

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners



L to R: Gary Eichelberger, Vince DiFilippo, and Jim Hertzler

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Hello, my name is Dylan Varner, the new Nutrient Management Specialist for the Cumberland County Conservation District. I graduated from Shippensburg University in 2015 with a degree in Environmental Science. Prior to working for the district I started as a Seasonal Temp for the USDA, specifically in the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Following my time at the USDA, I spent a little over two years at the Dauphin County Conservation District as a Special Projects Tech and then as an Ag Technician. I grew up in Cumberland County so I'm really looking forward to working with my local farming community and providing any assistance they may need.

Hi! My name is Michelle Rhone. I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Cumberland County Conservation District. Most recently I worked in the Cumberland County Commissioners office serving as an administrative assistant. I have a background in Business Management and Marketing. I am excited to join the team here at the district and am looking forward to providing assistance where it is needed and to learn and grow within my position. I enjoy spending time with my husband, our two children and our families.



My name is Quinn Hartung and I am the new Chesapeake Bay Technician here at the District. I grew up in Williamsport PA, where I participated in various sports and scouting activities. I graduated from Bloomsburg University in 2016 with a B.S. in Environmental Geoscience. Upon graduation I started working for the Montour County Conservation District before moving onto the Franklin County Conservation District. I am excited to bring what I have learned and experienced from both school and my time working in Montour and Franklin counties to Cumberland County and its residents.

WILBUR E. WOLF, JR. MEMORIAL DEDICATION

A dedication ceremony was held before the May board meeting honoring the late Wilbur E. Wolf, Jr. Wilbur served nearly 30 years on the Cumberland County Conservation District Board of Directors, 23 years as Chairman. A pink flowering dogwood was planted in his honor and a plaque was placed to always remember the service and dedication Wilbur provided to Cumberland County.



Pictured: Cumberland County Commissioners with the Wolf Family



Chesapeake Bay Program

Pre-Sidedress Soil Nitrogen Test (PSNT)

For the 19th year, the Chesapeake Bay Program offered a Pre-Sidedress Soil Nitrogen Test (PSNT) to farmers in the county. This soil test is designed to prevent unnecessary nitrogen application to corn crops, or identify extra nitrogen needs. This can help the farmer save money and increase crop yields. In addition to the added benefits to the farmer, this benefits the environment by using nitrogen fertilizers efficiently. In 2019, two interns tested 24 participating farmers' fields totaling 3,450 acres of corn. Out of the 137 fields tested, 52 were given a recommendation of needing extra nitrogen to meet the crop's needs.



Interns collecting samples for PSNT



Chesapeake Bay Farm Inspections

The Cumberland County Conservation District, with the guidance of DEP, continued Chesapeake Bay Farm Inspections in 2019. These inspections are for farms that generate or spread manure and/or have tilled ground, which includes no-till operations. The inspections ensure farmers have their Manure Management Plans and/or their Chapter 102 Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, where applicable. Technicians with the CCCD completed 77 inspections in 2019.



9th Annual Corn Planter Clinic

Education

The 9th Annual Corn Planter Clinic was held December 18, 2019 at the Shippensburg Auction Center. There were around 200 participants including farmers, vendors, and various government agencies. Topics included "The Foundations for a Better Yield", "No-till Drill Maintenance and Upkeep", and "Considerations for Soil Health Fertility and Nutrient Management in No-till Production" and more.

Cover Crop Incentive Program

Cover crops are used to increase soil health, reduce unwanted runoff, and protect surrounding streams from non-point source pollution coming from agriculture. To promote the planting of cover crops, the district has implemented a program that pays for the planting of both no till and minimum till acres. This year, 31 farmers participated in this program with a total of 1,422 acres planted and over \$39,000 in payment. If you are interested in this program or the benefits of cover crops please contact the office and we will be happy to assist you.



A cover crop field in the spring

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Nutrient Management

The Cumberland County Conservation District (CCCD) continued 2019 as a participant in Pennsylvania's ACT 38 Program (Nutrient Management) as a Level 2 delegated district. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) delegates the tasks of writing and reviewing Nutrient Management Plans and inspecting ACT 38 participating farms for compliance. CCCD reviewed 9 plans that were approved by our Board of Directors. 6 on-site status reviews were performed on ACT 38 participating farms to ensure the practices outlined in each farm's plans were being implemented. In addition to those on-site status reviews, 9 Chesapeake Bay Initial Inspections were conducted. Nutrient Management Plans aid farmers by identifying a plants nutrient needs, and therefore the plans continue to be the best tool to help farmers prevent pollution by over application of manure, while maximizing crop yields. Pennsylvania encourages every farm to consider the benefits of a Nutrient Management Plan to be written, approved, and implemented. If you have interest in obtaining an ACT 38 Nutrient Management Plan, please contact us and we can discuss options to have it written.

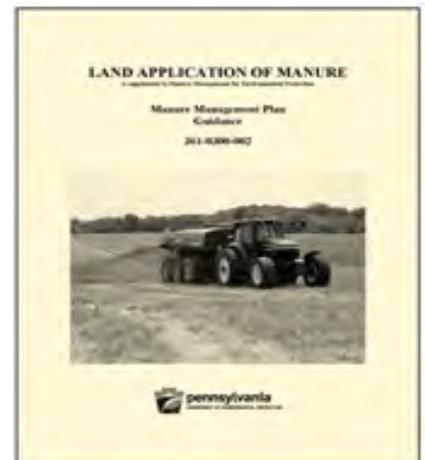


Manure Management

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continued to delegate the responsibility of outreach, education, and complaint investigation of the Manure Management Program to Cumberland County Conservation District through 2019. Manure Management Plans (MMPs) are required by every farm in Pennsylvania that generates or uses manure. CCCD has continued to assist farmers in writing the plans and educate farmers on the requirements of manure management at local events. The district held 1 half day and 2 full day



workshops where 13 farmers were able to obtain a written plan at the end of the day, and assisted or wrote an additional 4 MMPs. If you would be interested in receiving assistance writing a Manure Management Plan please contact our office to attend a workshop or work with the District individually. In 2019 the District investigated 4 complaints regarding manure. As Cumberland County continues to be a leader in agriculture, we must work together to achieve high yields while protecting the natural resources of the county. Both are possible through careful planning and implementation of Best Management Practices outlined in Nutrient and Manure Management Plans.



DIRT, GRAVEL & LOW VOLUME ROADS PROGRAM

Cumberland County's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program is split into two separate programs, one program for public-owned dirt, gravel, and/or stone roads and one program for paved and/or tar & chipped roads that have less than 500 cars per day. In order for a road to qualify for the program, the road-owning entity must attend a two-day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Certification Training.

Road Name	Municipality	Grant Awarded	Type
Yorwick	North Middleton	\$ 8,029.17	LVR
Cold Springs 5	Dickinson	\$ 100,338.89	DGR
Beetem Hollow 4	Penn	\$ 135,572.50	LVR



Cold Springs Road, Dickinson Township: Driving Surface Aggregate (placement 2019) and shallow cross pipe (installed 2017)

The **Dirt & Gravel Roads Program** completed another phase of work on a 2.4 mile section of Cold Springs Road in Dickinson Township. The first phases, completed between 2016 and 2017, installed 43 shallow cross pipes to help fix drainage within the road. Work in the Spring of 2018 included 10,000 tons of shale to add base to the bed of the road and create proper crown to prevent water from flowing in the center of the road. Work in the Fall of 2018 included capping the shale base material with 2,796 tons of Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). DSA is a well-graded, unbound mixture of aggregate designed for use as a wearing course on unpaved roads. DSA is designed to achieve maximum density to resist erosion and traffic wear. Properly installed DSA roads will have greatly reduced sediment loss and maintenance cycles. Fall 2019's contract installed 2,135 tons of DSA. Future work will include the final DSA placement on this section of Cold Springs Road.



Yorwick Road, North Middleton Township



Beetem Hollow Road, Penn Township

The **Low Volume Roads Program** completed 2 projects in 2019. Projects included a stream pipe consisting of a 64" x 43" squash culvert and a 40ft x 20ft French Mattress in North Middleton Township and a 14ft bottomless concrete box culvert in Penn Twp. Both replacement projects removed severely undersized stream pipes which now allows the stream to function properly through the road profile.

WATERSHED PROGRAM

Grants Activities

The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant for Middle Spring Creek WIP Implementation Phase II wrapped up in 2019. The grant helped host four rain barrel workshops that taught participants about the local watershed, watershed conservation practices that landowners could install and about the care and maintenance of their rain barrel. Students from Shippensburg University helped participants construct the barrels along with help from the Middle Spring Watershed Association. Shippensburg Township and Shippensburg Borough provided with locations for the workshops. Overall, 50 rain barrels were given out to workshop participants in the Middle Spring Watershed located in Shippensburg.



Participants learn about water conservation in the Middle Spring Watershed



Cedar Cliff High School Students

Rain Barrel Program

The District partnered with Cedar Cliff High School to construct barrels for the 2019 Annual Sale. Students were given hands on experience to construct the rain barrels. Other rain barrel workshops included Wilson Middle School, Dickinson College, and Upper Allen Township. The District has distributed over 1,500 rain barrels since the program began in 2002! Pre-orders for 2020's Annual Sale are currently being taken, contact the District to pre-order.

Tri-County Watershed Meeting

The Cumberland County Conservation District partnered with Adams and Franklin County Conservation Districts, Capital RC&D, South Mountain Partnership and Shippensburg University's Center for Land Use and Sustainability to hold a Tri-County Watershed Meeting that connected watershed groups within the region as part of the South Mountain Partnership's Speaker Series. Presentations were given about riparian buffers. Each County's Conservation District along with the watershed organizations were able to share info about projects that they have been working on as well as networking with partnering agencies like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Bay, Shippensburg's Center for Land Use and Sustainability, South Mountain Partnership, and Capital RC&D.



Tri-County Watershed Meeting

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL/NPDES PROGRAM

The goal of the erosion and sediment control (E&S) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programs is the protection of water resources. Through the implementation of these programs, the District strives to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation resulting from earthmoving activity and ensures the management of stormwater quantity and quality, after construction is completed. The District is given the authority to administer the E&S and NPDES programs by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Program staff activities include conducting plan reviews, site inspections, complaint investigations, holding workshops and processing NPDES permits. The District is delegated Level III - Program Enforcement, by DEP, which makes the District responsible to prepare and execute enforcement actions in accordance with the program's Compliance Assistance and Enforcement Manual. Additionally, the District has the post construction stormwater management (PCSM) delegation with DEP, which allows the District to conduct engineering reviews of PCSM plans for Individual NPDES permit applications. These delegations enable the District to provide technical assistance during the land development process at the local level to better serve Cumberland County residents and effectively protect our valuable natural resources.

Our biggest challenge this year, was the authorization of a new statewide general NPDES permit (PAG-02). This new permit implemented some changes to the conditions of permit eligibility and how water quality regulatory requirements are satisfied. DEP created new forms that must be used to submit the Notice of Intent to use the general permit, or apply for an Individual permit. More information and the forms can be found on DEP's website at: www.dep.pa.gov/constructionstormwater

E&S/NPDES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

E&S Plan Reviews	141
Project Acres	5,087
Disturbed Acres	1,532
Inspections	645
General NPDES Permits	52
Individual NPDES Permits	11
Complaints	41
Civil Actions	1
E&S Plan Review Fees	\$ 245,100
NPDES Permit Fees	\$ 69,500
PCSM Fees	\$ 25,875
DEP Disturbed Acre Fees	\$ 61,900

TOWNSHIPS WITH MOST PROJECTS

Hampden	23
Silver Spring	22
South Middleton	18
Upper Allen	14
Lower Allen	14

TYPES OF PROJECTS

Commercial/Industrial	63
Residential	46
Agricultural	8
Utility	13
Roadway/Bridges	1
School	7
Recreation	3



2019 Conservation District Award Winners



Left to Right

Farmer of the Year—Zane Garber—Rock Solid Dairy

Clean Water Award—Jim Hoffman—JVH Excavating, Inc.

Educator of the Year—Holly Smith—Audubon Pennsylvania

Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award—Bob & Barb Keefer—Hard Earned Acres

Conservation Organization of the Year—Katie Hess & Mike Eschenmann—South Mountain Partnership



COUNTY ENVIROTHON

Students from nine area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at Kings Gap State Park, 500 Kings Gap Road, Carlisle, PA. The Hellbenders from Cumberland Valley High School took first place with a score of 360; second place went to Panda Posse from Camp Hill High School with a score of 328; and third place went to The Bluebirds from Cumberland Valley High School with a score of 324.



The Hellbenders from Cumberland Valley High School

The Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, is a fun, academic event that provides high school students with 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: Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World. 119 students participated this year and enjoyed the beautiful, sunny day. Schools participating in the competition included: Big Spring, Boiling Springs, Camp Hill, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Mechanicsburg, and Shippensburg. Representatives from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Game Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Cumberland County Conservation District administered the tests.

When the competition was over, the students enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by the Conservation District. After lunch, the Conservation District, along Agency Personnel Representatives, handed out awards made from Pennsylvania hardwood to the top three teams at each station and the top three teams overall. All participating students and advisors received an Envirothon t-shirt sponsored by Adams Electric Cooperative.



2019 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Left: Angelica Brill—Currently attending Penn State University majoring in Community, Environment and Development. Angelica graduated from Mechanicsburg High School.

Right: Hunter Slear—Currently attending Juniata College majoring in Wildlife Conservation. Hunter graduated from Carlisle High School.

Aaron Sweger: Not Pictured—Currently attending Penn State University majoring in Landscape Contracting Design/Build option. Aaron graduated from Big Spring High School

2019 ENVIROTHON SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

\$250 ENVIROTHON PARTICIPANT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Emma Stone graduated from Carlisle High School and is attending Mansfield University



Left: Evan Worden graduated from Shippensburg High School and will be attending South Florida University

Right: Chase Slender graduated from East Pennsboro High School and will be attending Shippensburg University

TREE SALE

TOTAL GROSS SALES: \$19,505.10

TOTAL NET PROFIT: \$3,116.02



Tree Sale Totals	
Colorado Blue Spruce	1100
Canaan Fir	1300
White Pine	1600
American Redbud	850
Concolor Fir	1300
White Oak	900
Red Oak	650
Pear Pack	58
Apple Pack	82
Cherry	130
Myrtle (flats of 50)	60
Wildflower Mix	112
D-Spring Allium	40
H - Everbearing Strawberry	58
L - Elf Lilies	33
R - Bleeding Hearts	35
Shelters	500
Stakes	240

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 17th Annual Golf Scramble was held on Friday, September 27, 2019 at Rich Valley Golf Course. There were 105 golfers that came out to enjoy a round of golf and support a good cause. This year's winning team shot an impressive 19 under par 52 on a beautiful day. The District would like to thank everyone at Rich Valley Golf and Nolo's that helped make the day a success. Also a special thank you to all of our hole sponsors and Beverage Express (www.mybevexp.com) and Stan's Beverage (www.stansbeveragepa.com) of Carlisle for donating bottled water for the golfers! The contributions of our donors allow us to continue our efforts in providing scholarships to Cumberland County students. This year's event brought in over \$6,000 for scholarships and to date the tournament has raised over \$38,000. And finally, thank you to all of the golfers. We hope to see you all again next September!



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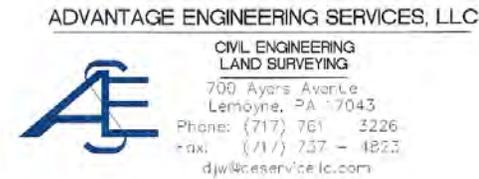


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