



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

(717) 240-7812

Cumberland County Conservation District

Winter 2008

5th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament

The 5th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament was held at Mayapple Golf Links on September 28, 2007. There were 72 participants that enjoyed the warm Fall afternoon. The day started with hot dogs and drinks for all of the participants. A raffle for a tailgate grill and a putting contest were offered as part of the event. The top three scoring teams and skill hole winners received prizes. This year we had a three way tie for first and after a tie breaker, the top honors went to the team of Mary Ann Shaffer, Crystal Yoder, Daryl Yoder and Matt Grabowski who posted a 6 under par 64. Congratulations!

We would 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. We must also thank all of the participants who made the day complete. The Conservation District also thanks our Conservationist Level hole sponsors. Our day would not be such a success without their generous support.



All proceeds from the event benefit environmental education efforts in Cumberland County. This year, we were able to provide three scholarships to Cumberland County College students.

Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale

The Cumberland County Conservation District has scheduled their 31st annual Tree Seedling Sale for April 17 & 18, 2008. If you haven't ordered from the Conservation District in the past and would like to receive an order form, you can call the District Office at 240-7812 or go to the district website at www.cumberlandcd.com and download the order form listed under the tree sale category. The 2008 order form should be available on the website by the end of January.

Tree seedlings available for 2008 include: White Pine, Douglas Fir, Colorado Blue Spruce, Concolor Fir, White Oak, Scarlet Maple, Red Oak & Serviceberry. Also, the district is offering three types of Apple trees (Liberty, Crimson Crisp & Goldrush) and two Pear trees (Potomac and Seckel).

Myrtle Clumps and a northeast wildflower mix will be sold as groundcover and Red Oak acorns are available for those who want to start their own seedlings. Four varieties of flowering bulbs and tree shelters and stakes ranging from two to five feet will also be available. Profits from the tree seedling sale will help offset costs associated with environmental education projects in Cumberland County.

Orders must be received at the Conservation District Office by March 28, 2008.



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Cumberland County Envirothon

The Cumberland County Conservation District once again sponsored an environmental competition called the Envirothon. The Envirothon is a combination of five exams that test high school students on their knowledge of aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and a current issue. This year's current issue was renewable and alternative energy.

The competition this year was held at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, on May 1, 2007. This year's winning team was the Vermicious Kanids of Cedar Cliff High School. Second place went to the Droptine Dreamers of Carlisle High School and the Raked Leaves, also of Carlisle High School finished third. The competition attracted 89 students forming 20 teams from seven Cumberland County Schools. Big Spring, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Mechanicsburg, and Trinity were represented at the competition.

There were four other agencies that helped in administering the exams; PA Game Commission (wildlife), PA Fish and Boat Commission (aquatics), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (forestry), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (soils). For more information, check out our website at www.cumberlandcd.com/envirothon.html.



New County Watershed Specialist



Adam McClain became the new Watershed Specialist for the Cumberland County Conservation District in August. He has always had an interest in the outdoors and the protection of the environment and appreciates the opportunity to work with the citizens of Cumberland County to help protect the water quality.

Adam grew up in Fairfield, Pennsylvania and graduated from Fairfield High School, in 2002 and decided that he wanted to further his education and work in the environmental field. In 2006, he graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a bachelors degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science (Fisheries option). He chose the fisheries option because of wanting to work with watershed management. After college, he worked for the National Park Service at multiple locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. Adam also worked for the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission.

Most of his hobbies are associated with the outdoors. He has always enjoyed fishing, hunting wildlife and mushrooms, skiing, rafting, hiking, observing wildlife and farming. Adam is enjoying his new job and finds it very rewarding and hopes for a long and successful career with the District.

The previous Watershed Specialist, Vince McCollum, is still working for the District as an E&S technician.

Stormwater Management and NPDES

Stormwater management is the way people deal with the extra volume, increased rate and velocity of water that runs off land that has been developed. The goal of good stormwater management is to improve and sustain ground and surface water quality and quantity. This is achieved through the use of planning practices and best management practices (BMPs) that minimize stormwater runoff and its adverse effects on ground and surface water resources and help to provide groundwater recharge.

A stormwater management (SWM) plan is needed when someone increases the volume, rate or velocity of stormwater that flows off a land development site. The municipality where the project is located should be contacted to determine specific requirements. A post-construction stormwater management (PCSWM) plan is a site-specific SWM plan that meets the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction permit Section C for each site.

The NPDES permit is needed for construction activities disturbing greater than 5 acres of land or between 1 and 5 acres with a point source discharge to surface waters. The District performs an administrative completeness check within 20 days of submittal for both general and individual permits. This administrative completeness check includes a quality submittal of all of the elements of an Erosion and Sediment Control plan and PCSWM plan as outlined on the *Applicant Checklist* form. The District will be holding a workshop in February which will provide information on what is required for an administratively complete package and NPDES requirements. More information will be available closer to the date. Always check DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword "Stormwater" for the most current forms and applications.

Beginning in early 2008, the District will start following DEP's latest guidance on administratively incomplete NPDES applications. This action could require additional NPDES filing fees to be submitted.

The District strives to maintain a good working relationship with applicants and consultants and is always willing to meet and go over applications prior to submittal. Processing complete and quality applications in a timely manner is the goal of the District. Erosion control technician Brian Jaymes can be reached at 240-5358 and Kim Falvey at 240-5359. Vince McCollum became the third E&S technician during 2007 and can be reached at 240-6169. Visit our website at www.cumberlandcd.com to view a map of the County showing the municipalities that each technician covers.

Cumberland County Watershed Organizations

Within Cumberland County, there are 4 non-profit 501(c)(3) watershed organizations. All of the organizations work cooperatively with governmental agencies and other non-profit organizations toward one common goal, to protect, restore, and educate the public about the streams, lakes, and watersheds within the county. This year the watershed associations have been very active in the community.

The Big Spring Watershed Association (BSWA) is very interested in restoring the streams within their watershed and reestablishing a wild, naturally reproducing brook trout population, as well as protecting the stream for residents, visitors and future generations. For more information, you can contact Keith Clinton at dryfly27@kuhncom.net. You can also visit their website at www.bigspring-pa.org.

The Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) is concerned with the well being of the land and the people living on it, as well as the flora and fauna that depend upon the Conodoguinet Creek. Their organization is interested in protecting the water and air quality, protecting the fish and wildlife and educating the public about their watershed. For more information, you can contact Gil Freedman at (717) 697-2513 or gil49@comcast.net. You can also visit their website at www.conocreek.org.

The Middle Spring Watershed Association (MSWA) provides protection and restoration for the Branch and Middle Spring Creek watershed. The protection and restoration actively addresses sewage treatment issues, development impacts, water quality, fish population, wildlife and plant habitats, and promotes community education about the ecological importance of the Branch and Middle Spring streams. For more information, you can contact Steve Dolbin at (717) 477-8835 or robinandsteve@pa.net. You can also visit their website at www.middlespringwatershed.org.

The Yellow Breeches Watershed Association (YBWA) is committed to cooperatively foster public understanding and sound management of environmental resources in the Yellow Breeches Watershed. The YBWA is a solution-oriented organization, providing technically sound information, education, leadership and coordination in the field of watershed management. For more information, you can contact John Eby at john_eby@lower-allen.pa.us. You can also visit their website at: <http://www.cumberlandcd.com/watershed/ybwa/>.

Go to groups websites to find exact dates /times.

Group	Meeting Dates/ Times	Location
BSWA	2nd Thurs of Month @ 7:30pm	Green Ridge Village
CCWA	2nd Tues of Odd Month @ 7:00pm	St. Stephen Luthern Church
MSWA	2nd Mon of Month @ 7:00pm	Middle Spring Presbyterian Church
YBWA	2nd Wed of Months 3, 6,9, and 12 @ 6:00pm	LATS Barn & Mt. Holly Springs Library

Conservation District Rain Barrels

The Cumberland County Conservation District has teamed up with two local high schools to produce rain barrels promoting Stormwater Management and Education. This year rain barrels were built in the spring and the fall. The rain barrels were sold for \$25 and are offered to all county residents.

In the spring, the Vocational-Agriculture classes at Cumberland Valley High School built 50 rain barrels. In the fall, the Environmental Biology classes at Cedar Cliff High School built 25 rain barrels. Both schools did an excellent job manufacturing the barrels and we look forward to working with both schools in the future. Currently, we are allowing only one order per person until all requests are met.

For those who may have never heard of rain barrels, a rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for future use. These uses may include watering lawns, flower beds and gardens. The rain barrels are constructed using a 55-gallon drum, mesh screen and spigots, which are available at most hardware stores.

Rain barrels can be constructed in a number of ways. No matter how they are constructed, they serve the same purpose, to collect rainwater and decrease the amount of storm water runoff. Using rain barrels is one way to decrease a household's impact on it's local stream and also become a good steward of the watershed.



If you are interested in getting your name on the mailing list for the rain barrels or have any questions regarding what you can do to help manage stormwater, please contact Adam McClain at (717) 240-7838 or amcclain@ccpa.net.

Precision Feeding

Do you know that what you feed the animals on your farming operation may affect the health of the Chesapeake Bay? Do you know that helping to improve the Chesapeake Bay may also help your bottom line?

The practice of precision feeding has emerged as a way to reduce the impact of excess nitrogen and phosphorus entering the environment. It may also reduce the amount of feed needed by an animal to still achieve optimum production levels.

Precision feeding is an approach that adjusts feed rations so that animals are fed nitrogen and phosphorus levels closer to their needs. Penn State research on precision feeding has established lower ammonia emissions from diets optimized for nitrogen, with improved milk production. The result is a major improvement in both nitrogen used by the animal and the nitrogen amount excreted in manure.

Reduction of phosphorus levels in manure may also decrease manure management challenges. The Nutrient Management Act 38 regulations adopted in 2006 look at nitrogen *and* phosphorus levels in the soil. Farms falling under Act 38 regulations are limited or prohibited from applying manure to fields with certain levels of phosphorus. Reducing the amount of phosphorus being fed to animals results in reduced levels in the excreted manure. As the animal numbers on a typical farm continues to increase and the amount of acres available to spread manure is limited, the nitrogen and phosphorus levels in manure become more of an issue.

The Conservation District will be holding a 2008 Winter Farmer's Meeting to provide information to producers in Cumberland County about precision feeding. The meeting will be held on March 5, 2008, with the location to be announced at a later date. Attend the meeting and see if precision feeding is a practice that would benefit your operation and help to reduce nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed. More information about the meeting on precision feeding is coming soon, or you can contact Pam Eyer at (717) 240-5357.

No-till Alfalfa Incentive Program

Funding is available through the Chesapeake Bay program for producers in Cumberland County who will be planting no-till alfalfa in the spring of 2008.

An incentive payment of \$30.00 per acre is available for the no-till planting of alfalfa into a field where a previous row crop was established and where no tillage has been done since the previous crop was harvested.

For more information on the no-till alfalfa incentive program, or for an application, please contact Pam Eyer at (717)240-5357.

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Carlisle Field Office
43 Brookwood Avenue, Suite 3
Carlisle, PA 17015

phone: 717-249-1037 ext. 3
fax: 717-243-9256

Farmers should apply now to take advantage of Farm Bill dollars

Currently USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP is a program contained in the 2002 Farm Bill and is a voluntary conservation program that provides producers with incentive payments for conservation practices. New to EQIP is the winter cover crop program which offers annual incentive payments of approximately \$20.00/acre/year, up to 3 years. Planting cover crops using no-till methods may include additional incentives. Currently NRCS is prioritizing planting cover crops that follow the harvest of corn, sorghum, soybeans, and vegetables.

In addition to the new cover crop program, EQIP also provides incentive payments on nutrient management use efficiency such as spilt application of nitrogen, PSNT, Chlorophyll Meter Testing, Corn Stalk Nitrate Testing, Grid or Smart Sampling, forage testing and feed management. Pennsylvania also targets livestock, grazing, cropland, and conversion to no-till, with incentive payments to address soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and protect wildlife habitat.

Producers engaged in livestock or agriculture production are eligible for EQIP. Eligible lands include cropland, pasture, private non-industrial forest land, and other farm or ranch lands. NRCS will work with the participant to develop a conservation plan that identifies the resource concerns, land use objectives, and planned practices. For more information about the program, visit www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov, or contract the Cumberland County USDA Service Center at (717) 249-1037 extension 3.

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News Release

Pennsylvania/Cumberland County FSA Office
Public Affairs Branch

43 Brookwood Ave. Suite 2
Carlisle, PA 17015-9172

Glenn Kimmel, County Executive Director
717-249-3924 Ext. 2

USDA REMINDS FARMERS OF CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Carlisle, PA, Nov. 6, 2007 – Glenn Kimmel, Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) in PA/Cumberland County announced that eligible farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops in recent years can enroll in the 2005/2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) at local FSA service centers beginning October 15, 2007. FSA will announce and conduct sign-up for quantity losses under CDP as soon as possible.

Subject to final rules for the program, CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005/2006/2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

FSA will not consider applications completed for any loss, including quantity losses, until a final rule has been issued for this program.

No application deadline date has been announced.

Producers may call the Cumberland County Farm Service Agency (FSA) at 717-249-3924 Ext. 2 to schedule an appointment to apply for these programs.

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



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Cumberland County Conservation District
310 Allen Road, Suite 301, Carlisle, PA 17013-9131
www.cumberlandcd.com
conserve@pa.net

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 1.....New Years Holiday – Office Closed
- 9.....Water Testing – District Office
- 10 & 11....GIS Training for District Staff
- 16-18.....PACD Conference – State College
- 21.....Martin Luther King Day – Office Closed
- 22.....Cooperating Agency Luncheon/Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 6.....DEP Roundtable Meeting
- 13.....Water Testing – District Office
- 18.....President's Day – Office Closed
- 19 & 20....Dirt & Gravel Training Session – Lighthouse Restaurant
- 26.....Board Meeting – District Office 6:00 PM
- 28.....E&S/PCSM Workshop for Engineers – Country Oven

MARCH

- 3.....PACD Regional Director's Meeting
- 5.....Precision Feeding Workshop
- 12.....Water Testing – District Office
- 17.....PACD Capitol Day
- 21.....Good Friday – Office Closed
- 26.....Board Meeting – District Office 6:00 PM
- 28.....Deadline for Tree Sale Orders
- 28.....Poster Contest Deadline

APRIL

- 9.....Water Testing – District Office
- 16.....Tree Seedling Bundling
- 17 & 18....Tree Seedling Distribution – Allen Road
- 22.....Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

District Directors

Chairman	Wilbur Wolf
Vice Chairman	Daniel Mains
Commissioner	Richard L. Rovegno
Farmer Director	Dennis Garman
Farmer Director	Donald Deckman
Farmer Director	Todd Chestnut
Public Director	Michael Ward

Associate Directors

John Bixler
Alan Williams
Alvin Myers

County Commissioners

Bruce Barclay
Gary Eichelberger
Richard L. Rovegno

District Staff

District Manager	Carl Goshorn
District Technician	Brian Jaymes
District Technician	Kim Falvey
District Technician	Vince McCollum
District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
Chesapeake Bay Tech	Pam Eyer
Nutrient Mgmt Spec	Vacant
Watershed Spec	Adam McClain
District Secretary	Brenda Sheaffer