

Shenandoah

Resource Conservation & Development Council



2005 Annual Report

*Dedicated to creating healthy,
vibrant communities in Augusta, Clarke, Frederick,
Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren
Counties, and the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton,
Waynesboro, and Winchester"*

The Shenandoah RC&D Council's mission is to enhance the quality of public and private decisions and programs in the Shenandoah River watershed as they affect the care and use of natural resources.

Sponsors:

Headwaters Soil and Water
Conservation District
Lord Fairfax Soil and Water
Conservation District
Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water
Conservation District
Local Farm Bureaus of Augusta
& Rockingham Counties
Pure Water Forum
Valley Conservation Council
Central Shenandoah Planning
District Commission
Northern Shenandoah Valley
Regional Commission

Associate Sponsors:

Augusta County Board of Supervisors
Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Frederick County Board of Supervisors
Page County Board of Supervisors
Rockingham County Board of Supervisors
Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors
Warren County Board of Supervisors
City of Harrisonburg
City of Staunton
City of Waynesboro
City of Winchester
Virginia Poultry Federation
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
The Potomac Conservancy
Potomac Watershed Partnership

Shenandoah RC&D

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Thanks to our supporters!

Grants received in FY04-05:

Agua Fund - \$55,000

Beirne Carter Foundation - \$25,000

Tides Foundation - \$13,000

Other Support:

Headwaters Soil and Water
Conservation District - \$1,000

Lord Fairfax Soil and Water
Conservation District - \$1,000

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water
Conservation District - \$1,000

In-Kind Support:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lord Fairfax Soil and Water
Conservation District

Ritchie, Withers & Masoncup, PC

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Augusta Co.

Jayne Docherty

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Projects Completed in FY 2005

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Funding and Education

Through a series of three workshops this project helped educate decision makers and citizens about the importance of Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs as a local tool. During the project, one RC&D county set aside \$491,389 to potentially start a PDR program. The Council donated \$25,000 to Clarke County to support its PDR program.



Joan Comanor (m), RC&D Chairwoman, presents \$25,000 to Winkie McKay-Smith (r), Chair of the Clarke County Easement Authority to support its local PDR program.

Tree City USA Participation by Shenandoah RC&D Communities

The Shenandoah RC&D provided technical assistance to local governments to encourage their enrollment in the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. This important environmental program recognizes the commitment of local communities to ensure appropriate trees are planted and managed as part of their landscape.

Waste Solutions Forum Phase I

The purpose of this project was to engage farmers, policy makers, researchers, industry representatives and government officials in a facilitated, outcome-based planning forum to come up with an action plan for utilizing excess animal waste in the Shenandoah Valley.

Biodiesel

This project examined the feasibility of bringing a soybean crusher/biodiesel refinery to the Valley.

Projects In Process in FY 2005

Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction

This project supports producer education for the Shenandoah Valley produce auction that wholesales fresh vegetables, fruit, bedded plants, nursery crops, baked goods, and other farm fresh products.



Observing an auction of vegetables and flowers.
Photo by Vincent Lerz/News Leader

Volunteer Farm

The Shenandoah RC&D Council plans to provide technical support and assistance for capacity building to Volunteer Farm, located in Shenandoah County. The Farm plans to expand their model to grow fresh produce to feed the hungry distributed through the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and other venues.

Augusta Sustainable Agricultural Task Force Enhancement

The Shenandoah RC&D has provided a grant on a reimbursable basis, \$3,750, to the Augusta County Agricultural task force. It will be used for field tours and a variety of educational experiences and resources necessary for the task force to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for sustaining and enhancing the farms, agricultural economy, and farmland of Augusta County.

***For more information on these projects
contact us at (540) 248-3321
or look us up on the web at:
www.shenandoahrcd.org***

Winchester City Market

The Shenandoah RC&D has provided a small grant to this local farmer's market for staffing/administrative purposes. The Council will work with market administrators on a long term viability strategy to keep the market vibrant.

Nutrient Input and Removal Verification

The Shenandoah RC&D has provided funds to purchase portable scales, owned and managed by Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District. The scales are for farmers to borrow for weighing spreader loads of animal wastes applied to fields and yields harvested from fields. This data is used to prepare Nutrient Management Plans that help farmers use the nutrients in animal wastes at the proper rates and avoid runoff. The purpose of this project is to help farmers create realistic nutrient management plans for their farms and increase the number of Nutrient Management Plans that are followed thereby reducing the nutrient runoff and enrichment of streams and rivers.

Conversion of Poultry Litter to Pyrodiesel and Slow-Release Fertilizer

This project is helping to fund a first phase of pyrolysis technology to help dispose of excess poultry litter in the Shenandoah Valley by converting poultry litter into fuel and slow-release fertilizer. Pyrolysis technology will reduce waste volumes to dispose of; prevent water resources pollution; produce a more environmentally friendly fertilizer; provide small scale poultry growers with a portable energy source for space heating in poultry houses; and help create new jobs for the poultry industry in the Valley and other poultry growing areas.



Dr. Foster Agblevor, VA Tech, explains pyrolysis technology to Council member Rick Shiftlet.