



**Leon Tillman, USDA-NRCS, Maryland  
Chesapeake Bay Coordinator**

Leon Tillman is the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chesapeake Bay Coordinator in Annapolis, Maryland and has worked for NRCS for 15 years.

Tillman is a Paola, Kansas native that was raised in Marietta, Georgia. He began his career with NRCS as an USDA 1890 Scholar and student intern working in several Middle Tennessee counties. After graduation, Tillman worked full-time as a Soil Conservationist in West Tennessee, where he worked directly with farmers implementing conservation in the Mississippi River Basin.

After three years as a Soil Conservationist, he became a District Conservationist in East Tennessee where he worked and managed conservation programs across two counties and implemented targeted conservation through the National Water Quality Incentives Program (NWQI). He later served as a State Program Manager for three years at the Tennessee State Office in Nashville. While in the position, Leon managed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) providing policy, guidance, and assistance to field staff and partners. Thereafter, he served several years as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Cookeville, Tennessee where he supervised, managed, and coordinated the development of complex activities, resource planning and management planning across a 22-county area directly supervising 18 employees.

Throughout his career, Tillman has served in various temporary acting roles including Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Field Operations having worked extensively with agriculture partners and employees providing technical assistance, financial assistance, planning, and policy guidance. Throughout his career he has worked and managed implementation of various water quality and wildlife conservation initiatives and coordinated conservation efforts with partners. He has also served on temporary detail in NRCS National Headquarters as a Farm Bill Specialist on the Financial Assistance Programs Division staff, where he provided programmatic support, guidance, and assistance to state program staffs.

Tillman received his Bachelor in Agricultural Sciences from Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources Systems Management at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He is an active member of the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE). Tillman also serves on the Open Space Institute (OSI)

Advisory Committee as an agency liaison providing guidance related to Appalachian landscape protection.

Tillman and his wife Monique are proud parents of two kids, their son, Liam, and daughter Leia. He enjoys woodworking, traveling, basketball, and spending quality time with family and friends.