



West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Update

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PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

New to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Daniel Vance, WVDA

Daniel Vance, is from Wardensville located in Hardy County, West Virginia. He attended East Hardy High School in Baker, WV. Daniel went

Chesapeake Bay incentive payments are an added benefit of enrolling land in CREP

Davin White, WVCA

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program protects environmentally sensitive agricultural land by removing land from agriculture use establishing permanent, resource-conserving grasses and trees to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat.

Cooperators who enroll in CREP will receive rental payments and cost-share assistance from the Farm Service Agency.

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, producers who agree to establish a riparian buffer on their land and enroll in CREP are eligible for a one-time "Chesapeake Bay Incentive Payment" of \$200 per acre for land not previously enrolled and \$500 per acre for land that's being re-enrolled.

Signups for cooperators interested in West Virginia CREP for the first time, are open through September 30. These offers are called "new" offers. Interested cooperators should contact their local FSA office.

For land already enrolled in a CREP contract and where the contract is set to expire this year, the September 30, 2020 signup officially begins April 1 and ends August 21. This is the re-enrollment program.

The West Virginia Conservation Agency and the West Virginia Division of Forestry are two of the state agencies that partner with the Farm Service Agency on West Virginia CREP.

Any farmer who signs a CREP contract can receive per-acre one-time incentive payments for conservation practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers and wetland restoration.

Farmers will also receive annual rental payments that consist of soil rental rates and maintenance payments, which

onto college at West Virginia University where he pursued a degree in Agribusiness Management. Daniel has worked on poultry farms since a young age and cut pulp wood while in high school. During his time in college, he began to work at West Virginia University's Reymann Memorial Farm in Wardensville. Daniel is currently employed by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, as a Nutrient Management Specialist. In Daniel's spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, and hanging out at his family's cabin.

are determined by the practice offered. Cooperators can also receive cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable cost to install an approved practice. The benefits of CREP are evident for farmers who see crystal clear water in streams running through their farms. Acreage enrolled in CREP also reduces the amount of sediment, phosphorous and other pollutants entering streams. In some cases, CREP can help restore wetlands. To contact your local FSA office, first visit: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/> and then click on the state office and then your county's office.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week kicks off June 6

Davin White, WVCA

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week for 2020 kicks off on Saturday, June 6, with Clean the Bay Day, this is a chance to take to rivers, streams and beaches of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to remove harmful litter and debris.

Locally, volunteers plan to gather at 11 a.m. on this day for Keep the Cacapon Clean Initiative. This will be a riverside trash clean-up at Great Cacapon, Capon Bridge and Wardensville in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Contact tim@cacaponriver.org for more information.

The annual "Clean the Bay Day" has been ongoing for 30 years in areas of Virginia and is hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

For information about partnering with a cleanup location, call (757) 622-1964 or send an email to ctbd@cbf.org.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week runs from June 6 to June 14.

Other events being planned in Chesapeake Bay watershed states include a family-friendly bike ride on June 7 in Harrisburg, Pa.; a film screening of "Merchants of Doubt" on June 10 in Havre De Grace, Md.; a Bay-related cooking class on June 11 in Annapolis, Md.; and a Shrimp & BBQ festival in Havre De Grace, Md., on Saturday, June 13.

An idea being considered for West Virginia is tying a Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week event in with National Trails Day on June 6, by holding activities at state parks in the Bay watershed area. Would you like to participate or are you interested in hosting a Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week event in your area of West Virginia?

If so, contact Heather Duncan at
hishman@epcd.us

Hands-On Activity for Kids

Grow vegetables with 10 times less water using "Solar Drip Irrigation." This is a way to completely eliminate the evaporation loss.



You'll Need:

- young plant or seedlings
- 1 gallon clear plastic bottles
- 1 litter clear plastic bottles
- scissors or box cutter
- mulch or hay

Step By Step Instructions:

1. Cut the 1 litter plastic bottles in half and place next to or

USGS Leetown Science Center to Host Earth Day Open House

The center will be hosting a free Open House and Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The day's events will include hands-on-exhibits, demonstrations about fish and tours of the facility.

[Click for link](#)



around your plant.

2. Fill the half 1 litter plastic bottles with water.
3. Cut the bottoms off of the 1 gallon plastic bottles and cover the half bottles with the top section.
4. Mulch the area around the plant, to slow down evaporation.

Tree planting with the U.S. Forest Service

By Dustin Witcherman

Trout Unlimited will partner with the U.S. Forest Service for a tree planting on April 9th-10th and 13th-17th. Volunteers will meet each day at 10 a.m. at the Greenbrier District Ranger Station in Bartow. Volunteers are especially needed the week of the 13th-17th as that's when the trees will actually be planted. The 9th & 10th will be focused on sorting and arranging the trees. Lunch will be provided for volunteers.

Town of Romney's Green Infrastructure Planning

Alana Hartman, WVDEP

Last summer, stakeholders from the Town of Romney, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and Tetra Tech, met to explore ways to reduce excess rainfall runoff and localized flooding. During a 2-day workshop, the participants and instructors visited the northwest part of Romney, a low area where runoff from the western half of town collects in a stream channel and often overwhelms the culverts, especially during the intense rain events that the area experienced in 2018. This flooding has been disrupting efforts to turn the area into a walking trail and park. Participants, guided by Tetra Tech, analyzed maps of the parts of town that contribute runoff to the stream and looked for opportunities to install what is known as "green infrastructure," (GI) or practices that use soil and vegetation to slow and treat storm water runoff. Rain gardens, bioswales, tree planting and green roofs are all examples of GI practices. Participants prioritized streets and properties with the best opportunities for improvements, then sketched and placed symbols on large maps to indicate where practices could be installed. Tetra Tech created a report to summarize all the input and analysis that resulted. They also prepared concept plans for two areas, School Street and West Birch Lane, which the town can use in future grant proposals. The concept plans include several bio retention and bioswale systems along with tree planting to add shade and help absorb storm water. A workshop summary and concept designs were delivered to the Town of Romney in January and can be accessed [here](#). This work, along with similar efforts in other West Virginia Potomac Basin communities, was supported by West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant. Contact Alana Hartman at alana.c.hartman@wv.gov if your community is in West Virginia's

Potomac drainage and you are interested in identifying GI project opportunities.



About WV's Potomac Tributary Strategy Team

Fourteen percent (14%) of West Virginia drains into the Potomac River and on to the Chesapeake Bay. In June of 2002, Governor Bob Wise signed the Chesapeake Bay Program Water Quality Initiative Memorandum of Understanding. By signing this memo, West Virginia agreed to develop goals and objectives to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay.

To help WV accomplish these goals, Project Teams began working in targeted watersheds. These groups build partnerships, gather funding, and identify priority projects that are most important to their local communities.

Reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in local creeks and rivers will mean healthier water resources that are better able to sustain tourism, fishing, drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat, and other uses. Each one of us can act locally to help achieve these goals.

WV's Potomac Tributary Strategy Team

