

Cumberland County Conservation District

**2012
Annual
Report**



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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STAFF:

District Manager	Carl Goshorn	240-5355	cgoshorn@ccpa.net
District Technician/E&S	Brian Jaymes	240-5358	bjaymes@ccpa.net
District Technician/E&S	Kim Falvey	240-5359	kfalvey@ccpa.net
District Tech./E&S & WS	Vince McCollum	240-6169	vmccollum@ccpa.net
Bay Technician	Pam Eyer	240-5357	peyer@ccpa.net
District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky	240-5356	mlubinsky@ccpa.net
Nutrient Management Spec.	Kristen Kitchen	240-5360	kkitchen@ccpa.net
District Secretary	Jessica Cohick	240-6184	jlcohick@ccpa.net

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

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DISTRICT STAFF



BACK ROW:

Carl Goshorn
District Manager

Mike Lubinsky
District Engineer

Vince McCollum
E&S Technician/
Watershed Specialist

Brian Jaymes
E&S Technician

FRONT ROW:

Kristen Kitchen
Nutrient Management
Specialist

Jessica Cohick
District Secretary

Kim Falvey
E&S Technician

Pam Eyer
Chesapeake Bay
Technician

COOPERATING AGENCY PERSONNEL

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John Fetchkan email: jofetchkan@pa.gov Western Cumberland County	
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PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK Jason Zimmerman, Park Manager email: jaszimmerm@pa.gov	(717) 486-7174 1100 Pine Grove Road Gardners, PA 17324-8837
COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK Brett Fromm, Park Manager email: bfromm@pa.gov	(717) 776-5272 1599 Doubling Gap Road Newville, PA 17241
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CENTRAL PA CONSERVANCY Anna Yelk email: ayelk@centralpaconservancy.org	(717) 233-0221 401 E. Louthier Street Carlisle, PA 17013-2652

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 an earthmoving activity. 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).

Program technicians continue to conduct plan reviews, site inspections, complaint investigations, workshops and process NPDES permits. The District maintains a Level III enforcement delegation with the Department of Environmental Protection.

E&S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

E&S Plan Reviews.....	74
Project Acres.....	1,626
Disturbed Acres.....	836
Inspections.....	528
General NPDES Permits.....	30
Individual NPDES Permits.....	7
Complaints.....	38
Civil Actions.....	1
E&S Plan Review Fees.....	\$119,252
NPDES Permit Fees.....	\$47,500

SNAPSHOTS OF OPOSSUM LAKE PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2012



Slope stabilization



Opossum Lake spillway after reconstruction
and area stabilized

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



Pennsylvania continues to look for ways to meet their Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that reduces the amounts of nutrients and sediment that enter the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. While all sectors are under scrutiny, the Conservation District's Chesapeake Bay program works to educate the agricultural producers in Cumberland County on methods to lessen their impact on the Bay.

Chesapeake Bay Special Projects

Cover crop and Conservation Planning are funding programs that were available to producers in 2012. A conservation plan helps identify and provide solutions for practices that compromise water quality. Planting a small grain winter cover crop not only helps reduce erosion, but can also boost soil health and help meet requirements regarding winter manure application.

Farmer Outreach

Visits to farms by District Technicians continue in the county. The technicians 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 the farmers an opportunity to meet Conservation District personnel, receive printed materials and ask any questions they may have. This effort will continue in 2013 and beyond.



Winter Cover Crop

Education

The Cumberland County Conservation District assisted the Cumberland Valley Crop Producers with their 1st Annual Corn Planter Clinic held in Shippensburg. Various speakers provided information to local farmers about no-till corn planters, cover crops and conservation programs. Over 100 attendees took advantage of this opportunity.



District technicians attend 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 2013 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 by Pennsylvania for the Chesapeake Bay can be 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.

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 2012, the District approved one new Volunteer Animal Operation plan. In addition to new plans being approved, three plan updates were received.

The District performed status reviews of CAO's and CAFO's to ensure compliance for operations required to maintain a Nutrient Management Plan. In 2012, seven CAO/CAFO status reviews were performed and fifteen VAO reviews were performed.

When a manure handling issue arises, the CCCD is available to address the complaint and determine if further action is needed. In 2012, the District handled twelve manure related complaints. Two complaints were referred to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).

In October 2012, PA DEP introduced the updated Manure Management Manual to address operations which are not regulated but generate or utilize manure. The District offered seven Manure Management Manual workshops to producers in the county. The workshops provided an opportunity for producers to develop a manure management plan for their operation. Over seventy-

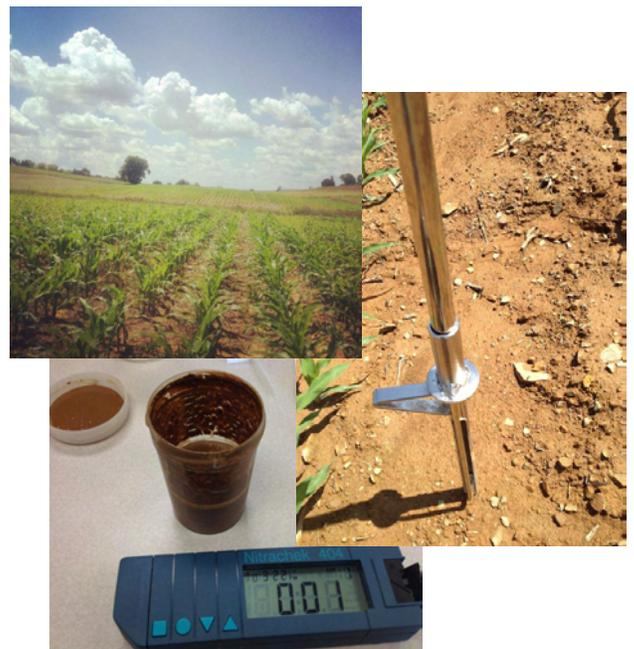


five producers attended the workshops and represented all facets of Cumberland County agriculture including dairy, beef, poultry, horse and crop operations. The District was supported by staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Services.

Cumberland County continues to encourage farmers to practice responsible nutrient management by implementing an appropriate plan and installing Best Management Practices for their operation. By doing so, we aim to strengthen the nutrient management program and water quality protection in the Commonwealth and beyond.

Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing (PSNT)

The Cumberland County Conservation District once again offered 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. In 2012, two interns along with staff from the District tested 136 fields representing 2,000 acres of corn. Of the 32 farmers whose fields were tested, 12 had a recommendation for additional nitrogen fertilizer. Testing the fields for the farmers not only saves money for those who did not need nitrogen, but it prevents excess nitrogen from being introduced into the environment.



STREAM ECOLOGY TRIP



So often we don't take the time to observe and appreciate the natural resources that surround us. Getting outside, talking with others, gaining new perspectives, and just being out is something we all need to do more often.

On October 11th and 12th, 2012 the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation coordinated a Stream Ecology Field Trip for cooperating agency staff and local legislators. The goal was to provide an educational and recreational experience for the people who work every day to help ensure our streams provide not only enjoyment for our communities but also support and enhance the important ecosystems that make a stream "healthy".



Here are some things to remember when thinking about streams

- Streams are complex ecosystems made up of many different parts including fish, bugs, micro-organisms, and plants that are greatly affected by temperature, nutrient inputs, sediment, and pollution. When any part is missing or reduced it affects the whole (ex. dams led to the loss of the eels which has led to a loss of mussels that can no longer filter the water).
- PA streams evolved in a forested condition and all the elements that keep a stream healthy rely on native trees to provide shade, food, and habitat which make that happen.
- Trees feed streams; without them streams will not thrive.
- Our communities place great value on clean water, look at any brochure advertising a city, township or county and almost always they include a picture with a stream, pond, or lake.
- There is no single solution to improve water quality but supporting forested streams, especially small head water streams is the most fundamental improvement we can make.
- Partnerships are key, none of us can do this alone, nor should we.



And here are a few things we all can do to help streams

- Support local conservation efforts like buffer plantings along streams. Conservation Districts, Farm Service Agency, NRCS, DEP, CBF and others all promote these programs.
- Tell others that trees along streams, especially small streams, is one of the best things we can do to improve water quality.
- Plant some trees along streams or waterways on your property.
- Support legislation that helps healthy streams. Maybe the Bay TMDL is looked at as a burden by some but its effect will be to improve our community's water, improve recreation, and reduce real world treatment costs that ultimately save us money.



WATERSHED PROGRAM

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 a waste storage structure, roof runoff management, barnyard areas and manure transfer systems. The other grant is for developing a geodatabase for the locations of Japanese Knotweed, an invasive plant. Japanese Knotweed can spread very rapidly and can completely take over riparian corridors. The GIS database will be used as a tool for watershed and other groups to help eradicate the invasive plant.

Stormwater BMP's around the Allen Road office update: We partnered with Penn State Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners who designed and planted the rain gardens we installed at the Allen Road building with our GGII stormwater BMP grant.



Rain garden constructed through the Growing Greener II stormwater BMP grant. Penn State Master Gardeners designed the plant layout and planted the rain garden.

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 within the watershed. We anticipate working with about 10 landowners through this project.

Leaf Pack Workshop for Educators

We partnered with the Adams and Franklin County Conservation Districts to hold our third 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 Gettysburg College and about 20 educators attended. Each attendee received a Lamotte Leaf Pack Kit for attending the workshop.

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 is tested for a variety of contaminants such as coliform bacteria, e.coli, nitrates, lead, iron, sodium, etc. In 2012, 280 samples were processed by Analytical Labs, Middletown, PA. This year, 56% of the samples tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria and 7% tested positive for E coli. Bacteria.

DIRT & GRAVEL ROADS PROGRAM

Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program provides funding to eliminate stream pollution caused by runoff and sediment from the State's 20,000+ mile network of unpaved public roads. The Program was enacted into law in April 1997 as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code, with \$5 Million in annual funding for "environmentally sensitive road maintenance". The goal of the Program is to create a more environmentally and economically sustainable low-volume road network through education, outreach, and project funding.

The PA State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers an annual \$4 Million allocation under the Program. The SCC allocates this funding to 64 of Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts who are responsible for administering the Program at the county level. Local road owning entities, typically townships, then apply to their Conservation District for funding. Other eligible applicants include the PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PennDOT, and other public road-owning entities. Over 2,000 projects have been funded through 2010.

In 2012, South Middleton Township received financial assistance from the Conservation District to install nine culverts on Old Town Road. The culverts were needed in order to divert the water off of the road and into a vegetated forest. Before the culverts were installed the road acted as a diversion during rain events and a large portion of the runoff went directly into Old Town Run lowering it's water quality.



2012 TREE SEEDLING SALE FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Gross Sales—\$18,588.00

Net Profit—\$2,673.34

TREE SALE EXPENSES	
PA Dept. of Revenue	\$ 1,039.95
Adams County Nursery	\$ 3,473.50
Boyers Nurseries & Orchards	\$ 448.00
Capital Rentals & Sales	\$ 270.00
Consolidated Plastics	\$ 109.02
Donald Deckman	\$ 1,093.90
Dutch Mill Bulbs	\$ 498.00
Ernst Conservation Seeds	\$ 235.98
Fry Communications	\$ 461.00
Penske	\$ 157.24
Pikes Peake Nurseries	\$ 2,444.40
Rowe's Print Shop	\$ 397.00
Samuel I Minder Nurseries Inc.	\$ 1,812.25
Strathmeyer Forests, Inc.	\$ 1,536.10
Survey Supply, Inc.	\$ 524.25
Tubex	\$ 1,287.28
Walmart	\$ 126.79
Total Expenses	\$15,914.66

TREE SALE TOTALS	
ITEM	2012
Blue Spruce	1,080
Douglas Fir	860
White Pine	2,030
Fraser Fir	1,170
Concolor Fir	810
Red Oak	1,120
Black Gum	640
Serviceberry	860
Pear	118
Apple	204
Bluebird Boxes	36
Bulbs	1,209
Myrtle	5,150
Raspberries	72 plants
Butterfly Mix	89 ounces
Tree Shelters	295
Tree Stakes	469



CUMBERLAND COUNTY ENVIROTHON

Students from eight area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 1, at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association in Enola. The Vermicious Knids from Cedar Cliff High School took first place with a score of 374; second place went to The Catadromous Bums from Cumberland Valley High School with a score of 345; and third place went to The Wild Barberries from Cumberland Valley with a score of 325. The Vermicious Knids represented Cumberland County at the 2012 Pennsylvania Envirothon at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus, on May 22 and 23. They placed 34 out of 62 participating teams from around the State.

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 test their knowledge on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue, which was nonpoint source pollution and low impact development. 113 students participated this year and enjoyed the wonderful weather, even though a short rain shower started the day. Schools that participated 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 Natural Resources Conservation Service administered the tests.

The Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association prepared a picnic lunch for everyone once the competition was over and County Commissioner Barbara Cross handed out the awards to the teams during the awards ceremony. All participating students and advisors received an Envirothon t-shirt sponsored by Adams Electric Cooperative.



2012 Champions—Vermicious Knids—Cedar Cliff HS



Students identifying animals at the Wildlife testing station.



10^h ANNUAL CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 10th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament was held at Mayapple Golf Links on Friday September 28th 2012. 45 golfers came out to enjoy a round of golf and to help support a good cause.

This year the Conservation District celebrated 10 years of raising money to support environmental education efforts. To date we have given out almost \$13,000 in scholarships to Cumberland County students. We all enjoy organizing and participating in this event, but are more excited that we are able to help students develop their knowledge of a crucial cause that affects us all.



AWARD WINNERS

FARMER OF THE YEAR

Jason Jones from Carlisle was the Cumberland County Conservation District's 2012 Farmer of the Year winner. Jason has installed numerous Best Management Practices on his Dickinson Township dairy farm to reduce runoff and improve water quality. The Conservation District thanks Jason for his conservation efforts and congratulates him on being the 2012 Clean Water Farmer of the Year!



CLEAN WATER AWARD



Kinsley Construction was the 2012 winner of the Clean Water Award. Dean Peifer accepted the award on behalf of Kinsley Construction.

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY:

- 9 Water Testing – District Office
- 21 Martin Luther King Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 22 Board Meeting/Cooperating Agency Luncheon – District Office 9:00 AM
- 23 & 24 PACD Conference – State College
- 30 Corn Planter Clinic – Shippensburg

FEBRUARY:

- 6 Manure Management Plan Workshop – Cumberland County Service Center
- 13 Water Testing – District Office
- 18 President's Day Holiday – Office Closed

MARCH:

- 5 PACD Regional Directors Meeting
- 13 Water Testing – District Office
- 13 Yellow Breeches Watershed Assoc. Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 20 E&S and NPDES Workshop for Contractors – District Office
- 25 Deadline for Tree Sale Orders
- 26 Board Meeting – District Office - 7:30 PM
- 29 Good Friday Holiday – Office Closed

APRIL:

- 10 Water Testing – District Office
- 11 Tree Seedling Bundling – AM at Mains Dairy
- 11 & 12 Tree Seedling Distribution – Allen Road
- 23 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

MAY:

- 7 County Envirothon – Kings Gap
- 8 Water Testing – District Office
- 21 & 22 PA State Envirothon – Juniata College
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 28 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

JUNE:

- 12 Water Testing – District Office
- 12 Yellow Breeches Watershed Assoc. Board of Directors Meeting– 6:00 PM
- 20 Jubilee Day – Mechanicsburg/Manned District Display
- 25 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 AM Conference Call

JULY:

- 4 Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 10 Water Testing – District Office
- 23 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

AUGUST:

- 14 Water Testing – District Office
- 27 Board Meeting/District Picnic – 6:00 PM Location TBD

SEPTEMBER:

- 2 Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 11 Water Testing – District Office
- 11 Yellow Breeches Watershed Assoc. Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 24 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM
- 27 Annual Conservation District Golf Tournament – Mayapple Golf Links

OCTOBER:

- 6 Yellow Breeches Watershed Assoc. Board of Directors Annual Meeting - Lower Allen Township Barn
- 9 Water Testing – District Office
- 22 Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 AM Conference Call
- TBD Annual Chapter 102/NPDES Training – State College

NOVEMBER:

- 11 Veteran's Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 13 Water Testing – District Office
- 28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 29 Day after Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

DECEMBER:

- 10 Board Meeting – District Office 8:00 AM
- 11 Water Testing – District Office
- 11 Yellow Breeches Watershed Assoc. Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Holiday – Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

