

Conservation Crier

Vol. 26, No. 2
Fall 2017

Newsletter of the  LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Keeping Up to Date

This edition of the Conservation Crier provides updates and changes within District programs and services. The District continues to cultivate the services we provide to assist in the area of natural resource conservation. As we do so, we continue to attract quality staff (see *Welcome to New Staff* article) to carry out our mission. An implication of our growth is an expansion of District office space at the Farm and Home Center (see *Office Expansion* article). Since 2015, the District has been engaged in the development of a county-wide clean water initiative. A public announcement is expected later in November, but a snapshot of what is being planned is found below. Please read on to learn more about new erosion and sedimentation forms, new animal weight guideline for CAFOs, online services from NRCS, and much more.

Pennsylvania in Balance: Focus Lancaster

Lancaster County has approximately 1,400 miles of streams, creeks and rivers. Nearly half of these waterways are listed as impaired by PA DEP/EPA citing excessive nutrient and sediment loads. Community leaders have come together to form the Lancaster Clean Water Partners (Partners) to strategically address the need for expediting the cleanup effort. Utilizing a collaborative framework that emerged from PA in Balance Conference in 2016 the Partners are seeking to build on the culture of stewardship to produce measurable, meaningful results. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant \$750,000, announced on Sept 19 is being matched at a greater than 1 to 1 ratio by several active and engaged organizations.

The Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County has received the NFWF award and will administer the funds at the direction of the Lancaster Clean Water Partner Executive Committee. A complimentary award from the Keith Campbell Foundation has also been secured and will provide funding for an executive coordinator for this initiative. A few of the specific outputs of this project include:

1. Development of a countywide clean water collaboration and organizational structure to facilitate collective action.
2. Development of a countywide strategic plan which includes establishment of 3-5 priority watersheds and targeting of education, outreach, training, funding and implementation to achieve high impact.
3. Increased implementation of conservation (including high priority ag and stormwater best management practices, forest riparian buffers, and stream restoration).
4. Development of collaborative stormwater education, outreach, and public participation mechanisms, assistance, and advice for MS4s pursuing multi-municipal, watershed based approaches to meet stormwater reductions.

More details will be part of a public announcement in November.

—Chris Thompson, Administrator

Lancaster County Ag Week Schedule of Events and Activities October 7 – 14, 2017

Saturday, October 7 **Interactive Display** on Penn Square during **Harvest Breakfast** at Central Market.

Central Market's Harvest Breakfast is a much-anticipated annual event. This year, Ag Week will join the event with interactive displays on Penn Square. Come ready to "ask a farmer" about Agriculture.

8:00 AM to Noon 23 N. Market Street Lancaster PA
No RSVP required. www.centralmarketlanaster.com/

Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8 58th Annual Harvest Days Festival at Landis Valley

A celebration of Pennsylvania Dutch Harvest traditions at Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum. Demonstrations will include apple butter making, tavern cooking, coopering, spinning & weaving, heirloom apple tasting and more. Watch traditional craftspeople demonstrate historical techniques. Many family friendly activities including horse drawn wagon rides, lively music, and delicious food.

11 AM - 5 PM, 2451 Kissel Hill Road Lancaster PA
Entrance Fees Apply.
Details at www.landisvalleymuseum.org/index.php/visit/calendar-events/october-7-8/

Monday, October 9 **Virtual Kick-Off** of videos and social media interactions to "Thank a Farmer"

Videos will highlight local elementary school children touring farms, and thanking farmers. Also enjoy videos created by high school FFA members with their own lively styles.

Tune in to www.lancasteragcouncil.com or www.facebook.com/LancasterCountyAgricultureCouncil or www.lancastercountyagweek.com/ or www.lancasteronline.com/

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2018 Tree Sale

Order forms for the 44th annual seedling sale will be available February 2018. The Tree Sale pick up day is set for Thursday, April 12, 2018. Know someone that would like to receive the sale order form, please contact the Conservation District at 717-299-5361 x.5 or subscribe to our newsletter at www.lancasterconservation.org.

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Nathaniel Straw, *Ag Conservation Tech*
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USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service

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Josef Corso, *Soil Conservation Trainee*
Melissa Piper-Nelson, *Program Assistant*
Ashley Spotts, *Streambuffer Specialist-CBF*
Jeff Sholly, *TAG Engineer*
Jenna Emore, *Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever*

Lancaster Co. Conservation District

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Join Us in Welcoming New Staff

Nathaniel Straw, a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the Conservation District covers Drumore, East Drumore, Fulton, and Little Britain townships. He grew up near Hershey, Pennsylvania, and is a 2016 graduate of Penn State with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management and a minor in Watersheds and Water Resources. Previously, Nate interned with The Conewago Creek Initiative in the beginning stages, and lately worked on a crew completing stream restorations and habitat improvements partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all over Pennsylvania including many streams in Lancaster County. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

Nick Biondi, a new Agriculture Conservation Technician covers Rapho, Penn, East Hempfield, West Hempfield, Manheim Townships and Lancaster. Prior to working in Lancaster County, Nick enjoyed a nearly twenty year financial services career in New York City and Philadelphia. He has a degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. When Nick is not working or spending time with his wife, son, daughter, and dog, he can usually be found fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Brittany Smith is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician and Grants Coordinator for the Conservation District. She is a native of Lancaster County and 2010 graduate of Messiah College, holding a B.A degree in Humanities and History. Previously, Brittany has held planning positions with Warwick Township and Lititz Borough as well as the County of Lancaster. She spent several seasons teaching environmental education for the National Park Service at The Mountain Institute in West Virginia. In her spare time, Brittany enjoys staying active through practicing yoga, riding vintage bicycles, balcony gardening, and backcountry hiking.

Josef Corso, Soil Conservationist Trainee under the NRCS Pathway Student Program, is currently finishing a B.S. degree in History and Environmental Studies at New York University (NYU). He also completed two years of Agricultural Sciences and food Systems at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers the State University of New Jersey.

Josef is originally from Hatillo, Puerto Rico and grew up on a small family farm in a town that takes a lot of pride for its dairy farming. He is a former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant and served for 19 years with two combat tours in Iraq and was last stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He previously worked for USDA Agricultural Marketing Service as a Fruit and Vegetable inspector for a year in NJ and for NRCS Bloomsburg as Soil Conservationist Trainee for three months prior to my arrival to Lancaster. He spends his free time playing and exploring the outdoors with his 8 years old son, collecting farm toys replicas, and practicing beekeeping at Tranquility Dairy farms in Warren County, NJ.

Kim Dugan is a new Secretary/Receptionist for the Conservation District. She has lived most of her life in Lancaster, specifically Lancaster City. Prior to joining the Conservation District she worked as a Benefit Coordinator and Payroll Specialist. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband and their two adult daughters and her 4 dogs. She is also an avid Notre Dame fan but enjoys college football in general. Her favorite season is summer.



Kim Dugan



Pictured left to right: Nathaniel Straw, Nick Biondi, Brittany Smith and Josef Corso.

**Celebrating
35 Years –**

Congratulations to

Gerald Heistand
who was recognized by the
PA Association of Conservation
Districts for 35 years of service
at the Lancaster County
Conservation District.

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Tuesday, October 10 Introducing an Apprenticeship Program for Ag Equipment Service Technicians

PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding will roll out a new apprenticeship program for graduating high schoolers who are interested in hands-on learning about servicing equipment (a field known as mechatronics). Apprenticeship opportunities will be available through local farm equipment dealers.

10:00 AM to Noon; Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum 2451 Kissel Hill Rd Lancaster PA
No RSVP required.

Wednesday, October 11 3rd Annual “Denim & Pearls” 5-Star Dinner on the Farm

This farm-to-fork dinner celebrates the bountiful, local foods produced by Lancaster County farms. This year’s dinner will feature a raffle to win a Mikimoto pearl and diamond pendant necklace set in 18k yellow gold, donated by Ream Jewelers. Raffle tickets sold ahead of time and at the event. Come hungry!

6:00 PM to 9:30 PM Stoltzfus Homestead and Gardens, 3716 E. Newport Rd. Gordonville PA

TICKETS REQUIRED

Details and tickets www.oregondairy.com/product/denim-and-pearls-dinner-reservation



Thursday, October 12 Tree Planting in New Holland

Farms positively impact water quality in Lancaster County by installing vegetative stream buffers, along with other practices. For a hands-on opportunity to plant trees for water quality improvement, join the Lancaster County Conservation District and Tyson Foods at this farm. Volunteers should bring work gloves and a shovel, if able.

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM 221 Phillip Rd. New Holland, PA 17557
RSVP to Shelly Dehoff 717-880-0848 or shellydehoff@lanasterconservation.org

Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 “A Time of Harvest” at Rough & Tumble Historical Assoc.

Modern Agriculture is an amazing, technologically advanced science. Modern Agriculture wouldn’t be where it is today, if not for pioneering inventions. Agriculture’s heritage is on working display at “A Time of Harvest”. Rough and Tumble’s last show of the year includes activities for children, and steam trains, gas engines, steam traction engines, plus corn husking, and machinery demonstrations.

4997 Lincoln Highway East Kinzers PA
Admission fees apply. Details at www.roughandtumble.org/viewreference/44/eventschedules/
Enter the gift shop, tell them you are part of Ag Week, and you will receive a free show pin.

Special Focus throughout October **Pumpkin Farming** exhibit in The Clubhouse at Hands-On-House

The number and types of farmers growing food and fiber is bountiful. During the month of October, learn more about what it takes to grow pumpkins. Also, check out the permanent exhibit, “Little Valley Farm”.

Hands -On-House, Children’s Museum of Lancaster, 721 Landis Valley Road Lancaster PA
Admission fees apply. Details available at www.handsonhouse.org/

Tours During Ag Week **Behind the Scenes Tours** throughout Lancaster County County

Behind the scenes tours will be available at Lancaster County’s farms and agri-businesses. Organized by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, details at <http://www.lancasterchamber.com/events> .

Tours are free. RSVPs are required, and can be made through Eventbrite, linked through the Chamber website. Specific instructions may apply for the tours. Please read details.



Dates to Remember Fall/Winter 2017

Wednesday, October 4	LCCD Board Meeting
October 7-14	Lancaster County Ag Week
Wednesday, November 1	LCCD Board Meeting
Friday, November 10 Holiday Veteran’s Day Observed	Office Closed
Thursday - Friday, November 23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday	Office Closed
Wednesday, December 6	LCCD Board Meeting
Monday - Tuesday, December 25 & 26 Christmas Holiday	Office Closed

LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIROTHONS

An Academic Contest for Students Grades 3-12

DATE SAVER:

April 26 – Senior High (grades 9 – 12)
Current Issue – Grazing and Pasture Land Management

May 9 – Junior (grades 3, 4, 5, & 6)
Wetland Ecosystem

May 10 – Middle School (grades 7 - 8)
Wetland Ecosystem and PA Conservationists



- ✓ Students take an 'ed-venture'. With teachers and parents as their guide, students will problem solve, build study skills, and an appreciation for stewardship of our natural resources.
- ✓ Contest held at Lancaster County Central Park. Students compete as a team of 5 students. Each contest level includes guidelines for number of teams and study materials. Awards presented to winning teams and top scores at each station.
- ✓ For more information visit the Education tab at www.lancasterconservation.org.
- ✓ Educators if your school has not previously participated and would like to, please contact the Conservation District Education Coordinator at 717-299-5361 x.117 to learn more.



EXTRAORDINARY GIVE NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Benefits Conservation School and County Envirothons
Cultivate the future of Conservation

November 17, please join in Lancaster County's Largest Day of Online Giving. The EXTRAORDINARY GIVE, extragive.org offers a 24 hour giving marathon. Click on the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County to donate to the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and the Lancaster County Envirothons. Every dollar you donate will be stretched by \$500,000 on behalf of the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

The **Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County** is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that supports and sustains the stewardship, education, and conservation practices undertaken by the Lancaster County Conservation District.

Your donation provides supplies, transportation, and programming for two extraordinary youth development educational programs: the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and the Lancaster County Envirothons. When you give, Extraordinary Things Happens! Mark your calendar, tell your friends, give Extraordinary.

–Sallie Gregory, Education Coordinator

Step up to Cover Cropping!

Harvest season has arrived. Consider planting a cover crop mix in your cropland or garden to improve soil health. Added benefits from cover crop mixes include: increased soil organic matter, reduced weed pressures, scavenging of manure nutrients, addition of nitrogen from legume cover crops and increased water holding capacity which can lead to increased drought tolerance in the next growing season. Cover crops also provide a food source for soil microbes when a growing crop is not present and reduced compaction from brassica crops. A good cover crop mix should include cool season grasses (oats, annual ryegrass, cereal rye, triticale) and warm season grasses (sorghum-Sudan, millets), legumes (clover, hairy vetch) and brassicas (radishes, turnips). The more diverse the mixture, the higher the potential for increased soil health benefits.

Contact your local NRCS Service Center, 717-299-5361 x.3 for assistance with developing cover crop mixes suitable for your operation.





NRCS Conservation Client Gateway – Conservation Assistance Just a Click Away

Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) is an NRCS website that provides secure access to a customer's conservation plans, practice implementation schedules, financial applications, contracts, and supporting documents and payment information.

Instead of driving to your field office multiple times, CCG allows you to request assistance, sign documents and interact with NRCS field staff online at your convenience. CCG is voluntary. NRCS staff is always available in person to work with you in the office or field and this secure online tool provides another option for client service.

Benefits

Using CCG can reduce the amount of trips you need to take to your local field office. Need to request assistance? Track a payment? Review your conservation plan? CCG is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, enabling you to choose the time that works best for you. Customer service is available at your convenience.

With CCG, you can:

- Request conservation technical assistance
- Apply for financial assistance through one of NRCS's conservation programs
- Review and sign conservation plans and contract documents
- Document completed practices and request practice certification
- Request and track payments for completed contract items

Getting Started

For step-by-step instructions on getting started, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway. If you need additional help, personal assistance is available at (970) 372-4200. NRCS field office staff is always available to assist you with conservation questions.

In addition to providing you another option for working with NRCS, the login and password created to access CCG can also be used for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) customer self-service portal, *FSAfarm+*. *FSAfarm+* allows farmers to access information such as farm and tract details for their operation, farm imagery, ACR/PLC base and yield information, CRP and other FSA conservation program acreage as well as general contact information. For more information on this useful tool contact your local FSA office.

–Heather Grove, *District Conservationist*
USDA-NRCS, Lancaster Field Office



Low Volume Road Program Update

Lancaster County's Low Volume Road Program has been rolling along for the last several years with great success. This past year there were two Low Volume Road funding rounds for local municipalities, one in the spring (March) and one in the fall (September). Two rounds this year allowed municipalities to conduct traffic counts for their projects during the application period. Traffic counts can only be obtained for Low Volume Roads (less than 500 vehicles a day) between March 1st and Thanksgiving. The two rounds this year the Low Volume Rd. program here in Lancaster funded over \$425,000 of projects. A list of funded projects is below.

Spring Awardees: Rapho Twp. (\$4,327.80-Bricker Rd. & \$60,000-Cold Springs Rd.), City of Lancaster (\$80,000- Shelly Rd.), Conestoga Twp. (\$13,802.50-Stone Hill Rd.), Lititz Borough (\$26,755- North Ln. (2 projects) & \$14,890-Blackberry Ln.), Fulton Twp. (\$20,000-Goat Hill Rd.), Christiana Borough (\$22,630.59-Broad St.), & Earl Twp. (\$20,000-Snyder Rd.)

Fall Awardees: Lititz Borough (\$40,000-North Ln.), Drumore Twp. (\$40,000-Scalpy Hollow Rd.), East Drumore Twp. (\$13,404.40-Locust Ln.), Conestoga Twp. (\$8,039.30-Rineer Rd.), Fulton Twp. (\$ Cherry Hill/Rigby Rd. intersection), & Lancaster Twp. (\$60,000-Spring Hill Rd.)

If municipalities have any potential Dirt & Gravel Rd. projects for 2018, funding for these projects will open in January and are due February 16, 2018. Applicants will be notified of project funding awards in early March.

Finally, in late March the State Conservation Commission, the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies, and PA Department of Environmental Protection conducted a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) visit of the Lancaster Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Road Program. The QA/QC is an audit of the program and its functionality within the county. The group is trying to be more consistent regarding audits and have them every three years. Overall the Lancaster program did well receiving high marks for program efficiency, wise use of program dollars, and sound bookkeeping. The QA/QC visit was very helpful and informative to all parties involved and assisted the District in running a better program.

Contact the Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Rd. Program at the Conservation District 717-299-5361 x. 5 with any questions.

–Matt Kofroth, *Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Rd. Program Manager*

EQIP Funding Available

NRCS has funding available under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to implement conservation practices. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, farmsteads and private forestland. Some of the practices included are waterways, terraces, cover crops, stream crossing, manure storages, barnyard improvements, forest stand improvement, high tunnels for produce, etc. Applications are accepted at any time, however, to be considered for 1st round funding for 2018, applications must be received by October 20, 2017. For further information contact your local NRCS Service Center 717-299-5361 x.3 or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted.



New Standard Animal Weights Released to Determine CAO/CAFO Operations

In the summer of 2017, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) announced the finalized updated standard animal weights used for calculating concentrated animal operations. The webinar and associated materials are summarized in this article, but can be found here: <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/educational/standard-animal-weights-webinar>.

These animal weights are used to determine if an operation is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO). Operations with more than 2000 lb. of animal weight per acre available for nutrient application including crop and pasture, (2.00 AEU/ac), are classified as a CAO. An operation is determined to be a CAFO based on the number of animals they have. The weights totals for all animals in the operations can also be important as total animal weights could change classification of an operation to a CAFO. If the operation has more than 1,000,000 lb. of animal weight in total based on the new animal weights standards, or 300,000 lb. of total animal weight based on the new animal weights standards. With these changes in animal weight standards, a farm that is currently not a CAO may become a CAO. Additionally, a farm that is currently not a CAFO may also become one.

Animal weights were last revised in 2010. Since then, substantial changes have occurred in production agriculture across the state. In the fall of 2016, the review process was started to update animal weights to better reflect current Pennsylvania agriculture. The new animal weights were published in the *PA Bulletin* in June 2017 and the updated Agronomy Fact Sheet 54 (available from Penn State Extension).

An updated list of all animal weights can be found here: https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/educational/standard-animal-weights-webinar/copy_of_nutrient-management-technical-manual-webinar.

However, the main changes that will affect Lancaster County agriculture are as follows:

Animal Type	Weight (lb)
Holstein Cows	1450
Holstein Heifers (1-2 yrs)	1000
Holstein Calves (0-1 yrs)	420
Holstein Bull	1700
Nursery Pig	35
Ween To Finish	143
Grow Finish	165
Gestating Sow	450
Layer - White Egg 18-75 Week	3.13
Layer - White Egg 18-90 Week	3.14
Layer - Brown Egg 18-75 Week	3.85
Layer - Brown Egg 18-90 Week	3.85
Pullet, White Egg 0-16 Week	1.38
Broiler - Large 0-53 Days	3.55
Broiler - Medium 0-35 Days	2.55
Roaster Male 0-7 Week	4.70
Roaster Female 0-9 Week	4.95

Additional animals and groups can be found in the resource listed above.

Newly identified CAOs and CAFOs, due to weight changes only, will have two crop years to obtain an approved Act 38 NMP (Nutrient Management Plan) and/or CAFO permit once the operation is determined to be a CAO or a CAFO. In other words, the new standard weights must be reflected in an up-to-date NMP at the start of crop year 2020 (October 1, 2019). If you are concerned that you may be a CAO or CAFO under the new weights, please consult the AEU calculator found on the Lancaster County Conservation District website at <http://lancasterconservation.org/agriculture/nutrient-management/>. If you determine that you may be a CAO or CAFO you may contact the Lancaster County Conservation District for resources to help you obtain the appropriate documentation.

For existing CAOs, the new weights will be rolled out when the Nutrient Management Plan is due for its triennial review or if a plan amendment is necessary. If you have questions about what generates a plan amendment, you may consult with your nutrient management planner or contact the Lancaster County Conservation District at 717-299-5361 x.5.



Fencing Supplies Available

Woodstream Corporation, Lititz has generously donated fencing supplies to be used toward conservation efforts. The supplies are intended for landowners who are looking to exclude livestock from streambanks or reduce impact on heavy use areas. Items available include plastic fence posts, handles, insulators, fencers, spring gates, wire, and various other hardware. The Conservation District would be happy to provide farmers/landowners with supplies to assist in a conservation project. Please contact Jeff Hill, Ag Program Manager at 717-299-5361 x.5 with a description of the project for additional information.



Agriculture Compliance in Lancaster County

In 2016, as part of the on-going Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) was asked to complete random initial inspections of agricultural operations in Lancaster County of which the Conservation District had no previous records. LCCD was tasked with completing 300 inspections per year. Based on the information available in LCCD records, compliance of the operations chosen could not be immediately verified; therefore, they were inspected in order to document compliance. Compliance at the initial inspection is defined as having an Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation Plan (Ag E&S Plan), and/or a Manure Management Plan (MMP) or approved equal, or documentation that no agricultural activities occur on the operation. If an operation has more than 5000 sf of soil disturbance (including no-till) for the purposes of crop production, the operation needs an Ag E&S plan. If the operation produces or applies manure, no matter how large or small the operation, it needs a MMP or approved equal (including an Act 38 NMP or NRCS 590). Although the effort to document compliance is recent, (starting July 2016), the regulations requiring these plans have been in place since the 1970s, and many agricultural operations have the appropriate documentation.

After completion of the 2016-2017 inspections, approximately 46% of the operations were compliant at the time of the initial inspection. LCCD worked with nearly 60% of the remaining operations to obtain compliance within the 90 day grace period. However, 36 operations were referred to DEP for further review. DEP has been able to work the large majority of those operations to obtain compliance. As a result of this effort, DEP has delivered a few field orders to further encourage compliance.

LCCD has begun conducting the 2017-2018 initial inspections. A random selection of 300 additional operations was chosen from all parcels zoned agriculture where compliance could not be immediately verified. The operations that were chosen for 2017-2018 have been sent a letter stating that LCCD will be visiting the operation within the next year. The landowner or operator is invited to call LCCD to schedule an appointment or, to avoid the initial inspection, the landowner or operator can deliver a copy of the applicable plans to LCCD.

If you have received this letter and do not have the appropriate plans, LCCD advises calling the Conservation District at 717-299-5361 x. 5 to determine what is required and for resources to help you obtain your required plans. If you have not received this letter, there is no better time to start working toward compliance, and the Conservation District is happy to answer any questions and point you in the right direction.

—Kate Bresaw, Ag Compliance Inspection

Changes to the Chapter 102 Program

Notice of Termination Form Updates:

Is your construction project wrapping up? Is your site stabilized with vegetation? If you've answered yes to these questions it's time to submit your Notice of Termination (NOT) Form to close out your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit!

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has released a newly revised Notice of Termination Form (3800-PM-BCW0229b). Starting **October 16**, the new NOT form will be required to be submitted to the Lancaster County Conservation District for terminating all projects that have an NPDES Permit. One notable change with the new NOT form, is the option for full and/or partial

permit terminations depending on the type of project and site circumstances. Additionally, the new NOT now allows for full permit termination for projects that were never constructed. To verify if your project qualifies for a full or partial termination, an instructions document has been developed to outline each section of the NOT form. For more information visit the Lancaster County Conservation District website, www.lancasterconservation.org to access the new NOT and Instructions Forms.

Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Instrument Filing Notice Updates:

The PCSM Instrument Filing Notice Form (3150-PM-BWEW0556) that was required to be utilized as part of the proof of recording for the initial PCSM instrument filing within 45 days from the date of NPDES Permit issuance is **no longer a requirement**. It is now sufficient to provide the Lancaster County Conservation District a copy of the proof of receipt that contains the date and place of the recording along with a reference to the docket or deed book for the initial instrument filing.

Upcoming changes to the Chapter 102 program will be announced in 2018.

—Samantha Gordon, Erosion Control Technician

E&S Office Expansion

The Erosion and Sedimentation Department has expanded to a new office space. The E&S Department still resides in the Farm and Home Center, but is now located across the hall from the main Lancaster County Conservation District office. Appointments and plan drop-offs please continue to check in at reception in Room 200.



New Brochures Now Available

There are many regulations in Pennsylvania that address farming operations. Often the regulations are written in “legalese” and are tricky to understand, not to mention a little boring to read. That’s where the PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program is available to help. The Ombudsman assists the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create publications that explain the regulations in more down to earth terms, including pictures with captions that emphasize the main points. The latest brochure is designed for farmers, owners of farmland, and commercially certified manure haulers and brokers to help explain that “*The Time is Now*” for ensuring compliance with agricultural requirements.

Requirements include:

- a written and implemented Agricultural erosion & sedimentation plan (Ag E&S plan)
- a written and implemented manure management plan or certified nutrient management plan, depending on animal numbers and animal density.

The brochure also explains on-going inspections being completed by County Conservation District staff or DEP staff to ensure farmers are in compliance. Random inspections are being done throughout Lancaster County. If a farmer does not have the required written plans, a short grace period will be offered for getting the plans written. Additional details are in the brochure. The brochures can be obtained by contacting Shelly Dehoff at 717-880-0848 or shellydehoff@lanasterconservation.org.

<p><i>What's with all these new regulations?</i></p> <p>Actually, the regulations are NOT new. The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law which requires written Conservation Plans is almost 45 years old! Some farmers have been in compliance with this regulation for decades. The Manure Management Plan requirements have been in place since 1985. Pennsylvania's Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification Program took effect in 2006 and regulates commercial spreading and transporting of manure. The enforcement of these longstanding agricultural regulations is designed to protect water quality, ensure continued farm productivity, and minimize the need for additional laws and regulations being enacted.</p> 	<p><i>Why is EPA taking actions?</i></p> <p>Failure by the PA ag industry to meet established water quality improvement goals may trigger further “backstop” actions by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Pennsylvania's agricultural and urban runoff sector. EPA's backstop measures could include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requiring federal EPA permits on additional farms • disapproval of future ag CAFO permit applications • reduction of federal grant funds provided to farmers • increased EPA enforcement <p>“Backstop” definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an emergency precaution or last resort (oxforddictionaries.com) <p>IE: EPA increasing regulatory requirements and oversight on CAFO's and other permitted facilities</p> 	<p><i>What Are the Current Compliance Requirements?</i></p> <p>Step 1: Have an up-to-date written Conservation Plan or Ag Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan.*</p> <p>AND</p> <p>If you produce or use manure, have an up-to-date written Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan, depending on your animal density.</p> <p>Step 2: Take action and make sure that what is written in your plans is on the ground, in place and in working order on your farm according to the schedule included in your plans.</p> <p>Step 3: Keep accurate written records of all manure application, soil tests and manure test results.</p> <p><small>* Required when plowing/tilling land, including no-till. Also required for bare Animal Heavy Use Areas (AHUA) ≥ 5,000 sq. ft.</small></p>  <p>“Implemented” definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to put into effect according to or by means of a definite plan or procedure (dictionary.com) • to fulfill; perform; carry out (dictionary.com) 	<p>Questions to ask yourself:</p> 
<p>I'm a Manure Broker or a Manure Hauler. I'm not a farmer.</p>  <p><i>Why does this apply to me?</i></p> <p>Custom manure brokers, haulers and applicators are hired by many farmers throughout the state. As their service providers, you are on the “front lines” with farmers, and you need to be providing them with the correct information about requirements and supporting their efforts to comply. Glossing over regulatory requirements does not help a farmer. Farmers need to trust that their service providers are telling them the whole story. Information relating to these requirements was provided in your Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification training materials. For more information on what farmers need to know, contact your local County Conservation District or DEP regional office. Additional information can be found in the “PA's Manure Haulers and Brokers are Key” brochure.</p> 	<p>Are you a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) or a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)? Are you exporting manure? Is someone transporting the manure for you? If you answered yes to the previous questions, you must use a commercial certified manure hauler or broker.</p> <p>Are you a non-CAO or non-CAFO and you hire someone to transport your manure? If yes, then it is in your best interest to use a certified hauler or broker. Certified professionals should know how to handle the manure to protect the exporter and importer from possible environmental and liability issues.</p>  	<p>Technical assistance for BMP design and installation may be available through your local County Conservation District, NRCS office or private consultants.</p>  <p>Best Management Practices (BMPs) definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities, facilities, measures, planning or procedures used to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation and manage stormwater (Ch. 102 Pennsylvania Code) • Structural or non-structural • Conservation practices to protect water quality and provide for long term farm sustainability. <p>Non-structural </p> <p>Structural </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I have a Conservation Plan (or an Ag Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) plan)? Is it up to date and available for review? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not, who can help me develop the plan? • Do I have a Manure Management Plan? Is it up to date and available for review? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not, do I want to write this myself, or contact a professional? • In my plans, are there any scheduled Best Management Practices (BMPs)? Have I implemented all of them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the BMPs are not all implemented, how quickly am I planning to construct or install the BMPs? • If I don't have any plans, what should I do? <p>To help answer any of these questions, call (without delay) a private consultant, your County Conservation District, DEP regional office, or local NRCS office. These professionals can help you decide how to proceed with developing or updating your plan(s).</p> 

The PA Ag Ombudsman Program also creates publications that are not related to DEP-enforced regulations, but often address good neighbor relations. The latest brochure is designed for individuals who haul or spread manure in PA. It is entitled “Fly Management in PA...When Spreading Manure!” The PA Ombudsman Program has been handling fly complaints due to an increasing amount of imported manure onto farms that have not experienced fly outbreaks in the past. The brochure provides tips on fly management techniques so that fly outbreaks due to manure stockpiling or spreading do NOT create neighborhood frustration. While fly monitoring and fly reduction techniques are not required by nutrient management planning regulations, these practices are encouraged and can greatly reduce conflicts with neighbors. Intolerable, excessive outbreaks of flies are not normal or acceptable. Fly minimization techniques on farms and in manure are available, and effective, when properly followed.



FLY MANAGEMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

...when spreading manure!

Avoid Transporting and Spreading Unwanted Guests!

This brochure is available by contacting Shelly Dehoff at 717-880-0848 or shellydehoff@lanasterconservation.org.

—Shelly Dehoff, PA Ombudsman

