

# Cumberland County Conservation District



2011  
Annual  
Report



# CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Front Cover Top: Students attempt to ID animal pelts at the Cumberland County Envirothon Competition.

Bottom: New spillway under construction at Opossum Lake.



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## EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

The 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 during earthmoving activities. The District has been given the authority to administer the erosion and sedimentation control and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We continue to work with the regulated community to be sure that they are up to date with the most current regulations and methods of construction.

The District reviews erosion and sedimentation control plans to ensure adequacy with current regulations. Chapter 102 regulations require that all earthmoving activities over 5,000 square feet of disturbance develop a written erosion control plan. The federal NPDES program requires permits to be obtained that allow the discharge of storm water from earthmoving activities disturbing **ONE** acre of land or greater over the life of a project. This includes agricultural construction activities such as manure storage facilities, barn expansions or new animal housing. NPDES permits are not required for agricultural plowing or tilling or animal heavy use areas. The District performs an administrative check on application packages, reviews the E&S plan and acknowledges the use of general NPDES permits. Individual NPDES permits are required for projects located in special protection watersheds (high quality or exceptional value). The District performs an administrative review on these application packages and reviews the E&S plan. DEP then reviews the post construction stormwater plan and issues the permit.

District technicians perform inspections of active earthmoving sites to determine compliance with Chapter 102 Regulations. Earth Disturbance Inspection Reports are completed that state the site conditions and any violations. Follow up inspections are conducted to determine if past violations have been corrected.

Under the Clean Streams Law and the District’s Level III delegation agreement with DEP, the District has the authority to impose penalties for violations at sites where voluntary compliance can not be achieved. A Notice of Violation (NOV) is sent to the responsible party and an administrative enforcement conference is held with the District. After reviewing all the facts, the District may determine that penalties are warranted. The District initiated one enforcement conference in 2011 resulting in a penalty of \$3,000.

The District also provides the public with information on the most current regulations, administrative procedures, and methods of construction. In March, a one-day workshop on revised earthmoving regulations and post construction stormwater management was presented to contractors. Approximately 52 people attended the workshop.

### E&S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

E&S Plan Reviews.....	102
Project Acres.....	2,331
Disturbed Acres.....	772
Inspections.....	722
General NPDES Permits.....	31
Individual NPDES Permits.....	14
Complaints.....	37
Civil Actions.....	1
E&S Plan Review Fees.....	\$126,990
NPDES Permit Fees.....	\$35,000

### TOWNSHIPS WITH MOST PLANS

South Middleton.....	15
East Pennsboro.....	11
Lower Allen.....	11
Upper Allen.....	7
West Pennsboro.....	5



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Much anticipated changes are here in the effort to improve the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. With the signing of the executive order to clean up the Bay, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered Pennsylvania to ramp up its efforts to reduce nutrients and sediment from entering the waters in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Pennsylvania has implemented a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to meet specified reduction goals, and since all of Cumberland County is in the Bay watershed, the Conservation District continues to look for ways to help the agricultural community meet those reductions. The biggest challenge faced by the Conservation District continues to be finding sources of financial assistance for farmers to implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) while they face tough economic conditions.

### ***Chesapeake Bay Special Projects***

**Cover Crop** - The Conservation District received funding to assist farmers who plant a small grain winter cover crop. Funding is limited to operators who are in the process of transitioning to planting cover crop. 204 acres are enrolled in the current cover crop program.

**Conservation Planning** – Five Cumberland County farm operators participated in the Bay Special Projects Program to have a Conservation Plan or Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation (E&S) Plan developed. This program not only helps a farmer be in compliance with Pennsylvania regulations, it helps the farmer know what practices will help them keep soil loss on their cropland at a minimum.

**Stream Bank Fencing** – Financial assistance was also provided to a farm operator to install stream bank fencing. This fencing keeps farm animals from accessing a stream on the property which greatly reduces sediment and nutrients from entering the waters of the Commonwealth. 1,020 feet of fencing was installed in 2011 through this program.

### ***Farmer Outreach***

A special effort is underway to visit farms in the County and provide information to the operator on what documentation they need to be in compliance with Pennsylvania regulations regarding their operations. This effort is not an inspection, but is meant to give farmers an opportunity to meet Conservation District personnel, receive printed materials and ask any questions they may have. This effort will continue in 2012 and beyond.

### ***Farm Video***

The Chesapeake Bay Technician, along with partner agencies, was involved in creating a video which showcases the importance of agriculture and its economic impact on Cumberland County. While only a small representation of farming operations in the County were shown, the video provides a window for the public to see the importance of agriculture here in our County. This video can viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7\\_dg6XQBLE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7_dg6XQBLE).

### ***Education***

The Cumberland County Conservation District held a Farmer Field Day in March of 2011 at Creekside Dairy, LLC in Carlisle. Topics covered at the Field Day included Manure Management, Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation and Pennsylvania's Chapter 102 Regulation changes. Agency updates and opportunities for assistance were also given to the attendees. A tour of the facilities, including the robotic milking system was given at the conclusion of the event.

District technicians use opportunities at local events and meetings to educate and inform the residents of Cumberland County on important issues regarding conservation of our valuable natural resources. By building relationships with the agricultural community, we strive to not only address existing environmental concerns, but attempt to prevent problems by producers knowing who to turn to with questions and concerns.

### ***The Future***

Once again the biggest challenge for 2012 will be finding financial assistance for Cumberland County producers who want to install Best Management Practices (BMP's) on their operations. The Conservation District knows that it is imperative to have this funding available so that the reduction goals required of Pennsylvania for the Chesapeake Bay are met. The Cumberland County Conservation District stands ready to provide assistance whenever possible to help with the protection of the waters of the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay.



Representative Stephen Bloom addresses the group on agricultural issues.

Attendees of the farmer field day watch the Voluntary Milking System (VMS) in action at Creekside Dairy, LLC.



## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Cumberland County Conservation District (CCCD) continues to participate and support Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Program by reviewing and writing Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) and educational outreach. During 2011, the District approved one new Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) plan and two Volunteer Animal Operation (VAO) plans. In addition to new plans being approved, one CAO and one VAO plan update was received.

The District performed status reviews of CAO's and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to ensure compliance of operations required to maintain a Nutrient Management Plan. In 2011, seven CAO/CAFO status reviews and two VAO reviews were performed.

When a manure handling issue arises, CCCD is available to address the complaint and determine if further action is needed. In 2011, the District handled nine manure related complaints. One complaint was referred to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Cumberland County continues to encourage responsible nutrient management from farmers by implementing a Nutrient Management Plan and Best Management Practices. By doing so, we aim to strengthen the nutrient management program and water quality protection in the Commonwealth and beyond.

## ENGINEERING ACTIVITY

Michael Lubinsky, PE

Projects Designed, Reviewed, Inspected in 2011

County	Best Management Practices
Franklin	AgriChemical Handling Facility
Franklin	AgriChemical Handling Facility
York	Heavy Use Area, Waste Storage Facility, Wastewater Treatment
York	Roof Runoff Management
Cumberland	Streambank Fencing
Cumberland	Roofed Heavy Use Area, Waste Storage Facility, Roof Runoff Management
Franklin	Roofed Heavy Use Area, Waste Storage Facility
Franklin	AgriChemical Handling Facility
Cumberland	Heavy Use Area, Waste Storage Facility, Roof Runoff Management



Ag. Chemical Handling Facilities



Heavy Use Area Protection, Waste Storage & Roof Runoff Management

## WATERSHED PROGRAM

### ***Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) mini grants***

The District received two mini grants through PACD. The first was used to produce rain barrels at Cedar Cliff High School. After construction, the rain barrels were offered to County citizens along with brochures to educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution. The other grant was used to fund a workshop on protecting homeowners' well water from pollution and managing their septic systems. Those who attended the workshop received a free water test for bacteria and E.coli.

### ***Growing Greener II grants***

The District administered two grants through DEP's Growing Greener II program. One grant is for implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in impaired watersheds. The BMP's installed through this grant included waste storage structures, roof runoff management, barnyard areas and manure transfer systems. The other grant is for the design and installation of stormwater BMP's around the County's Allen Road office which houses the Conservation District. This year we selected a consultant who designed the BMP's and a contractor who completed construction. The next step is to plant the rain gardens in the Spring and develop educational fact sheets for all of the BMP's that were installed.



Before (above) and after (below) pictures of the area where we installed pervious pavers at the Allen Road office where the Conservation District is located. This is one of the BMP's installed through the Growing Greener II Stormwater BMP grant.

### ***Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant***

The District is implementing a grant to construct BMP's outlined in our approved Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Middle Spring Watershed. This grant will be used to help fund various agricultural and stormwater BMP's in the watershed. We anticipate working with about 10 landowners through this project.

### ***Leaf Pack Workshop for Educators***

We held our second Leaf Pack workshop for high school teachers. The Leaf Pack workshop is a program developed by Stroud Water Research Center. The workshop is a 2 day event, where Stroud Water Research Center provides information about using the Leaf Pack Kit and a background on macro-invertebrate identification. The workshop was held at Wilson College in Chambersburg and about 20 educators attended. Each attendee received a Lamotte Leaf Pack Kit for attending the workshop.



### ***Winter Watershed Association Meeting***

The Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton County Conservation Districts co-organized the Annual Winter Watershed Association meeting. The meeting was held December 6, 2011, at Shippensburg University. The meeting provided an opportunity for the watershed groups in the tri-county area to talk about their successes and lessons learned over the past year. The guest speaker for the meeting was Sarah Grise with SeaGrant. She presented information concerning aquatic invasive species and what the watershed groups can do to minimize the spread of invasives species. The District would like to thank Shippensburg University for their support and donating the use of their facilities.

### ***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 2011, 129 samples were processed by Analytical Labs, Middletown, PA. This year, 44% of the samples tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria, which was the same as 2010.

## WELL WATER WORKSHOP

### “What you need to know about your well water and NPS pollution”

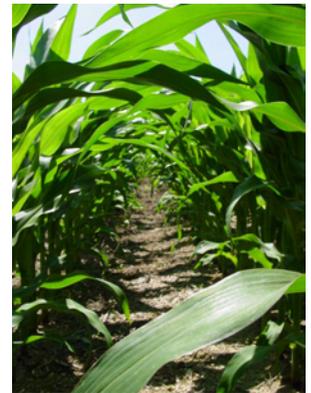
The Cumberland County Conservation District (CCCD) and Penn State Extension held a workshop at the County's Allen Road Building on April 12, 2011. A free Total Coliform Bacteria and E.coli test bottle was given to the 17 participants who then returned the samples to be tested. The results demonstrated the correlation between non-point source (NPS) pollution and their groundwater. Kim Falvey collaborated with Thomas McCarty and George Herd of Penn State Extension to develop the presentations, press releases, pre and post tests, and evaluation. Three separate presentations were given covering well water basics, septic system management, NPS pollution, and understanding and interpreting water test results.

Attendees were given a pre and post test on NPS pollution, watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay, and water conservation. The average scores increased from 7.2 out of 10 on the pre test to 8.0 out of 10 on the post test illustrating that participants increased their knowledge of these topics. In addition, evaluations collected from all the participants indicated that most participants were either planning on changing their current habits or would consider changing habits in the future. Examples of possible changes to be implemented are as follows: fixing leaky fixtures, installing low flow shower heads and faucets, conducting annual water tests, and safely disposing of harmful chemicals they currently pour down their drains. Most participants said they would consider installing high efficiency toilets, dishwashers, and clothes washers in the future and also replacing well caps with sanitary well caps.

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### PRE-SIDEDRESS NITROGEN TESTING (PSNT)

The Cumberland County Conservation District once again offered the Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing (PSNT) on corn fields to local farmers. The testing is funded by a grant through the Chesapeake Bay Program and is a free service that the District has offered for the past eleven years. In 2011, two interns from Shippensburg University, along with staff from the District, tested 71 fields representing 1,241 acres of corn. Of the 71 fields tested, 3 fields had a recommendation for additional nitrogen. The District will be offering the program again in 2012.



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### GRASS ROOTS: PRESCRIBED GRAZING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Grass Roots supports the conversion and/or significant improvement to prescribed grazing in South Central, PA. Prescribed Grazing is an interactive planning method, done with the operator, based on individual goals and needs which can include, but are not limited to: intensive rotational, rotational, and continuous grazing. Areas already in pasture (needing significant improvements) may be areas that are continuously over-grazed, with substantial amounts of bare areas or undesirable vegetation. To help meet these goals, Grass Roots joins with local farmers, County Conservation Districts and other partners with assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture agencies to promote grazing in Pennsylvania. In 2011, Grass Roots helped fund four projects in Cumberland County. The projects funded included fencing and waterline for an equestrian facility, fencing and waterline for two beef operations and the conversion of crop land to pasture at a beef operation.



## 2011 TREE SEEDLING SALE FINANCIAL REPORT

**Total Gross Sales - \$17,840.35**

**Net Profit - \$3,272.44**

TREE SALE EXPENSES	
PA Dept. of Ag	\$ 40.00
US Postal Service	\$ 427.95
Bruce Payer	\$ 35.00
Ernst Cons Seeds Inc	\$ 535.00
Pikes Peak Nurseries	\$ 1,147.60
Rowe's Print Shop	\$ 385.25
Strathmeyer Forests	\$ 1596.00
Edgar Wright	\$ 752.00
Dutch Mill Bulbs	\$ 441.00
Tubex	\$ 1,633.16
Consolidated Plastics Co Inc	\$ 182.89
Adams County Nursery	\$ 3,497.53
Penske Trucking	\$ 378.96
Samuel I Minder Nurseries Inc	\$ 1,406.00
The Patriot News	\$ 64.00
Warren County Nursery	\$ 298.88
PA Department of Revenue	\$ 1,418.79
Walmart	\$ 124.35
The Sentinel	\$ 203.55
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,567.91</b>

TREE SALE TOTALS	
Item	2011
Blue Spruce	1,100
Douglas Fir	1,600
White Pine	2,050
Concolor Fir	810
Scarlet Maple	600
Magnolia	375
Bulbs	147
Red Oak	1,100
Wildflower Mix	10 pounds
Pear Packs	63
Apple Packs	90
Myrtle	4500
Acorns	7
Wood Stakes	900
Tree Shelters	450



## CUMBERLAND COUNTY ENVIROTHON

Students from eight area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 3, at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Gardners, Cumberland County. *The Catadromous Bums* from Cumberland Valley took first place with a score of 384; second place went to *The Fish Squad* from Cedar Cliff with a score of 363; and third place went to *The Wiley Coyotes* from Cumberland Valley with a score of 349. *The Catadromous Bums* represented Cumberland County at the 2011 Pennsylvania Envirothon at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, on May 24 and 25. They placed 20<sup>th</sup> out of 65 teams that participated in the competition.

The Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, is a fun academic event that provides high school students hands-on field experience dealing with environmental issues. Students complete five exams that present problems focusing on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue, which was Salt and Freshwater Estuaries this year. 91 students participated and enjoyed the wonderful weather. Schools participating in the competition included Big Spring, Camp Hill, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Mechanicsburg and Shippensburg.

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

The students enjoyed a picnic lunch before the awards ceremony and Adams Electric Cooperative sponsored the Envirothon t-shirts which all participants received.



Pictured is the winning team, *The Catadromous Bums* from Cumberland Valley High School.

## 2011 Clean Water Award Winner

### **ALPHA Consulting Engineers, Inc.**

ALPHA is an engineering, planning and surveying consulting firm which provides services to the Mid-Atlantic Region. Established in 1993, they provide their clients with full service during project development, design, review, administration and construction. They are located along Limekiln Road in New Cumberland.

In 2010, they submitted approximately 10 projects that required erosion control plan reviews and/or NPDES permits. Their plans and permit applications are consistently well prepared and usually require minor comments from the District. They are willing to work with the District to resolve issues on the plans and meet in the field to discuss and resolve problems that may occur on site during construction.



Greg Adams of ALPHA Consulting Engineers is presented the Clean Water Award by Wilbur Wolf and Brian Jaymes.

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## 2011 Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award Program

### **Bob and Kate Boyce**

If you talk to a conservation minded farmer and ask why they have taken measures on their farm to protect the environment, you will get sincere, but somewhat expected answers such as; "It is the right thing to do", or "I believe it is my duty to be a good steward", or maybe even "I want to be a good neighbor". When you ask a farmer how he is achieving his goal of protecting the environment, you will get a much wider range of answers. While there are different paths to get there, and may tried and true practices to reach that goal, sometimes you meet someone who has stepped out of the ordinary and adopted the unconventional. Bob Boyce, owner of *LiL' Ponderosa Enterprises* outside of Carlisle, is one of those people.



Bob and Kate Boyce of LiL' Ponderosa Enterprises is presented the Clean Water Award by Wilbur Wolf.

After he retired from the corporate world, Mr. Boyce and his wife Kate purchased property in Cumberland County in 1986 which encompasses 80 acres. Twenty five years later, the operation consists of 128 acres of pasture and 120 purebred Angus cattle, hosting a cow/calf and beef finishing operation. From the beginning Bob was committed to implementing conservation practices that would protect the environment and raise healthy cattle. Keyline design farming, a practice developed in Australia, is a technique for maximizing beneficial use of water resources on a piece of land. Developed for undulating land, the practice is well suited to the rolling landscape of LiL' Ponderosa.

Mr. Boyce obtained a conservation plan early on for the operation and in 1996 signed a Long Term Agreement (LTA) through USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 2005 he signed up for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and achieved Tier 3 status. Best Management Practices installed on the farm operation include stream bank fencing, buffer strips, no-till planting, roof runoff controls, heavy use area protection, and rotational grazing. Although not certified organic, Bob does not use any chemical pesticides. LiL' Ponderosa is currently enrolled in the Grass Roots program in order to install additional paddock fencing and drinking sources.

The Cumberland County Conservation District appreciates the Boyce's efforts to protect the waters of our County, the Commonwealth and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.