

# Bringing Conservation HOME



LANCASTER COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2020

Annual  
Report



# 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Zucchini Bread



3 eggs, well beaten	1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. white sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
1 c. brown sugar	1 tsp. salt
1 c. veggie oil	A Dash of cloves
2 c. grated and peeled zucchini	2 ½ tsp cinnamon
2 tsp vanilla	1/2 to 1 c. nuts (optional)
3 c. flour	

Combine wet ingredients well in large bowl. Mix dry ingredients well in separate bowl. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix completely. Pour in to loaf pans and bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes.

## January - December Income

County Funding Income	247,500.00
Non-Lapsing Program	
Funding	1,674,870.41
Grant Administration Income	271,927.23
Fee Income	587,917.30
Interest Income	23,187.58
Sales Income	44,205.09
Activity Income	11,374.85
Release of FY2019/2020	
Health Pool	61,322.00
Other Income	3,536.73
Grant Income	1,927,547.80
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,853,388.99</b>

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## Expense

Employee Salary and Wages	1,872,774.38
Employee Benefits	614,685.13
Travel Expenses	37,464.12
Vehicle Purchase	28,830.00
Meeting Expenses	5,133.91
Supplies	20,039.21
Communication Costs	3,576.66
Postage and Meter Rental	6,743.84
Office Rent	103,382.40
Office equipment/computers	24,176.25
CRM Cargas database	21,951.20
IT support services	27,005.19
Administrative	54,186.08
District Activities	39,905.87
Miscellaneous	582.47
BMP/Grant Projects	1,015,440.93
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,875,877.64</b>

## 2020 Net Change in Cash Assets

General Operations & Reserve	42,321.47
E&S Department	23,604.56
District Activities	20,220.23
Grant Funds	891,365.09
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>977,511.35</b>

# Board of Directors Chairperson's Message

In 2020 due to COVID-19, we worked to ensure safety of our team and associates. We implemented working from home and modified scheduled time in the office. We pivoted away from the normal way work was done. While doing all this at the Conservation District, we also became more creative, redesigned our plans, stretched our minds to look for new solutions, and made things work despite the changes. Bringing conversation home allowed the staff to continue working, and later staff working in team rotations in the office kept programs moving forward through the end of the year. Some recipes are included in the annual report for your enjoyment as the staff spent more time enjoying some home cooking.

The program reports for the year 2020 are unique, however, you'll see a similar theme running through each report. Adaptability. Never would have guessed I'd be writing about Zooming Through Conservation. Staff meetings, project meetings, classroom visits, and board meetings have all taken place virtually. Adapting to technologies and building skills to discuss issues in a virtual space supported the mission of the District through the pandemic. With a moment to reflect on 2020 I think we'll find some good things that have come from the pandemic pivot and a new path going into 2021 with reminders of our new abilities and resiliency that keeps conservation zooming ahead for Lancaster County.

Daniel Heller - **Chairperson,**  
**Board of Directors**

# District Manager Message

Although Lancaster County seemed to largely escape a direct impact of the issues we faced as a nation in 2020: racial tensions and riots coupled with calls to defund the police; droughts and wildfires in the West, hurricanes and flooding across the south; Polarizing politics and partisan rancor throughout; no one escaped the impact of the national and state's response to the Corona Virus, Covid-19.

Reflecting on those influences, the District initially slowed down a little, but then quickly adapted and responded with resiliency and innovation. Staff and directors developed new ways of thinking and working and made sure to keep the Conservation District's mission of environmental stewardship moving forward.

In this report, you'll see how our programs and projects continued to improve water quality and manage valuable soil resources throughout the county. A few highlights from the year include:

- Completion of the District's 5 year Strategic Plan. The plan creates a path forward for each of our core programs to ensure we are adapting to current issues and planning for programs and tools for future efforts.
- Implementation of the new Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) which staff helped to develop in partnership with the State Conservation Commission and York County Conservation District.
- Participating in the State's pilot phase of the tier 1 Countywide Action Plan (CAP) which outlines the county's share of the state's 2025 pollution reduction goals to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay.
- Helping to develop and pilot the Chesapeake Bay Program's Phase II Inspection and BMP implementation program.
- Contracted with Paragon Consulting, a human resource consulting firm, to support the directors, staff and administration in all things related to managing staffing resource issues.
- Building on the success of the No-Till Incentive program, we partnered with the Keith Campbell Foundation to develop and implement a new manure injection incentive program.
- Recognized Commissioner Craig Lehman for his 13 years of service to the district and welcomed Commissioner Ray D'Agostino as our new County representative. In December 2020, Board Chair, Dan Heller, recognized Commissioner Lehman and thanked him for all the insight he shared on critical issues over the years concluded his service on the Lancaster County Board of Directors.

As you can, and will see as you read on, despite the realities and restrictions of the pandemic, the District never stopped serving the residents of Lancaster County. I'm proud of our accomplishments and count it a privilege to work side by side with such a passionate group of individuals, staff, directors and our many conservation partners.

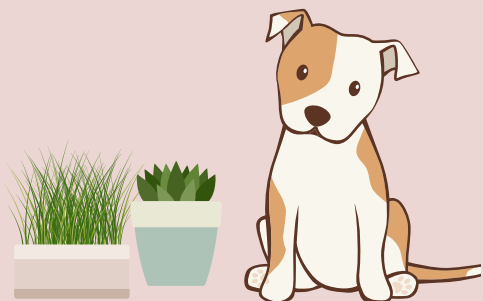
Christopher Thompson - **District Manager**

## Pup Popsicles



- 1 ripe banana
- 2 T. plain yogurt
- 2 T. natural or regular peanut butter

Blend everything together until smooth and freeze in small portions.  
Favorite of both dogs and the dog walker.



# Erosion and Sedimentation

Like other organizations, 2020 was a year of change and adaptation for the E&S (Erosion and Sedimentations) department. A pandemic was certainly not on anyone's agenda at the Conservation District's strategic planning meeting in February. Nonetheless, staff adjusted to an evolving set of circumstances and new work-style surrounding Covid-19, with flexibility and consideration from the administration and Board of Directors. The past year also brought staffing changes. After many years at the District, Nate Kurtz moved on to new opportunities and staff welcomed Rich Snyder as the new Department Manager.

Following the initial phases of remote work in March and April due to state stay-at-home orders, staff resumed field work in May as many contractors also anxiously returned to work. The abrupt interruption to construction schedules left some sites without time to implement temporary stabilization measures before state restrictions took effect. E&S controls were put to the test while contractors worked to catch up once returning to job sites. Restrictions early in the spring limited field presence. However, staff re-established routine inspection schedules and conducted 601 total inspections by the end of the year.

Building continued across many industry sectors including new agriculture, residential, and school construction, as well as commercial and industrial development. Several electric transmission line upgrading projects were ongoing, along with other utility projects, while the Atlantic Sunrise and Mariner East II pipelines began the permit termination process.

## Year 2020 Chapter 102 / Chapter 105 Activity

E&S Plans	344
Project Acres	5546
Disturbed Acres	1439
Review Fees Collected	\$407,612
General NPDES Permits	147
Ind. NPDES Permits	19
NPDES Permit Fees Collected	\$82,500
Complaints Received	129
Site Inspections	601
Chapter 105 General Permits	116
Enforcement Actions	2

In spite of the pandemic, plan submissions for review remained relatively steady and balanced across building sectors, with staff reviewing an overall greater area of disturbed acreage than in 2019. The E&S team reviewed 344 plans in total, including 147 General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and 19 Individual NPDES permits. Staff also acknowledged several Chapter 105 permits for large stream restoration projects in Brecknock, Conoy, East Cocalico, Martic, and Strasburg townships, evidence of wider efforts underway to improve local watersheds and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Staff also dedicated time to complaint investigations this year. Two heavy precipitation events in early August prompted several calls to the Conservation District as areas of the county experienced localized flooding and severe runoff. Collectively, staff responded to 129 complaints in 2020, a notable increase from 2019.

Looking ahead to additional changes from PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the E&S Department prepared for a shift to Chapter 102 ePermitting in the coming year with the purchase of larger computer monitors to accommodate electronic plan review. The E&S Department looks forward to recovering from the stress of the unexpected over the past year. We appreciate the ways that technology helped us to continue connecting with coworkers, DEP, partners, and the regulated community. 2021 promises to allow for stronger field presence and outreach efforts, and we look forward to additional opportunities to engage with partners and cooperating agencies to continue implementation of the Chapter 102 and 105 programs.

Emily Broich , Ryan Weck - **Resource Conservationists**



*Lack of adequate E&S controls were noted during a routine inspection of a utility line ROW project and later corrected by the permittee.*



# Agriculture Program

Looking back on 2020, many would say it was a recipe for disaster. Like when you try baking that traditional family recipe but it never comes out quite right and you keep pushing through the disappointment and frustration until it comes out just right. For the Conservation District Ag Staff, that's exactly how 2020 felt to us. It was a year of trials, tribulations, and learning how to continue the good work of the District, amid a global pandemic. From traversing remote working, Zoom meetings, alternating office schedules, and trying to conduct farm visits via phone and email; it was quite a change of pace. Towards the end of the year, farm visits, in the field work, and more frequent in-office days were able to resume while following all CDC guidelines, and things began to feel normal again. Through all of the hurdles 2020 threw at us, much like trying to make that perfect family recipe, the Ag staff pushed through their large workloads and had a very successful year meeting our department goals.

The Ag department does a wide variety of things; from reviewing and approving Nutrient Management Plans and writing Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation (Ag E&S) or Conservation Plans to designing and implementing agricultural BMP (best management practices). Each technician in our department is like an ingredient to the recipe; when all the ingredients get mixed just right, the outcome is outstanding. The "ingredients" of Lancaster County worked hard for the common goal of conservation and did some amazing things in 2020 amid everything that happened. Over 1,200 new acres were planned in either Ag E&S or Conservation Plans. 183 BMP were implemented, which is up from the 100 BMP implemented in 2019. Of those 183 BMP implemented, there were over 7 acres of grassed waterways installed, 12 waste storage facilities built, over 7,000 feet of terraces developed and 17 stream crossings put in place. Ninety-three Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans were also reviewed and approved. These numbers are a direct reflection of the great work that was still able to be completed in conjunction with all the redirections and restrictions that 2020 presented.

One of the biggest achievements for the Ag department was their role in being a pilot county (along with York County) in developing the procedures around a new funding opportunity known as the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG). This funding source provides technical and financial assistance for the implementation of BMP on agricultural operations. It was derived from the 2019 PA Farm Bill, administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) with delegation to county conservation districts to assist with reviewing, ranking,



*Animal Trail with fencing*

and approving applications. This funding opportunity has the potential of setting record breaking BMP implementation numbers in the county over the next several years. What sets this funding source apart from other options is its use and combination of grant money, Agri-Link low interest loans, Resource Enhancement and Protections Program (REAP) tax credits, along with direct farmer funds. Several projects will be completed in early 2021 using this funding source.

To summarize, 2020 was a difficult year for the Ag Staff but we can say with confidence that it was still a very successful year: our recipe came out just right. We learned how to handle new situations and overcome new obstacles; making it quite a milestone year for the books. As we look forward to 2021, the same situations and obstacles may still be present but we're now more equipped and ready to take on anything that comes our way. We are all excited for what 2021 will bring, as it has the potential to be a record-breaking year for the District's Ag Staff in BMP implementation for the county. This will be a huge accomplishment in cleaning up Lancaster County waters and forever impacting our natural resources for generations to come.

Samantha Adams - *Ag Conservation Technician*

## Compliance Inspection Report

Q1-Q2	184 Initial Inspections
Q3-Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70 Initial Inspections;</li><li>• 13 Phase 2 Inspections</li></ul>



*Manure Storage*



*Waterway*



*Stream Crossing with fencing*



# Watershed Program



The District's Watershed program was kept very busy during 2020. Despite the pandemic stream restoration activities and water quality data gathering continued throughout the year and even grew as the year went on.

During the spring months, the watershed program worked with East Lampeter Township on their Gibbons Park at Nolt's Mill stream restoration project. This project, funded by a PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Prevention grant restored nearly 1,500 linear ft. of the mainstem of the Mill Creek. The project, just upstream of the Route 340 bridge, regraded fragile 6-7-foot vertical stream banks, installed some much needed in-stream aquatic habitat, and wrapped it all up with a native tree and shrub planting measuring nearly 2.5 acres in size. The soon-to-be public park now has a great accessible stream corridor that protects the stream from nearby adjacent land uses. Additionally, the site can be used as an educational opportunity. This was a win-win project.

Later in the summer, the watershed program ventured onto a larger project along the mainstem of the Pequea Creek. This large-scale agriculture linked stream restoration project involved restoring over 2,400 linear foot of severely degraded pasture land into a trout stocking area along Route 896 or White Horse Road, and was funded through a DEP Growing Greener grant and Exelon Habitat Improvement Funds. In-stream habitat was installed, a remnant dam was removed and a smaller feeder stream was improved in the process. On the agricultural side of the project over 3,500 feet of streambank fencing was installed along with two livestock crossings. Topping the entire project off, over 1,500 native trees and shrubs were planted to protect the newly restored stream corridor and created nearly 4 acres of riparian buffer habitat in the process. This highly visible project is one that will

showcase local conservation efforts in a watershed that has a lot of potential for interest in similar future projects.

The District's Watershed program wrapped up the year with a small stream project on Black Creek at Brubaker Park in Brecknock Township. The Township had a small section of Black Creek, before it enters Muddy Creek, that was suffering from increased streambank erosion and lack of riparian cover. A local sportsman club uses this section of stream for a youth trout derby every year. They were looking for a project that incorporated bank stabilization along with some in-stream fishery habitat. Using Exelon Habitat Improvement funds the District completed a 500 linear foot stream project in the fall of the year that resulted in a great addition to the park. The buffer aspect of the project will be planted in the spring of 2021 with the rest of the project completed and functioning great.

Finally, with some additional DEP/EPA Section 319 funds the District installed 4 Continuous Instream Monitoring units or CIMs in the Mill Creek Watershed in 2020. These units will gather real-time water quality data in this watershed and create a baseline of water quality data that currently does not exist in the county. Parameters like pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity will give the District and partner organizations a better idea of the effects of conservation efforts throughout the watershed. Two additional CIMs will be installed in the Conewago Creek Watershed and two more on the Conowingo Creek Watershed in early 2021 to complete this initial monitoring effort throughout the county. Having more real-world data from our local streams and creeks will assist the District and partner organizations in documenting the great work happening throughout the county.

Matt Kofroth - *Watershed Specialist*



*Before Gibbons Park  
After*



*Pequea Creek - Before  
After*



*Two recent stream restoration projects*

# Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Road Programs

## Dirt & Gravel Road Projects Funded in March 2020

Municipality	Road	Awarded
Strasburg	Sides Mill Road	\$ 16,659.00
Elizabeth	Pumping Station Road	\$ 61,077.00
Drumore	Bald Eagle Road	\$ 2,600.00
Conestoga	Green Hill Road	\$ 2,600.00

## Low Volume Road Projects Funded in September 2020

Drumore	Scalpy Hollow Road	\$ 69,458.00
Rapho	Cherry Hill Road	\$ 40,557.00
Quarryville Borough	Dorinda Drive	\$ 40,375.00
TOTAL		\$ 233,326.00

Despite the pandemic, work progressed on numerous Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road projects in 2020.

### Water Quality Road Improvement Projects

#### Grant awarded road projects completed in 2020

3 Dirt & Gravel Road projects

9 Low Volume Road projects

Total Projects: \$260,000

#### Grant awarded funding road projects to be completed

4 Dirt & Gravel Road projects

3 Low Volume Road projects

Total Awarded: \$233,000

Several projects this year focused on improving road drainage either to or away from roads. The projects on Furniss Road in Drumore Township (Low Volume Rd. project) and Camp Road in Clay Township (Dirt & Gravel Rd. project) highlighted the value of proper drainage ways around these fragile road systems to protect nearby streams and creeks. The conveyance of runoff around any road is very important for public safety but doubly important when these roads are close to wild trout streams, high quality or exceptional value streams, or sensitive wetland areas.



After pictures of the Garden Street and Furniss Road projects.

The program is also seeing urban municipalities use the program to comply with stormwater requirements they are mandated to follow. For example, East Petersburg Borough completed a Low Volume Road project on Garden Street. The project included the collection and conveyance of stormwater down an alley (Garden Street) to an underground infiltration basin on property the Borough owns. In the past, this same street runoff would flow down the street and onto other streets or end up in property owners' backyards causing additional issues. Every little bit of stormwater that can be collected and improved through infiltration or retention is improving a stream or creek somewhere in the county. This is one of the many goals of the program.

Matt Kofroth - *Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Coordinator*



## Sour Cream Coffee Cake



1  $\frac{1}{4}$  c sugar

1 c. oil

2 eggs

1 c. sour cream

1 tsp vanilla

### Topping:

4 Tbsp brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cinnamon

$\frac{3}{4}$  c nuts (optional)  
(mix in separate bowl)

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda

2 c flour

In a large bowl, mix the dry batter ingredients. Combine wet batter ingredients in separate bowl and then add to the dry ingredients. Mix well. Put half of batter in bottom of greased angel food pan or bundt pan. Sprinkle with  $\frac{1}{2}$  of topping ingredients. Pour remaining batter on top, and add remaining topping. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.



# Education Program

Sometimes you read a recipe and think you know how it will turn out based on all the ingredients. 2020 was a year filled with mystery unrecognizable ingredients. If it were a recipe some interesting flavors would stand out making a special dish like you've never seen before.

Pivoting from in person classroom or stream side visits in March 2020. The District Education program began virtual classroom visits in fall 2020. 36 educational programs were presented in person and virtually reaching 3,237 participants. All Envirothons and teacher trainings were cancelled.

## Grant Project

District employees Sallie Gregory, Matt Kofroth, and Justin Furnia, teamed up to work with Cargas, a Lancaster County based custom software company to build a Communications Relationship Management (CRM) application for the District. The CRM established a contemporary communications system organizing District contacts and linking them to a new application to manage Tree Sale customer orders. Grant funding supported the development, design, and creation of the new application.

## Recognition

The 2020 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence was announced sans traditional banquet. The "Manure Management Planning for Youth Animal Projects" curriculum was one of 14 initiatives honored from more than 60 nominated for the award. This curriculum was added to the Penn State Extension project book library for youth, FFA, and Ag educators. Sallie Gregory, District Education Coordinator, in partnership with Jennifer Fetter, Penn State Extension, and Deb Seibert, Manheim Central Ag Educator developed the curriculum with the support of a two-year grant.

## Summer Intern

Janelle Housman joined the District staff as the summer intern. When she began her work, it was explained that all that had been planned for the summer had changed quite a bit due to the pandemic. She was able to adapt. Using her skill with a video camera, she created several videos for both Youth Conservation School and the Spotted Lanternfly program.



*Youth Conservation School*



## Lancaster County Youth Conservation School

Co-directors, Sonia Wasco and Sallie Gregory made the difficult decision to initiate a virtual Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. Sallie and Janelle worked together constructing the elements on screen based on volunteer staff suggestions for programs, presentations, videos, and lessons to entice students 14-16 years old to join in daily Zoom calls. 19 students attended the 5-day program set in July. Participants gave positive feedback and really enjoyed the variety of presentations and all the support and knowledge shared by volunteer counselors and leadership staff.

## Cheesy Veggie Chowder



LANCASTER COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2 c. diced potatoes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c sliced potatoes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. sliced celery  
1 c. corn  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  c. chopped onions  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. pepper

2 c. boiling water  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  c. butter, melted  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  c flour  
2 c. milk  
10 oz. sharp Cheddar  
Cheese (or your  
personal taste)

Combine potatoes, carrots, onions, celery, corn, salt and pepper in saucepan and add the water. Bring to boil, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Do NOT drain. Make a roux with butter and flour in medium size soup pot. Melt butter, add flour and "cook" for a minute or two. Then add milk. Allow to heat through. Add cheese and allow to melt evenly. Add undrained veggies. Heat through, and allow flavors to meld, but don't let it boil.





## Wet Bottom Shoe Fly Pie



2 unbaked pastry shells  
2 c. flour  
1 ½ c. brown sugar  
4 Tbsp. shortening

Mix these 3 ingredients to create a crumb topping mixture. Reserve 2 cups of the crumbs for the top of the pie. To the remainder of the crumbs add:

2 eggs, beaten  
2 c. regular molasses  
(or dark Karo syrup)  
1 ½ c. hot water from faucet

Mix well. Dissolve 2 tsp. baking soda in additional ½ c. hot water. Add to the liquid mixture, and stir.

Divide wet mixture in to 2 unbaked pie shells. Put crumbs on top. Bake at 450 for 10 minutes. Turn oven down to 350 and bake for 30 minutes or until top is dry.

## Spotted Lanternfly Program

The District successfully completed phase 2 of a grant from PA Department of Agriculture funding the Spotted Lanternfly Program. The grant provided to several Conservation Districts in the state funded education and control method treatment of Ailanthus trees. Amanda Goldsmith and Joseph Robinson were hired as technicians working with a reimbursement to municipalities for their treatment of Ailanthus trees and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) landowners needing support to treat Ailanthus trees within established riparian buffers. The pandemic challenged the timeframe of work completed. Joseph Robinson left the District in May 2020. Amanda Goldsmith continued managing the program with more than 2,500 trees treated, distribution of 900 spotted lanternfly trap resources, and outreach with 17 municipalities participating in the tree treatment reimbursement program. Amanda and Janelle produced several "How To" videos for homeowners that to date have more than 4,000 views. Amanda also collaborated with Raven Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation to set up a homeowner trap distribution event along with proper trap installation demonstrations to prevent wildlife injuries at Columbia Crossing.



*Amanda Goldsmith marks ailanthus trees assisted by landowner.*

The Spotted Lanternfly program grant concluded at the end of the year. Amanda transitioned to the District Ag team. Virtual trainings, meetings, and website resources for the public rounded out the grant program. The District will review opportunities should funding be available in the future.

## Education Program Funding Event

The Extraordinary Give was one event that was well prepared for working around COVID-19. The largest day of giving online in Lancaster County took place in November 2020. The Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County participated with funds supporting District Education programs: Lancaster County Envirothon and Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. With special thanks to all the donors who contributed, the Foundation raised \$6,230.39.

In the end, the recipe for conservation education turned out well with unforgettable flavor.

Sallie Gregory - *Education Coordinator*

## Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide

**January-March:** • Target: Lanternfly Eggs



- Look for eggs on the underside of branches, the trunk, and all smooth surfaces such as stone, yard furniture, and vehicles
- Eggs appear smooth then crack over time. They can also have an outer coating or appear bare.
- Scrape eggs into a container with alcohol or use ovicides.

**April-May:** • Target: Eggs & Early Nymphs



- Continue to scrape eggs
- Black and white nymphs emerge
- Catch nymphs with sticky tape, the circle trap, or the BugBarrier Tree Band
- Begin checking cars for lanternfly hitchhikers

**June:** • Target: Early Nymphs



- Few eggs remain, most nymphs hatched
- Only early nymphs are visible, staying black and white for the first three stages ranging from 1/4" to 1/2"
- Avoid bycatch on sticky tape by folding the sticky tape in halves or thirds and using mesh barrier.



# Ombudsman Program

As I prepared to write this article, I looked at what I wrote in February 2020, recapping 2019. I always do that, to remind myself, and to prepare for the next year's article. I had to laugh, just because none of us had ANY CLUE what was about to happen in 2020. I literally started last year's article by saying, "We often use the expression that hindsight is 20/20. While 20/20 is considered "perfect" vision, it's only when we look back on completed events are we able to see clearly or "perfectly"". Hindsight being 20/20, we can clearly see that 2020 was a year of adaptation. We learned on the fly. 2020 "zoomed" by, despite spending more time in my home office than the District Lancaster office. It zoomed by, while the days admittedly dragged a little, especially since I am a social person who enjoys interaction. It "Zoomed" by, because of ALL the virtual meetings that were held to accomplish what had been done in person. I'll admit, the break from driving so many places was nice.

The PA Ag Ombudsman Program handles public relations, education and conflict management related to agriculture.

## 2020 Projects:

- Created metal sign and tri-fold brochure templates for statewide distribution stressing the importance of BIOSECURITY being respected by neighbors and visitors on farms.
- Reviewed some ordinances from a non-legal standpoint to offer input, and to decide if any should be submitted to the Attorney General's office for an Agriculture Community and Rural Environment (ACRE) review.
- Presentation on good neighbor relations and conflict management to Clean Water Partners Leadership Academy.
- Researched criminal repercussions for flying drones over or inside agricultural buildings without permission
- Beth Futrick—Western PA Ombudsman and I were interviewed by the PA Grazing Lands Coalition about what the Ombudsman Program does, good neighbor relations, mortality disposal, and manure management which was broken down in to three podcasts for public listening.
- At the request of a PA Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary, I interviewed multiple farmers about the impacts of registration cancellation of a certain herbicide on soybean yields, compiled the notes from the interviews, and wrote a letter to the Deputy Secretary so he could use the information when working with others to understand how detrimental the cancellation was.
- Started working with Western PA Ombudsman and an attorney from the PA Ag and Shale Law Center to create a working group to address the need for an official definition for agritourism and agritainment.



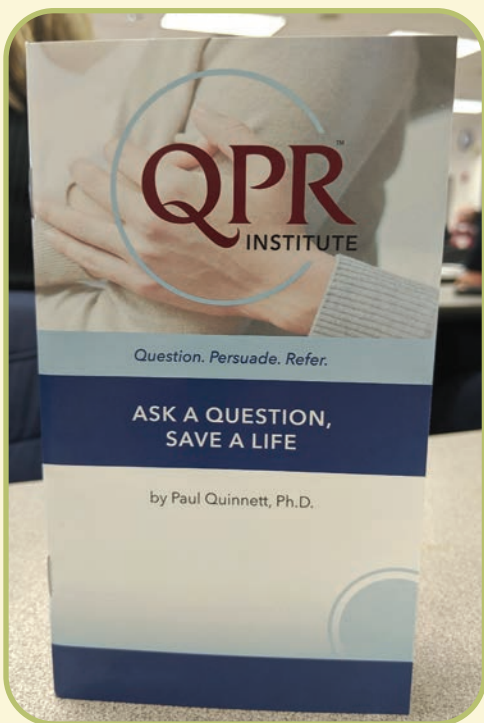
The PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program is partially funded by the State Conservation Commission, and serves all Conservation Districts in PA. It is my top priority and focus, but since it is not fully funded, other sources of funding must be pursued. Those other sources of funding also create additional goals and priorities. Since 2019, I've worked with the South Central Task Force (SCTF), in a subcontracted position as the Agricultural Planning Specialist. In 2020, I focused responsibilities related to emergency and safety preparedness for farmers and agri-businesses, and building bridges between law enforcement, first responders and the agricultural industry. A goal of the PA Ag Ombudsman Program is to "build bridges", and I see this as another opportunity to build different bridges.

## 2020 Accomplishments:

- Took educational training on Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR) related to suicide awareness and prevention. Trying to offer training to ag community. Due to pandemic, waiting until more meetings are being held in person.
- Procured 3 grain bin rescue kits for the region; developed a wait list to purchase more.
- Planned to offer "Stop the Bleed" training to agricultural audiences when in-person meetings are available.
- Co-facilitated working group with Mass Evacuation Planning Specialist to create guidance document for considerations when needing to evacuate livestock and/or companion animals.
- Worked with Ag Subcommittee to revise a "who should you call" document when dealing with livestock or poultry or reptile emergencies, as well as human entrapment in ag situations.







*Attended training for QPR in early 2020. Planning to offer this for the agricultural community once meetings resume.*

*The SCTF Ag Subcommittee will be hosting "Stop the Bleed" training when in-person events resume. You never know when there will be a time-critical, tourniquet-required event around a farm, and if a non-professional can keep the victim alive until the professionals show up, that is the whole point of*



I am subcontracted with the Lancaster County Agriculture Council to provide administrative assistance and supported the Executive Director and Board Chair during the year. Responsibilities involved planning for virtual events for Lancaster County Agriculture Week that included:

- Introduction of ag curriculum for PreK- through Sr. High in coordination with North Museum
- Virtual Farmer Breakfast for diversifying farm operations
- Denim & Pearls virtual event
- Virtual events related to careers in ag, and workforce development

In 2020, I spent many hours

- Coordinating responses to 13 fly complaints from 6 different counties in Eastern PA.
- Researching answers or moderated interactions between farmers/neighbors/municipalities for 17 different situations.
- Working on 15 "special projects" as the Eastern PA Agricultural Ombudsman, assisting LCCD co-workers, or as a subcontractor for different funding sources.

Shelly Dehoff - **Agricultural Ombudsman**

## Sautèed Tender Hosta Shoots



### Ingredients:

Bunch of young, tender hosta shoots, cut at base of plant  
Olive oil  
1-2 cloves minced garlic  
Salt and pepper to taste

*A wonderfully mild, no-till vegetable is likely hiding in your perennial flowerbeds! Hostas are cultivated as a specialty vegetable crop in Japan, known as Urui. With a small knife, several young hosta shoots may be harvested from established plants in early spring without damaging the plant. It may be used as an early substitute for the more familiar asparagus.*

**Directions:** Heat olive oil on medium heat in frying pan. Add hosta shoots and sautee 1-2 minutes until tender and golden brown. Add minced garlic until fragrant and remove from heat. Finish with salt and pepper to taste. Pair with your favorite entrée.

## Daikon Radish Fries



(A low carb alternative to Potato French Fries)

### Ingredients:

1 lb daikon radish (peeled, cut into 1/4" slices)  
4 cups of water with 1 TBSP salt  
1 tbsp vegetable oil  
½ tsp season salt, divided.

**Directions:** 1. Cut the daikon radish into ¼" strips. Soak in 4 cups of cold salted water for 10 minutes to remove extra starch and bitterness. 2. Pat dry to remove excess moisture. 3. Toss the daikon radish with oil and ¼ tsp season salt in a medium bowl to coat. 4. **For oven:** Place on baking sheet and bake in 475-degree oven for 15 minutes, flip fries, and bake for additional 15 minutes. Season with remaining ¼ tsp of season salt. Cook until brown and crisp. 5. **For Air Fryer:** Add to basket, cook at 325 degrees for 10 minutes with basket rotating. Then bake at 400 degrees for 18 minutes and basket rotating. Cook until brown and crisp. Remove from air fryer and season with remaining ¼ tsp salt.

# Plain Sect Outreach Program



*Greg Heigel and Dennis Eby at Powl's Feed Dairy Expo.*

2020 began as any other year with lots of ag businesses having their annual farmer meetings and the usual pesticide license recertification meetings. District staff, Dennis Eby and Greg Heigel were ready to support Plain Sect Outreach with the year ahead of them. Dennis Eby continued part-time and Greg Heigel also attended meetings. Some meetings Dennis participated alone, some Greg did alone, and at others they participated together. This involved taking the District display with conservation literature, speaking about District programs, and providing pesticide safety presentations. One highlight for Dennis and Greg was the all day, Powl's Feed Dairy Expo, at the Solanco Fairgrounds, where they spent a busy day meeting with farmers. This opportunity to answer questions and discuss conservation efforts with farmers was very worthwhile.

Meetings all came to a screeching halt in mid-March as COVID-19 reared its ugly head in PA. A total of 10 meetings that Dennis and Greg planned to attend were cancelled. Six

of the meetings were the Gap Tobacco Certification meetings, which have a combined attendance of over 1,000 tobacco growers. Greg was scheduled to speak about conservation planning and Dennis planned to update the growers on no-till tobacco and the 4Rs of nutrient management.

Dennis helped farmers develop Manure Management Plans. 52 plans were completed even with a two-month break from conducting farm visits. Assisting farmers with developing a manure management plan continues to be a good outreach opportunity to educate farmers one-on-one on the responsible use of manure generated on their farms as well as a time to promote cost-share programs which can assist them with needed 'Best Management Practices'. When Greg was not helping in Plain Sect Outreach he continued his Ag Technician work. The 2020 Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan updates kept the Ag Techs busy.

Although all the District grants for no-till tobacco expired, no-till tobacco acres in Lancaster County continued to increase. The Penn State Extension no-till transplanter was used during the planting season at the request of planter owners because they could not keep up with the demand for planters.

Dennis Eby and Greg Heigel, the 'Plain Sect Outreach' team, will continue to be a connection for the District in the 'Plain' community in 2021.

Dennis Eby - *Plain Sect Outreach Coordinator*

Greg Heigel- *Ag Technician*

## Baked Oatmeal



- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/2 c Vegetable oil     | 1 tsp. Salt                     |
| 1 c. Brown sugar        | 1 c. Milk                       |
| 3 c. Oatmeal            | 1 tbsp Vanilla                  |
| (old fashioned is best) | 1/2 tbsp Cinnamon (or to taste) |
| 2 tsp. baking powder    |                                 |

Combine all ingredients together in a mixing bowl. Pour in to 8" square or 8 x 10" glass dish. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Suggested additions include 1 cup of blueberries (fresh or frozen), peaches, strawberries or other fruit you enjoy.







# Conservation at Home; with the CREP Program

As we all know 2020 has been a year of challenges. I have never been a fan of working from home as I enjoy the office camaraderie and friendship with my coworkers. It was a tough transition going from an office of 40 to sitting in my third-floor spare bedroom while trying to remain organized with paperwork and folders. Something very positive has come out of this year for me though, people love trees. It almost feels like a renaissance of sorts. People are asking for interesting native trees and shrubs that are harder to find. The requests for Persimmon, Paw Paw, and Shagbark Hickory have tripled. Landowners are looking for trees and shrubs to plant in their buffer that offer a resource, be it fruit or nut. It is obvious that landowners still want to plant riparian buffers even during a year as trying as 2020.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) also experienced challenges. The program was on hold until February 2020 and then came Covid-19 and we were told that there would be no field work occurring in the spring. The Farm Service Agency, specifically Vicky Gesford, had to rethink how things would be done with the CREP program. No one was permitted in the offices to sign paperwork; everything had to be handled through the mail or email. Field visits with

masks became the norm. No more riding together in field trucks or in golf carts with landowners. Signing appointments have been conducted outside or in the entry way of a barn or porch without sharing pens to sign. I had more phone calls with contractors than I did site visits and more zoom calls with partners and landowners than I care to count. While the processes are taking longer with these new safety measures, we have had success this year despite these obstacles.

In Lancaster County we continue to see an increase in new enrollments for the CREP riparian buffer practice. We had 16 new contracts enrolled into the program for a total of 77 new acres of riparian buffer to be planted with native trees and shrubs in Lancaster County. In addition, there are other buffer programs that help in planting riparian buffers through partners or programs such as the Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership.

Ashley Spotts - **Restoration Specialist,**  
**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

## Tree Seedling Sale *Drive Thru Event*

The 46th Annual Lancaster County Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale added a new ingredient to a tried and true recipe, a drive thru distribution. Less than a month before the Tree Sale pick up date, District staff began working from home full time. The committee set a new pick up date in May and designed a drive thru system for contactless service. This new ingredient also involved less staff to package and organize 487 orders with nearly 25,000 plants and trees picked up and planted throughout the Commonwealth.

The success of the drive thru kept cars moving in a line that at one point spanned the length of the drive way to the nearest stop sign. The committee was thankful for the dedicated customers who participated in the pick up and were so appreciative that the District was able to host the event mindful of CDC



guidelines during the pandemic. As the largest fundraiser for District projects the Tree Sale totaled \$10,607.30. Plans for 2021 feature the drive thru as a new ingredient that makes the Tree Seedling Sale a go to recipe every time.

Sallie Gregory/Matt Kofroth - **Co-Chairs**

# Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County

## Income

Grants Received	758,876.72
Gifts & Donations	8,937.46
Fees Generated	2,250.00
Administrative Income	1,309.04
Fundraising Income	0.00
Program Income	0.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 771,373.41</b>

The Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County (the Foundation) is a tax exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in support of Lancaster County Conservation District programs. The mission of the Foundation is to promote, support, and sustain the stewardship, education and conservation activities undertaken by the Lancaster County Conservation District and our local partners.

## Lancaster Co. Clean Water Consortium

The Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium (LCCWC) which is governed by the Foundation was not able to conduct activities during 2020 due to Covid-19. Events such as the Municipal Stormwater Forum were postponed until a future date. Regular meetings didn't occur, but are anticipated to be reinstated in the future.

Sources for above income/expenses as supported by the Foundation:

### Grants held include:

- Keith Campbell Foundation: Manure Injection, Executive Level Outreach, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
- NFWF PA In the Balance- Focus Lancaster
- PA Adaptive Toolbox- Fishing Creek

Gifts and donations received from Network for Good, Global Charitable Conservation Foundation, Lancaster Co Community Foundation (Extraordinary Give).

Fees were generated through the Borough of Lititz, Mountville Borough, Hanover Engineering, Denver Borough, South West End, and Clay Township.

Project expenses were from PA in the Balance- Lancaster Focus, PA Adaptive Toolbox-Fishing Creek, LCCWC Stormwater Mini-Grant, and ME2 Cocalico Creek FP Preservation.

Consulting expenses were from the Manure Injection grant, Chesapeake Conservancy and the Executive Level Outreach.

Sponsorship expenses were incurred for Lancaster Water Week 2020.

Program expenses can be tracked to PA In the Balance -Lancaster Focus, Manure Injection grant, and the Lancaster Clean Water Partners.

The Extraordinary Give 2020, \$6,230.39.

Shelly Dehoff - *Agricultural Ombudsman*

## Expenses

Project Dollars Expended	504,438.57
Administrative Expense	6,492.37
Consulting Expense	2,420.11
Sponsorship Expense	6,250.00
Fundraising Expense	0.00
Program Expense	4,344.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$523,945.39</b>



## Lancaster Clean Water Partners

2020 was a year of incredible, steady progress and collaboration for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners! It was also a year of great adjustment as COVID-19 turned our personal and professional worlds upside down. Despite the shift from office life to working from home, face to face meetings to Zoom calls, the Partners met these challenges at every turn making for an unforgettable year.

Major accomplishments in 2020:

- More than 80 Action Team members embraced the bias towards action as they refined their work to support Lancaster's Countywide Action Plan goals.
- Nine priority areas were identified as excellent locations for delisting streams from the impaired list.
- Approximately \$795,000 were awarded through the Lancaster Clean Water Fund to implementation and educational projects in Lancaster County.
- A communications and program manager was hired full-time to create consistent communications with partner organizations and stakeholders throughout the county and manage programs to keep the work moving forward.
- Four contracted positions were brought on for project-specific work to expand capacity and accelerate Lancaster's efforts toward nutrient and sediment reductions.
- Three new Steering Committee members joined our team: Jenna Mitchell from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Justin Evans with Mount Joy Township, and Stephen Campbell with the City of Lancaster.
- Nine scholars began their journey through the inaugural Lancaster Watershed Leadership Academy to become the next generation of clean water leaders in Lancaster County.

We're excited for all the possibilities 2021 will bring as we forge ahead with a bias towards action to achieve clean and clear water by 2040!

Emily Smedley - *Communications & Program Manager, Lancaster Clean Water Partners*



# Board Director Recognized for Making a Difference



## Black Walnut Cookies



- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 cup butter, softened | 3 cups of all-purpose flour        |
| 1 cup white sugar      | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda |
| 1 cup brown sugar      | 1 teaspoon salt                    |
| 2 eggs                 | 1 cup of black walnuts             |

**Directions: Step 1** – In a large bowl, cream butter, white sugar, and brown sugar. Add eggs and beat until smooth. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture until well blended. Stir in walnuts last. Shape dough into logs about 2 inches in diameter, wrap in wax paper and refrigerate until firm

**Step 2** – Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

**Step 3** – Slice dough logs into  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch slices and place on baking sheet. Bake in preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes.

## Frozen Rice Krispie Treats



- 2/3 c. peanut butter
- 2/3 c. light Karo syrup
- 6 c. Rice Krispies cereal
- Container of favorite ice cream, softened

Mix 1/3 c. PB and 1/3 c. Karo in a bowl until well mixed. Add 3 cups cereal and mix gently, but thoroughly. Spread (and press firmly) to completely cover the bottom of a container (with a lid) that can go in the freezer. 9 x 13" pans are a good size. Spread ice cream on top of the Rice Krispies layer (mix and match depending on favorite flavors of ice cream). Mix another batch of 1/3 c. PB, 1/3 c Karo and 3 cups cereal. Spread new cereal layer on top of ice cream. Press down firmly. Freeze well for at least a few hours until the ice cream is firm again. Cut into squares for serving.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)/State Conservation Commission's 73rd Joint Annual Conference was held virtually due to the coronavirus. Sonia Wasco, a District Director, was recognized during the online event summer 2020. You might say Sonia is an individual who knows how to get M.A.D. Meaning she's a conservationist who Makes a Difference. Sonia received the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award. This award is presented to a Conservation District Director for outstanding volunteer efforts that have furthered the work of Conservation Districts across the state.

Sonia Wasco has been connected to and supported the work of the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) for more than 40 years. Sonia is currently serving as a director on the LCCD board of directors for 12 years after serving as an Associate Director for ten years. She is also an active member of the PACD Executive Board, serving as treasurer.

Sonia's priceless volunteer work benefitting generations of students is her passion in serving as the co-director of the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. For more than 40 years, Sonia has donated her time to facilitate a residential field school for students 14-16 years old. Although this year was different, the school celebrated its 42nd year with co-directing the virtual school experience with Sallie Gregory, Conservation District Educator. "Sonia's ingenuity and creativity inspire conversations even virtually that keep high school students involved in building a future for natural resources.", Gregory shared.

Working with county cooperating agencies or state legislators, Sonia is well informed and up to date regarding conservation issues in Pennsylvania. Communications is a skill Sonia practices, whether at a board meeting, legislative breakfast, volunteering at farm tour, or meeting in a small group to help organize Conservation District events. Sonia's many volunteer efforts are a testament to the accolade of this recognition.

## Board of Directors

Daniel C. Heller, Chairman  
Robert Shearer, Vice Chairman  
Kent Weaver, Treasurer  
Herb Kreider  
Kenneth Meck  
Roger Rohrer  
Jay Snyder  
Sonia Wasco  
Craig Lehman, County Commissioner  
Donald M. Robinson, Dir. Emeritus  
Robert Wagner, Dir. Emeritus

## Associate Directors

Frank R. Burkhart  
Lisa A. Graybeal  
Deb Seibert  
Gregory Strausser  
Garrett Weaver  
Justin Welk  
Greg Wilson

## District Advisors

John Beiler  
Matthew J. Mack  
David D. Miller  
Kenneth M. Rutt  
Kathleen V. Schreiber  
James E. Hershey  
Alfred Wanner Jr.  
Matthew Young  
Cynthia Zawrotuk

## Staff

### Administration

Christopher Thompson, Administrator  
Gerald Heistand, Business Manager  
Holly Shaub, Ag. Admin. Asst.  
Stacey Meyer, Finance Manager  
Kim Dougan, Receptionist

### Erosion and Sedimentation

Richard Snyder, Department Manager  
David Bednar, Resource Conservationist  
Emily Broich, Resource Conservationist  
Eric Hout, Resource Conservationist  
Adam Stern, Resource Conservationist  
Ryan Weck, Resource Conservationist  
Suzanne Kopp, E & S Admin. Asst.

### Agriculture

Jeff Hill, Ag. Program Manager  
Kevin Seibert, Ag Compliance Coordinator  
James Saltsman, Ag Eng Tech Spec  
Adam Hartz, Ag Eng Tech Spec  
Kent Bitting, Professional Engineer  
Justin Furnia, Ag. Compl. Insp.  
Francesca DePrator, Ag Compl. Insp.  
Greg Heigel, Ag Conservation Tech  
Kevin Lutz, Ag Conservation Tech  
Steven Reiff, Ag Conservation Tech  
Maddie Klein, Ag Conservation Tech  
Samantha Adams, Ag Conservation Tech  
Emily Corkhill, Ag Conservation Tech  
Derrick Fidler, Ag Conservation Tech  
Amanda Goldsmith, 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  
Bryce Workman, Watershed Resource Tech.

### Lancaster Clean Water Partners

Allyson Gibson, Clean Water Partners Coord.  
Emily Smedley, CWP Program Manager

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Heather Grove, District Conservationist  
Mark Myers, Soil Conservation/District Conservationist  
Jared Boger, Soil Conservationist  
Mark Long, Soil Conservationist  
Mick Albert, Soil Conservationist  
Christine Griesemer, Soil Conservationist  
Ashley Spotts, Restoration Specialist-CBF  
Jeff Sholly, TAG Engineer  
Julia Smith, Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever  
Lari Jo Walker, Program Asst.

The mission **Promoting**  
**the stewardship of**  
**Natural Resources in**  
**Lancaster County**  
**and beyond.**



LANCASTER COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1383 Arcadia Rd., Room 200 • Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: 717-299-5361 • Fax: 717-299-9459  
www.lancasterconservation.org

## Chocolate Pudding for 2

1 c. milk  
1 T. cornstarch  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. semisweet chocolate chips

Mix all together in a bowl and microwave for 90 seconds. Stir. Microwave for 60 seconds more. Stir. Chill or eat warm.  
Change it up with peanutbutter or butterscotch chips.



LANCASTER COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Vision Statement

The Lancaster County Conservation District will be the premiere conservation organization regarded by all citizens as a leader in the innovative stewardship of our natural resources. We will be a source of up-to-date technical assistance to address environmental concerns and a central clearinghouse providing credible, current information and education regarding the environment. We will coordinate environmental protection for future generations while encouraging profitable business enterprises.

*All photos within this report provided by LCCD, NRCS, and the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County.*