



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.cumberlandcd.com

Winter 2016

2016 CONSERVATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Cumberland County Conservation District recently presented Conservation Awards to those who have demonstrated exceptional stewardship practices to improve and preserve natural resources in Cumberland County. The categories for this year's awards are Farmer of the Year; Clean Water; and Conservation Educator of the Year. Award recipients for 2016 are:



FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD was presented to BARRICK'S DAIRY, LLC for implementing various practices over the years to improve conservation through manure storages, concrete heavy use areas, manifold with vegetative treatment areas, and more in the works. They are currently working with the District to develop an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan as a volunteer. Barrick's Dairy also works with a crop consultant who develops plans for fertilizer, nutrients, and pesticides/herbicides when applied to their cropland.

CLEAN WATER AWARD was presented to JUSTIN DOTY of Frederick, Seibert & Associates. Justin and his staff have consistently submitted good quality and complete National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications, erosion control and post construction stormwater plans. They incorporate best management practices into their plans which more than adequately protect the site from erosion and promote the infiltration of stormwater.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR was presented to KEVIN SPICER and BRUCE ROWLAND, both science teachers at Carlisle High School who partner to prepare students for the annual Envirothon. They also incorporate many additional experiences for the students to learn and prepare for competition in the annual event. They are truly dedicated to the students and strive to guide them to be environmentally responsible adults. They each have participated in the Envirothon for over 20 years and have been teaching for 30 years. In 2015, one of their teams won the Cumberland County Envirothon and went on to compete at the Pennsylvania Envirothon at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

Farm inspections are coming, but they are not what everyone was expecting. Instead of the EPA knocking on your door and wanting to look for water pollution, district staff will just be asking to see written plans that address manure management and erosion control.

Under the PA Clean Streams Law, any farming operation that applies and/or produces manure needs to have a Manure Management Plan (MMP). The current format for an MMP has been in place since 2000. Additionally, any agricultural operation that performs any tillage activities (this includes no-till practices) or has animal heavy use areas that disturb more than 5,000 square feet must have a Chapter 102 Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Ag E&S Plan; also sometimes called a Conservation Plan). This has been a requirement since 1972.

The EPA has determined that Pennsylvania is not on track to meet its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Nitrogen and Sediment by 2025. The EPA withheld funding from Pennsylvania until they came up with a strategy to increase best management practices within the Bay watershed to reduce pollution. Pennsylvania decided the first step was to make sure farmers have the required MMP and Ag E&S Plans.

Over the past few years there has been a large effort to visit with farmers and provide them with information on how to develop these plans. Now, the next step is to check if plans have been developed. A minimum of 50 farms will be inspected in all Bay watershed counties each year to check to see if plans have been developed. An inspection form will be completed and the farmer will get a copy. The information will be kept at the Conservation District as well as be provided to DEP. If a farmer is found to be out of compliance by not having the necessary plans, they will have 180 days to have the plans developed. The Conservation District will be able to assist with plan development.

Farmers can assist in these inspections by calling the District ahead of time to schedule an appointment to view these plans. If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment in advance please call the District at 717-240-7812 or email Brady Seeley at bseeley@ccpa.net.



Farmer planting winter cover crop into soybean stubble.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Manure Management Plans:

- Required of ALL operations generating or utilizing manure
- ◇ Crop operation importing manure as supplemental fertilizer
- ◇ Grazing operations even if they are not land applying mechanically
- ◇ “Niche” farms such as llama, alpaca, goats, etc...
- Addresses
 - ◇ Nitrogen & Phosphorus (if necessary)
 - ◇ Pasture management
 - ◇ Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs)
- Farmers with ACAs needing corrective actions need to immediately contact their local Conservation District, NRCS, or a private consultant and document that contact and the time frame for developing and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Can be written by operator/producer
- ◇ Manure management manual available online or hard copy through the District
- Plan does not need to be formally approved by any government agency but must be available on the operation



Winter Spreading Requirements:

- Winter application of manure is discouraged
- Setbacks of 100 ft. are required from all sources of water (wells, streams, ponds, etc.)
- **No application** on fields with slopes greater than 15%
- All fields must have a minimum 25% crop residue at time of application
- Maximum application rate are 5000 gal/A, 20 ton/A of non-poultry manure, or 3 tons/A poultry manure

Manure Management Planning Workshops:



Farmers still needing manure management plans can receive assistance in developing their plan through the Cumberland County Conservation District. The District will be offering workshops on **January 24th, February 22th and March 23rd** that are devoted to the development of a Manure Management Plan for your farm. If you are interested in Manure Management Planning information to achieve compliance and possibly save on the cost of fertilizer, please contact Jared McIntire at 717-240-5360 or by email at jmcintire@ccpa.net.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

An updated **Notice of Intent** (NOI) for Coverage under the General NPDES permit or Application for an Individual NPDES Permit is available and dated 8/2016. All new submissions should be using this form. Section B has been expanded to include Type of Ownership and Primary NAICS Codes.

The NOI Section D. requires the critical stages of implementation of the post construction stormwater management (PCSM) plan be identified. These are only for the installation of underground treatment or storage best management practices (BMPs), structurally engineered BMPs, and NOT erosion control BMPs.

An **engineer's seal** is required in NOI Section F if structural BMPs are incorporated into the plan.

NPDES permitted sites that require a major modification due to changes in the scope of the project will still maintain their original expiration date. They will no longer receive 5 years of coverage from the date of the major modification approval.

The Transferee/Co-Permittee Application for NPDES permits was recently updated on 9/2016 and the **Notice of Termination Application** on 10/2016.

The PCSM Instrument Filing Notice was updated 9/2016. This form and an Instrument for the Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants should be completed and taken to the County Recorder of Deeds within 45 days from the date of permit issuance. The Conservation District should be provided with the date and place of recording along with a reference to the docket, deed book or other record within 90 days from the date of permit issuance.



Proposed infiltration areas fenced off to prevent compaction during construction activities.

The District website at www.cumberlandcd.com has links for all of the updated forms.

Field Inspection Reminders:

Any site where there has been a temporary cessation of earth disturbance activities that exceed 4 days, should be immediately seeded and mulched.

Surface stabilization is required over winter.

ENVIROTHON UPDATE

Students from nine area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 3, at King's Gap Environmental Education Center, Carlisle. The Hellbenders from Cumberland Valley High School took first place with a score of 381; second place went to The Slimy Sculpins from Cumberland Valley with a score of 319; and third place went to The Swampers from Cumberland Valley with a score of 311. The Hellbenders represented Cumberland County at the 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, on May 24 and 25, placing 8th out of 65 teams.



Above: Cumberland Valley's *The Hellbenders*, finished in the Top 10 at the State Envirothon competition! Photo provided from Pennsylvania Envirothon.

The Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, is an academic competition that provides high school students hands-on field experience dealing with natural resource issues. Students complete five exams that test their knowledge on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue, which was invasive species. 106 students participated this year and enjoyed the partially sunny day. Schools participating in the competition include Big Spring, Boiling Springs, Camp Hill, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Mechanicsburg and Shippensburg.

Representatives from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Game Commission, the Conservation District, and Natural Resources Conservation Service administered the tests.

Once the competition was over, the students enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by the Conservation District. After lunch, the Conservation District handed out awards, made from Pennsylvania hardwood, to the top three teams at each station and the top three teams overall. Each student on the winning team also received a \$50 gift card from Barb Cross. All participating students and advisors received an Envirothon t-shirt sponsored by Adams Electric Cooperative.

RAIN BARRELS



In 2016, the Cumberland County Conservation District held six Rain Barrel Workshops, reaching out to about 225 residents. During the annual rain barrel sale, 30 rain barrels were made with help from Cedar Cliff High School Students. The District also worked with Dickinson College's ALLARM, Green-CAUSE, Wilson Middle School, Big Spring High School, and Silver Spring Township. If your group would like to participate in a rain barrel workshop, please contact the Conservation District.

DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS PROGRAM

Cumberland County's 2016 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program completed five projects, has one project on-going and has one project postponed until spring 2017. The program is split into Dirt & Gravel Roads (any road that has a stone, dirt, or gravel surface) and Low Volume Roads (any paved or sealed surface that has less than 500 cars per day).

The traditional Dirt and Gravel Roads Program focuses on projects that improve road impacts from stone, dirt, and gravel roads. This year's projects included Sheet Iron Roof Road in South Middletown Township, Old Town Road in South Middleton Township, Bridgewater Road in Upper Mifflin Township, and Cold Springs Road in Dickinson Township. Pictured to the right is a French Mattress that connected to a drainage system in order to drain a wet spot in the road on Bridgewater Road. This project also included several new cross pipe installations and replaced three existing cross pipes.



French Mattress on Bridgewater Road.



Cross pipe and under drain on Beetem Hollow.

The Low Volume Road Program focuses on paved roads with less than 500 cars per day that improve road impacts to water sources. This year's Low Volume Roads projects included Beetem Hollow Road in Penn Township and Rhoda Boulevard in Monroe Township. Pictured to the left is the finished ditch line and one of the new cross pipe installations on Beetem Hollow Road. All of the projects focused on increasing water quality, mostly through drainage improvements, which include Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices such as additional cross pipes, capturing spring seeps, and placing dense stone surfacing. Below is an example of the perforated underdrain pipe installation that was used to capture the spring



Non-woven geotextile fabric is laid under the 6-inch perforated black pipe with stone filling in the void space.



Geotextile fabric is folded over to prevent sediment from getting into the clean stone. More stone is then placed on top.



Stone is shaped in a "u" to help convey stormwater.

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
OUR HOLE SPONSORS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT

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**2017 CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREE SEEDLING
SALE SCHEDULED**

The Cumberland County Conservation District has scheduled their 40th Annual Tree Seedling Sale for April 20th and 21st, 2017. Contact the Conservation District Office at 240-7812 to receive an order form or go to our website at www.cumberlandcd.com and download the order form listed under the tree sale category. Order forms will not be available until January 2017.

Orders must be received at the Conservation District Office by March 31, 2017.

Pictured is former PACD Executive Director Robert Maiden and his daughter dipping seedlings for bundling.





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