

Frederick SCD 2020 Cooperator of the Year

The Frederick Soil Conservation District is proud to announce that Garvin Tankersley III has been selected at the 2020 Cooperator of the Year. Garvin has a 50-cow beef operation on his 325 acres farm near Taneytown. He acquired the 3 parcels that make up his farm beginning in 2007 with the final purchase coming in 2009.

Garvin began working with the Soil Conservation District in 2011 converting 40 acres of crop ground to permanent pasture. Over the years he has installed 2 waterways and has fenced the pastures that adjoin the Monocacy River to exclude the cattle from access to the river. His most recent projects have been converting another 35 acres of crop ground to rotational grazing pasture paddocks. He now has 18 separate paddocks for use during the grazing season with watering facilities installed to provide water to all paddocks.

He is following the prescribed grazing plan developed for his farm by NRCS soil conservationist Grace Garst that includes rotating the cattle among the paddocks to allow the grass to recover from the grazing period. His fall calving schedule allows his brood cows to gain weight from the lush pasture during the summer to be in good body condition to raise their fall calves until they are sold in the spring as feeders.