

# Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District

## DISTRICT STAFF

Tara Outland Williams, District Manager  
Austin Magruder, Conservation Specialist  
Courtney Coleman, Conservation Specialist  
Jake Browder, Conservation Specialist

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jim Wright

## ELECTED DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Carey Copeland, Chair  
Larry Darden, Vice Chair  
William Gwaltney, Treasurer  
Richard Gwaltney  
Charles Owens  
Earrett Parson  
Livvy Preisser  
Daniel Judkins



Peanut Soil and Water District serves  
the counties of Isle of Wight and  
Surry and the City of Suffolk

## Annual Report

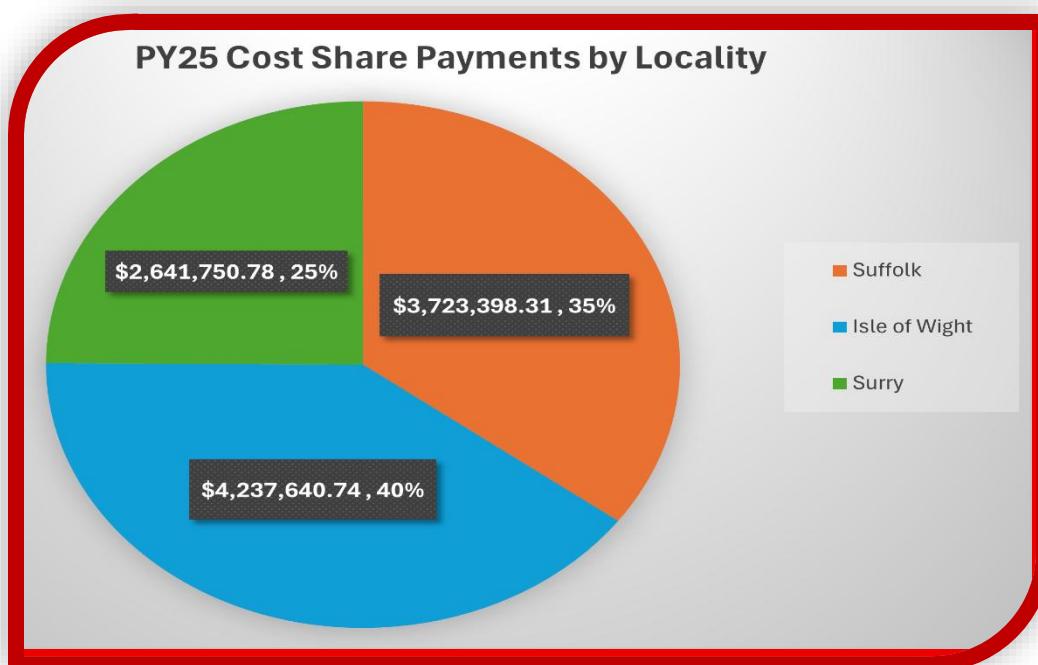
### 2025 Ag. Best Management Practice Cost Share and Tax Credit Program

During the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 the PSWCD assisted landowners and producers install the following practices.

- NM-1A- Nutrient Management Plan Writing - 102,347 Acres \$204,945
- SL-1 - Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland 5 Acres \$3,015
- SL-15A- Continuous High Residue Minimal Soil Disturbance Tillage System 4,309 Acres \$301,623
- SL-15B Continuous Conservation Tillage Production System 58 Acres \$2,008
- WFA-CC- Whole Farm Bundle Approach 103,112 Acres \$8,860,038
- WFA-NM- Whole Farm Approach Nutrient Management Bundle 107,994 Acres
- CCI-CNT Long Term Continuous No Till Planting Systems \$1,109 aces \$27,727

A total \$10,601,108 was spent on the above practices that benefited over 312,499.18 acres in Isle of Wight and Surry Counties and the City of Suffolk.

The Best Management Practices (BMP) Program provides funds to help members of the farming community to install conservation practices that protect water quality. The program supports numerous practices in conservation planning to improve cropland, pastureland and forest land to treat animal waste. The PSWCD has or works with landowners to install BMPs to reduce polluted runoff, reduce soil erosion, and increase efficiency in farming and other land use operations.



## Equipment Rental Program

PSWCD has 5 No-Till Drills that provide a valuable service to landowners throughout the area. Producers who do not have the need or opportunity to purchase no-till equipment can still take advantage of no-till planting benefits. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year approximately 2000 acres were seeded with the Districts No-Till Drills.



## 2025 Scholarship Program

Peanut SWCD would like to congratulate our two scholarship recipients! Congratulations and best of luck Avery and John.

Avery Rose is a graduate of Windsor High School. Avery will attend Virginia Tech and studying Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

John Butler is a graduate of Isle of Wight Academy. John will attend N.C. State and studying Agriculture.

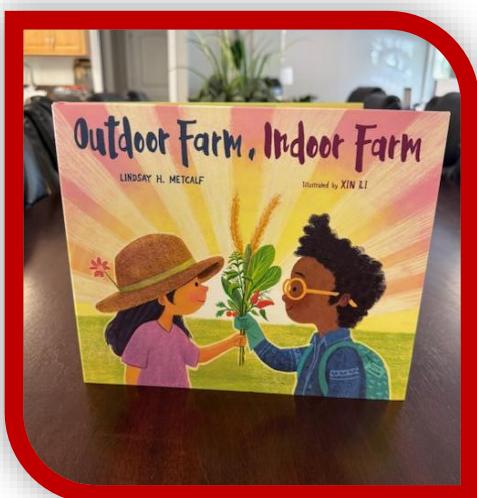
## Local & Area VI Envirothon

Isle of Wight Academy represented the District at the Local & Area VI competition and then moved on to the State competition at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.



## Agriculture Literacy Week March 18-22, 2025

In celebration of Agriculture Week, we partnered with Farm Bureau and read to students in Isle of Wight County. Students and teachers benefited from hands-on lessons and receive follow up activities. The book was given to each school library recognizing the donor and Ag Literacy Week. This year's book was "Outdoor Farm, Indoor Farm".



## Farm Days 2025

The District hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> Farm Day this past spring for Isle of Wight, Surry and the City of Suffolk. The 3- day event was held at Director Billy Gwaltney's farm (Indika Farms) in Windsor, VA. The event reached over 1600 students as well as many other guests.



## Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is a Cost-Share program that provides financial incentives in addition to technical and educational assistance to home and property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices in Virginia's participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These practices can be installed in areas of your yard or property where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites may be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes. Best management practices include things such as living shorelines, conservation landscaping, rain gardens, impervious surface removal, constructed wetlands, rain water harvesting, and more.

## Small Farm Outreach Meeting

On May 14, 2025 the Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District hosted an Introduction to the Whole Farm Approach and Small Farm Outreach Breakfast meeting at the District office which targeted historically underserved individuals and new and beginning farmers in the Peanut SWCD service area. The meeting was led by Conservation Specialists Austin Magruder, Courtney Coleman and Jake Browder. It featured guest presentations from four of our local partner agencies. Mrs. Stephanie Pope - Beginning Farmer/Rancher Coordinator with the Suffolk, VA USDA-FSA, Mrs. Meredith Hutchins - District Conservationist with the USDA-NRCS, Tabitha Bugg- Regional Program Assistant with VSU-Small Farm Outreach.

Attendees were also given time after the Virginia Ag Cost Share Program presentation from the district to meet and greet the local presenters and exchange ideas. It was a very valuable time for local producers to learn about new programs and opportunities that often are overlooked due to the busy workload for farmers in our service area. The Peanut SWCD is excited to continue this event in future years to increase participation for all of the programs our agencies have to offer and to encourage people who have been historically overlooked to build relationships with our conservation/extension staff.

Peanut Soil & Water Conservation District  
208A Gumwood Drive  
Smithfield, VA 23430

The Peanut SWCD would like to thank everyone for their help with all of our events throughout the previous year. You all have been great, and to all of our clients, thank you for promoting locally-led conservation. We look forward to assisting you with all of your needs throughout the upcoming year.

#### BMP Sign-Up 2026

The Peanut SWCD BMP sign-up 2026 was July 1, 2025 thru August 31, 2025. Thank you to everyone who met the deadline for this program. If you have any questions, please give us a call. We look forward to a great year getting your conservation practices on the ground.

The Peanut SWCD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.