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DLLC Newsletter | November 2022



The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) is a diverse group of representatives from environmental and agricultural interests, academia, and regulatory agencies that discusses issues and seeks collaborative solutions. We come together with the understanding that the challenges of producing high-quality food while safeguarding our environment are bigger and more complex than any one entity can address.

Learn more about us and our work [on our website](#), including [how to support DLLC's work](#). If you are interested in joining us, as space allows, please [send us an email](#).

Letter from the Chair

I am honored to take over as the Chair of DLLC and excited for what we will accomplish in the year ahead. I am currently the Program & Policy Director for Forever Maryland, an organization founded to promote and enhance statewide land conservation, and I'm a member of the Wicomico County Council.



Having grown up on a poultry farm on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, and having worked in the conservation and environmental field for the last dozen years, I have personally witnessed a great deal of positive change within the poultry industry and towards a stronger, healthy, ecosystem.

We have some incredible agricultural, environmental, conservation, academic and agency representatives within the DLLC and we are in the final stages of finishing our updated strategic plan. In the year ahead, we look forward to engaging with more farmers, landowners, and decision makers. We invite you to provide your input on new research, and more science-based solutions for productive farming, clean water, and healthy ecosystems on Delmarva. We look forward to working with you in 2023.

- Josh Hastings, DLLC Chair and Program & Policy Director at Forever Maryland

In this newsletter...

[DLLC News](#)

[Member News](#)

[Lessons as a Collaborative](#)

[News and Events](#)



DLLC News

Josh Hastings and Holly Porter present to LEAD Maryland

DLLC Chair and Vice Chair, Josh Hastings and Holly Porter, spoke to the [LEAD Maryland](#) Class XII in November. The LEAD Fellowship curriculum focuses on providing public issues education, skills building, leadership development, and personal growth. Josh, Program and Policy Director for [Forever Maryland](#), and Holly, Executive Director of the [Delmarva Chicken Association](#), talked to the group about how people from all sectors can come together and find common ground to address complex issues. Holly Porter said, "As a LEAD Maryland alumnus, I know the importance of learning about innovative ways to work with others. The work of the DLLC is a great case study for LEAD Maryland, showing the successes of bringing diverse groups together for a common cause. I left feeling energized because the group was intrigued by how DLLC has been able to do what we do." One reason for DLLC's success is that we require 100% Steering Committee approval for every product that goes out to the public. The result is that each

DLLC Welcomes New Members!

The DLLC Steering Committee welcomed four new members during our October meeting: Drew Getty from [Perdue Farms](#), Michelle Schmidt from [Delaware Center for the Inland Bays](#), Steve Kline from [Eastern Shore Land Conservancy](#) and Zach Evans from [Mountaire Farms](#). We are thrilled to have their energy and ideas as we move into a new year with a new strategic roadmap!

DLLC Updates Strategic Priorities

DLLC members spent the past year talking about the value of DLLC and recommitting to the collaborative. The outcome of their intensive work is a revised set of priorities that will focus DLLC members over the next three years.

1. Expand communication to support meaningful cross-sectoral dialogue.
2. Promote a whole-system watershed approach on Delmarva that supports and recognizes practices on agricultural lands.
3. Explore and support emerging conservation strategies and

member is confident that DLLC products have been thoroughly vetted by a very diverse group of cross-sector leaders.



practices that increase nutrient management on agricultural land.

4. Understand emerging market-based opportunities and how they can directly benefit farmers.
5. Expand the diversity and sustainability of DLLC.

DLLC Releases "Ammonia Emissions from Poultry Production on Delmarva"

DLLC members spent two years reviewing and synthesizing information related to the management of ammonia in the chicken houses, modeling of ammonia emissions and identifying where information gaps still exist. The culmination of this work is a [publicly available document](#) which summarizes what we learned. DLLC's governance protocols required that all voting members had to approve the release of this document. The result is information that is scientifically backed and thoroughly vetted by our members. Join us for an overview of this paper, presented by the lead author, Dr. Richard Snyder, Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Eastern Shore Laboratory. [Register here for this webinar.](#)



**Tuesday,
December 13, 2022
1:00-2:00 pm**



DR. RICHARD SNYDER

*Director, Virginia Institute
of Marine Science, Eastern
Shore Laboratory*

Registration Required

bit.ly/AmmoniaWebinar

Join Us For a State of the Science Overview

The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative collected and synthesized the best available science on regional ammonia emissions resulting from poultry production. The whitepaper is available on our website at: <https://delmarvalandandlitter.net/our-work/>

Join us and lead author, Dr. Richard Snyder, for an overview of what we have learned from experts in academia, modeling, regulatory, and non-profit organizations. The webinar will include time for Q&A following the presentation.



About DLLC

DLLC brings together representatives from chicken companies, farmers, regulatory agencies, academia, and environmental groups in a collaborative and mission-driven manner. Our mission is to build cross-sector relationships to identify science-based solutions and guide their effective implementation to achieve profitable chicken and grain farming, clean water, and thriving ecosystems on the Delmarva Peninsula. Learn more about DLLC at <https://delmarvalandandlitter.net/>

DLLC Member News


DLLC member, Kim Coble, to Co-Chair Moore's Environment Transition Team

DLLC's long-time member, Kim Coble, has been identified by Maryland Gov.-elect Wes Moore to co-chair the transition team for the Climate and Environment Executive Policy Committee. Kim is the Executive Director of the [Maryland League of Conservation Voters](#).

Ambient Air Monitoring on the Lower Eastern Shore

The [Lower Eastern Shore Air Monitoring Project](#), overseen by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), began collecting continuous data about ammonia, fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), and coarse particulate matter (PM 10) in April 2020 at locations in Princess Anne (designated a low poultry operation density site), Pocomoke City (designated a high poultry operation density site), and an urban Maryland location not on the Eastern Shore with no nearby poultry operations. Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) and the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment jointly supported the effort. MDE, along with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is responsible for collecting and publishing the data gathered by the ongoing project. To date, the data shows average ammonia (NH₃) levels for the urban site to be at 1.6 percent of a MDE-designated 350 parts per billion concern threshold; 1.3 percent of the threshold level in Princess Anne; and 2.9 percent of the threshold in Pocomoke City.

Virginia Farmers Talk about Benefits of Cover Cropping Systems

Sustainable Chesapeake and Virginia Soil Health Coalition Partners released four videos focused on how cover crops (a high priority conservation practice for Chesapeake Bay restoration) can save farmers money by improving yields, reducing input costs, improving drought resilience, and preventing weeds. The  Sustainable Chesapeake videos feature Paul Davis (Davis Produce), Jamie Shenk (Beauregard Farms), and Clay Lowe (Cedar Point Farms).

Funded by the sale of "Friend of the Bay" license plates, the videos are available on YouTube:

- Cover Crops for Boosting Yields: <https://youtu.be/66Cl7exYjPU>

- Cover Crops for Fighting Drought and Weeds: <https://youtu.be/rMeZGOQmBqg>
- Cover Crops for Growing Nutrients and Cutting Costs: <https://youtu.be/4kjkxJLvMM8>
- Cover Crops for Future Generations: <https://youtu.be/moA9-qA4nU8>

Next Generation Land Stewards

ShoreRivers is launching a program focused on supporting the next generation of agricultural land stewards on the Eastern Shore. In 2023, ShoreRivers will convene the first cohort of [Next Generation Land Stewards](#)—people who are new or upcoming agricultural landowners—to share resources and expertise, and create a network of peer support. Whether you are the first generation on family land or the 15th, this program is for you. To learn more or join their first cohort of Next Generation Land Stewards, contact Laura Wood at lwood@shorerivers.org.



DCA's Delaware Buffers Cost-Share Program

Delmarva Chicken Association was awarded a \$192,000 grant from the state of Delaware to operate a cost-share program funding installation of two kinds of vegetative environmental buffers on Delaware broiler farms: hedgerows of warm-season grasses near tunnel fans and sidewall fans, and pollinator-friendly plantings. DCA is providing a \$262,235 match over the three-year course of the grant. This program is available to eligible DCA members and covers 90 percent of the costs of technical assistance, installation, and reporting for these types of buffers. For more information about the cost-share program, contact dca@dcachicken.com or download the [application](#).



Economic Benefits of Farm Conservation Practices

Fully funding the farm pollution-reduction practices needed to restore the Chesapeake Bay would inject \$655 million annually into the region's economy, including \$269 million per year in higher earnings for businesses and workers, according to a new report released by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). The increased economic activity would also support more than 6,600 jobs through 2025. The report, [Agricultural Conservation Practices: Clean Water and Climate Smart Investments](#), calculates that for every dollar spent helping farmers adopt practices that improve water quality in the Bay and its tributaries, the Bay region would see \$1.75 in higher sales and earnings. This investment would also



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

support an average of 6,673 full-time, part-time, and seasonal jobs a year through 2025.

Sussex Conservation District Addresses Bucks Branch

Severe erosion plagued a section of the Bucks Branch tax ditch in Sussex County, DE. Sussex Conservation District (SCD) installed encapsulated soil lifts to repair erosion and stabilize the ditch bank. The soil lifts are planted with deep-rooted native vegetation which will provide wildlife habitat and reduce nutrient and sediment loads entering the Chesapeake Bay via the Nanticoke River.



Lessons as a Collaborative



There is plenty of work for everyone!

Collaboratives are formed by representatives of various organizations coming together to address a shared concern through a collective process. There can be more than one collaborative focused on similar issues, but each collaborative will have a different set of resources and expertise which leads to different approaches.

However, communication among collaboratives is key so that we are all coordinating efforts and engaging with the right audiences to ensure the best outcomes for our Delmarva communities and ecosystems. During our recent DLLC meeting, members learned more about two other collaboratives on Delmarva, and how we can combine efforts when our missions overlap. The [Delmarva Restoration and Conservation Network](#) (DRCN) formed in 2017 as a collaborative of local, state, and federal government agencies and NGOs. They work with private and public landowners and local governments to identify the most important places to protect and restore, and to obtain support and funding for voluntary restoration and conservation. Envision the Choptank is a collective network of organizations and individuals that was formed in 2015 and developed the [Common Agenda](#). Their goal is to improve water quality and habitat while also considering community well-being. We look forward to working with DRCN and Envision the Choptank in the coming year to help expand the great work they are doing.

News and Events

Scholarships Available FARM CREDIT

As part of Farm Credit's centennial celebration, the Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement is kicking off a new [scholarship program](#). They will be awarding 10 scholarships worth \$10,000 each to students planning to pursue a career in agriculture. Applications are due January 6, 2023.

Sussex Conservation District Winter Soil Health Series

All events will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Bridgeville Fire Hall. Lunch is provided, Nutrient Management Credits are pending. Jan 18, 2023 (Jeremiah Durbin), Feb. 8, 2023 (Conservation Drainage and Extension Updates), and Feb. 22, 2023 (Liz Haney). [Go here for more information and to register.](#)

Sussex Conservation District Caffeine & Cover Crops

"We'll provide the coffee; you'll provide the conversation." Dec. 20, 2022 and Jan. 25, 2023. All events will be held from 8 – 9:30 a.m. at the Vanderwende-Evans Conservation Center in Georgetown, DE. [Preregistration is encouraged.](#)

Addressing Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices

[The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee](#) (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. STAC released a workshop report entitled, [Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) Through a Social Science Lens](#). The main points that emerged from the workshop are: 1) BMP adoption strategies need to be flexible and adaptable to the specific circumstances of individual farm operations (i.e., one size does not fit all), and 2) conservation programs should be designed with outreach needs in mind in order to reach a much broader range of farmers, especially those in critical source areas and those who do not typically seek conservation technical assistance.

Tools to Accelerate Conservation and Restoration Across Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners USGS, NOAA, and the Chesapeake Conservancy have created a series of maps and applications to support watershed restoration and landscape conservation. The [Accelerated Conservation and Restoration collection of tools](#) can be used to inform forest buffer siting; select wetland restoration opportunities; identify high or low-quality stream habitats; address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Equity; visualize areas most vulnerable to climate change; and more.



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