



Headwaters We work with the people who work the land. Headlines

◀Fall, 2009 ▶

➤Headwaters District Tour

8/8/09 Middlebrook Area Best Management Practices and New Research



Dr. Justin Hill of Dayton Veterinary Services on dealing with scours, leptospirosis, and other waterborne diseases: "It can be a disaster for the animals, for the farmer, and for the vet, too. I would much rather help farmers manage healthy animals than to be dealing with disease outbreaks that could be easily prevented with a clean water supply and fenced waterways."

➤Watershed News: E coli study in the Naked Creek watershed

Volunteer water monitor Tom Long samples one of 10 Naked Creek sites for an 18-month study of E coli bacteria, through a grant to the Friends of the North Fork Shenandoah. The Naked Creek watershed does not meet minimum water quality standards due to an excess of fecal coliform bacteria, and is undergoing planning to improve water quality, along with many other streams in Augusta County.



Some of the study's goals are to assess the effectiveness of various widths of riparian buffers in the watershed, and monitor for changes as septic projects are completed. Data indicate E coli bacteria in several of the watershed's springs, and very high levels in all the streams. A correlating study will measure stream health quarterly using macroinvertebrate sampling.

➤Headwaters hosts Area Envirothon, Fort Defiance wins state, 8th in nation.



Headwaters hosted the Area Envirothon at Grand Caverns in April. Fort Defiance continued its winning tradition at the area and the VA state competitions before traveling to North Carolina to take 8th place in the Nation. Congratulations to the team: Greg Wright, Kara Abshire, Lorelai Mackenzie, Megan Wagner and Marissa Lubkowski and coaches Brent Hull and Eric Stogdale. Each team member was awarded a \$1,200 college scholarship.

George Watters, Swoope sheep and cattle farmer, and native of New Zealand. His message: Livestock stream exclusion buffers are mandated by law in New Zealand. But the real reason for his farm BMP's here are better pastures, animal health and efficiency.



Brian Jones of VA Cooperative Extension at one of five new weather stations installed in Augusta County. Find localized, accurate weather data at <http://www.valleycrops.cses.vt.edu>

54 Tour participants visit an Extension forage trial of Teff Grass on the Shomo/Leonard Farm. Teff grass is a fast-growing annual, high in protein and drought tolerant.



➤Keep medicines and hazardous waste out of streams and groundwater



To dispose of pharmaceuticals: Remove medications from pill bottle and put them in a container with lid or sealable baggie. (Don't handle them). If solid, crush or add water to dissolve. Mix in something to make them "undesirable" to children or pets, e.g. kitty litter, coffee grounds. Place baggie in second sealable container and throw in trash. Remove identifying info from bottle. Oil-based paint, herbicides and pesticides are hazardous wastes. Call 245-5700 for the next scheduled hazardous waste take-in. Used oil, gas, antifreeze & batteries may be recycled at the Jollivue landfill.



➤Upcoming Events

Strengthen Agriculture in the Shenandoah Valley – Oct 22, 7 p.m. Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center Auditorium. Speaker: Todd Erling of the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation. For info contact: Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council - 540-248-3321.

Water Quality as Grass Roots Farm and Community Effort – Oct 21, 9:30-2:00, Keezletown Methodist Fellowship Hall. For info call: VA Cooperative Extension @ 540-432-6029.

Cultivating Sustainability: Successes & Challenges of Three Food Systems K-12 Schools, Hospitals and Universities– Sept 30 @ W&L University, Lexington. Info: 540-432-6029.

Medicine Cabinet Project at Augusta Medical Center

Nov 7 - bring your old prescription medicines for proper disposal – or use advice (at left). Please don't flush them!

Help Virginia state nurseries provide hardwood trees through acorn collection for the Growing Native Project. <http://www.growingnative.org>. Collect acorns in paper or cloth bags, and put a leaf from the tree in the top of the bag for positive ID. Deliver to the VA Department of Forestry Nursery in Crimora. 540-363-7000.



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

Headwaters SWCD
Augusta County Government Center-USDA Bldg.
70 Dick Huff Lane
P.O. Box 70
Verona, VA 24482-0070

540-248-6218 (ext 3)
<http://www.headwaters.vaswcd.org>

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

PAID

STAUNTON, VA 24401
PERMIT 101

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, guides citizens and governments in the balanced and sustainable use of natural resources.

Headwaters SWCD programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or political affiliation. An Equal Opportunity Employer.



printed on 30% postconsumer recycled paper