

Cumberland County Conservation District



Colonel Denning State Park
Spillway of Doubling Gap Lake

2005 Annual Report

Cumberland County Conservation District

Regular Meeting Date—4th Tuesday

43 Brookwood Avenue, Suite 4 ❖ Carlisle, PA 17013-9172

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**E&S Staff**

Kim Falvey, District Technician/E&S
Vince McCollum, Watershed Specialist
Brian Jaymes, District Technician/E&S

**Ag Staff**

Craig Mitchell, Chesapeake Bay Technician
Amy Skvarka, Nutrient Mgt Specialist
Mike Lubinsky, Regional Ag Engineering Spec



Carl Goshorn, District Manager
Brenda Sheaffer, District Secretary

2006 Calendar of Events

January:

- 2 New Years Day—Office Closed
- 11 Water Testing—District Office
- 11-17 Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed
- 24 PACD Winter Meeting—State College
- 24 Cooperating Agency Luncheon/Board Meeting—Eckels Drugstore
- 31 Growing Greener II Grants Meeting—Business Central

February:

- 7-8 Dirt & Gravel Road Training for Municipal Officials—Chambersburg
- 8 Water Testing—District Office
- 20 President's Day—Office Closed
- 28 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

March:

- 8 Water Testing—District Office
- 28 E&S Workshop/Tour for Post Construction Stormwater BMPs—Dauphin County Conservation District
- 28 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm
- 29 Farmer Field Day—Ray & Jean Thrush Farm
- 31 Deadline for Tree Seedling Orders
- 31 Poster Contest Deadline

April:

- 12 Water Testing—District Office
- 14 Friday before Easter—Office Closed
- 20 Tree Seedling Bundling & Distribution
- 21 Tree Seeding Distribution
- 25 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

May:

- 2 County Envirothon—Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Assoc.
- 10 Water Testing—District Office
- 22&23 PA State Envirothon—Mont Alto
- 23 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm
- 29 Memorial Day—Office Closed

June:

- 14 Water Testing—District Office
- 27 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

July:

- 4 Independence Day—Office Closed
- 12 Water Testing—District Office
- 23-27 NACD Northeast Meeting & PACD/SCC Annual Conference—State College
- 25 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

August:

- 9 Water Testing—District Office
- 22 Board Meeting/District Picnic—6:00 pm, Location: TBA

September:

- 4 Labor Day—Office Closed
- 11-13 Annual Dirt & Gravel Road Conference
- 13 Water Testing—District Office
- 26 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

October:

- 4 Annual Golf Tournament
- 11 Water Testing—District Office
- 24 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm

November:

- 8 Water Testing—District Office
- 10 Veteran's Day—Office Closed
- 21 Board Meeting—District Office 7:30 pm
- 23 Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
- 24 Day after Thanksgiving—Office Closed

December:

- 13 Water Testing—District Office
- 19 Board Meeting—District Office 8:00 am
- 22 Christmas Holiday—Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Holiday—Office Closed

2005 POSTER CONTEST

The Cumberland County Conservation District held their Annual Poster Contest for area schools in the spring. A total of 162 posters were submitted for the contest. The judging is categorized into five divisions, four of which received posters for competition. The theme for the 2005 contest was "Celebrate Conservation". All first place winners were forwarded to PACD for the State Competition.

K – 1st GRADE:

- 1st Place: Michael (Mitch) Wolfe (Good Shepherd)
- 2nd Place: Matthew Dailey (Good Shepherd)
- 3rd Place: Mia Murray (Good Shepherd)

2nd – 3rd GRADE:

- 1st Place: Mark Hergenroeder (Good Shepherd)
- 2nd Place: Emily Dethlefs (Good Shepherd)
- 3rd Place: Danielle Dunleavy (Good Shepherd)

4th – 6th GRADE:

- 1st Place: Taylor Bishop (Sporting Hill Elementary)
- 2nd Place: Amanda Kuszto (Good Shepherd)
- 3rd Place: Emma Kilroy (Good Shepherd)

7th – 9th GRADE:

- 1st Place: Peter Lim (Allen Middle)
- 2nd Place: Katelyn Palkovic (Good Shepherd)
- 3rd Place: Megan Herman (Good Shepherd)

out of 64 teams participating in the station testing and placed 6th out of 54 teams that participated in the oral component. The Conservation District congratulates all of the teams that participated in the event and thanks all of the cooperating agency staff who assisted at the stations.

Additionally, the Conservation District received financial support from many local businesses and would like to thank them for their support. This financial support enabled the Conservation District to provide lunch, trophies, and t-shirts for the event. The businesses include:

BL Companies, Inc.
 H. Edward Black & Associates, P.C.
 Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association
 Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates
 J.D. Eckman, Inc.
 Evans Engineering, Inc.
 John W. Gleim Jr., Inc.
 Hoover Engineering Services Inc.
 The McNaughton Company
 R.S. Mowery & Sons, Inc.
 Pennoni Associates Inc.
 Skelly & Loy, Inc.
 Snoke's Excavating & Paving, Inc.
 Triple Crown Corporation, Inc.
 Leon E. Wintermyer, Inc.
 Womex, Inc.
 Yingst Homes, Inc.

The District continues to try and get more schools involved in the Envirothon with a goal of having all Cumberland County high schools participating. If you would like more information about the Envirothon, please visit the District's website at www.cumberlandcd.com, or contact Vince McCollum.

Cumberland County Envirothon

The 2005 Cumberland County Envirothon was held Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at Colonel Denning State Park north of Newville. This was the first time we used that site and we received many positive comments about that location. The Park staff was very accommodating and we look forward to having the event there again.

The 2005 event was well attended with six schools participating, totaling 23 teams representing 98 students. The Conservation District hired a caterer to provide a mid morning snack and lunch for all attendees and all participants and advisors received a Cumberland County Envirothon t-shirt, sponsored by the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association. Just prior to the award ceremony, there was a presentation on the conservation of Pennsylvania snakes, by Greg Line. The top three overall scores were, in third place, The Blades of Grass, from Carlisle High School, with 271, second place was The Scat Squad from Cedar Cliff, with a score of 280 and the 2005 Cumberland County Envirothon champions, with a score of 360, were Bundle of Sticks from Cumberland Valley (see photo). The Bundle of Sticks team represented Cumberland County at the 2005 Pennsylvania Envirothon at Bloomsburg University and PPL Montour Preserve on May 23 and 24, 2005. They placed 38th



Pictured is the winning team of the 2005 Cumberland County Envirothon, held at Colonel Denning State Park. They are from left to right, Nichole Griffith, Kisha Flawd, Tom Beeman, T. J. Walker and Andy Welte.

Shippensburg Farmers Receive Statewide Award

Ray and Jean Thrush of Shippensburg recently received a statewide award for their commitment to conservation. The Thrush family was recognized on July 26 at the awards luncheon of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) held in Erie, PA. This annual awards ceremony recognized individuals and organizations that have helped to promote or continue conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

County conservation districts across the state sent nominations to judging panels for consideration in seven different categories. The Cumberland County Conservation District nominated Ray and Jean Thrush for the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award, which they were chosen to receive. PACD awards this honor annually to a farmer who has furthered conservation through the establishment and maintenance of soil, water and nutrient management practices.

The Thrush family owns Jet Rae Farm, a large dairy and crop operation. They have fully implemented the practices set forth in their conservation plan and nutrient management plan. Over the years, the Thrush family has implemented farming practices that address water quality and soil erosion. They built a waste storage structure to safely contain manure. They implement crop rotation, use reduced and no-till farming and plant wheat as a cover crop to decrease soil erosion. In addition to these conservation practices, Ray and Jean Thrush have also taken action to ensure the future of their farm by enrolling it in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program which prevents future development of prime farmland.

The Cumberland County Conservation District congratulates Ray and Jean Thrush on receiving this award for their outstanding commitment to conservation in Cumberland County.



Front: Ray & Jean Thrush

Back: Dennis Wolf, PA Secretary of Agricultural, Carl Goshorn, Vince McCollum, and Brian Jaymes Cumberland County Conservation District

Clean Water Award

York Excavating Co., Inc. was chosen the 2005 Clean Water Award winner by the Cumberland County Conservation District. York Excavating Co., Inc. has been in business for 21 years under the ownership of Les and Lynda Stewart. They have between 60 and 70 field workers with an office/project management staff of 8 people. They are a total site development construction firm and specialize in big box retail sites. They have worked on a Home Depot Store, a Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and two large warehouse projects in Cumberland County.

The Home Depot project required much attention to detail. The site was located adjacent to the Letort Spring Run, an Exceptional Value stream as defined by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The site required special Best Management Practices (BMP's) to be implemented during construction and for the Post Construction Storm Water Management (PCSWM) BMP's. The contractor followed closely the approved sequence of construction and installed such measures as super silt fence, a sediment trap, grass lined swales and other BMP's. The PCSWM BMP's included several infiltration galleries, bio-retention areas, Vortech units and a by-pass infiltration swale.

The site was closely monitored by several agencies including the CD and DEP. Despite several large runoff events during the construction period, there were no problems on the site. The site has become a model for other projects that are located next to Special Protection Waters.

The Lowe's site, constructed on 18 acres also required the contractor to implement appropriate BMP's. They include a sediment basin and a subsurface stormwater detention basin.

The other two large projects are each approximately 70 acres in size. Warehouses ranging in size from 400,000 to 960,000 square feet will be constructed. BMP's on the sites included sediment basins, sediment traps, swales, silt fence, etc. Extensive grading is required to get the sites to the proper elevations. The large amount of earthmoving involved with these types of projects has the potential to create a variety of problems. However York Excavating is very conscientious about the environment by ensuring that all the BMP's are installed first and by maintaining the BMP's on the site. They pay close attention to the details and are always looking for ways to improve the project, if any problems or unforeseen circumstances arise. They are always willing to meet with District personnel to discuss issues and try new or innovative ideas and products. They readily respond to any potential problem areas that come up during construction.

Even though some sites and projects are on tight time schedules or have other issues that may put the erosion control plan as a secondary concern, York Excavating always make sure that they are doing what is required to protect the natural resources and prevent any sediment pollution to the Waters of the Commonwealth.



Left to Right: Wilbur Wolf Jr, CCCD Director; Thomas Slusser, Sr and Jeff Walker, York Excavating; Rick Rovegno, Cumberland County Commissioner, and Carl Goshorn, CCCD

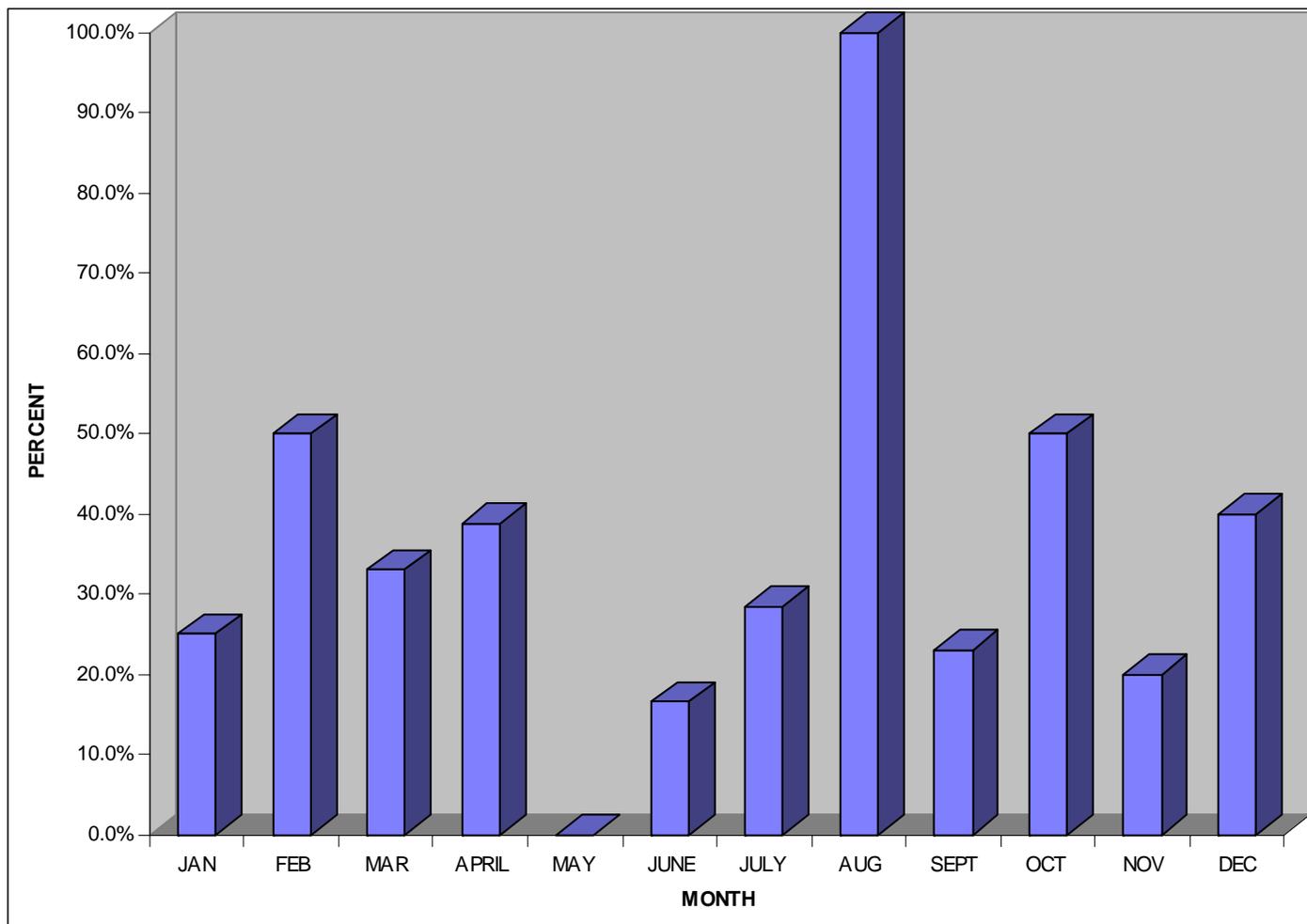
2005 WATER TESTING PROGRAM

The Cumberland County Conservation District continued to serve the citizens of the County through the monthly water testing program. Through this program, water can be tested for a variety of contaminants such as coliform bacteria, e.coli, nitrates, lead, iron, sodium, etc.. In 2005, over 200 tests were processed by the District for a minimal fee and sent to Analytical Labs, Middletown, PA for analysis. There was an downward trend in the number of samples testing positive in 2005.

The results from the 2005 water testing program are as follows.

TEST	TOTAL TESTS	# TESTING POSITIVE	% TESTING POSITIVE	TREND FROM LAST YEAR	MAX CONTAMINANT LEVEL
TOTAL COLIFORM	97	35	36.1%	Down	0 Colonies
E. COLI.	61	5	8.2%	Down	Negative
NITRATE	21	5	23.8%	Down	10 mg/L
LEAD	14	1	7.1%	Down	0.015 mg/L
IRON	6	1	16.7%	Down	0.3 mg/L
SULFATE	3	0	0.0%	Same	250 mg/L
pH	3	0	0.0%	Same	6.5-8.5
SODIUM	1				No Standard
HARDNESS	7				No Standard
YEARLY TOTAL	213	47			

Percent of coliform bacteria tests with positive results.



2005 EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

The major priority of the erosion and sedimentation pollution control program is the protection of water resources from the impacts of accelerated erosion and the sedimentation that results. We as a District want to ensure that the soil and water resources of Cumberland County are used wisely. As the county continues to experience overall growth, it becomes increasingly important to make sure that resources are protected according to the regulations. We have continued to work with the regulated community to make certain that they are up to date with the most current regulations and methods of construction. The District has been given the authority to administer the erosion and sedimentation control program by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to achieve this goal. Through a delegation agreement with DEP, the District has been authorized to:

◀ **RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS** - The District receives complaints from the public and municipal officials. When a complaint is received in the office, the District will conduct a field evaluation and follow-up with the appropriate actions or referral.

◀ **REVIEW EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLANS** - The District reviews the plans to assure adequacy with current regulations. Chapter 102 requires that all earthmoving activities over 5,000 square feet must develop an erosion control plan. The design of the plan must minimize accelerated erosion and resulting sedimentation to waters of the Commonwealth.



◀ **INSPECT EARTHMOVING SITES** - The District has two qualified technicians, Brian Jaymes and Kim Falvey, who are authorized to perform inspections of earthmoving sites in the field to determine compliance with Chapter 102 Regulations. The District meets with contractors at the site of the disturbance to go over the plan. They will walk the site to determine if the plan is being implemented and best management practices (BMPs) are properly installed and

maintained. At the conclusion of the inspection, an Earth Disturbance Inspection Report is completed by the technician where site conditions and any violations of Chapter 102 regulations and the Clean Streams Law are noted. A deadline date is established to correct any existing violations in order to place the site in compliance.

◀ **ADMINISTER THE NPDES PROGRAM** - This program requires general or individual permits for any earthmoving activities disturbing greater than five acres of land over the life of the project or sites disturbing between 1 and 5 acres with a point source discharge to surface waters of the Commonwealth.

◀ **EDUCATE THE PUBLIC** - The District provides the public with information on the most current regulations and methods of construction. During March, the District held an educational workshop directed toward municipal officials and contractors. The workshop was intended to provide them with information on the NPDES/E&S program, new erosion control products and post construction BMP installation and maintenance. Approximately 40 individuals attended the workshop.



◀ **ENFORCE CHAPTER 102 RULES AND REGULATIONS** - Under the Clean Streams Law and the District's Level III delegation agreement with DEP, the District has the authority to impose penalties on violators who will not voluntarily comply. The District's main goal is to work with developers and contractors to achieve voluntary compliance for violations in the field. When this is not possible, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is sent to the responsible individual inviting them to an administrative enforcement conference with the District. If the District determines that penalties will be assessed after reviewing all the facts, the money is forwarded to DEP and deposited into the Clean Water Fund.

2005 E&S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

E&S Plan Reviews.....	183
Project Acres.....	4702
Disturbed Acres.....	2098
Inspections.....	417
General NPDES Permits.....	63
Individual NPDES Permits.....	11
Complaints.....	45
Civil Actions.....	0

E&S PROGRAM REVENUE

E&S Plan Review Fees.....	\$113,353
NPDES Permit Fees.....	\$23,250

TOWNSHIPS WITH THE MOST PROPOSED

DISTURBED ACRES

Southampton.....	393
North Middleton.....	265
South Middleton.....	247
Hampden.....	228
Silver Spring.....	176
Monroe.....	128

Dirt & Gravel Roads Program

Two projects were completed in Cumberland County under the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program in 2005.

Penn Township and Upper Mifflin Township received financial assistance from the conservation district to complete best management practices which will help prevent pollution to waters of the commonwealth.

In Penn Township, driving surface aggregate was placed on approximately 10,000 square feet of Peach Orchard Road. This aggregate was added in order to establish a proper grade and surface that will be conducive to keeping water off the road.

Upper Mifflin Township installed two cross pipes on Bridgewater Road, each being thirty feet in length, in order to direct surface water off the road so a dry road surface is maintained and clean water can be directed off the road right-of-way.

Although Cumberland County does not have a lot of dirt and gravel roads compared to the northern tier of Pennsylvania, we still are able to complete some worthwhile projects to improve road conditions and protect water quality at the same time.

**3rd ANNUAL CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT GOLF
TOURNAMENT**



Jim Flesher, Lee Yohn, and Barry Sweger (l to r) line up a shot on their way to a 3 under par 67

The 3rd Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament was held at Mayapple Golf Links on October 5, 2005. There were 47 participants that enjoyed the warm Fall afternoon. The team of Jim Sniscak, Joe Ulsh, Steve Sniscak, and Jack Ulsh posted a 9 under 61 to take top honors. Congratulations!

The Conservation District would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Shearer Advertising
- Carlisle Beverage
- Mayapple Golf Links
- REMAX Realty
- The Sand Trap

We would also like to thank Mayapple Golf Links for their help in making the day a success. The participants enjoyed a terrific steak and chicken dinner following the day on the course and prizes were awarded for the three low scores, skill holes, and random drawing. We must also thank all of the participants who made the day complete. Thanks to all and see you next year!

All proceeds from the event benefit environmental education efforts in Cumberland County.

2005 Tree Seedling Sale Financial Report



Tree bundling at Main's Dairy.

Expenses

Income	\$18,592.00
PA Dept of Ag	\$40.00
Rowe's Printing	\$230.00
PA Dept of Revenue	\$869.25
Patriot News	\$420.00
Carino Nurseries	\$627.00
Ernst Cons Seeds	\$291.00
Treessentials	\$2,701.42
Edgar Wright	\$476.70
Dutch Mill Bulbs	\$582.50
Scott Bros. Nursery	\$673.91
Strathmeyer Forest	\$2,509.00
Kruger Rental	\$170.79
Lebanon Cons District	\$30.00
Musser Forests	\$1,402.70
Bruce Payer	\$145.00
Total Expenses	\$13,804.50
NET PROFIT	\$4,787.50



Hunter Goshorn handing out seedlings

Items Sold

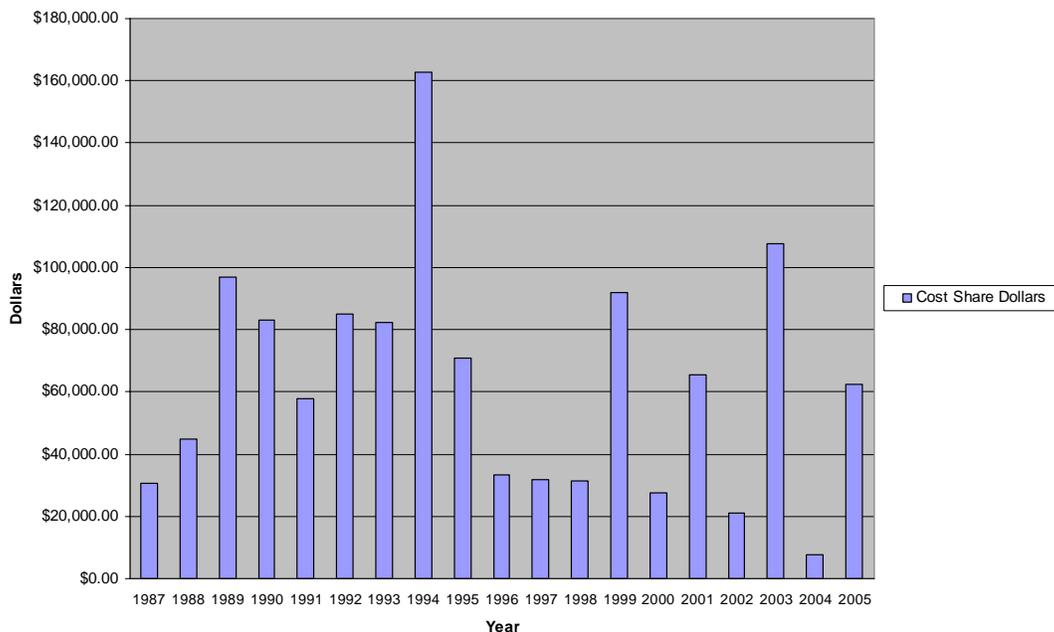
Colorado Blue Spruce	2,500 seedlings
Douglas Fir	3,100 seedlings
White Pine	3,600 seedlings
Concolor Fir	1,650 seedlings
Red Maple	950 seedlings
White Oak	1,850 seedlings
Sawtooth Oak	1,850 seedlings
Shadblow Serviceberry	1,000 seedlings
Myrtle	4,300 seedlings
Acorns	38 pounds
Wildflower Mix	20 pounds
D (Giant Décor Dahlias)	32 packages
E (Spectacular Gladiolus)	27 packages
G (Tiger Lilies)	32 packages
H (Everbearing Strawberry)	90 packages
N (Peacock Orchids)	26 packages
Q (Daylily Stella D'Oro)	26 packages
Tree Shelters	1,500 shelters
Wood Stakes	725 stakes

2005 Chesapeake Bay Program Annual Report

◆ The Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program has been helping farmers in Cumberland County address nutrient concerns since 1987. For nearly 20 years, the Bay program staff has helped farmers identify soil and water quality concerns, assisted with nutrient management planning and provided a full scale of engineering services to program participants. Additionally, the Bay program has provided approximately \$1.2 million dollars to County farmers to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their operations.

Cumberland County Bay Cost Share Dollars by Year



Although the Bay Program has been a success in Cumberland County, 2005 marked a significant transition in the Chesapeake Bay Program. In 2005, under direction from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the Cumberland County Conservation District developed a county specific Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. The county strategy is intended to compliment the PA Strategy and bolster nutrient and sediment reductions by identifying local water quality concerns and solutions.

The County Tributary Strategy identifies ten “Core BMPs”. The ten core practices are the result of multiple discussions between the Conservation District and its partners. Additionally, the staff looked at an array of information to identify critical nutrient concerns. Some of these factors included county demographics and economics, county agriculture and trends, regulatory influences and areas of critical environmental concern.

Development of the County Strategy was a labor intensive process, with a significant portion of the Chesapeake Bay Technician's

time in 2005 dedicated to the development of the Strategy and its associated programs. The County Strategy is a dynamic document; it will be revisited annually for the next five years. The focus of the strategy may change from year to year, but the goal of the Strategy will continue to be to guide the Conservation District while addressing critical nutrient and sediment concerns throughout the County.

For more information on the Bay program, or to view a copy of the Bay Strategy, visit the Conservation District website: www.cumberlandcd.com

◆ 2005 Program Accomplishments

*Highest 2005 Allocation received by any one County.

Activity	Number Reported
BMP funds requested by the District:	\$125,166.00
BMP funds received by the District:	*\$40,000.00
Cost share dollars paid to landowners in 2005:	\$62,449.98
Ag Waste Systems Installed in 2005:	3
Number of landowners assisted with BMP Implementation:	3

◆ Update of Program Accomplishments, 1987-2005

Activity	Number Reported
BMP funds received by the District:	\$1,217,556.90
Cost share dollars paid to landowners:	\$1,197,807.87
Number of contracts signed with landowners:	56
Average funds spent per year	\$62,884.62
Average number of landowners contracts per year:	3

Nutrient Management Activities

2005 was an eventful year for the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act. Major changes are being proposed to the state nutrient management rules and concentrated animal operations (CAOs). These are the first significant changes since the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act of 1993 became effective in 1997. The proposed changes aim to strengthen the nutrient management program and water quality protection throughout the Commonwealth. During the summer and fall of 2004 the public had the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act regulations. The new revised regulations should go into effect in the fall of 2006.

Cumberland County continues to plan an active role in encouraging farmers to obtain and implement a nutrient management plan. Since the beginning of the Nutrient Management Rules and Regulations were implemented in 1997 we have approved 84 nutrient management plans (16 are CAOs and 72 are volunteers). In 2006 we approved 7 nutrient management plans (1 CAO and 6 volunteers).

Nutrient Management Plan Implementation Grant Program

Cumberland County farmers continue to benefit from the Nutrient Management Plan Implementation Grant Program which offers funding up to \$75,000.00 at 80% cost share to install agricultural best management practices. Since the beginning of the program in 2000, Cumberland has had 21 applications totaling over \$900,000 in cost share submitted to the State Conservation Commission for funding. In 2005 there was 1 applications submitted and funded.



Barnyard constructed at Brownwell's Dairy Farm under the Nutrient Management Plan Implementation Grant Program.

Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing (PSNT)

Cumberland County Conservation District continues to offer the Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing (PSNT) on corn to local farmers. This is a free service that the conservation district has offered for 6 years. An intern from Shippensburg University was hired to help gather and run the soil tests necessary for the test. In 2005 there were 95 fields tested on 18 different operations. 32 fields had a nitrogen recommendation and 63 fields did not have a nitrogen recommendation. This program will be offered again in 2006.

Project Grass

Project Grass is a cooperative effort by local farmers, county conservation districts and other partners with assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture agencies to promote grazing in Pennsylvania. In 2005 we continued to implement best management practices associated with grazing on Cumberland County farms. In 2005 we installed interior and exterior fencing on a beef operation, designed a cattle walkway for a beef operation, and stream crossing for a beef operation.

In addition to the implementation of these practices, staff from Cumberland County Conservation District served on the South Central Regional Project Grass Executive Committee.

Outreach and Education Activities

The Cumberland County Conservation District continues to educate and promote the Nutrient Management Rules and Regulations and the benefits of nutrient management planning to area producers. In 2005 the Cumberland County Conservation District was represented at various local agricultural events:

- Witmers Implement Service's open house
- Cumberland Valley Cooperative's winter meeting

Watershed Program

This past year the Conservation District received several grants to improve the watersheds of Cumberland County. The first grant was to implement a rain barrel program for County residents. The program includes selling rain barrels, made by Cumberland Valley High School students using reuseable food grade barrels and distributing water resources information packets. The next grant was to purchase an educational display and supporting information for the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association. Lastly, the Conservation District received a Pennsylvania Growing Greener grant to install agricultural best management practices on a farm in the Three Square Hollow watershed, which is a tributary to the Conodoguinet Creek. This project will improve water quality by reducing the amount of nutrients introduced to the stream.

PA Cleanways of Cumberland County formally became a chapter of the PA Cleanways state organization in 2005. The group performed two illegal dump cleanups in South Middleton Township throughout the year, one in April and the other in October. The group continues to



Before and after photo of an illegal dump cleanup on Lisburn Road, South Middleton Township, by PA Cleanways of Cumberland County.

clean up illegal dumpsites identified by the Cumberland County Illegal Dump Survey that was completed by PA Cleanways last year. In addition to organizing illegal dump cleanups, PA Cleanways of Cumberland County attended Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg to promote the success of their efforts in Cumberland County and educate the public about illegal dumping and recycling. As the group continues to move forward, they are looking for like-minded individuals who are willing to assist in activities, including cleanups, road adoptions, and education and outreach programs. PA Cleanways of Cumberland County meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Conservation District office at 7:00 pm.

2005 Annual Chesapeake Bay Engineering Activity

Michael Lubinsky E.I.T, Regional Agricultural Engineering Specialist

Best Management Practices Designed During 2005



<u>County</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Best Management Practices Planned (*Practices Implemented)</u>
Adams County		
1. Brian Reaver	January 10, 2005	Heavy Use and Stacking Area, Liquid Distribution/Treatment System
2. Tom Garretson	June 17, 2005	AgriChemical Handling Facility
3. Dale Byers*	June 16, 2005	Heavy Use and Stacking Areas, Waste Treatment System, Underground Outlets
4. David Reinecker	August 5, 2005	Roofed Barnyard, Heavy Use Area
5. Rose Weaver	August 2, 2005	Roofed Barnyard, Heavy Use Area
Cumberland County		
No Design Activity		
Franklin County		
1. Lynn Eberly	November 11, 2005	Manure Transfer, Waste Storage Facility
York County		
1. Larry Sterner*	April 2, 2005	Heavy Use Area, Waste Treatment System, Underground Outlets
2. Glen Daugherty"	April 15, 2005	Heavy Use Area and Stacking Areas, Waste Treatment System, Underground Outlets

Total Cost of Projects Approximately \$314,000

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

The Cumberland County FSA Office, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), located in Carlisle, PA administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)/ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and assists with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). In 2005, EQIP was administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Farm Service Agency also administers commodity, price and income support programs, farm ownership and operating loans. In addition, FSA will continue to offer cost-sharing and land rental payments for the Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (10 to 15 year contracts that involve removing cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production).

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (THE FARM BILL) repealed several conservation programs and combined the functions of these programs into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary federal program for agricultural landowners. Under the CRP program landowners establish resource conserving covers. CRP landowners can receive annual rental payments based on the agricultural rental value of the land and can receive cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's cost of establishing approved conservation practices. The eligible land is taken out of agricultural production for a period of 10 to 15 years.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resource conservation program targeted to address state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental problems. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA to voluntarily enroll acreage in CREP for contracts of 10 to 15 year periods. Participants remove cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees, and other vegetation. At this time only acreage for Riparian Buffers is available to be enrolled in CREP. Through CREP, Pennsylvania farmers will be able to join other farmers and states in protecting the environmental resources of the Chesapeake Bay. This will help lower water temperatures, increase dissolved oxygen and provide wildlife habitat. To date, Cumberland County has completed 247 CREP contracts totaling 5043.0 acres. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 annual rental payments issued to Cumberland County participants in CRP/CREP equaled \$449,138.00. Additional CREP payments were also issued as cost/share and/or incentive payments.

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. Together with NRCS, FSA helps to administer this program. Participants may choose 10, 15, 20 or 30 year contracts. Annual payments are disbursed on the anniversary date of the contract. The participant receives not more than 75% of the grazing value in an annual payment for the length of the agreement.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides financial assistance to farmers to help rehabilitate farmland after a natural disaster and assistance with water conservation measures during a drought.

Additional details concerning any of these programs can be obtained by calling the County Office at 717-249-3924 or by visiting the County Office at 43 Brookwood Avenue, Suite 2, Carlisle, PA.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUREAU OF FORESTRY

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), authorized by Congress under the 2002 Farm Bill, will likely be funded similar to 2005, something short of one-half million dollars statewide. Discussion is underway as to which activities or which regions of the state will be funded this coming year.

ON THE MICHAUX STATE FOREST

Timber Sales

Five timber sales involving 627 acres were sold during 2005. This generated \$224,140.00 for the Commonwealth.

Fuelwood

419 permits for 664 cords generated revenue in the amount of \$6,849.00

Erosion Control and Wildlife

25 acres of haul roads, log landings, and 2 acres of wildlife openings were seeded, rejuvenated, limed, fertilized, and 12 acres were mowed.

Tree Planting

2,300 red oak seedlings, 2,600 conifer seedlings, and 3,589 acorns were planted on 158 acres to enhance species diversity, benefit wildlife, and reinforce oak regeneration. 15 standard York apple fruiting trees, 20 hawthornes, and 22 crab apple trees and shrubs were planted for wildlife.

Deer Fences

8' woven wire deer exclosures have been installed at two locations across the Michaux State Forest. Twenty-four fence exclosures, involving 795 acres have been erected to protect hardwood regeneration from deer browsing.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Robert McBride, Service Forester with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, assisted 40 landowners in the county in 2005. The technical assistance provided included timber management, marketing wildlife habitat enhancement, erosion control, insect and disease identification and control recommendations, riparian buffer planting, tree planting plans, and environmental education.

Urban Forestry

Carlisle, Carlisle Barracks, and the Borough of Lemoyne have again been recognized as Tree Cities for 2005. The national Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the national League of Cities, recognized the town for meeting the high standards required.

PDA Accomplishments - 2005

Governor Edward G. Rendell

ACRE: A Plan to Protect Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environments

- This year, Governor Rendell successfully addressed an issue that has long plagued the agricultural community.
- Through a series of new legislation and regulations, this comprehensive plan assists production agriculture, strengthens environmental stewardship and enhances the quality of life in our rural communities.
- Farmers may now petition the Attorney General to challenge local ordinances that restrict normal farming operations, or bypass this step and take their petition directly to Commonwealth Court.
- Farmers may also receive compensation for any incurred legal fees if it can be proven the ordinance was designed with a negligent disregard for its legality.

Ag Education Initiative

- Originally launched in 2003, the ag education initiative plays an important role in educating the public on the importance of Pennsylvania agriculture
- For many young adults, the initiative opens the window to career opportunities in agriculture they may otherwise have not realized.
- The initiative's Web site, www.marketplaceforthemind.com, provides resources for educators to enhance their classroom activities. Since going live in October 2003, the site has registered almost 5.2 million hits.
- When combined with financial support through the Ag and Rural Youth Grant, and funding to organizations like the 4-H and FFA, the initiative is a great tool in advancing the Governor's drive to build a "Jobs Ready PA" in the agriculture sector.

Farmland Preservation

- Thanks to Governor Rendell's leadership in wanting to improve our environment and preserve our fertile farmland, Pennsylvania voters were able to make a historic choice in the May primary. Through their vote, citizens approved a \$625 million bond issue known as Growing Greener II.
- For agriculture, this unprecedented investment will mean an additional \$80 million for our nation-leading Farmland Preservation Program.
- In 2005, Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Board approved 210 farms, totaling 22,358 acres to the program. As of December 2005, the program had preserved 2,746 farms and 314,719 acres.

PA Ag Facts

- ◆ 58,105 farms
- ◆ 7.7 million acres of farmland, with an average farm size of 133 acres
- ◆ 92% of farms are family owned, 6% are partnerships, 2% are family corporations, and less than 1% are corporately owned.
- ◆ \$4.3 billion in cash receipts, with \$44 billion in total economic impact.
- ◆ 1 in 7 jobs are related to agriculture.

PA Products: Leading the Way

- ◆ First—Christmas Tree Farms 2,164 farms, Hardwood Lumber—1.1 billion board feet, Mushrooms—465 million pounds
- ◆ Third—Direct Farm Sales—\$53.7 million, Egg Production—6.75 billion eggs, Pumpkins—82 million pounds
- ◆ Fourth—Apples—442 million pounds, Milk Production—1.2 billion gallons, Peaches—71 million pounds
- ◆ Fifth—Grapes—68,000 tons, Pears—4,900 tons, Trout—1.68 million pounds