



Collaboration

Sustainable Chesapeake supports collaborative partnerships focused on practical solutions for clean water and thriving farms. For most of 2021, our Executive Director Kristen Hughes Evans served as the chair of the **Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative**. This organization of diverse stakeholders promotes healthy, productive ecosystems and farming, including poultry operations, in Delmarva.

In the Shenandoah Valley, we helped secure funding to hire a comprehensive nutrient management planner for the **Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District** through the **USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program**. The planner is tackling the backlog of requests for whole-farm conservation plans, which serve as the backbone for conservation practice implementation on dairy, beef cattle, and poultry farms.

In addition, we helped the **Lancaster Clean Water Partners** secure restoration funding for local streams: "Sustainable Chesapeake provided the horsepower and experience that we needed as we developed a \$7.4 million project focused on priority watersheds in Lancaster County. The project started on a successful path thanks to their expertise and guidance" (Lancaster Clean Water Partners Coordinator Allyson Gibson).

As Field Liaisons for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sustainable Chesapeake's staff helped our partners develop and implement successful collaboration, implementation, and technical assistance projects throughout the region.

Innovation

We are proud of our partners that push the conservation envelope by testing new equipment and management practices to improve crop production, soil health, and water quality. This year, we:

- Helped Robb Hinton, owner of Cedar Plains Farms LLC, to demonstrate a commercial-scale roller/crimper, which has the potential to improve cover crop weed suppression and reduce reliance on herbicides. Partners included: *Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tellus Agronomics, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service.*
- Worked with Earl Ray Zimmerman to improve the environmental performance of his on-farm poultry litter-fueled heating system and demonstrate how farmers can convert nutrient-rich ash into fertilizer pellets. Partners included: *Virginia Tech, Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service, Triple Green Energy, and Organilock.*



Mr. Earl Ray Zimmerman and Clara Ervin making granulated fertilizer from poultry litter ash

- Partnered with Mike Phillips and Valley View Farms to demonstrate the agronomic benefits of a prototype poultry-litter injector for stockpiled fescue. Partners included: *Virginia Tech*, *Virginia Cooperative Extension*, and the *Virginia Natural Resources Service*.

Implementation

We are helping farmers improve manure management through the expanded adoption of low-disturbance manure injection technologies that are compatible with no-till production systems. In addition, we are helping farmers to finance conservation on farms throughout the region. In 2021 alone, our projects have:

- Funded soil health and precision nutrient management practices for 51 farmers on Delmarva and 11 farmers in Virginia covering 48,415 acres.



Agri-Applicators, Inc. are injecting 15,000-20,000 acres per year in South Central Pennsylvania with a drag hose system

- Expanded the number of manure applicators offering manure injection service in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.
- Secured funding for Kilby Farm LLC to demonstrate an advanced solid-liquid separation system with has the potential to improve manure distribution on dairy farms.
- Funded the implementation of comprehensive nutrient management plans on 15 small dairy farms in Maryland and Virginia.



Horse drawn manure injection developed by ELM Manufacturing for use on Amish Farms

On the Horizon

The staff and board of Sustainable Chesapeake are excited to announce three new projects that we believe have the potential to be game-changers for Chesapeake Bay farmers and water quality:

- The **Virginia Innovation Roundtable** is a network of farmers thinking outside the box about conservation. This effort will provide guidance on how to best accelerate the adoption of high-impact conservation practices. Partners include *Virginia Tech*, the *Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service*, *Virginia Soil Health Coalition*, and *Tellus Agronomics*.
- We partnered with **John Shepherd and Shepherd Grain Farms** to demonstrate and evaluate the performance of a controlled-traffic farming system with chaff lining and tramlining. This technique reduces vehicle traffic in a field, thereby improving soil quality, moisture retention—and we hope yields as well. Partners include *Virginia Tech*, the *Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service*, and *Tellus Agronomics*.

- We will be supporting up to **12 farmers on the Maryland Eastern Shore** in demonstrating how—in addition to providing water quality benefits—cover-crop planning can address field-specific agronomic needs. Partners include the *University of Maryland Extension*, *Future Harvest*, and the *Maryland Department of Agriculture*.

Organizational News

Two founding board members—Robin Jones (former board chair) and Stephen Versen (former treasurer)—have reached their term limits and are “retiring” from Sustainable Chesapeake’s board. Fortunately, they have both agreed to continue as Emeritus Board members. We are grateful for their leadership and guidance over the years.

Robert (Bob) Frazee joined the board this past summer. He is a seasoned chief executive with specialized experience in strategy, enterprise risk management, talent management, and succession planning. His career spans 40 years, with a broad base of experience in banking, finance, and agriculture in not only the eastern United States but also the Caribbean. He successfully led the consolidation of five Farm Credit associations in 2000 and the merger of Valley Farm Credit into MidAtlantic Farm Credit in 2008. He is a founding member of the Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative and currently serves as the Chair of the Council for Agriculture Research, Education, and Teaching.

And last but not least, Sustainable Chesapeake will turn ten years old on May 15, 2022! We are grateful to all of our partners and funders for their support this past year and over the last decade.

If you want more information about our projects, please visit our website at www.susches.org.

Thank You to Our Funders

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Keith Campbell Foundation, USDA Conservation Innovation Grant Program, USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Virginia Environmental Endowment, Maryland Animal Waste Technology Fund, Virginia Friend of the Bay License Plate Program, and the Sustainable Chesapeake Board of Directors.

We are also grateful for the support of our state agency partners, including the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. These agencies offered critical matching funds that helped us to secure additional technical and financial assistance resources for Chesapeake Bay farmers.

A Message from the Executive Director



As Sustainable Chesapeake approaches our ten-year anniversary, I want to express sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors and funders for believing in our vision of thriving farms, vibrant communities, and clean water.

With leadership from innovative farmers and partners, we are making incredible progress towards sustainability. What we are doing is working—and our farm partners are realizing even more benefits than we anticipated, including improved management and profit, increased resilience to extreme weather, and better relations with community members.

With fertilizer prices at record highs, farmers are increasingly turning to the practices we have been promoting. Manure injection, precision nutrient management, and cover crops that maintain productivity and reduce input costs are tools that farmers can use. In the long-term, these practices will position farmers to play a leadership role in sequestering soil carbon, which is a priority for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As we look forward to the next ten years, I again come back to gratitude. Thanks to our funders and Board members, Sustainable Chesapeake and our partners are well-positioned to accelerate progress towards improving water quality and farm sustainability.

FINANCIALS

Financial Review

Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2021

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants

The Campbell Foundation.....	\$85,000
USDA Conservation Innovation Grants.....	\$126,091
National Fish and Wildlife Grants	\$79,615
MD Animal Waste Technology Fund.....	\$212,073
Virginia Environmental Endowment.....	\$168,836

Contribution

Board Donations	\$1,484
Other Contributions.....	\$13,100

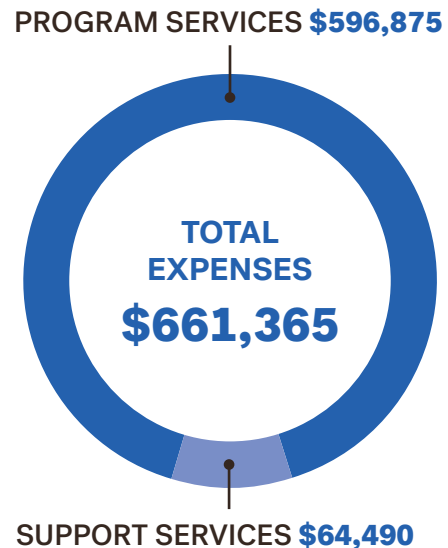
EXPENSES

Program Services

Subcontractors	\$462,113
Employee Costs.....	\$134,762

Support Services

Communications	\$1,946
Computer fees.....	\$1,841
Dues and subscriptions	\$644
Employee costs	\$23,782
Insurance.....	\$1,774
Legal and professional	\$7,889
Meeting expenses	\$700
Office expenses.....	\$893
Postage and delivery	\$61
Professional licenses.....	\$250
General subcontractors	\$22,493
Taxes	\$415
Travel	\$1,539
Other	\$263



Change in net assets	\$27,941
Net assets, beginning of year	\$213,684
Net assets, end of year.....	\$241,625

Bridging the gap between farmers and the environmental community.

Learn more about us at www.susches.org

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