



Conservation Crier

Newsletter of the LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

WE ALL LIVE DOWN STREAM

Having been on the job as the District Administrator for a little more than three months I have met many people and had many different conversations, but most of the discussions have started with "So, what do you think about the Lancaster County Conservation District?"

Generally my reply is: I am thrilled to be a part of such a good team. Like many Conservation Districts across the state, Lancaster has a Board of Directors who are active and engaged and staff that cares about the mission and is professional about how they carry out their duties. The District has many public and private partners that collectively work well together encouraging the good stewardship of this County's natural resources; given the County's prominence of high production agriculture and the geographical proximity to the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay, Lancaster has a unique responsibility to be a leader in the conservation arena. It is a responsibility the Board, the staff, and the communities we serve all take very seriously.

For some that reply transitions into them asking: What exactly does the Conservation District do? The mission of the District is to encourage and promote the good stewardship of the County's natural resources. The apex of that mission is water quality and it can be summed up in a phrase that has been around for a while: "We all live Down Stream". The phrase implies that the quality of water available to us is determined by our upstream neighbors. It is the driving force for what we do: to protect, preserve and/or improve the quality of the streams, creeks and rivers that flow through our county. Whether we are writing conservation plans or making sure Best Management Practices are in place, planting trees to stabilize stream banks or teaching children the importance of conservation, the focus is water quality.

You may be thinking...I don't have a stream or creek running through my property...why should I care? When I'm asked that question my mind quickly races back to the early 1970s. Our soil, water and air quality had become so bad that clouds of toxic smog settled in the valleys sickening many, rivers were on fire and the North American bald eagle, our national emblem, was placed on the endangered list. How many of you remember the "The Crying Indian" commercial? The ad featured a Native American Indian paddling down a trash-infested river, surrounded by smog, pollution, and debris. As he hauls his canoe onto the plastic-infested shore, a bag of rubbish is tossed from a passing car explodes at his feet. The camera then pans to the Indian's cheerless face as a single tear rolls down his cheek. The voice-over announcer then stated emphatically, "People start pollution!" "People can stop pollution!" The insinuation was that we could and should do something to make a difference.

The American people heard the message and we are taking more responsibility for the stewardship of our *continued on page 3*



Free Farmer Workshop at Shady Maple October 29, 2014 9 AM – 3 PM

You are invited to attend a free 'Unlock the Secrets in the Soil and Streams' workshop at Shady Maple Banquet and Conference Center on **Wednesday, October 29** from 9am to 3pm. USDA-NRCS Conservation Agronomist, Ray Archuleta, and Stroud Water

Research Center's Stream Ecologist, Bern Sweeney will present information on how the soil in your fields and pastures, and the streams flowing through your land, are the most important assets to your farm and community. Learn about best management practices such as cover crops, reduced tillage, forested stream buffers and restricted livestock access to streams. These practices can be used to increase your productivity, enhance soil health and improve water quality. Light morning refreshments will be provided along with a buffet lunch. The event is free, but **registration is required by Monday, October 27**. Register by calling 717-238-7223 or on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/shadymapleunlock>.

Conservation to Maintain Highly Productive Agriculture in Lancaster County

Agriculture is such an important industry in Lancaster County that it stands out on the 2012 Agricultural Census map of the United States of America. With that notoriety...comes great responsibility. In the inventory of milk cows, the map shows almost a perfect outline of the county due to the concentration of dots representing 2,000 milk cows per dot. The census shows Lancaster County as having 5,657 farms with a total of 439,481 acres generating a total market value of nearly 1.5 billion dollars of agricultural products sold. All of these numbers by far are more than any county in the state. In addition to dairy cows, Lancaster County also leads the state with the production of poultry layers and broilers, hogs, horses, mules, goats, alpacas, rabbits and even bison. As for crop production in the state, Lancaster County produces the most corn grain and silage, barley for grain, tobacco, and dry alfalfa hay, coming in second to neighboring York County in the production of soybeans and wheat.

With that many livestock in the county, there is great potential to generate enormous quantities of manure. Too much of a good thing, such as manure, can be bad if not handled correctly. Every farm in the state should have a Manure *continued on page 3*

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Jenna Mitchell, *Erosion Control Technician*
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James Saltsman, *Ag Eng/Tech. Spec. Level II*
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Justin Furnia, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Andy Hake, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Greg Heigel, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Jenn Ledwich, *Ag Conservation Tech*
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Kevin Lutz, *Ag Conservation Tech*
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Jill Whitcomb, *Grants Coord./Nutr. Mgt.*

Technician
Dennis Eby, *Plain Sect Outreach*

Education and Outreach

Matthew Kofroth, *Watershed Specialist,*
Education and Outreach Dept. Manager
Shelly Dehoff, *Ag/Public Liaison*
Sallie Gregory, *Education Coordinator*

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Heather Grove, *District Conservationist*
Gary Ballina, *Civil Engineering Tech*
Omer Brubaker, *Soil Conservationist*
Wendy Coons, *Soil Conservation Tech*
Dayanna Estades, *Soil Conservationist*
Adam Gagne, *Soil Conservationist*
Melissa Piper Nelson, *Program Assistant*
Mark Myers, *Soil Conservationist*
Ashley Spotts, *Streambuffer Specialist - CBF*
Rob Weaver, *Soil Conservationist*

Lancaster Co. Conservation District

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Are You Planning To Build A New Chicken House?

The Lancaster County Conservation District Erosion and Sedimentation Department is again witnessing an increase in the number of plans for new layer and broiler chicken houses. This trend is anticipated to continue for some time to come. If you are contemplating building a new chicken house, you should be aware that the design and approval process can take as long as one year before you are approved for construction.

“Why?” you ask. A major reason is because your municipality is now requiring stormwater management planning for agricultural buildings. You may be surprised to learn that the best management practices that are used to control cropland erosion are not intended to be used for stormwater management. Structures like cropland terraces are only designed for the runoff that is created by the field above the terrace. Stormwater management facilities will protect your land and the land of your downhill neighbors. A very important part of stormwater management planning is that of finding a safe and stable outlet for the stormwater. We see many examples of soil erosion that is caused by a lack of stormwater planning. Not only does stormwater damage the land, stormwater that is directed onto public roadways is a hazard to those traveling on the public roadways.

It is likely that the chicken house construction will also require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit is required where earth disturbance is equal to or greater than one acre. The NPDES permit process requires the development of plans that will control soil erosion during construction and the stormwater that is created by the new buildings and driveways. The planning can take several months to prepare the application and several more months to process, review, and ultimately permit the construction activity. In most instances, the NPDES permit is issued by the county conservation district.

In conclusion, when signing a contract to build a chicken house, keep in mind that other farmers may be joining you. Be realistic with the construction timeline because there are a limited number of consultants that are available to assist you with these planning and permit requirements.

—Nevin Greiner, *Resource Conservationist*

2015 Manure Management Workshops

Wed. February 25 at Bart Fire Company, Georgetown

Wed. March 4 at Yoder's, New Holland

Wed. March 11 at Paradise Community Building, Gordonville

For registration information please contact Dennis Eby, at the Conservation District office at 717-299-5361 x. 155

EXTRAORDINARY GIVE to Benefit Conservation School

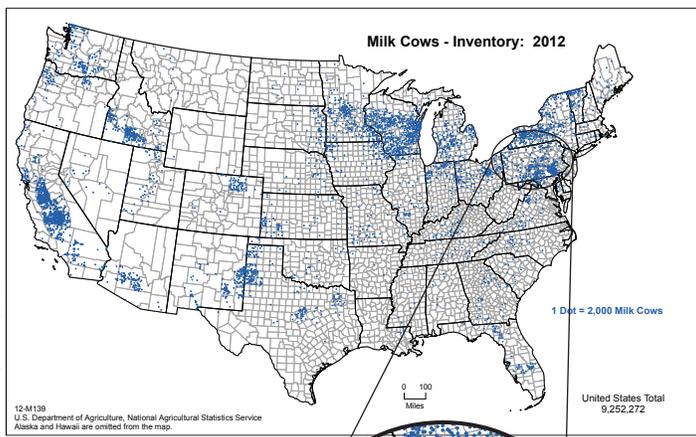
This November 21 go the EXTRA mile for the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County. On that day, we're participating in the Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving. Each dollar donated to the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County goes to the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. For 24-hours only, visit www.Extragive.org make a donation and every dollar you donate will be stretched by \$250,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

Your donation to the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School helps to provide supplies, transportation, and programming for a unique educational program enriching the lives of students ages 14-16 who participate in a rigorous summer adventure.

When you give, Extraordinary Things Happen! Mark your calendar, tell your friends, give Extraordinary.

—Sallie Gregory, *Education Coordinator*





Conservation to Maintain Highly Productive Agriculture in Lancaster County continued from page 1

Management Plan that addresses the safe handling and disposal of all manure and barnyard runoff. There are several ways to contain or limit barnyard runoff: pipe it to a manure storage tank, filter it through a grass filter area far from the creek, or roof the barnyard. Roof gutters and downspouts on the barn are also very helpful in keeping your clean roof water clean and out of your manure spreader.

Additionally, the high production of corn and beans may create soil erosion issues in the crop fields. Remember the keys to soil health: keeping the soil covered as much as possible, limiting soil disturbance, and diversifying the crops in the rotation. Every farm in the country must have a Conservation Plan to address resource concerns such as poor soil health and erosion in crop fields and pastures, water quality issues from barnyards and silos, and streambank erosion from livestock. We all must take care to maintain, and even improve, our productive and clean Lancaster County soil and water for future generations. For more information on technical assistance and planning, visit the NRCS Lancaster Field Office in Room 200 of the Lancaster Farm & Home Center or call (717)299-5361 x. 3.

– Wendy J. Coons, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

	Pennsylvania	Lancaster	% of PA
number of dairy cows	532,335	110,805	21%
number of poultry layers	25,147,630	10,651,369	42%
poultry broilers sold	166,691,355	53,586,627	32%
hogs and pigs sold	4,677,032	1,460,771	31%
corn grain harvested (ac.)	998,376	101,005	10%
corn silage harvested (ac.)	412,695	72,539	18%
barley for grain harvested (ac.)	52,853	8,904	17%
tobacco harvested (ac.)	9,532	7,004	73%



Manure application, photo credit – LCCD

Manure Management in Winter Weather

As we approach the winter of 2014-2015, it's tough to forget the incessant onslaught of winter weather a year ago. Appropriate conditions are necessary to assure the protection of surface and ground water quality when spreading manure in the late fall and winter even if application rates are consistent with recommendations on the farm nutrient management plan or manure management plan. However, last year, those conditions rarely came. Last year's aggressive winter left many farmers with few options to avoid a spill once storage capacity was exhausted.

In the case of an emergency, an Act 38 regulated farmer should contact his or her certified nutrient management planner to develop a temporary plan to export to a facility with sufficient storage capacity and/or identify the safest location and application rate to spread manure. The planner should develop a plan amendment to be submitted to the Lancaster County Conservation District within 30 days of implementation. If he or she is not regulated by Act 38, the Lancaster County Conservation District can offer planning assistance to identify the safest alternatives to avoid a manure spill.

With planning and sufficient manure storage capacity, it is possible to appropriately time manure applications for maximum crop uptake and to avoid inappropriate spreading conditions entirely. The Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide planning, technical, and financial assistance to help implement a manure management system and avoid high-risk situations. That system should include a nutrient management plan consistent with an existing or proposed manure storage capacity; a conservation plan that addresses crop, pasture, heavy use areas, and near-stream areas; and a site-specific, engineered waste storage design. For more information about appropriate conditions for fall and winter spreading and/or planning, technical, or financial assistance related to manure management, contact LCCD or NRCS at 717-299-5361 x.5.

–Kate Bresaw, Ag Conservation Technician

We All Live Down Stream continued from page 1 natural surroundings. DDT and a whole host of other chemicals that contaminated our land and water have been outlawed, the Chesapeake Bay was established as a national treasure worthy of protection, and Ag land preservation in Pennsylvania was established and has preserved its 500,000th acre just this month. Americans have not just stopped pollution; we have been working to turn the clock back, striving to achieve water and soil quality levels that predate the 1960s.

Yes, we have come a long way from the careless, free-living 60s and 70s. We don't see nearly the same visible signs of pollution, but it is still there. In Lancaster County there are over 1,400 miles of streams and creeks. Of this total, nearly 50% of these streams are considered impaired or polluted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Add to this total the number of stream miles that are not polluted, but will be affected in some way by increased development pressure, storm water issues, or land use changes in the coming years.

Since 1950, the Lancaster County Conservation District, along with many other partner organizations, has led the fight for making a difference; and we continue to serve as the grass roots resource for getting things done locally to improve the quality of the water we send downstream.

–Chris Thompson, District Administrator

New Staff Join LCCD and NRCS

In July 2014, Don McNutt retired from the Conservation District after 14 years of service. Additional transitions have brought several new faces to the Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. We're pleased to introduce you to the following new staff.

Lancaster County Conservation District

Chris Thompson is the newest employee at the District and replaced the retiring Don McNutt as the District's new Administrator this past July. Chris grew up on Maple Springs Farm in Delaware County, Pa. with 4 generations all living on the farm. He attended Pershore College of Horticulture, Worcester, England studying Nursery Management. Chris also attended Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania Bachelor of Science, Biology Major and Business minor and finally graduated from Colorado University, Colorado Springs, Colorado with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Project Management.

Currently, Chris lives with his wife and three children across the river in York County. They are active in their church and community and enjoy gardening and fishing and kayaking on the Susquehanna River. Chris and his wife Kellie, owned and operated a retail floral design and landscape business for 15 years before Chris went to work as the assistant District Manager for the York County Conservation District. While in York he learned the value of being proactive about environmental issues and greatly appreciates Lancaster's pervasive attitude about getting out in front of issues before they are forced to react to them. Chris is very pleased to be a part of such a strong team.

Evan Martin is a Lancaster County native now serving as an Erosion Control Technician at the District. Evan is a 2014 graduate of Penn State University where he majored in Fisheries Science. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping throughout the state of Pennsylvania. He enjoys working with contractors to promote responsible development occurring in the county.

Justin Furnia is a native of Lancaster County who joined the Conservation District in the spring as the new Agriculture Conservation Technician for Drumore, East Drumore, Fulton, and Little Britain Township. He is a 2010 graduate of Drew University in Madison, NJ, where he received a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. He enjoys playing soccer, spikeball, board games, spending time on the family farm, and enjoying time with family and friends. Justin brings experience of state regulations from growing up on an egg laying production operation in Mount Joy.

Jenna Mitchell is a new Erosion and Sedimentation Technician at the District. She was born and raised in Lancaster County and just graduated from Penn State this past spring with a degree in Environmental Resource Management focusing on soil and water. During her college career, Jenna was involved with the National Park Service, various ecology labs and the Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center. She is happiest when she is outdoors and active. Jenna is incredibly excited to be working to protect the water quality of her community.



Left to Right – Chris Thompson, Evan Martin, Justin Furnia, Jenna Mitchell, Melissa Piper Nelson, Dayanna Estades, Adam Gagne, Kent Bitting

Kent Bitting is the Professional Engineer serving Lancaster County. He is a 1995 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, where he received a B. S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering with a minor in Environmental Engineering. Prior to this position, Kent worked for two consulting engineering firms and the York County Conservation District. Kent enjoys helping to coach his son's baseball team and traveling to different areas within North and Central America.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Melissa Piper Nelson is the NRCS Program Assistant through an affiliate arrangement with Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). Previous to her work in Lancaster County she worked with Community Partnerships RC&D in Lewistown as an organic administrative assistant and the council's outreach and marketing manager. She was formerly the agricultural marketing manager for Loudoun County, Virginia and a Penn State Extension educator for the Keystone Agricultural Innovation Center in Carlisle. A native of Columbia County, PA, she received her undergraduate degree from Penn State in Agriculture and Journalism. She received a graduate certificate in Community and Economic Development from Penn State in 2012 and completed the PA Economic Development Certificate from Penn State Harrisburg and the PA Economic Development Association. She is also a freelance agricultural writer and writes a monthly column on agricultural marketing for Lee Publications.

Dayanna I. Estades is a new Soil Conservationist in the NRCS Lancaster Field Office. She has a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences with a minor in Agronomy from the University of Puerto Rico. Dayanna moved from Puerto Rico to Pennsylvania in June 2013 to work as a Soil Conservationist for Capital Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) in the Dauphin and Perry NRCS Field Offices. She also worked as an intern with NRCS in PR at the Arecibo Field Office where she developed the passion for conservation. She just recently moved to Lancaster where she is learning about the diversified agricultural community and the value of farming in the county. She's glad to be working in Lancaster County and enjoys helping get conservation on the ground.

Adam T. Gagne is a Soil Conservation Technician with Lancaster County Natural Resources Conservation Service. He earned his Environmental Science degree from North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University after his retirement from the U. S. Navy. Adam enjoys cooking and most outdoor activities and is an avid kayak fisherman.

District's Dirt & Gravel Road Program Adds Low Volume Road Component

Last fall, PA Act 89 was passed by the Pennsylvania Legislator and signed by the Governor into law. You may be asking, what is Act 89? Act 89 was the PA Transportation Funding Bill. Within this bill there was a significant funding increase for the state's Dirt & Gravel Road Program (from \$4 million to \$20 million annually) which most County Conservation Districts administer. Dirt & Gravel Road Program funds are intended to be utilized by local municipalities to maintain and implement sound environmentally sensitive maintenance practices on dirt and gravel roads that may be influencing local waterways. Local municipalities can apply for these funds through the County Conservation District after having completed a 2-day training on the program. Since 1997, the Lancaster County Conservation District has awarded over \$315,000 from the Dirt & Gravel Rd. program for local road projects. With the increased funding for this program additional road projects will be able to be addressed in the coming years.

In addition to Act 89 increased funding for the Dirt & Gravel Road Program, a new twist was added in the bill to provide funding (\$8 million annually) for those roads in each county that have less than 500 vehicles per day on them. The idea of this "Low Volume Road Program" funding is to provide funds to municipalities to do the same environmental sensitive maintenance concepts used in Dirt & Gravel Roads on low volume roads. The funds are not intended to repave low volume roads but to solve drainage and runoff issues for these roads that

are adjacent to streams and creeks. Due to the rural nature of Lancaster County and the close proximity of our rural roads to nearby streams Lancaster has received a significant amount of funds for the Low Volume Road Program. Once again these funds will be distributed to local municipalities that have attended a 2-day training on the program.

Both the Dirt & Gravel Road Program and the Low Volume Road Program are overseen by the Lancaster County Conservation District and a Quality Assurance Board (QAB). The QAB reviews all municipal grant applications for funding, creates local policies on how the funds should be used, sets up trainings and workshops to educate participants on the program, and works closely with the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies out of Penn State University which approves all products for the program and provides tracking of completed projects statewide along with other responsibilities.

If a municipality is interested in learning more about either the Dirt & Gravel Road Program or the Low Volume Road Program please contact Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist, or Nate Kurtz, Erosion & Sedimentation Department Manager, from the Conservation District and inquire how to become eligible for funding. Also check back to the Lancaster County Conservation District website about an upcoming local Dirt & Gravel Road and Low Volume Road Program Workshop in January 2015. Additional details will be available at that time.

—Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist



Students present their design for Rock Lititz project

2014 Lancaster County Youth Conservation School Report

The Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protective Association closed its grounds to open the Conservation School from July 20-26. Dedicated volunteers, many took vacation from full time work or left summer employment; worked with students providing teaching, and leadership. Program highlights follow.

Students began a new stream design plan on Middle Creek working on two log deflectors. At the same time, student took steps to improve an adjoining pasture by removing 10 tires from the field along with a stream study and fish shocking demonstration.

During Friday afternoon culminating presentations, students presented diverse points of view concerning ROCK Lititz Project to a panel that included a Warwick Township Supervisor. With just a few short days of learning presentations illustrated pros and cons of water usage, stormwater, land use, and impacts of community.

The week went by quickly with an inquisitive group of students who were a pleasure to work with and who worked well with each other. There were several students who decided on new career paths relating to natural resources and others who were looking forward to heading back to school and looking to take classes in natural resource study.

—Sallie Gregory, Education Coordinator

Conservation School by the Numbers

36 th	Program Began in 1978
21	Students Graduated in 2014
1,045	Total Graduates
19	Volunteer Staff (includes 4 nurses)
9	Conservation District Staff
2	Cooperating Agency Staff (CBF and 4-H)
43	Instructors
7	Corporate and Community Donors



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Free Farmer Workshop at Shady Maple October 29, 2014 9 AM – 3 PM

See front page for more info!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- We All Live Down Stream • Free Farmer Workshop at Shady Maple, October 29, 2014, 9 AM – 3 PM
 - Conservation to Maintain Highly Productive Agriculture in Lancaster County
- Are You Planning To Build A New Chicken House? • 2015 Manure Management Workshops
 - EXTRAORDINARY GIVE to Benefit Conservation School
- Manure Management in Winter Weather • New Staff Join LCCD and NRCS
- District's Dirt & Gravel Road Program Adds Low Volume Road Component
 - 2014 Lancaster County Youth Conservation School Report