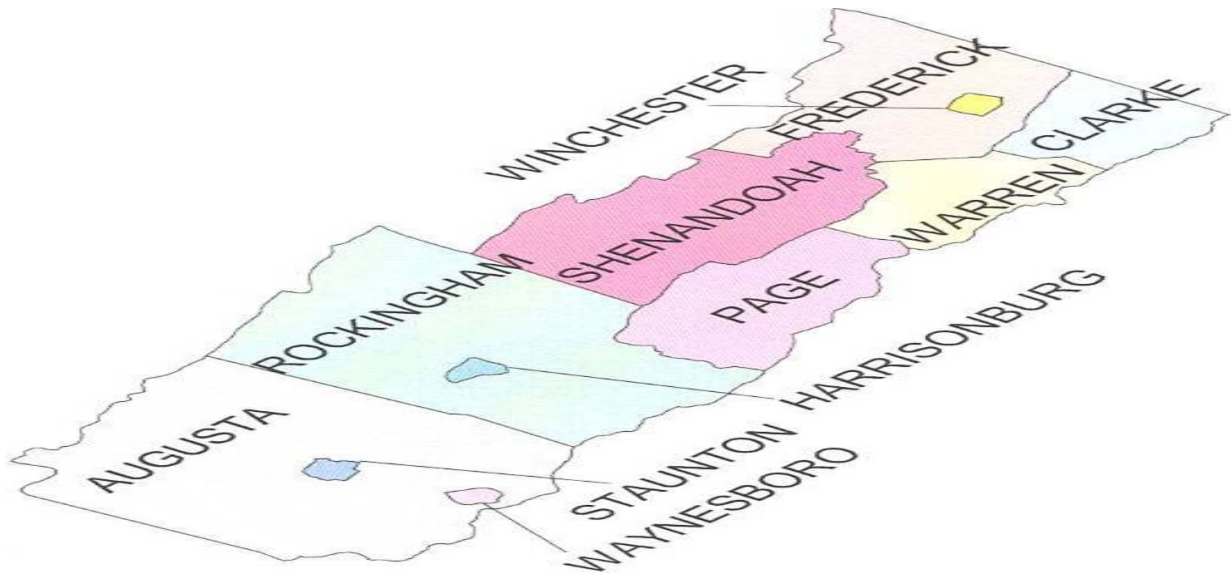


Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

**Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Plan of Work
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**



Administered by

Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

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**A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving Virginia in Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham,
Shenandoah, and Warren Counties; and the independent cities of
Harrisonburg, Waynesboro, Staunton, and Winchester**

Forward

The US Secretary of Agriculture designated the Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Area under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended. The purpose of the Area is to promote rural development in the Shenandoah River watershed of Virginia.

The Shenandoah RC&D Council, (a nonprofit organization), leads implementation of RC&D activities in the Area. **The Council's mission is to sponsor and promote projects and programs that improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources, primarily in the Shenandoah River Watershed, by providing volunteer leadership, technical resources, and financial assistance.**

The Shenandoah RC&D Council focuses on:

- Promoting managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space;
- Promoting a sustainable agricultural sector;
- Promoting the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality;
- Promoting community development and diverse rural economies;
- Strengthening Shenandoah RC&D Council operations.

To achieve this mission, the Shenandoah RC&D Council has adopted this Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Plan of Work. This document is designed to be a flexible management tool the Council uses to guide its activities throughout the fiscal year. Benefits of the Annual Plan of Work include:

- Allowing continuity of action from one year to the next;
- Keeping everyone working toward the same goal;
- Informing the sponsors about Shenandoah RC&D Council activities;
- Forming the basis for technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in accessing programs and services from USDA and others to achieve the Council's goals and objectives.

Approval

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. hereby adopts the Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2009 and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the strategies and goals outlined herein. This action taken at the Council's regular meeting held on July 14, 2008.

Shenandoah RC&D Council Chair

Date

Shenandoah RC&D Secretary/Treasurer

Date

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Concurrence

NRCS State Conservationist

Date

“All programs and assistance of the Shenandoah RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

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SERVICES

The Shenandoah RC&D Council provides diverse services in the areas of natural resources protection and enhancement and community development. The Council provides technical assistance to its sponsors and organizations consistent with the Shenandoah RC&D Council Annual and Area Plans. The Council places a high priority on projects and issues that affect or could serve as a model to large portions of the Area. The Council and its Committees undertake projects consistent with the Annual and Area Plans. Sponsors and other organizations desiring assistance may make a request in writing to the Council. All sources of technical and financial assistance are explored. RC&D does not address projects that can best be addressed by others or where collaboration is not needed or possible.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK OVERVIEW

The Annual Plan of Work is an annual action plan focusing and directing the activities of the Shenandoah RC&D Council. Planning builds a framework leading to the achievement of organizational goals and objectives.

Some benefits of an annual plan:

- Defines the actions needed to meet established goals and objectives in a defined time frame within the organization's capacity for implementation.
- Communicates those actions to the organization's constituents.
- Ensures the most effective use is made of the organization's resources by focusing the resources on important priorities.
- Provides a base from which progress can be measured and establish a mechanism for informed change when needed.

The annual plan will be reviewed at least mid-year and updated as projects are completed or otherwise modified in any major way. Progress documentation will be handled through Council meeting minutes, the NRCS POINTS database, and project updates provided as appropriate at Council meetings. The annual plan and POINTS database will be adjusted to reflect completed/cancelled/withdrawn projects and major project modification.

NEW PROJECTS

The Annual Plan of Work is an adaptable document with modifications made throughout the year as opportunities arise or shift. New projects may be added to the Annual Plan of Work as needed. Project proposals may be submitted to the Council for its consideration throughout the year. They may be submitted by individuals, local governments, non-profits, and other organizations that are focused on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Shenandoah Valley. The project proposal is assigned by the Council to the appropriate RC&D Committee for evaluation and recommendation to the Council. Proposed projects need to meet the following criteria: First, the project must be compatible with the Shenandoah RC&D Council's goals and objectives. Second, the project needs to have a project leader and other citizens ready to make the project happen. Without grassroots citizen participation and leadership, the project will not succeed.

To ensure adequate review, it is recommended that project proposals be received at least two weeks before the scheduled Council meetings.

BUDGET

The budget associated with the Council's annual plan of work and administrative obligations is a separate document that is approved annually at the same meeting as the Annual Plan of Work. When separate project proposals are received and approved and grant funds are sought and received, then each project has a separate budget associated with it.

COORDINATOR TIME OBLIGATIONS

A rough estimate of coordinator time obligations to carry out all coordinator duties and responsibilities based on a workload analysis is as follows: 34% of time spent on projects; 34% of time spent on Council duties and administration; 6% of time spent on Virginia Association of RC&D Councils responsibilities; 26% of time spent on NRCS duties. These percentages may vary in any given year.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Partners organizations to carry out RC&D work include, but are not limited to: AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA); DCR: (Virginia) Department of Conservation and Recreation; DEQ: (Virginia) Department of Environmental Quality; DMME: (Virginia) Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; DOE: United States Department of Energy; DOF: (Virginia) Department of Forestry; EPA: Environmental Protection Agency; ECA: Evergreen Capitol Advisors, Inc.; EFC: Environmental Finance Center (University of Maryland); FB: Farm Bureau; FSA: Farm Service Agency (USDA); JMU: James Madison University; NASS: National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA); NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA); PC: Potomac Conservancy; PWF: Pure Water Forum; RD: Rural Development (USDA); SWCDs: Soil and Water Conservation Districts; USFS: United States Forest Service; Va Tech: Virginia Tech; VCC: Valley Conservation Council; VCE: Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia Tech); NSVRC: Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission; and CSPDC: Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission

FISCAL YEAR 2009 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

ACTIVITY: *Develop a plan to sponsor two information/awareness events related to growth and development. Sponsor 3 events by 2011 (one has been completed).*

Activity Description: Plan two events and associated timeline for the events related to growth and development.

Partners: Valley Conservation Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Shenandoah County Farm Bureau,

Area Plan Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information /awareness events throughout the Area related to growth and development.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify appropriate events to co-sponsor and hold in the RC&D area.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Committee meets to discuss by Dec. 31, 2008	By June 30, 2009, committee has plan in place for two events.	Technical Assistance	John Eckman	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: *Green Infrastructure Workshop*

Description: The VARCDC, under the leadership of Shenandoah RC&D, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Community Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA), will develop and present a series of comprehensive workshops addressing land protection and the Green Infrastructure (GI) approach to strategic natural resource conservation. The workshops will serve as a pilot to establish a consistent statewide network for GI outreach implemented on the regional and local level by the individual RC&Ds and the DOF.

Partners: Virginia Association of RC&D Councils, VDOF, NPS-RTCA

Area Plan Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Area Plan, Goal 1, Objective 6: Support Virginia's initiative to preserve 400,000 additional acres of rural land by 2010.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 6, Strategy 1: Work with the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils to promote conservation easements, agricultural forestal districts, and purchase of development rights education and outreach efforts in an attempt to reach this goal.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Plan additional workshops	Hold additional workshops	\$5,000	Jim Lawrence	Kathy Holm	20 hours

PROJECT: *Shenandoah Valley Agriculture Research and Extension Center SVAREC Demonstration Forest*

Description: Establish baseline inventory data At SVAREC from which management prescriptions can be made for forestland there and management options demonstrated to landowners through field days and workshops.

Partners: Shenandoah RC&D, VA Cooperative Extension , VA Tech, VDOF, Headwaters SWCD, RC&D forester.

Area Plan Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information awareness events throughout the Area related to growth and development.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 2, Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify appropriate events to co-sponsor and hold in the RC&D area.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
VCE hires interns to collect data	Data collected, report written, workshops planned	\$5,000	Joan Comanor	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Mini-Grants to Promote Community Forestry

Description: To stimulate active management of community forest resources through a matching grant program by local governments.

Partners: Shenandoah RC&D, Town of Woodstock, Winchester, City of Harrisonburg

Area Plan Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information awareness events throughout the Area related to growth and development.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 2, Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify appropriate events to co-sponsor and hold in the RC&D area.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Solicit and complete 5 projects.	Finish up straggler projects.	\$5,000	Joan Comanor	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Smith Creek Watershed Initiative

Description: This project will empower Smith Creek watershed landowners and residents to effectively apply restoration and conservation solutions addressing water quality and land use challenges in their community.

Partners: VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation – Highlands Action Program , VA Dept. of Environmental Quality, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, VA Dept. of Forestry, Lord Fairfax SWCD, Shenandoah SWCD, Counties of Rockingham and Shenandoah (pending request for support), Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, Valley Conservation Council, Mt. Valley Ruritan Club, Virginia Rural Water Association

Area Plan Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information awareness events throughout the Area related to growth and development. **Objective 6:** Support Virginia’s initiative to preserve 400,000 additional acres of rural land by 2010.

Area Plan Goal 1, Objective 2, Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify appropriate events to co-sponsor and hold in the RC&D area.

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan Goal 3, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to conservation of natural resources;

Area Plan Goal 3, Objective 4: Promote more intensive water quality monitoring.

Area Plan Goal 3, Objective 4, Strategy 1: Work with Friends groups and agencies to determine barriers and potential solutions to more intensive water quality monitoring.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Apply for funding; organize partners	Move forward if funding is received; cancel if not.	\$270,000	John Eckman	Kathy Holm	40 hours (if funding secured)

PROJECT: Organic Dairy Systems

Description: This project will measure the costs and returns of transitioning to and then producing milk in a certified organic system. Both financial and environmental measures will be taken, with complete accounting on expenditures, income, and nutrient imports and exports from the farm.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 1; Strategy 1: Work with local partners such as economic development directors to explore an appropriate RC&D role in promoting alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Research begun	Research results distributed	\$3,000	Jim Nichols; Tom Stanley, VCE	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Farming Fridays

Description: Changes in landownership in the Shenandoah Valley have resulted in significant growth in the number of people interested in small-scale agriculture. These landowners represent a growing constituency of enthusiasts and entrepreneurs that will dramatically affect how the resources of the Shenandoah Watershed are managed. The curriculum is designed to guide aspiring landowners how best to evaluate and manage their land, capital, and labor resources to achieve their goals while protecting the resource base. The goals of this project are to empower participants to making informed decisions in the management of their land. Another goal is to ensure owners of small farms develop and maintain their land in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner while conducting the farming activities of their choice, whether these activities are a vocation or avocation.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 1; Strategy 1: Work with local partners such as economic development directors to explore an appropriate RC&D role in promoting alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Plan and hold workshops	Hold additional workshops as necessary; report	\$1,500	Jim Nichols; Tom Stanley, VCE	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Steele's Tavern Research Farm

Description: This is a three-year project which is a replicated plot design that will evaluate different fertilizer sources applied at different rates on cool season grass hay and pasture. Poultry litter has been added as a source to plot design at rates that would mirror N-based and P-based at application rates in NM plans. Yield and forage samples will be affected throughout the growing season.

Partners: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Tech

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Research conducted by VA Tech	Research conducted by VA Tech; report completed	\$3,000	Jim Nichols; Ozzie Abaye, VA Tech	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Shenandoah Valley Sustainable Cropping Systems Research Study II

Description: This is a three-year project which is a replicated plot design that will evaluate different fertilizer sources applied at different rates on cool season grass hay and pasture. Poultry litter has been added as a source to plot design at rates that would mirror N-based and P-based at application rates in NM plans. Yield and forage samples will be affected throughout the growing season.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2: Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2; Strategy 1: Continue to implement Waste Solutions Forum's action strategies to reduce nutrient loads in Area watersheds and provide value-added markets for organic byproducts.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Plots planted, results recorded by VA Tech	Plots planted, results recorded by VA Tech	\$5,658	Carl Luebben; Brian Jones, VCE	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Waynesboro Farmers Market

Description: To promote increased sales of locally grown produce, this Council project will attempt to restart a Farmers Market in Waynesboro. A market manager will be hired to recruit vendors and distribute information about the Market to vendors and the public. A market board will be put together and partners solicited to assist with the Market.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4: Increase direct marketing opportunities for farm fresh, local products to institutions, schools, etc., to increase farmers' bottom line.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4; Strategy 1: Work with Virginia Cooperative Extension to convene steering committee to discuss possible increased institutional use of locally-produced foods.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Get market up and running	Evaluate market feasibility for another year	\$6,500	Jim Nichols	Kathy Holm, Lorraine Cormier	40 hours

PROJECT: Friendly City Food Coop

Description: The Shenandoah RC&D Council will grant \$7,500 to the Friendly City Food Co-op to help defray costs associated with a Market Feasibility Study performed by Pete Davis of Cooperative Development Services in order to support the Co-op's initiative to provide additional regional markets for locally grown food. This is contingent upon having all but proprietary information be made publicly available to other groups in the Valley that are working on local foods initiatives and trying to increase markets for local foods.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4: Increase direct marketing opportunities for farm fresh, local products to institutions, schools, etc., to increase farmers' bottom line.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4; Strategy 1: Work with Virginia Cooperative Extension to convene steering committee to discuss possible increased institutional use of locally-produced foods.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Provide feasibility study funds	Work with FCFC to provide assistance to other local efforts	\$7,500	Jim Nichols	Kathy Holm	10 hours

PROJECT: Shenandoah Valley Food, Farm and Community

Description: To explore and initiate a Buy Fresh, Buy Local (BFBL) chapter, or similar local food branding effort, in the Shenandoah Valley; to maintain a database of local food contacts to include farmers, chefs, institutions, restaurants, grocers, farmers' markets, distributors, and chefs and a website presence about local foods in the Shenandoah Valley which would build on and augment the RC&D's Local Flavor Guide; to initiate a Shenandoah Valley Food, Farm and Community work group or coalition to continue to promote a stronger, more diverse, and self-reliant community food system; and organize and sponsor a Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Community Forum in cooperation with the RC&D Council, James Madison University, and other interested community partners that would focus on the importance of local foods, nutritional health, community planning, and the specifics of institutional buying and local sourcing.

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension, James Madison University, Washington and Lee University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Eastern Mennonite University, Valley Conservation Council

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4: Increase direct marketing opportunities for farm fresh, local products to institutions, schools, etc., to increase farmers' bottom line.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4; Strategy 1: Work with Virginia Cooperative Extension to convene steering committee to discuss possible increased institutional use of locally-produced foods.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 4; Strategy 2: Continue work with James Madison University students/classes to explore possible increased institutional use for locally-produced foods.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Get BFBL chapter up and running, publications out, steering committee formed, workshops	Additional BFBL publications as needed, steering committee follows up additional opportunities, additional workshops as needed	\$12,300	Jim Nichols	Kathy Holm	40 hours

PROJECT: On-Farm Rural Production of Biodiesel – Heatwole Farm

Description: The goal of this project is to design and build a pilot farm scale integrated oilseed crushing and biodiesel production facility that will serve both as a model for new, similarly small scale production facilities, and as a testbed for a larger, community scale production facility. Once up and running this will be a local model for other farmers in the area to think about on-farm production.

Partners: Ian Heatwole, Fox Run Farms; James Madison University

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan 2; Objective 3: Promote alternative biomass-related energy sources including biodiesel and alternative fuels such as ethanol.

Area Plan 2; Objective 3; Strategy 1: Sponsor at least one workshop or event per year on alternative fuels.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Provide support as needed for operation start up	Provide grant once operation gets the go-ahead/special use permit	\$10,000	Jim Nichols	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Roller Crimper Research

Description: The Council expects this research project will ultimately help reduce or eliminate herbicide use on cover crops for no-till systems by using a roller-crimper on appropriate farms. With collaboration between NRCS, Shenandoah RC&D, Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, and Virginia Cooperative Extension, a roller/crimper was manufactured for use and demonstration purposes in the Shenandoah Valley. The goals of this project are to: 1) determine the optimum timing and frequency of rolling/crimping for effective control of small grain, legume and small grain plus legume cover crops; 2) quantify the effects of rolling/crimping small grain, legume and small grain plus legume cover crops on soil moisture, soil temperature and soil nutrient cycling; 3) determine the effects of rolling/crimping on cash crop growth and performance following cover crop management.

Partners: NRCS, Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, and Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Continue program to loan roller out to local farmers; collect data	Continue program to loan roller out to local farmers; collect data	\$4,408	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	12 hours

PROJECT: Pilot Research Project: Livestock Exclusion

Description: Livestock in streams in the Shenandoah Valley contribute to excess nutrient, bacteria and sediment inputs that are having a negative impact on waters in the Valley and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. This project involves development and delivery of a flexible livestock exclusion and pasture management program that is expected to improve water quality in the Shenandoah Valley and hopefully serve as a model for adaptive livestock exclusion in Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Partners: Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, Waste Solutions Forum Partners

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan 3; Objective 2: Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.

Area Plan 3; Objective 2; Strategy 1: Continue to implement Waste Solutions Forum’s action strategies to reduce nutrient loads in Area watersheds and provide value-added markets for organic byproducts.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Continue livestock exclusion; data collection; report writing	Continue livestock exclusion; data collection; report writing	\$250,000	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	60 hours

PROJECT: Waste Solutions Forum II

Description: Phase II objectives of the Waste Solutions Forum include implementing the top strategies identified in the Waste Solutions Strategy and Final Report through grants received in four areas: pilot projects, research, education and policy initiatives. WSF, through Virginia Tech, received \$1m from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement pilot projects in the Valley related to agricultural waste. Shenandoah RC&D is subcontracting from Virginia Tech to house a Council employee at the RC&D office to be a “Market Maker.” This person is a full-time, organic by-products manager who is aggressively marketing and facilitating proper use of excess animal manures and other nutrient-rich byproducts produced in the Shenandoah Valley for three years.

Partners: Virginia Tech and all Waste Solutions Forum members/partners

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2: Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2; Strategy 1: Continue to implement Waste Solutions Forum’s action strategies to reduce nutrient loads in Area watersheds and provide value-added markets for organic byproducts.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Continue with Market Maker position/work	Continue with Market Maker position/work	\$157,000	Joan Comanor	Kathy Holm	60 hours

PROJECT: Roller/Crimper Promotion

Description: This project will help reduce or eliminate herbicides applied to cover crops on no-till systems by using a roller-crimper on appropriate farms. The Shenandoah RC&D will assist NRCS with the organization of a minimum of three workshops and/or demonstrations in the Valley RC&D Area within two years; assist the SVSWCD and VCE with developing a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of the equipment; promote the effectiveness of this equipment by preparing news releases and other promotional material; provide local oversight for the first two years of the pilot program.

Partners: Shenandoah Soil and Water Conservation District; Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
VCE, SVSWCD collects data	Plan brochure/fact sheet; print	\$3,000	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	10 hours

PROJECT: Dairy Parlor Demonstration Project

Description: This project will improve use of a geo-textile fabric and polymer at a farm in Rockingham County, to reduce the N-P-K, BOD, suspended solids and fecal coliform from typical dairy parlor waste. This project will fund testing of untreated and treated effluent and the purchase of geo-tubes along with miscellaneous plumbing supplies.

Partners: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Phil Whitmer, cooperating farmer

Area Plan Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information/awareness events throughout the Area related to sustainable agriculture.

Area Plan Goal 2; Objective 1; Strategy 2: Promote practices, such as use of the roller crimper, and support field days and innovative projects that help increase sustainable agriculture in the Area.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Collect research results by DCR; farmer implements fabric	Results analyzed by DCR; publish report	\$2,500	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	8 hours

PROJECT: Rapid Watershed Assessment Lower Shenandoah River

Description: Rapid Watershed Assessments (RWAs) provide initial estimates of where conservation investments might best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders in discreet watersheds. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve overall water quality goals. This project will provide technical assistance for the RWA for the Lower Shenandoah River Watershed. The NRCS state office will lead this effort with help from field personnel. The Shenandoah RC&D coordinator, interested Council members, and RC&D partners will assist with gathering and distilling existing public comment related to watershed issues, reviewing documents and materials and providing advice.

Partners: Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, local watershed groups

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2: Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2; Strategy 2: Work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and other partners to prepare biannual articles summarizing major conservation challenges in the Valley and how they can be improved.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
RWA work begins	Completion of RWA and follow-up	\$140,000	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	50 hours

PROJECT: Rapid Watershed Assessment North Fork

Description: Rapid Watershed Assessments (RWAs) provide initial estimates of where conservation investments might best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders in discreet watersheds. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve overall water quality goals. This project will provide technical assistance for the RWA for the North Fork of the Shenandoah River Watershed. The NRCS state office will lead this effort with help from field personnel. The Shenandoah RC&D coordinator, interested Council members, and RC&D partners will assist with gathering and distilling existing public comment related to watershed issues, reviewing documents and materials and providing advice.

Partners: Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, local watershed groups

Area Plan Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2: Bring more awareness and attention to major conservation challenges in the Valley and actions individuals should take to improve.

Area Plan Goal 3; Objective 2; Strategy 2: Work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and other partners to prepare biannual articles summarizing major conservation challenges in the Valley and how they can be improved.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
RWA work begins and is completed	Distribution of RWA and follow-up	\$140,000	Carl Luebben	Kathy Holm	50 hours

PROJECT: Crossing Creeks

Description: Crossing Creeks is a supportive, therapeutic community where persons with persistent mental illness can live and work with others. The goal is to expand the scope, capacity, and diversity of a small farm based on sustainable agriculture principles. For examples, project funds will be used to acquire small livestock, convert the current poultry operation to a free range model, and provide resources for permaculture and organic farming.

Partners:

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3: Promote agriculture-based tourism and alternative ag enterprises.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3; Strategy 1: Work with county economic development directors to identify current efforts and barriers to enhancing agritourism and alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Provide funds for ag operations	Ensure operational changes are complete, report is given	\$2,150	John Eckman	Kathy Holm	12 hours

PROJECT: JMU Community and Student-Run Farm and RMH

Description: Will provide 20 hrs. of technical assistance: To provide a hands on experience for anyone who wishes to learn about sustainable agriculture. To sell our produce to JMU, RMH and community members to aid them to more healthy eating and living. To be a place of learning and community, where students, families and patients alike can come together to learn.

Partners: James Madison University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3: Promote agriculture-based tourism and alternative ag enterprises.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3; Strategy 1: Work with county economic development directors to identify current efforts and barriers to enhancing agritourism and alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Assist in grants research; meet with students and faculty	Assist in grants research; meet with students and faculty	Technical assistance only	Maria Papadakis	Kathy Holm	20 hours

PROJECT: Growing Power! And the Urban Farm Project

Description: Part of this project will assist low-income families in growing their own food in their neighborhoods and will help improve their nutrition. The Urban Farm Project will employ low-income and homeless individuals in the production of organic produce at an urban sustainable living site in Harrisonburg, VA. This project help from RC&D is for one growing season January '08 until October '08. The Urban Farm Project is designed to be primarily self-funded after its first year through building community shares and market sales. The Urban Farm Project will begin selling vegetables at the Harrisonburg Farmers Market starting in the 2008 market season. The HFM is donating market space to the project for their business sales.

Partners: Urban Farm Project, Shenandoah Valley Local Foods Steering Committee

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3: Promote agriculture-based tourism and alternative ag enterprises.

Area Plan Goal 4; Objective 3; Strategy 1: Work with county economic development directors to identify current efforts and barriers to enhancing agritourism and alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED		COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
2008:	2009:				
Provide grant and ensure matching funds are received	Follow project progress, evaluate for further opportunities	\$5,000	John Eckman	Kathy Holm	12 hours

ACTIVITY: Develop a plan to sponsor two information/awareness events related to community development and diverse rural economies. Sponsor 3 events by 2011.

Activity Description: Plan three events and associated timeline for the events related to community development.

Partners: Valley Conservation Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Area Plan Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Area Plan Goal 4, Objective 1: Sponsor at least 3 information /awareness events throughout the Area related to community development and diverse rural economies

Area Plan Goal 4, Objective 1, Strategy 1: Work with local partners such as economic development directors to explore an appropriate RC&D role in promoting alternative agricultural enterprises.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Committee meets to discuss by Dec. 31, 2008	By June 30, 2009, committee has plan in place for three events.	Technical Assistance	John Eckman, Esteban Nieto	Kathy Holm	8 hours

ACTIVITY: *Develop a plan to complete one RC&D event in each of the following RC&D counties by 2011: Warren, Frederick, Clarke and Page*

Activity Description: Plan four events and associated timeline for the events to ensure Area coverage.

Partners: All RC&D member and associate member organizations

Area Plan Goal 5: Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations

Area Plan Goal 5, Objective 1: Increase Council member understanding and build sponsorship support for the Shenandoah RC&D.

Area Plan Goal 5, Objective 1, Strategy 2: Hold at least one official Council event in each of the counties served within the next three years.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Executive Committee meets to discuss by Dec. 31, 2008	By June 30, 2009, committee has plan in place for four events.	Technical Assistance	John Eckman,, Jim Lawrence, Joan Comanor, Carl Luebben, Roy Stephenson	Kathy Holm	8 hours

ACTIVITY: *Strengthen the Community Development Committee.*

Activity Description: Evaluate committee membership and roles to strengthen committee. Invite additional members.

Partners: All RC&D member and associate member organizations

Area Plan Goal 5: Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations

Area Plan Goal 5, Objective 2: Establish a Community Development Committee and elicit participation from community/county representatives.

Area Plan Goal 5, Objective 2, Strategy 2: Identify appropriate people for the Community Development Committee and invite to join.

ACTION PLANNED 2008:	2009:	COST ESTIMATE:	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:	STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:	AMOUNT OF TIME:
Executive Committee meets to discuss by Dec. 31, 2008	By June 30, 2009, committee has plan in place for strengthening this committee	Technical Assistance	John Eckman,, Jim Lawrence, Joan Comanor, Carl Luebben, Roy Stephenson, Esteban Nieto	Kathy Holm	8 hours

Fiscal Year 2009 Council Meeting Date and Locations

Monday, September 8, 2008: Shenandoah County Government Center, Extension Conference Room, Woodstock

Monday, November 10, 2008: Augusta County Government Center, Smith Transfer Room, Verona

Monday, January 12, 2009: Harrisonburg, location TBA

Monday, March 9, 2009: Shenandoah County Government Center, Extension Conference Room, Woodstock

Monday, May 11, 2009: Augusta County Government Center, Smith Transfer Room, Verona

Monday, July 13, 2009: Harrisonburg, location TBA