



#WEDIGHEALTHYSOILS

Jennifer Nelson

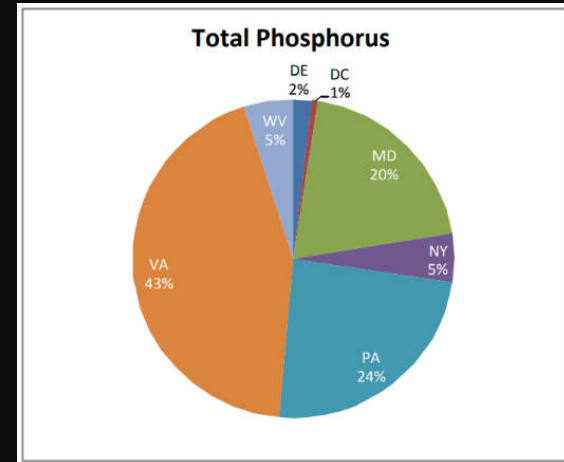
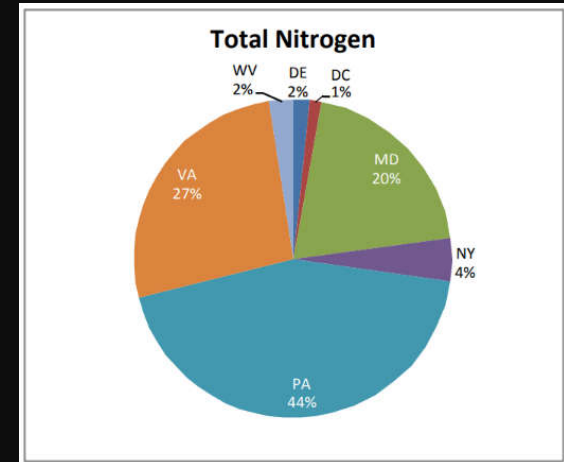
Delaware Association of Conservation Districts

Delaware & the Chesapeake Bay

- Delaware is a headwater state in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- EPA provided a nutrient load allocation to each Bay state. (2010)
- States developed a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for meeting our nutrient loads by 2025.



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed spans six states and the District of Columbia.

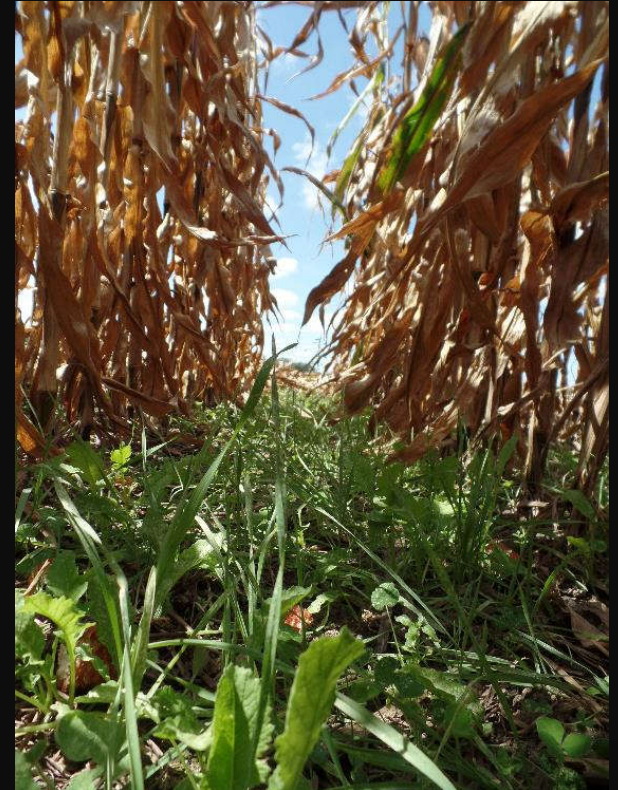


Delaware & the Chesapeake Bay

- Delaware's WIP leans heavily on cover crops to meet our nitrogen load requirements
- Our cover crop implementation goal is 260,000 acres annually, or about **half of our total cropland acres**



- 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:
 - Provide resources
 - Conservation cost-share funding
 - Technical Assistance
 - Outreach & Education



Dual Strategy to Increase Cover Crops

- Cost-Share Funding
 - State Conservation-Cost Share Program
 - \$1.5M in recent years (DNREC)
 - Additional \$2.9M in 2019 (DDA)
 - All administered by the Districts
 - Districts each have their own program
 - \$30/ac for late-planted cover crops
 - \$50/ac for early-planted cover crops
 - + few exceptions for aerial and/or air seeder application methods
 - Next steps
 - Can we maintain/increase funding?
 - Can we streamline program implementation to accommodate more acres with same capacity?

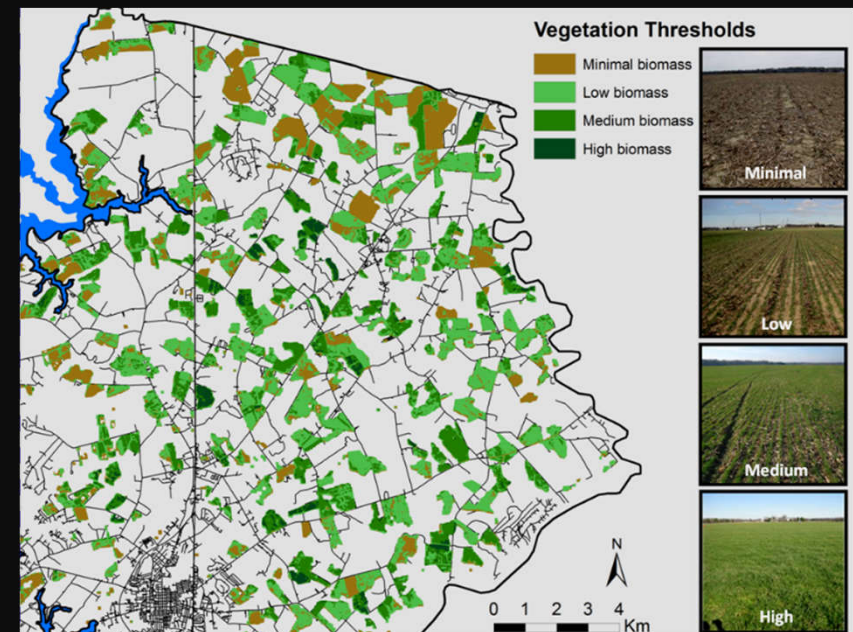
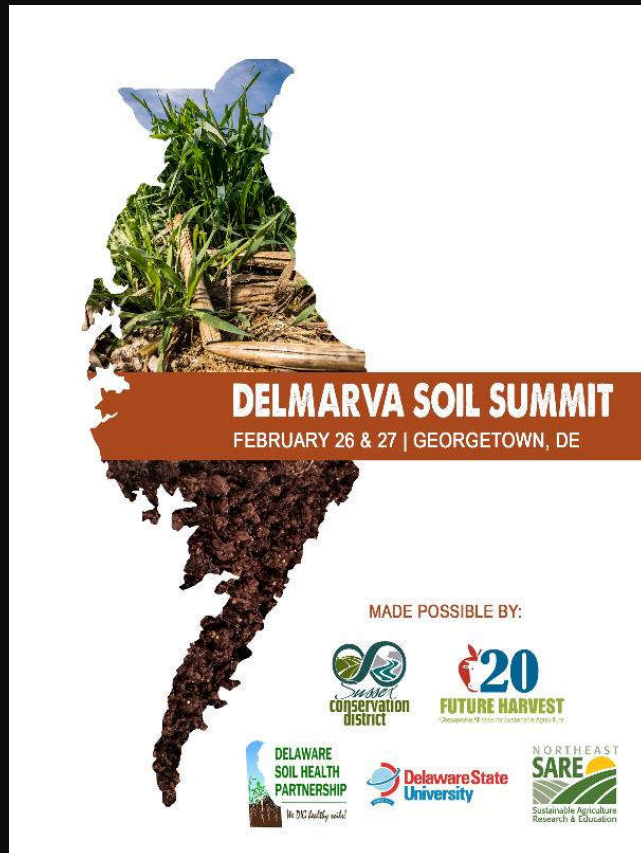


Image via USGS @ <https://eros.usgs.gov/doi-remote-sensing-activities/2016/usgs/remote-sensing-winter-cover-crop-performance>

Dual Strategy to Increase Cover Crops




- Outreach and Education
 - 5-6 workshops & field days every year
 - New this year
 - Caffeine & Cover Crops
 - Delmarva Soil Summit (Feb 2020)

Talk about soil health, farmer to farmer.

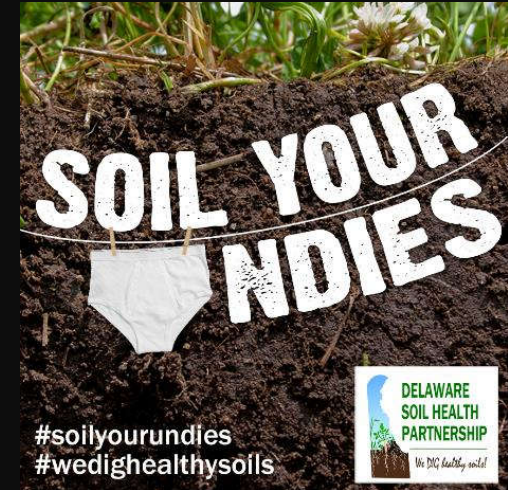


July 12
-- 7:00 AM --
Pizza King in Seaford

Additional dates on 8/9 and 9/13.
Hosted by the Sussex Conservation District.
No RSVP necessary- we'll buy the coffee, you buy your breakfast!



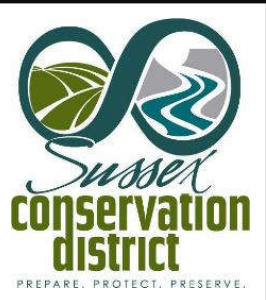
Snapshots of our Soil Health Outreach





Air Seeder Program

- Sussex Conservation District 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



Resources

DACD Website- dacdnet.org

Sussex Conservation District's YouTube Page

- Air Seeder
- Featured 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

NACD Soil Health Champions' Network

Baxterfarmsinc on Instagram

