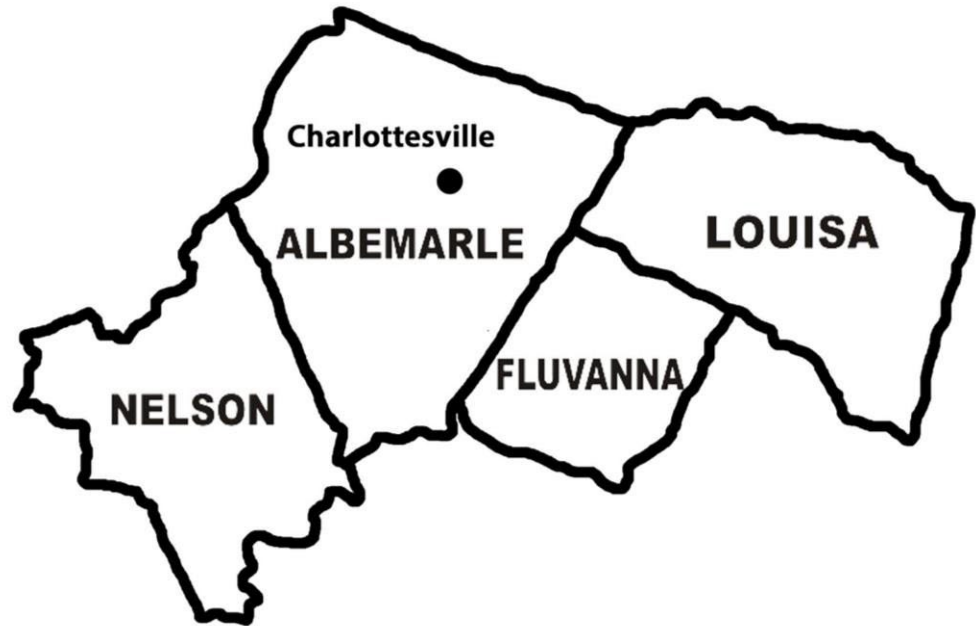
**Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)  
are  
Political Subdivision of State**

---

**Authorized through  
Code of VA 10.1-546**

**Governed by locally  
Elected Board of Directors**

# District Area - 5 Localities



## TJSWCD - Board of Directors

**12 Voting Directors + 5 Associate Directors**

# AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM

Funding Provided by the Virginia Agriculture Cost Share Program (VACS) through the Department on Conservation and Recreation (DCR)



## VACS can help to:

- Improve and Protect Water Quality
- Increase Farm Productivity and Efficiency
- Improve Herd and Animal Health
- Control Erosion and Decrease Runoff
- Improve Soil Health and Drought Tolerance
- Improve Wildlife Habitat
- Sequester Carbon and Improve Groundwater Recharge



Improve & Protect Water Quality, Conserve Soil & Scenic Beauty, and Improve Farm Management and Farm Viability through Voluntary Incentive programs.

# Agricultural Impact in Nelson County Since 1998



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**55**

Miles of Stream  
Bank Protected

**353**

Acres of Trees Planted

**670**

Acres of Riparian  
Buffer Protected

**6,690**

Acres of Cover  
Crop Planted

**168**

Acres of Cropland  
Conversion

over **\$2.9** million  
Cost Share Paid  
to Landowners

over **\$1** million  
Landowner  
Contribution

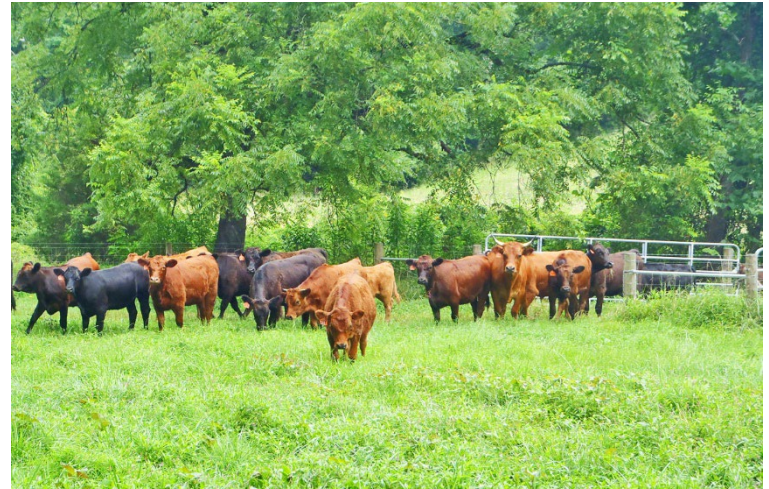
over **\$1** million  
Partner  
Contribution



# Multiple Benefits

**Preserving Farm Viability and Improving Profitability**

**Protecting our Rural and Scenic Landscape and Water Quality**



- **Rotational Grazing Systems**
- **Stream Exclusion Fencing**
- **Alternative Watering Systems**



# Riparian Buffers and Erosion Control



**Before** ↑

**670 Acres of  
Buffer Area  
Protected**

↓ **After**



# Cropland and Animal Waste Practices

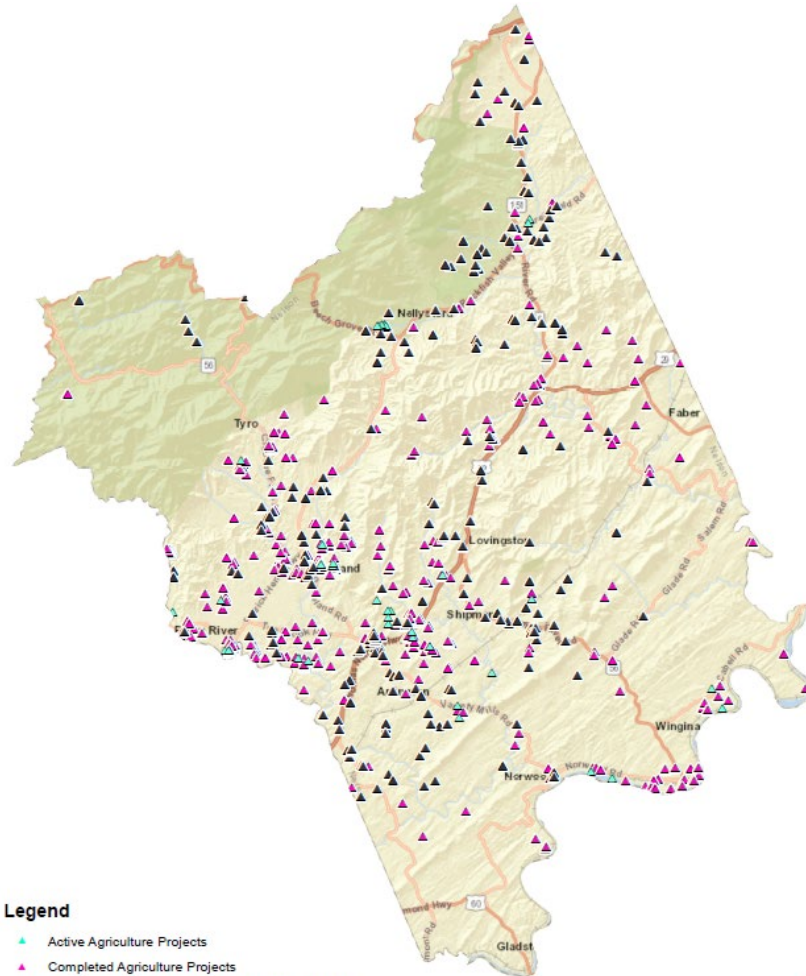
- **Cover Crops**
- **Cropland Conversion**
- **Tree Plantings**



- **Nutrient Management Plans**
- **Grassed Waterways**
- **Animal Waste Facilities**

# Geographic Distribution - Since 1998

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)



**Implemented - 585  
Agricultural (BMPs)**

**\*There are currently 36 Agricultural  
Projects Approved  
Totaling \$1,271,120 Million**

**Implemented - 207  
Septic (BMPs)**

**\*There are currently 12 Septic  
Projects Approved  
Totaling \$35,620**

# AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM

## Current Projects



**There are 36 Projects Approved  
Totaling \$1,271,120 in Nelson County**

<b>FY24</b>	<b>Non Agronomic Projects Currently Under Construction</b>				
<b>Current</b>	<b>Number of BMPs Under Construction</b>	<b>Total Stream Bank Protected (Feet)</b>	<b>Total Farm Acres</b>	<b>Total Approved Cost Share Payments From TJSWCD</b>	<b>Total Tax Credit Approved</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>75,926.00</b>	<b>902.93</b>	<b>\$1,221,848.21</b>	<b>\$28,169.02</b>

<b>FY24</b>	<b>Agronomic Projects Currently Under Construction</b>			
<b>Current</b>	<b>Number of BMPs Under Construction</b>	<b>Total Cropland Acres Benefitted</b>	<b>Total Approved Cost Share Payments From TJSWCD</b>	<b>Total Tax Credit Approved</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>602.80</b>	<b>\$49,272.50</b>	<b>\$466.88</b>



# Septic Program Impact in Nelson County Since 2014



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**135**

Pump Outs

**2**

Connections to Public  
Sewer

**16**

Systems Repairs

**53**

System  
Replacements

**1**

Alternative  
System

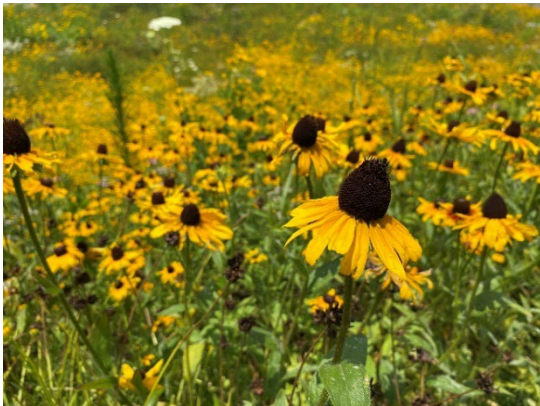
over **\$351k**  
Cost Share Paid  
to Residents

over **\$312k**  
Total Resident  
Contribution

# EDUCATION and RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS



- **Education**
  - **Hands-On Educational Programming that Promotes Appreciation and Stewardship of Nelson County and our Watersheds**
- **Residential**
  - **Cost Share Funding for Implementation of Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)**





# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Opportunities for Students



- Public Education Programs and Field Trips
- College Scholarships
- Youth Conservation Camp (YCC)
- Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI)
- Envirothon



*Reading Challenge Patch Program  
at Nelson Memorial Library*



*Nelson County Resident Zoe Evans, College  
Scholarship Recipient and YCC Attendee*



*Students from Tye River and Rockfish River  
Elementary Schools Conduct a Stream  
Study*

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Resources for Educators



*Nelson County Students Learn about Groundwater*

**Supplementing Classroom Lessons through:**

- **In-Class Watershed Education Experiences**
- **On-Loan Educational Materials**



*Nelson Middle School Students Receive Help with their Science Fair Projects*



*Nelson County Students use an Enviroscape Model to learn about Watersheds*



*Students from Tye River Elementary learn about the Water Cycle*

# RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

*Funding is provided through the  
Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)*



## VCAP can help to:

- Treat and control stormwater runoff
- Control erosion
- Conserve water within the landscape
- Improve riparian buffer areas
- Promote native vegetation and wildlife habitat



## Eligible Practices Include:

- Conservation Landscaping
- Rain Gardens
- Dry Wells
- Impervious Surface Removal
- Rainwater Harvesting Systems
- Permeable Pavers and more...



# Looking Forward



- **Districts Receiving Over 200 Million Statewide in VACS next year that will be distributed DIRECTLY TO FARMERS.**
- **Continued State Funding for Residential Programs**
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

# Your Local Partner in Conservation

