

# Conservation Crier

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Fall 2018

Newsletter of the  LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

### Are You Ready?

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September, however, the Boy Scouts of America have been honoring a 'Be Prepared' motto for 111 years. Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell developed the motto and was referring to a state of readiness in all aspects of your life. The local Boy Scout Troop my son and I have been involved with for 11 years believe that being prepared is meaningless unless it leads a person to action and the pursuit of solutions. With this in mind our troop added a phrase to the motto, Be Prepared by Training Boys to be Young Men of Faith, Courage and Action.

It's a constant challenge to be ready for anything. This edition of the newsletter highlights preparedness for flooding, winter manure application, and a damaging new invasive insect. In addition to these topics, look for details about Ag Week, October 6-13, farmer opportunities for streambank fencing funding, and updates for the Dirt and Gravel Road/Low Volume Road Program. As you take a read through this issue, whether it is a challenge to overcome, or an achievement to celebrate, I hope you will gather some ideas for action.

—Chris Thompson, Administrator

## Lancaster County's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)

As we go to print, the District has been working with many of the county's "Clean Water Partners" to prepare a plan to improve quality of our local streams, creeks, and rivers. Lancaster's local Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) will act like a preparedness plan in a county that is experiencing population growth and land development pressures. The plan is designed with strategies and best management practices that anyone: homeowners, municipalities, farmers, construction companies, and students, can follow to be prepared. The plan will collectively address the issues to allow Lancaster County to achieve growth in a responsible way while protecting and improving the county's natural resources: water, soil and air.

Lancaster is one the first of 42 counties in Pennsylvania drafting a county specific plan that will be part of the State's phase III WIP. Pennsylvania's WIP is required to achieve nutrient reductions in local streams thereby positively impacting the water quality flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. Phases I and II of Pennsylvania's plan were submitted in 2010 and 2012. The previous plans focused on regulatory actions meant to limit pollution actions and inspire restoration activities. Phase III includes a grass roots approach that includes local water quality initiatives and action essentials to be implemented 2018-2025. A draft of the plan will be available for review in October.

—Chris Thompson, Administrator

## Celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lancaster County Ag Week

Lancaster County Agriculture Week—"The Future is Now" kicks off on Saturday, October 6 - Saturday, Oct 13. The events and activities provide something for everyone! Please join the Lancaster County Agriculture Council in a dynamic week highlighting and celebrating the tireless farmers who provide food, fiber and fuel to Lancaster County and beyond. The blessings of diverse local food choices and a farming community cultivating a strong economy illustrate the innovations in Lancaster County that truly make the difference now for a healthy and sustainable future.

**SATURDAY—Oct 6, 7 AM - Noon—FARMING VISIT** on Penn Square in Lancaster in partnership with Central Market's Annual Harvest Breakfast. Enjoy breakfast options and other local options from Central Market. Just around the corner visit Penn Square for interactive displays designed for children and adults.

**MONDAY—Oct 8, 7:30 - 10 AM—FARMER BREAKFAST** at Hooper, Inc. in Intercourse. "Diversifying Your Farm for Fun...or Survival", This breakfast program will answer questions about options that farmers should consider to diversify. Industry reps and PSU Extension Educators will be answering questions. Free farmer breakfast, RSVP required at 717-768-8231.

**TUESDAY- Oct 9, 9:30 AM - 1 PM— "Technology and It's Role in Agriculture";** FFA Members who are participating in contests at the Manheim Farm Show will have an opportunity to see and discuss technology and its use in agriculture, plus career options related to technology.

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 10, 3-5 PM—PLANTING THE SEED TOUR; CELEBRATE AG INFRASTRUCTURE** at Messick's Farm Equipment in Elizabethtown. A recent apprenticeship program sponsored by the PA Dept of Agriculture and Northeast Equipment Dealers Association is celebrated; Women educators who teach Ag Mechanics are highlighted; Messick's explains their large Parts Department and how far they provide service.

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 10, 6-9 PM—DENIM & PEARLS DINNER GALA** at Harvest View Barns at Hershey Farms in Elizabethtown. Tickets required, and can be purchased at <https://www.lancasteragcouncil.com/denim-pearls-dinner>. This farm to fork dinner celebrates locally grown or processed foods, in an upmarket atmosphere.

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## Board of Directors

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Kenneth Meck  
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Jay Snyder  
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Kim Dugan, *Sec./Receptionist*  
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Emily Broich, *Resource Conservationist*  
Liz Deming, *Resource Conservationist*  
Jim Fricke, *Resource Conservationist*  
Veronica Robbins, *Resource Conservationist*  
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Kevin Seibert, *Ag Compliance Coordinator*  
James Saltsman, *Ag Eng Tech Spec*  
Adam Hartz, *Ag Eng Tech Spec*  
Kent Bitting, *Professional Engineer*  
Francesca DePrator, *Ag Compl. Insp*  
Justin Furnia, *Ag Compliance Insp*  
Nick Biondi, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Greg Heigel, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Kevin Lutz, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Steven Reiff, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Maddie Klein, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Eric Knoll, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Samantha Todt, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Brittany Smith, *Ag Conservation Tech*  
Dennis Eby, *Plain Sect Outreach*

### Watershed and Education

Shelly Dehoff, *Ag/Public Liaison*  
Sallie Gregory, *Education Coordinator*  
Matthew Kofroth, *Watershed Specialist*  
Nate Straw, *Watershed Assistant*  
Allyson Gibson, *Clean Water Partners Coord.*

## USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Heather Grove, *District Conservationist*  
Kefeni Kejela, *Soil Conservation/District Conservationist*  
Gary Ballina, *Civil Engineering Tech*  
Axel Acevedo, *Soil Conservation Tech*  
Mark Myers, *Soil Conservationist*  
Sally Barnes, *Soil Conservation Tech*  
Meeghan Orr, *Program Assistant*  
Ashley Spotts, *Restoration Specialist-CBF*  
Jeff Sholly, *TAG Engineer*  
Jenna Emore, *Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever*

## Lancaster Co.

## Conservation District

1383 Arcadia Rd., Room 200  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone: 717-299-5361 Fax: 717-299-9459  
www.lancasterconservation.org

## Meet Newest Staff

Meet the newest staff with the Lancaster County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

**Francesca DePrator** is the new Agriculture Compliance Specialist. Originally from Lancaster County, she earned her B.S. in Environmental Science from Allegheny College in 2016 and her M.S. in Environment and Natural Resources from the Ohio State University in 2018. In her free time, Francesca enjoys reading, cooking, and hiking with her husband.



Francesca DePrator



Liz Deming

**Liz Deming** is a new Resource Conservationist at the District. She is a 2015 graduate of Elizabethtown College, where she received her B.S. in Environmental Science. She enjoys running, gardening, and cooking. Previously, Liz worked in the environmental consulting industry dealing with contaminated sites. Liz is excited to expand into the field of erosion and sedimentation control.

**Samantha Todt** is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the District. She is a 2016 Delaware Valley University graduate, with a B.S. in Environmental Science. She comes from a 600 acre family farm in Adams County, currently living in Hanover, PA. She is excited to start assisting farmers in conserving Lancaster County's farmland and natural resources for future generations. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family, photography and working her own business as a Senior Consultant with Thirty-one.



Samantha Todt



Veronica Robbins

**Veronica Robbins** is a new Resource Conservationist at the District. She is a 2017 graduate of Penn State University, where she received her B.S. in Environmental Resource Management. Previously, Veronica worked in Maryland and Virginia conducting erosion and sediment inspections for residential builders. In her spare time she enjoys hiking and camping.

**Meeghan Orr**, NRCS Program Assistant, graduated in 2013 from Penn State Berks with a degree in American Studies and an emphasis on early American Agriculture as well as Race, Racism, and Race Relations. Upon graduation, Meeghan began her own herbal business, Wise Oak Herbs, where she crafts herbal remedies for her local community. Meeghan lives in Lancaster with her husband, Ian, where they get into all sorts of mischief creating a simple and sustainable life.



Meeghan Orr



Paula Harnish

As we greet several new staff, we get ready to share all best wishes to Paula Harnish, Administrative Assistant, who begins retirement in November. Paula has been with the Conservation District for 20 years. Her vital role at the District will be missed by all. Her dedication and commitment to everything she has worked with is greatly appreciated.

## Teacher Take Aways

### New Program Guide

Out of your seat activities, outdoor activities, classroom activities, and hands on activities fill the NEW Education Program Guide. All aspects of the District's Education Programs are meant to address PA Environment and Ecology Standards. Many programs also touch on standards relating to history, reading, math, and writing. Find the guide at [www.lancasterconservation.org](http://www.lancasterconservation.org) under the Education tab.



### Lancaster County Envirothons

An Envirothon is an academic contest for Lancaster County students. Advised by teachers, students engage in study and teamwork to demonstrate their skill at nature knowledge. It's a Natural Challenge for students in grades 3-12. Click [www.lancasterconservation.org](http://www.lancasterconservation.org) Education tab to learn more about the Junior Envirothon, Middle School Envirothon, and Senior High Envirothon.



## Honoring Those Recognized

During the recent Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. and the State Conservation Commission 71<sup>st</sup> Joint Annual Conference, several conservationists from across the state were recognized. The Lancaster County Conservation District is pleased to honor Jay Snyder, Board Director who received the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award. Jay is well deserving of this honor as many would say at the local level. It's wonderful to share his dedication and commitment to conservation statewide.



Jay Snyder



Matt Kofroth

Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist, was recognized by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay receiving the Watershed Champion award during their annual Environmental Awards at Annapolis, MD. As the Watershed Specialist for almost 20 years, Matt has coordinated volunteer monitoring programs, helped to organize local watershed associations, reviewed and written grants for restoration projects and created resource for county homeowners to improve their water use. In the truest sense of the action of a champion, Matt has an unrivaled commitment to bettering the waterways of Lancaster County.

Sonia Wasco was recognized at the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School for 40 years of service to the program. Commissioner Craig Lehman honored her with a proclamation on behalf of the county. Her dedication and leadership is an inspiration to volunteer staff. Sonia's commitment to motivating and working with a new class of students each year is a hallmark of the unique educational program.



Sonia Wasco

## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

### Grazing, Cover Crops, and Soil Health Field Day

9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Verdant View Farm 429 Strasburg Road, Paradise, PA 17562



## The Effect of De-icers on Water Quality, Plants, and Aquatic Life

### Types of de-icers

- \* Chloride based- tend to be very mobile and last a long time
- \* Acetates- requires large amounts of oxygen to decompose
- \* Carbohydrates- usually made from the fermentation of grains or the processing of sugar



### Water Quality

Once de-icers are used they quickly infiltrate groundwater, and runoff with surface water. In general, there are very few natural methods that remove the de-icers. Dilution tends to be the only way to reduce the concentration. Contamination leads to a higher water density, and stratification within the body of water. This limits the movement of nutrients to the upper layers of water, and oxygen reaching the bottom layers.

### Plant Life

De-icers limit the growth of grass, shrubs, and other foliage that is close to the road. They cause severe dehydration, as well as osmotic stress that limits growth, uptake of nutrients, and seed germination.



### Aquatic Life

Many de-icers are toxic to aquatic life such as macroinvertebrates, fish, insects, and amphibians. Food sources and dissolved oxygen levels tend to be lower in areas with high de-icer concentrations. De-icers in general also increase turbidity which further limits where species can survive in some areas.



—Mitchell Gochnauer, LCCD Intern

## Low Volume Road Program Update

Lancaster County's Low Volume Road Program has been operating for 5 years with great success. This past year there were 2 Low Volume Road funding rounds for local municipalities, one in the spring (April) and the other in the fall (September). The spring round was a result of some additional funding provided to the program from the state and the fall round was a normal Low Volume Road round. Lots of great projects that improve local water quality have been funded through this program and many more are still to come. A list of funded projects follows.



SPRING AWARDEES		
Municipality	Road Name	Awarded Amount
East Cocalico Township	Buzzard Road	\$25,677.54
East Cocalico Township	Indiandale Road	\$6,768.72
Earl Township	Cabin Road	\$24,164.10
Lititz Borough	West Lockup Lane	\$60,120.00
City of Lancaster	North Christian Street	\$133,219.64
FALL AWARDEES		
Municipality	Road Name	Awarded Amount
Drumore Township	Scalpy Hollow Road	\$35,729.00
Drumore Township	Furniss Road	\$35,582.00
East Earl Township	Turkey Hill Road	\$10,905.00
West Lampeter Township	Mentzer Road	\$86,785.00
Conestoga Township	Valley Road	\$8,402.00
Earl Township	Redwell Road	\$11,496.00
East Petersburg Borough	Garden Street	\$36,354.00



Funding for Dirt & Gravel Road will open January 2019. Applications are due February 15, 2019. Applicants will be notified of project funding awards in early March, keep your eyes open for this next grant round.

The next Low Volume Road funding round will take place next June through August 12, 2019. Applicants applying for Low Volume Road funding will be notified of awards in September of 2019. If you have any questions about the Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Rd. Program please feel free to contact the Conservation District to answer your Dirt & Gravel or Low Volume Road questions.

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



## The Spotted Lanternfly has arrived!

*What you need to know to be prepared.*

This past year it has almost been impossible to not hear about the Spotted Lanternfly in the news. It is an invasive insect that was first spotted in Berks County in 2014 and has since spread. In November 2017, Lancaster County was added to the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone, which is made up of 13 counties in Southeast Pennsylvania. The Spotted Lanternfly is poised to become a major threat to the agricultural industry in PA, with potential to impact the grape, fruit and hardwood tree, and nursery industries.

With fall fast approaching there are some steps that you as a homeowner can take to address Spotted Lanternflies.

### Identify

The first step is to identify the Spotted Lanternfly. By the fall you should see eggs and the adult Spotted Lanternfly. The adult is about 1 inch long and when at rest its black head and grayish wings with black spots are visible. The tips of the wings also have small black rectangular blocks and when it flies the hind wings are red with black spots.

The Spotted Lanternfly will begin laying eggs at the end of September and continue till early December. The egg masses are about 1 inch long and have a light gray, mud like covering, which over time can look dry and cracked. As the season goes on the egg masses lose their covering and reveal seed-like eggs. The egg masses are laid on smooth surfaces such as trees, stones, and manmade items such as vehicles, yard furniture, or any other items stored outside.

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**Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses - Fresh** Freshly laid egg masses, which are about 1" long and laid on hard surfaces, including trees, stones, patio furniture, etc. The egg masses are covered in a white putty-like substance, which age over time to look like cracked mud. Image by Erica Smyers.



**Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses - Old** Old egg masses, which have the putty or mud-like covering worn off. Here, you can see each individual seed-like egg. Image by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

## Management

The best management a homeowner can do in the fall is to identify egg masses and get rid of them. If you find eggs on trees or other objects, scrape them off with a plastic card, like a credit card, or another flat object into a bag or container filled with isopropyl alcohol or hand sanitizer. The egg masses can also be smashed. If you find adult Spotted Lanternflies you can swat at them to kill them or vacuum them up to get rid of them. It is best starting with mechanical approaches and physically dealing with the pest instead of pesticides. When a bad infestation exists or you want to use pesticides, it is best to consult with a professional such as a local landscape company or Penn State Extension.

Another good management tool to slow their dispersal is to manage Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an invasive tree, that is the preferred host plant of the Spotted Lanternfly. The trees resemble black walnut, hickory, and staghorn sumacs with a compound leaf that vaguely resembles a multiple petal palm frond. The bark has a cantaloupe skin like appearance and when its leaves and other plant parts are crushed it is said to smell like rotten peanut butter. Tree of Heaven should be removed from your property. Consult Penn State Extension or a local arborist regarding removal. You can leave some of the male tree-of-heaven to be used as trap trees. These trees will attract Spotted Lanternfly and the trees can then be treated with an insecticide. Again, it is recommended that you contact a professional that can help you set up a plan of action and to identify tree-of-heaven.

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-what-to-look-for>

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

[https://lancasteronline.com/search/?sd=desc&l=25&s=start\\_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cyoutube%2Ccollection&app=editorial&nsa=edition&q=Spotted+lanternfly](https://lancasteronline.com/search/?sd=desc&l=25&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cyoutube%2Ccollection&app=editorial&nsa=edition&q=Spotted+lanternfly)

[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/default.aspx)

[https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/Agriculture\\_details.aspx?newsid=616](https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/Agriculture_details.aspx?newsid=616)

[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/program-information/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/program-information/Pages/default.aspx)

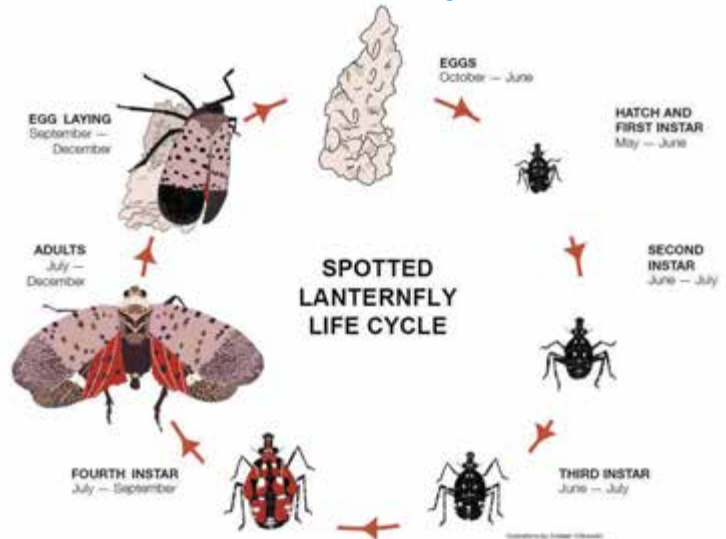
<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/blog/invasive-species-spotlight-tree-heaven-ailanthus-altissima-and-spotted-lanternfly>

## Contain

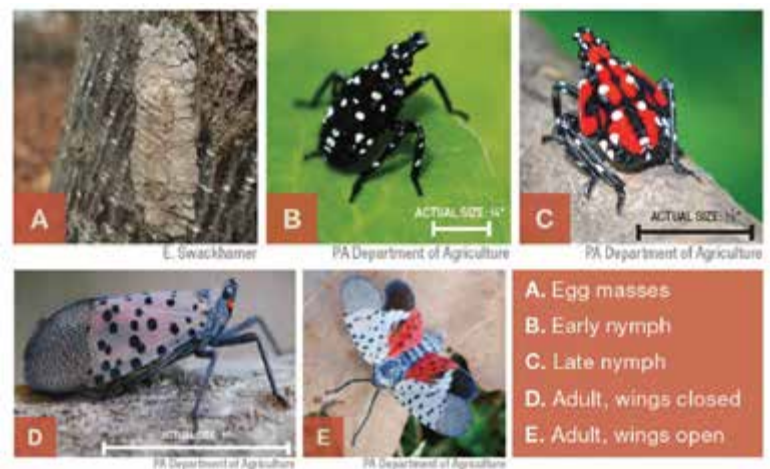
Managing the Spotted Lanternfly on your property is a great way to help limit its spread and damage. It is currently in 13 counties of Pennsylvania but that doesn't mean it won't keep spreading. It is important to remember that when you travel outside of the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone there is the chance you can spread this pest. Before leaving quarantine areas make sure to check your car before you leave and any equipment or items you are bringing with that could have been outside at some point. Egg masses, nymphs, and even adults could try and hitch a ride.

If you do spot a Spotted Lanternfly or its egg remember to collect it, crush it, and call it in. Report sightings online to <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly>, email [badbug@pa.gov](mailto:badbug@pa.gov), or call 1-866-253-7189. For more information contact your local Penn State Extension office or Conservation District.

—Eric Knoll, Ag Conservation Technician



**Life Cycle of Spotted Lanternfly** The life cycle of spotted lanternfly, beginning from egg to adult. There is one generation per year in Pennsylvania. Adults die in the winter, and the eggs overwinter and hatch in the spring. Taken from Penn State Extension "Spotted Lanternfly: what to Look For" document.



**Life Stages of Spotted Lanternfly** All life stages of the spotted lanternfly, from egg to adult. Taken from Penn State Extension "Spotted Lanternfly: what to Look For" document.

## It Can Be a Challenge to Be Thankful for Rain in Years like This

While it does take effort, pasture management during a normal year is pretty simple. A vigorous stand of maintained grass is crucial to promote good forage quality, reduce presence of invasive plants, and protect soil from erosion. Deferring grazing in the spring until the soil is firm is also a good idea. It's beneficial to delay grazing a field until the grasses reach 6" and remove the animals when grass heights are grazed down to 3". Rotating livestock among paddocks or grazing areas to prevent overgrazing of forage is also encouraged. What about years like 2018 where there's more rain than we know what to do with? What's to be done with a pasture unable to drain a large amount of rain? It's important to have a contingency plan.

Think about it this way; forward pasture planning can lead to better grazing for your animals and potentially lower hay costs in the future! Animals on wet ground lead to mud and compaction inevitably follows. Pasture grasses weaken; weeds now have room to grow. Desirable plants can't grow in compacted soil, so undesirable plants that are well adapted to these conditions take over.

One of the best ways to manage mud in pastures is to keep the animals out of these areas, although this is not always entirely feasible. If an improved area isn't available for restricted animals, consider fencing a smaller area for them within a pasture. A temporary Livestock Concentration Area, or sacrifice area, provides a place to put animals while pastures rest. It is called

a sacrifice area because a small portion of ground is "sacrificed" for the benefit of the remaining pasture. The size of the area can vary to fit the size of the farm and the number of animals, but the siting of the area is vital for its success. Location, location, location!!

Choose a well-drained sacrifice area away from streams, ponds, swales, wetlands or other sources of clean water; ideally, located on higher ground. Any upslope runoff will need to be diverted around it. If the area is near buildings, install spouting and make sure that the downspouts run away and around the area. As rain falls on the sacrifice area it will often pick up sediment from bare soil and bacteria and nutrients from manure. Surrounding the sacrifice area with grass or other plants will help filter out these contaminants before they have a chance to reach nearby streams. When the conditions do clear up, and they will - eventually, the pastures can be used again. Accumulated manure and feed should be removed from the sacrifice area and vegetation established for the next growing season. Remember to keep monitoring pastures when conditions deteriorate to determine if animals need to be removed.

For more information about pasture planning, as well as other technical and financial assistance opportunities offered by NRCS, visit the NRCS Field Office in Room 200 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Centre or call (717) 299-5361 x. 3.

—Sally Barnes, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

## Stream Maintenance after Flooding Events



According to U.S. Climate Data's website, Lancaster County receives an annual rainfall of approximately 42.81 inches per year. Currently, Lancaster County has exceeded the average annual rainfall by 3.57 inches with approximately 46.38 inches of rain as of September 10, 2018 (data compiled from Millersville University's Weather Information Center). Recently, flash flooding in parts of northwestern Lancaster County, including heavily hit Mount Joy, caused concern for residents and motorists when approximately 10.5 inches of rainfall occurred over a nine hour timespan on August 31 (Brackett, 2018). When dealing with the aftermath of such high level intensity rain events, it is important to recognize what options are available to help maintain the streams and waterways affected by floodwaters.

In general, the removal of debris within a stream channel does not need formal authorization or notification to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), so long as the removal efforts avoid altering the stream channel or banks.

This would also include the removal of debris that can be completed from the streambank, such as lifting out the debris, and the removal of debris that has accumulated in and around a structure, such as a bridge or culvert. For more information on maintaining streams visit <http://lanasterconservation.org/erosion-sedimentation/surface-water-projects/stream-encroachment/>

In the case of extreme flooding events, the Department may issue emergency permits under PA Code §105.64 if it finds the immediate remedial action is necessary to alleviate an imminent threat to life, property, or the environment. Examples include, but are not limited to, the repair or replacement of damaged culverts, bridges, or other stream crossings, and streambank stabilization. Emergency permits approved by the Department will expire 60 days after the effective date of the permit unless extended in writing.

Conducting routine maintenance of debris on your property or near waterways can help to minimize the buildup of debris that may dam up streams or backup storm water facilities during storm events. Questions regarding the handling and disposal of flood debris and whether a proposed stream activity would require permitting can be directed to the Lancaster County Conservation District (717-392-4911 ext. 5) or the PADEP South Central Regional Office (Main Office: 717-705-4700 and 24-Hour Emergency: 866-825-0208).

—Liz Deming, Resource Conservationist





## Lancaster County Animal Response Team

In times of emergency, the Lancaster County Animal Response Team or CART could provide a rapid, coordinated and effective response to an emergency affecting animals. Cart is deployed through Lancaster County Dispatch – 911 system. Trained volunteers are on call 7 days per week, 24 hours per day to respond to animal related emergencies.

Source: [www.facebook.com/LancasterCountyAnimalResponseTeam/](http://www.facebook.com/LancasterCountyAnimalResponseTeam/)



## EXTRAORDINARY GIVE NOVEMBER 16

Benefits Youth Education

This **November 16** get ready for something EXTRA that happens to be the largest day of giving in Lancaster County. Look for the **Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County** at [www.Extragive.org](http://www.Extragive.org). On that day, the Foundation is participating in the Extraordinary Give. Each dollar donated to the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County goes to the **Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and the Lancaster County Envirothons**, two out-of-the-ordinary learning experiences for students throughout Lancaster County. For 24-hours only, visit [www.Extragive.org](http://www.Extragive.org) make a donation and every dollar you donate will be stretched by the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

Your donation to the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and Lancaster County Envirothons helps to provide supplies, transportation, and programming for totally unique educational programs enriching the lives of students ages 8-18 who participate.

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

—Sallie Gregory, Education Coordinator

## Lancaster County Streambank Fencing and No-till Tobacco Program

Protecting Lancaster County's water resources is an effort that has been on-going for several decades. Recently there has been a resurgence of interest and funding available for landowners looking to do more for their local watersheds. After all, clean water affects all who live here, the food we eat, crops grown, the products manufactured, and overall quality of life.

A developing synergy exists toward healthy waterways that continue to expand among both regional conservation groups and local organizations throughout Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This collaboration acknowledges that no single policy, organization, or program can tackle or solve complex social or environmental problems alone.

As a part of this momentum, the Lancaster County Conservation District was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The award takes a two-pronged approach, offering incentive payments for farmers who create managed access areas installing fencing around streams to control livestock access and/or planting no-till tobacco for the first time.

The program will pay an incentive rate per linear foot of fencing installed, including incentives for one cattle crossing and alternative watering site. Design and permitting will be done at no cost by Conservation District staff. A setback of fencing of 35 feet is preferred. Managed access areas can still be flash grazed or mowed. For farms in need, the program will also provide a written Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation Plan and Manure Management Plan. The deadline to apply for the fencing program is October 19, 2018.

The program is part of a regional focus centered on restoring the health of Lancaster's local watersheds. Limiting livestock access to a stream reduces nutrients and bacteria from entering waterways and improves the overall health of the herd. Streambanks that are open to livestock can become trampled as the animals enter and exit the water, degrading the streambanks increasing potential pollution in the stream. An established vegetative buffer along a waterway allows plant stems and roots to filter sediment from runoff, which prevent erosion in the long term.

Soil health is also important to local waterways. No-till tobacco may be a great fit for someone already farming tobacco that is also planting no-till corn and alfalfa as there is no need to interrupt the no-till system for plowing. Grant funding includes incentive payments of \$100 per acre and rental costs of the transplanter for a maximum of 3 acres of no-till tobacco. The incentive program is limited to the first 15 growers that sign up by April 30, 2019.

This grant program is one small step in a much larger initiative to make waterways "clean and clear in a generation". There is a tremendous opportunity to improve and protect local natural resources. For more information or to apply for funding, contact Dennis Eby at the Lancaster County Conservation District at 717-874-2552.

—Brittany Smith, Ag Conservation Technician



# Winter Application of Manure

While winter manure spreading is discouraged, it is still acceptable in Pennsylvania. All manure application at any time of year must be done with guidance from a Manure Management Plan. In order to spread manure during winter season, specific applications of manure must be calculated and listed in either the operation's Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan.

## Maximum Total Winter Application Rates

5,000 gallons/acre liquid manure
20 tons/acre solid non-poultry manure
3 tons/acre dry poultry manure

As a reminder, winter is defined by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission as:

**On or between the dates of December 15- February 28 OR  
If the ground is frozen 4 inches or deeper OR  
If the ground is snow covered**

Additional winter application requirements follow:

Maintain 100 feet from any wellhead, spring, sinkhole, stream, lake, or pond. Reduced setbacks due to permanent vegetative buffers do not apply during winter.

Slopes greater than 15% cannot be winter applied.

Stay 100 feet from above-ground inlets to agricultural drainage systems where the surface flows toward the inlet.

Stay 100 feet from wetlands with a 100-year floodplain and surface flow is toward the wetland.

Fields receiving manure applications must have a 25% crop residue cover (corn silage and low yielding soybean fields typically do not) or an established cover crop.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permitted operations have additional restrictions. Please see your Nutrient Management Plan for guidance.

Winter manure applications should be minimized as much as possible by spreading only the amount that is necessary and spread in areas that will minimize impact to water quality. Reducing the rate of spreading also helps minimize manure



runoff potential. Solid manure can be easily stockpiled during winter. If you do have spreading clearance within your Nutrient Management Plan, keep in mind to prioritize fields that have a living cover planted which helps reduce nutrient loss by active nitrogen uptake.

Freeboard is the distance measured from the top of the manure storage. Freeboard is required at all times and is not part of the useable capacity of the manure storage facility. The required minimum freeboard for storage facilities is 6-inches for all manure storage facilities except for the following conditions:

12-inch minimum freeboard for storage ponds.

24-inch minimum freeboard for manure storage facilities that are exposed to rainfall and on an operation with over 1,000 AEU's that was new or expanded after January 29, 2000.

When in doubt, don't spread! If you have questions or think it might be time to upgrade your manure storage capacity, please contact the Lancaster County Conservation District for assistance at 717-299-5361 x.5.

*-Brittany Smith, Ag Conservation Technician*

**DATESAVER:  
TREE SALE 2019  
APRIL 11, 2019  
TREE SALE PICK UP  
Tree Sale order forms  
will be available  
February 4, 2019**



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**THURSDAY, Oct 11, Noon – 12:45 PM – LUNCHTIME WEBINAR** "Managing Farmland for Yields and Wildlife". Presented by the PA Game Commission and the Lancaster County Conservation District, the link to participate or watch it later is found at [www.lancasterconservation.org](http://www.lancasterconservation.org).

**THURSDAY, Oct 11, 6-8 PM – SHORT FILM PREMIERE;** "Lay of the Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Water" about how local farmers are growing crops, building soil health, and protecting water quality. Held at Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster; it is free to attend. RSVPs appreciated to Stroud Water Research Center at 610-268-2153, ext. 288.

**FRIDAY, Oct 12, 5-9 PM - 2nd FRIDAY DOWNTOWN LITITZ,** highlighting local merchants and restaurants who sell Lancaster County produced or processed items.

## ADDITIONAL FARM HAPPENINGS

"A Time of Harvest" at Rough & Tumble in Kinzers on Oct 12 - 13. <http://www.roughandtumble.org/viewreference/44/eventschedules/>

"Harvest Days" at Landis Valley on Oct 13 - 14. <https://www.landisvalleymuseum.org/event/harvest-days/>

Tours will be available during the week, organized by the Lancaster Chamber. Details and RSVP information can be found at <http://www.lancasterchamber.com/event.aspx?eid=3118#.W5-7EvYpBPZ>

Questions or more details about Ag Week or particular events, please contact Shelly Dehoff at [shellydehoff@lancasterconservation.org](mailto:shellydehoff@lancasterconservation.org) or 717-880-0848.