

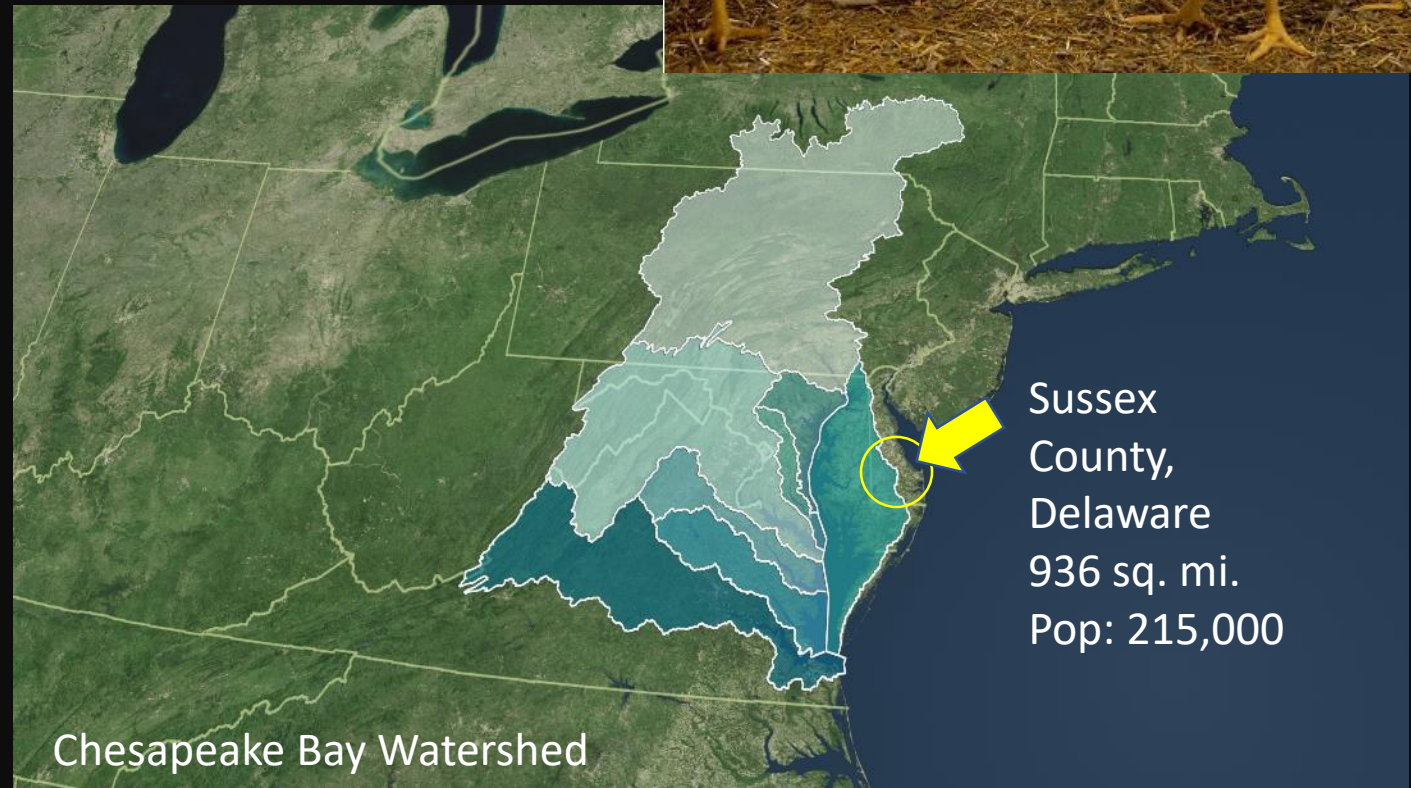
#WEDIGHEALTHYSOILS

Jennifer Nelson, Resource Smart LLC

9-20-18 CBP Ag Workgroup

Agriculture in Sussex County

- Main products include poultry, corn, soybeans, wheat and vegetables
- 235,000 acres of cropland (nearly 40% irrigated)
- #1 county in the US for broiler chicken production- 174 million in 2012!
- Conservation issues include sandy & high-phosphorus soils, flat topography & high water table





Delaware Cooperative Extension



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



HARRY R. HUGHES CENTER FOR
AGRO-ECOLOGY, INC.



Disclaimer: I'm proud to partner with these groups on the efforts described here, but I'm not a spokesperson for any of them. Tweets are my own!

- Common Goals:
 - Increase adoption of effective BMPs.
 - Improve farm profitability.
- Considerations:
 - Farmers want to implement win-win BMPs.
 - They need to know the management details to develop a strategy that works for them- crop rotation, equipment, capacity, weather, etc.
- Strategy:
 - Ask farmers what they need.
 - Provide opportunities to network and exchange ideas/experiences.
 - Provide resources.

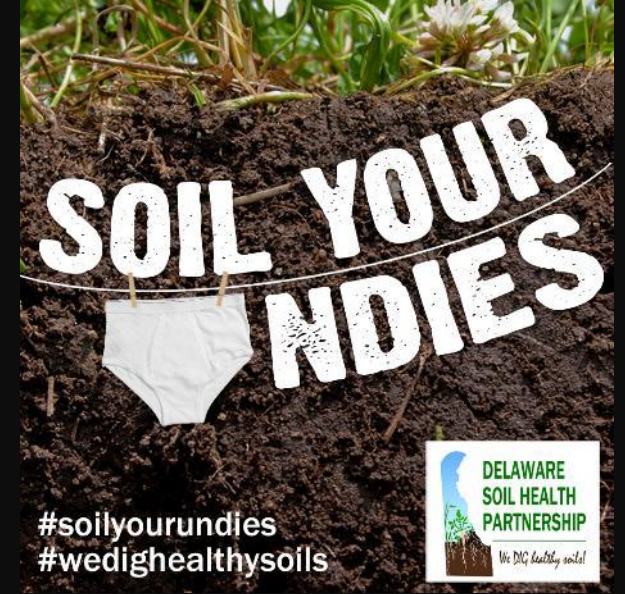


Ask farmers what they need.

“I have to go to PA and elsewhere to get soil health info...”

“You need to change the mindset of farmers to plant cover crops for soil health, not the incentive payment.”







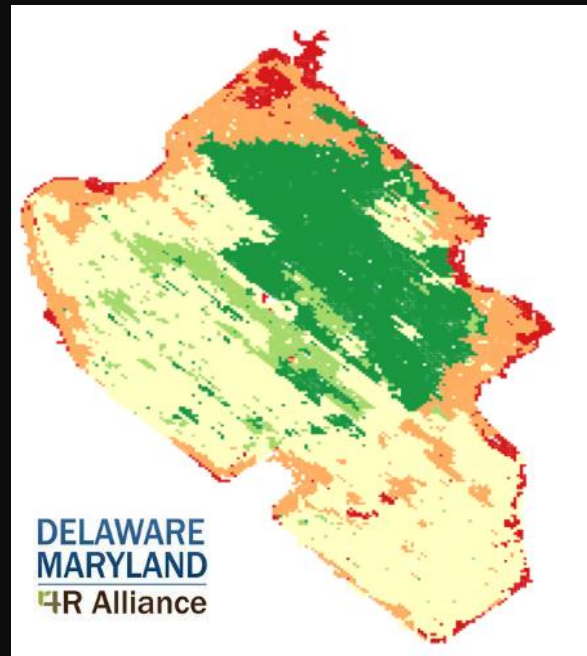
Air Seeder Program

- SCD acquired an air seeder & developed a pilot program to offer custom application of cover crops in 2015
- Hired an operator
- Incentive payments to growers
- Developed a seed program



Brad Ritter

- 5th Generation Farmer
- 1000 acres of corn, soybeans & vegetables
- Practices
 - Cover Crops
 - Reduced Tillage
 - Variable-Rate Fertility
- Soil Health Champion
- DM4RA Variable-Rate N On-Farm Demonstration



Jay Baxter

- 4th Generation Farmer
- 2,000+ acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, vegetables + poultry
- Practices:
 - Cover Crops
 - Reduced Tillage
- Soil Health Champion
- DM4RA On-Farm Demonstration
- Working with UD to test practices
- Site for DE CC Network



Chip Baker

- 650 acres of corn and soybeans + poultry
- Practices:
 - Cover Crops
 - 25 Years “Never Till”
 - Variable-Rate Fertility
 - Irrigation Water Management
- Soil Health Champion
- Working with UD to test management practices



Delaware Soybean Board

August 2 · 🌐

Running irrigation from the kitchen?



WBOC.COM

Honoring Delmarva Farmers: Chip Baker

Knowing where to irrigate can take a lot of a farmer's time. Not so for...



PROFILES IN soil health

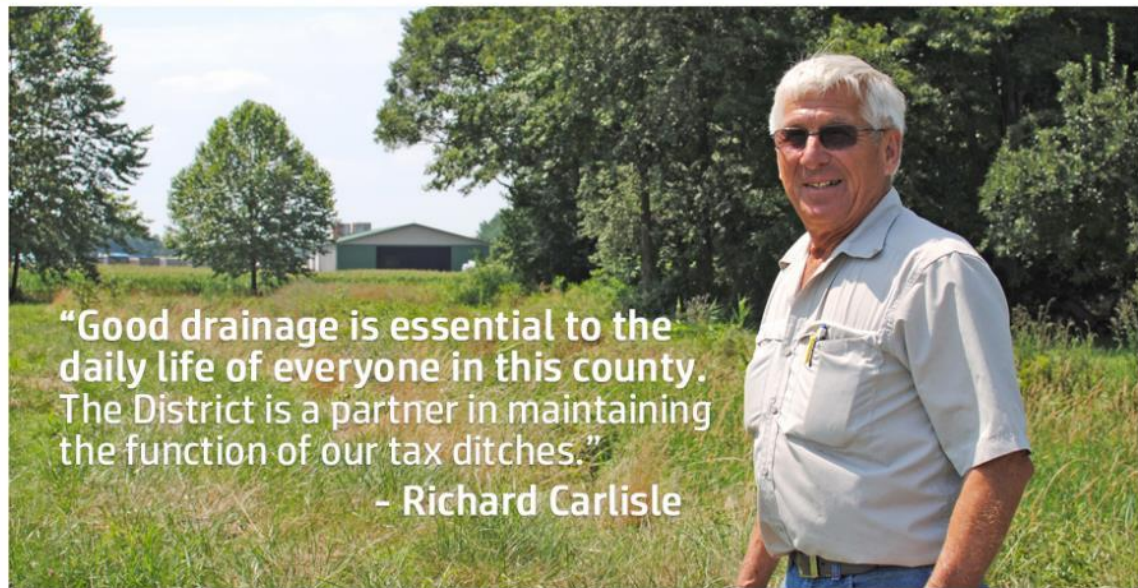
Chip Baker
Sussex County, Delaware
1,000 acres
Crops: corn, soybeans and cover crops
Planting: No-till
Covers: Mostly mixes- crimson clover/radishes



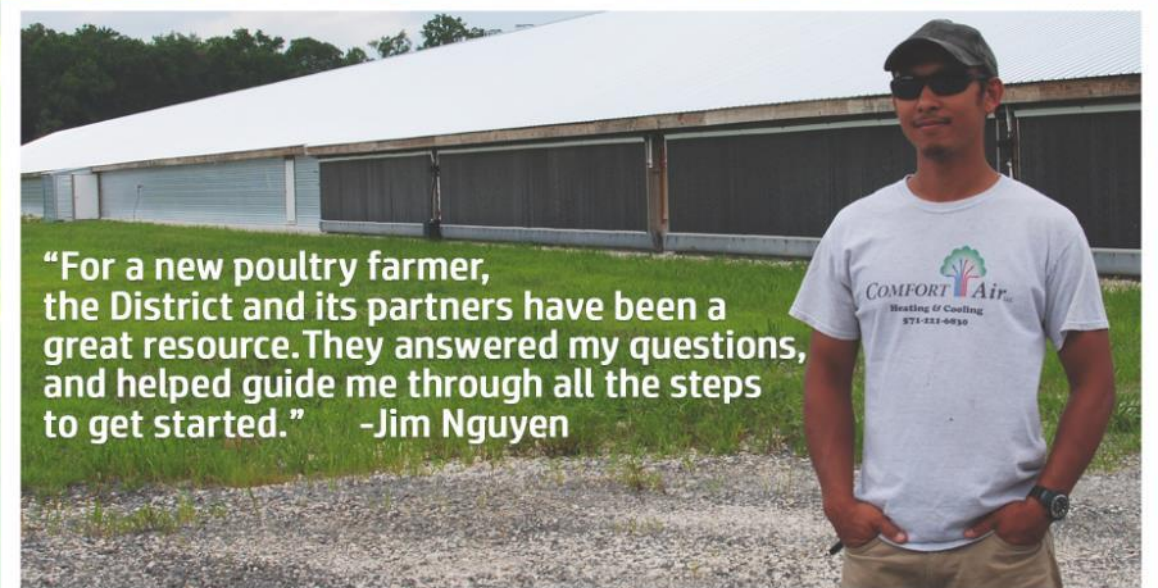
unlock the
SECRETS
OF THE
SOIL

Jim Nguyen & Richard Carlisle

How we support Tax Ditches and Drainage

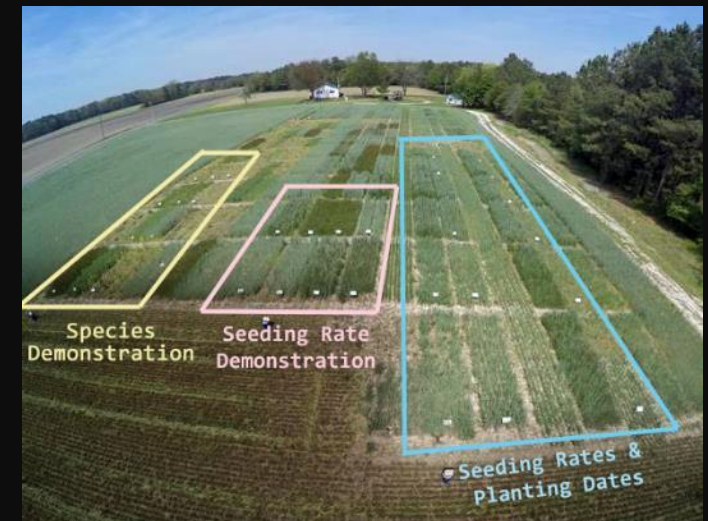
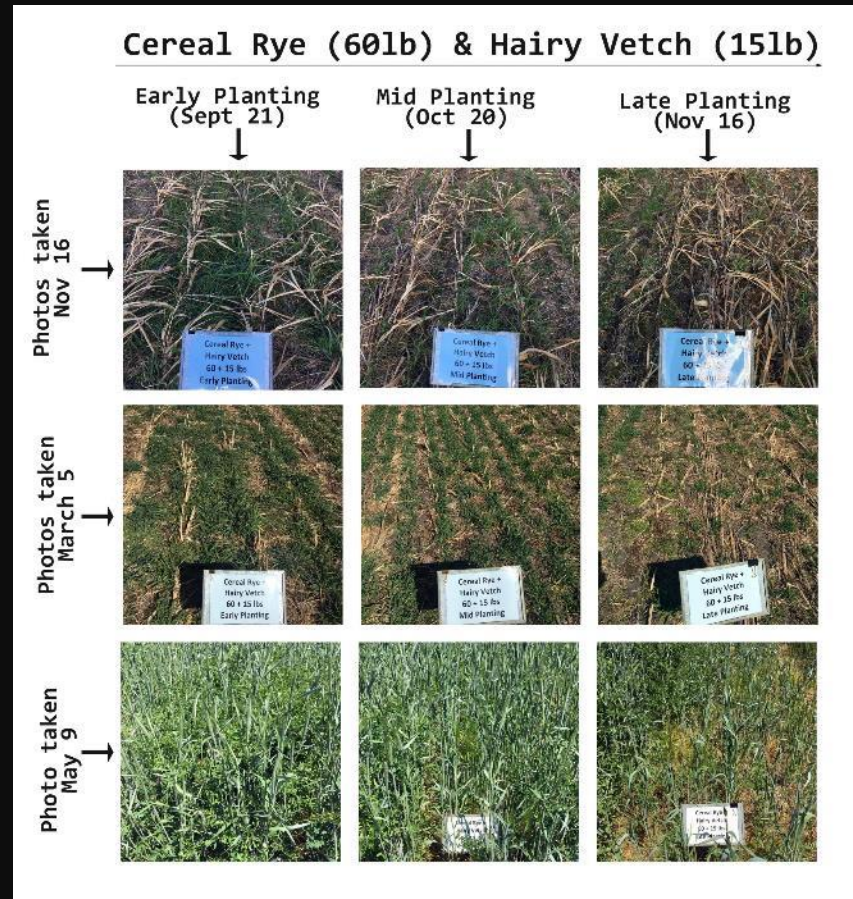


How we support through Conservation Technical Assistance



Delaware Cover Crop Network

deccnetwork.com



From Cloud to Cab

soundcloud.com/from-cloud-to-cab



Resources

Sussex Conservation District's YouTube Page

- Air Seeder
- Features on Jay Baxter, Brad Ritter & other farmers

Delaware Cover Crop Network

- Deccnetwork.com

From Cloud to Cab

- [Soundcloud.com/from-cloud-to-cab](https://soundcloud.com/from-cloud-to-cab)
- Also on iTunes & Google Play Store

Delaware-Maryland 4R Alliance

- Information about on-farm demonstration projects
- 4RMidAtlantic.com

NACD Soil Health Champions' Network

Baxterfarmsinc on Instagram

