



Cumberland County Conservation District

www.cumberlandcd.com

Fall 2014

Chapter 102 Erosion Control and NPDES Requirements for Construction Activities

Are you planning an earth disturbance activity and not sure what the requirements are for your particular project? The biggest determining factor is the amount of earth which will be disturbed to complete your project in its entirety. If the disturbance exceeds one acre or more, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for construction activities is required. An Individual permit is required for any activity within an High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV) watershed and a General permit is required for any other area. A post construction stormwater management (PCSM) plan is required as part of this permit. Even when technical approval of the PCSM is not required, the applicant must develop and implement the plan. When the project is complete a Notice of Termination is submitted with certification that the best management practices (BMPs) were implemented. See table below for guidance on plan requirements.

DISTURBED AREA	WRITTEN E&S PLAN	E&S PLAN APPROVED	NPDES PERMIT	PCSM SUBMITTED	PCSM APPROVED
0-5,000 sq. ft.	No, unless in HQ, EV or other DEP permit requirement	No, but may be required by municipality or DEP	No	No, but may be municipal requirement	No, but may be municipal requirement
5,000 sq. ft. to <1 acre	Yes	No, but may be required by municipality or DEP	No	No, but may be municipal requirement	No, but may be municipal requirement
1 or more acres	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Individual Permit-Yes General Permit-No

These requirements exclude agricultural plowing and tilling, animal concentration areas, timber harvesting, road maintenance activities or an earth disturbance activity covered under another Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit. These activities still require BMP's to be in place to prevent sediment runoff from the site. Timber harvest and road maintenance activities disturbing 25 acres or more and oil and gas activities involving 5 acres or more of earth disturbance are required to obtain an Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) permit.



Try to envision the playing area of a football field. This is approximately one acre.

Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Requirements for Agricultural Activities

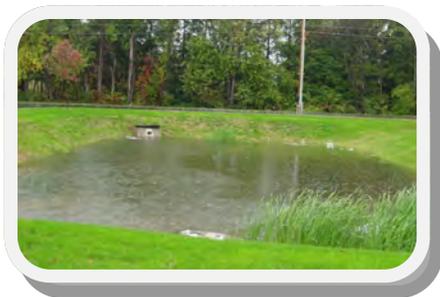
Chapter 102 regulations require a written plan to reduce erosion and sedimentation for plowing and tilling activities and certain types of animal concentration areas. If you are not sure your erosion control plan (conservation plan) is up to date or meets current regulations, contact the Conservation District or the local NRCS office. Agricultural construction activities disturbing one acre or more require an NPDES permit, the same as required for all other types of construction. The table below is a guide for activities on agricultural operations.

ACTIVITY	NPDES PERMIT IF >1.0 ACRE DISTURBANCE	POST CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT (PCSM) ADDRESSED	RIPARIAN BUFFERS IF IN HQ/EV WATERS
Building a house	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building a barn	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building chicken/hog houses	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building manure storage facility	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building silos	Yes	Yes	Yes
Installing swales	No	No	No
Installing terraces	No	No	No
Paving barnyards	No if covered in conservation plan	No but must have BMPs to address the impervious area	No
Paving animal walkways	No if covered in conservation plan	No but must have BMPs to address the impervious area	No

REMEMBER, these tables are only a general guide. Certain activities could also require other permits. Contact the Conservation District for permitting details and to discuss your upcoming project.

NPDES Post Construction Stormwater Management

On July 1, 2013 the Conservation District started the Engineering level review of Individual NPDES Permit applications. The District decided to accept this delegation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection at the request of developers and engineers that prepare plans for new construction that results in earthmoving activities. The ability to review the E&S Plan and the Post Construction Stormwater Management plan in house expedites the plan review process and provides a clear means of communication with the applicant and engineer. The in house review will provide faster review times, better consistency, and ease of communication.



STORMWATER INFILTRATION BASIN



GRASSED SWALE/INFILTRATION TRENCH

Manure Management Plans: What they are and who needs them

What they are:

It seems every day the news reports concerns of pollution from farms and the health of our water; whether it is entering the Chesapeake Bay or our drinking supply. With so much of Cumberland County's land used for agriculture and the entire County draining into the Chesapeake, we must take a proactive stance to curb pollution. Manure Management Plans are one of the most useful tools in preventing pollution for farms that generate or utilize manure.

Manure Management Plans are **written** plans that record the amount of manure produced, determine manure rate allocations to specific crop needs, protect sources of water from contaminated runoff, and address any other potential sources of pollution on the farm. The plans include farm maps highlighting environmentally sensitive areas, descriptions of all facilities used to store manure, and a list of rates to apply nutrients that the crop will need to optimize yield without over applying. Most importantly for farmers is that the plan is required by Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law.

Who needs them:

Every farm in Pennsylvania that generates or uses manure must have a Manure Management Plan to comply with the Clean Streams Law. Also, a plan is commonly being required for individuals or farms that sell manure. Manure Management Plans will benefit farms by helping them better understand the nutrients needed for optimum crop yield with the type of manure they have, which can save on fertilizer costs. The plan is helpful for custom applicators too. Custom applicators can be handed a completed plan and instantly know where well, stream, and sinkhole setbacks are located on the farm, as well as better understand what the farmer's goal is for yield and cropping. Through proper planning and record keeping, the farmer can better manage the value of his or her manure and crop's nutrients while helping protect the water we all drink.

Manure Management Planning Workshops:

Farmers that still need a Manure Management Plan or need to have their plan updated can receive assistance from the Cumberland County Conservation District. The District will be offering workshops devoted to the development of Manure Management Plans over the winter months. 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.



Nutrient Management Specialist

In January, the Cumberland County Conservation District welcomed Jared McIntire as the Nutrient Management Specialist

Jared is from Chambersburg, PA and graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High. He attended The Pennsylvania State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management and Poultry Science. Before joining the Conservation District, Jared worked for Country View Family Farms as a Breeding Manger and continues to operate a commercial turkey farm in Franklin County with his uncle.

When Jared is not working, he enjoys hunting, skiing, and being outdoors. He looks forward to learning more about Cumberland County's different agriculture segments and working with the community on Nutrient Management and Manure Management Plans. If you would like to contact Jared, he can be reached at 717-240-5360 or jmcintire@ccpa.net.



Chesapeake Bay Technician

In August, the Cumberland County Conservation District welcomed Brady Seeley as the new Chesapeake Bay Technician.



Brady grew up on a small, family owned dairy farm in Canton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Canton Jr./Sr. High School in 2010 where he was very active in the school's Future Farmers of America chapter. In May 2014, Brady graduated from Keystone College with a Bachelor's of Science Degree. He majored in Environmental Resource Management with a minor in Chemistry and participated in a variety of environmental clubs and activities.

When not at work, Brady enjoys spending his time reading, hiking, camping, kayaking, hunting, and fishing. Brady is excited to be working with agriculture once again and is looking forward to helping all the farmers and producers in the county. Brady can be reached at (717)-240-5357 or bseeley@ccpa.net.

Pa Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads Program

The first dirt and gravel road project in Cumberland County was completed by Cooke Township in 1999. Since that time the Conservation District has provided municipalities with over \$200,000 for the installation of environmentally sensitive maintenance practices that prevent pollution to local streams.

In the fall of 2013, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 89, commonly known as the PA Transportation Bill. This bill made significant changes to the Pennsylvania Dirt & Gravel Roads Program by increasing the annual funding from \$4 million to \$20 million. The other big change was making funding available for **paved** low volume roads. Low Volume Roads are classified as roads with less than 500 vehicles per day.

The PA Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program is administered through the State Conservation Commission (SCC) in Harrisburg. The SCC provides funding to Conservation Districts in each county. Municipalities can apply to the Conservation District to fund road projects after attending mandatory training. Road projects provide environmental and economic benefits such as reducing stream pollution and reducing long term maintenance costs. A two day training session is being held October 28th and 29th at the Hotel Carlisle and Embers Convention Center. Go to the Dirt & Gravel Roads website to sign up for the workshop at www.dirtandgravelroads.org.

Because the Low Volume Roads Program is new, there are policies and procedures that need to be worked out at the state and local level. Once these items are all worked out, the Cumberland County Conservation District plans to announce an application period for municipalities to apply for project funding. This should occur in late winter or early spring. If you have any questions on the program, contact Carl Goshorn at 717-240-7812.



Old Town Run Road—BEFORE



Old Town Run Road—AFTER

Envirothon Update

Students from eight area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 6, at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association, Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County. *The Raptors* from Cumberland Valley High School took first place with a score of 351; second place went to *The Drake Crusaders* from Cumberland Valley High School with a score of 344; and third place went to *Eco-Squad* from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High with a score of 305. The Raptors also represented Cumberland County at the 2014 Pennsylvania Envirothon at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA on May 20 and 21 and placed 36th out of 64 teams.

The Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, is a fun academic event where students complete five exams that test their knowledge on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue, which was "sustainable agriculture/local food production". 95 students participated in 2014 and enjoyed the sunny day. Schools participating in the competition included Big Spring, Boiling Springs, Camp Hill, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, Mechanicsburg and Shippensburg.



Students completing their test at the Wildlife station

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

When the competition was over, the students enjoyed a cookout lunch prepared by the Sportsmen's Association. Awards were presented by Meagan Thorpe from PA State Representative Glen Grell's office and Cumberland County Commissioner Barb Cross. The awards, made from Pennsylvania hardwood, were given to the top three teams at each station and the top three teams overall. All students and advisors received an Envirothon t-shirt sponsored by Adams Electric Cooperative.

Rain Barrel Program

2014 marked the 12th year for the District's rain barrel program. Since the program started, nearly 1,000 rain barrels have been distributed throughout the County. Cedar Cliff High School students construct the barrels as part of our program. Additionally, the District assists municipalities, churches, summer camps, etc. with rain barrel workshops to help with education and outreach activities throughout the County. For more information about Rain Barrel opportunities, please contact the Conservation District.



Students assembling the plumbing pieces to install in the rain barrels

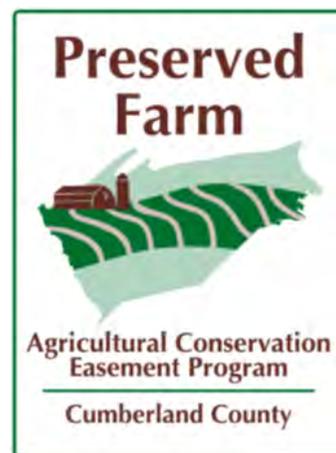


Students cleaning the pickle barrels prior to turning them into rain barrels

Cumberland County Planning—Farmland Preservation Program

The Cumberland County Farmland Preservation Program was developed to strengthen Pennsylvania's agricultural economy and to protect prime farmland. The Program incorporates the use of county, state, federal and local funds to purchase agricultural conservation easements on prime agricultural land. The Program works by paying the farmer to place certain restrictions upon the land to maintain and permanently preserve high quality, functional farmland. The land continues to be the farmer's private property and the farmer retains all privileges of land ownership, except the ability to sell the land for non-agricultural development or to develop the land for non-agricultural purposes. Since the Program's inception in 1989, approximately 16,000 acres of farmland have been preserved.

Participation in the Farmland Preservation Program is completely voluntary and very competitive. In order to be eligible for the Program, the farm must contain at least 52 acres, be enrolled in an Agricultural Security Area and have an up-to-date conservation plan. Then, farms are ranked using a Farmland Ranking System, each property is given a numerical score, and the farms with the highest score receive funding for easement purchase. Funding for the 2014 Program totaled \$2.5 million and approximately 800 acres of farmland is expected to be preserved. The application deadline for the 2015 round of selections is December 31, 2014. To learn more about the Program, contact Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning Department at 717-240-5383 or visit www.ccpa.net/farmland.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides local technical and financial assistance to private landowners for livestock, grazing, cropland, forestry, and wildlife land uses. NRCS can help evaluate best management practices that might need to be installed or woodland that will improve or address resource concerns. NRCS has a rolling signup period if you are interested in applying for financial assistance. It is best to stop in the office and sign up for a Conservation Plan in order to start the process for non-financial or financial assistance. The office is located at 43 Brookwood Avenue, Carlisle, PA or call 717-249-1037 extension 3.



Establishment of a grazing system



Installing waterways and other field practices



High Tunnels for specialty crops



Addressing manure handling concerns



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District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
Chesapeake Bay Tech.	Brady Seeley
Nutrient Mgmt Spec.	Jared McIntire