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Teachers, Farmers, Among Cumberland County Conservation District 2018 Award Winners

Carlisle PA – Cumberland County Conservation District announced the award winners for 2018 which included farmer, teachers, an engineering firm and conservancy. Although the recipients of the Cumberland County Conservation District's 2018 awards live and work throughout the county, their individual efforts contribute to the quality of life for everyone.

Winners were announced at the Conservation District's annual meeting:

- **Bob and Barb Keefer**, owners of Hard Earned Acres in Shippensburg, received the Farmer of the Year Award for demonstrating a concern for soil and water quality by implementing best farm management practices. Through a variety of projects, the Keefers have made environmentally positive changes on their dairy farm, including decreased storm water runoff, increased accuracy of fertilizer application and reduced waste.
- **Jenny Pyers and Amber Sim**, science teachers at Cumberland Valley High School, received the Educator of the Year Award for demonstrating a strong commitment to conservation education programs and activities. Pyers and Sim work with students who participate in the Cumberland County Envirothon, an outdoor academic competition that gives high school students hands-on experience dealing with natural resource issues. CV has won the last two Envirothons.
- **Diffenbaugh Wadel Inc.**, an engineering firm with offices in Newville and Mechanicsburg, received the Clean Water Award for working to minimize adverse impacts of land development on water quality. The firm works closely with district staff during the approval process for land development plans to ensure that concerns are addressed and plans are implemented properly.
- **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy**, headquartered in Carlisle, received the Watershed Protection Award for promoting watershed protection through a coordinated land and water resource approach. The conservancy is working to conserve critical habitat at the east branch headwaters of Letort Spring Run, a nationally prominent trout fishery in South Middleton Township.

The Cumberland County Conservation District administers soil and water conservation programs and conducts environmental education activities in the county. It is marking its 65th anniversary this year, having been established on July 1, 1953, after a group of local farmers interested in the conservation of soil and water resources made their interest known to Cumberland County Commissioners.

To learn more about the Cumberland County Conservation District, visit ccpa.net/2847/Conservation-District.

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