

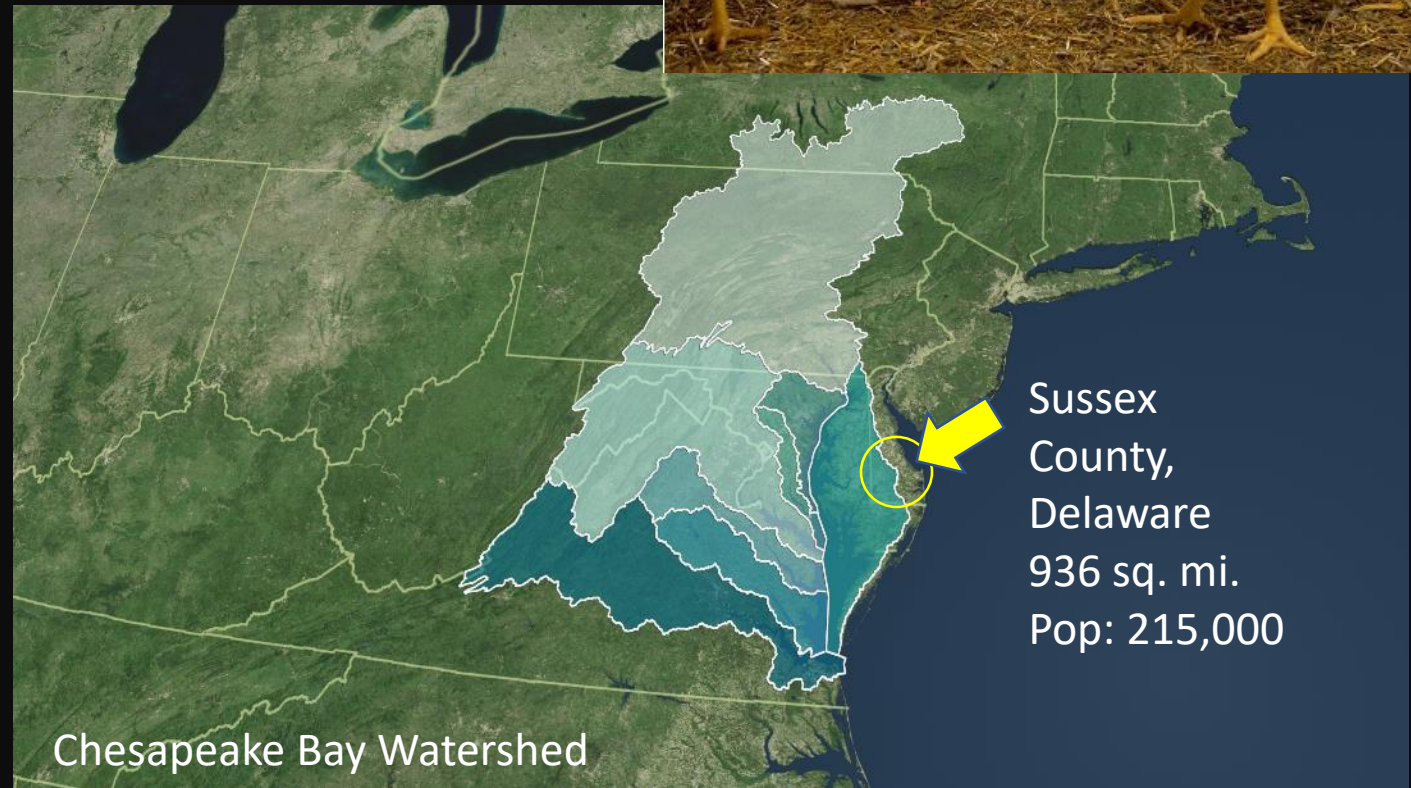
#WEDIGHEALTHYSOILS

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



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.

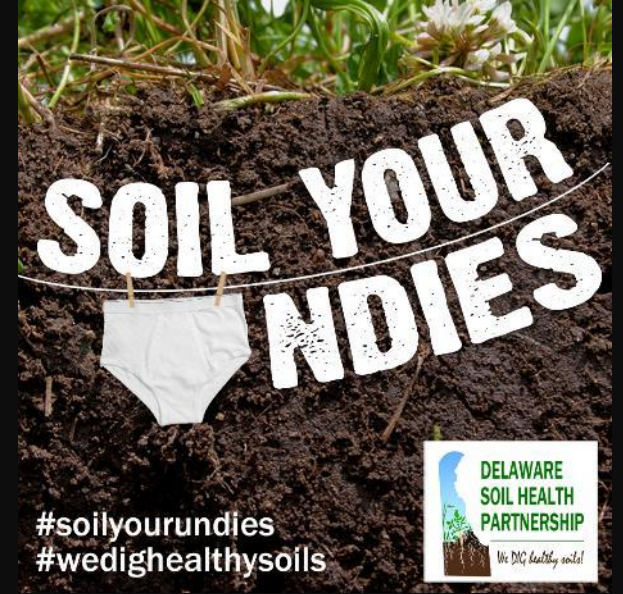


Ask farmers what they need.

**“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.”**







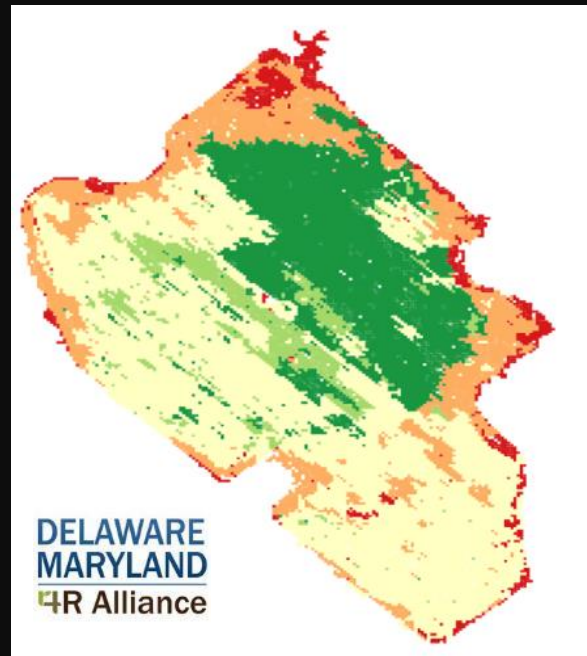
Air Seeder Program

- 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

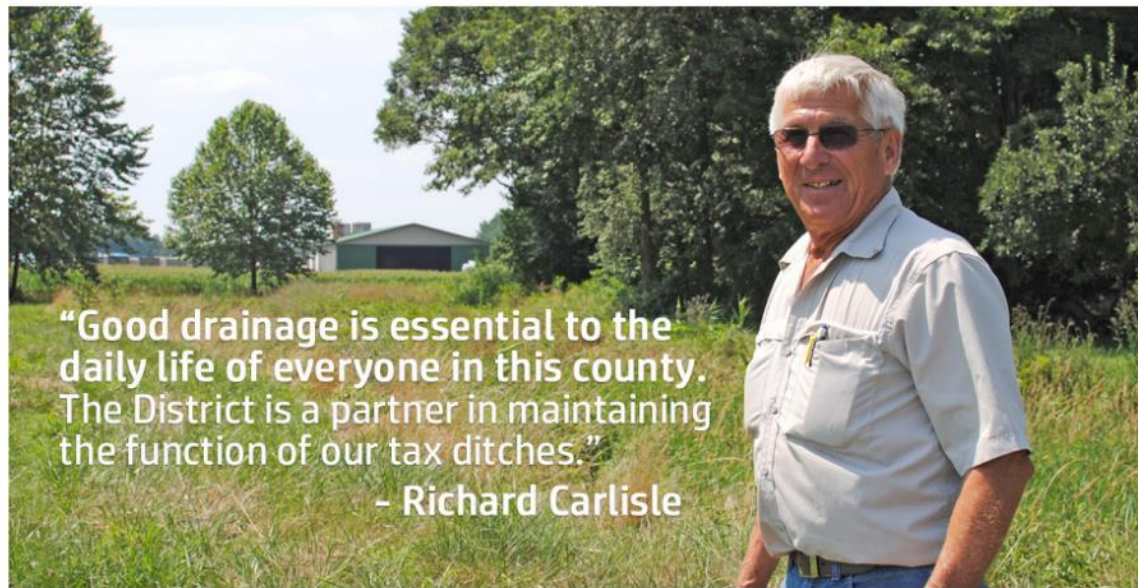
Honoring Delmarva Farmers: Chip Baker

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

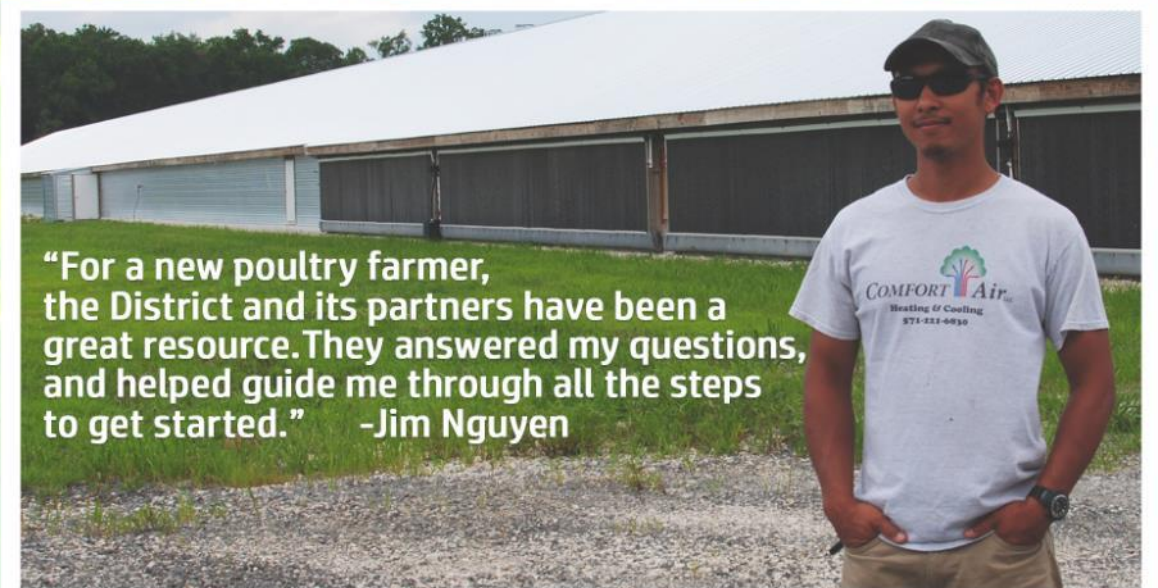


Jim Nguyen & Richard Carlisle

How we support Tax Ditches and Drainage

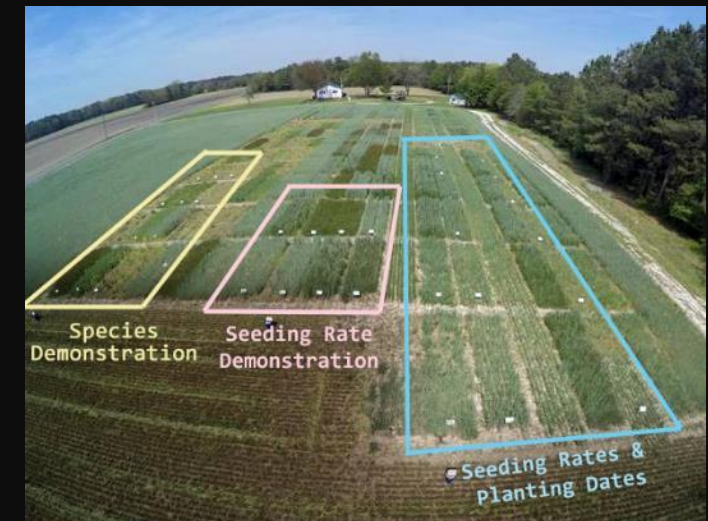
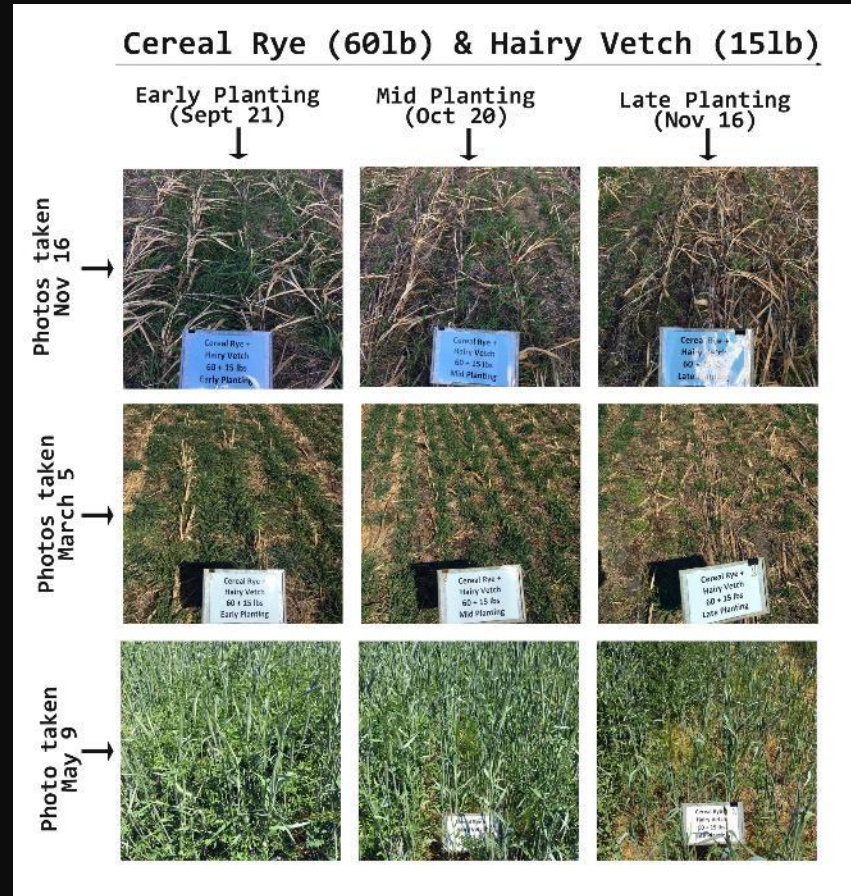


How we support through Conservation Technical Assistance



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

