

Conservation Crier

Vol. 25, No. 2
Fall 2016

Newsletter of the  LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Get M.A.D.: Make A Difference

For more than 50 years, the mission of the Lancaster County Conservation District has been to promote the wise use and management of our county's natural resources. For many of those years the District's objectives focused on providing support to the Ag community. Today, the District continues to expand the services we provide to assist in the area of natural resource protection. In this issue of the *Conservation Crier* you will learn about the educational programs we provide to students, township residents, the engineers & building community, and to farmers. You will read about one of our seasoned staff as well as the new professional technicians and staff we have hired to serve the needs of our county's residents. You will also see what you can do to support the District and the county moving forward in achieving goals that benefit us all.

We often hear about steps needed to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. One of the District's main goals is to improve and protect the quality of our local bodies of water and in turn improve waterways downstream. In Lancaster County there is plenty to do. The county includes roughly 1,400 miles of streams with nearly 700 miles considered impaired and not meeting current water quality standards. Whether a stream, creek, or river runs through your property, a community park, or a neighborhood we all have a responsibility to take care of that water source. If we focus our cleanup efforts here at home the effect will benefit the Chesapeake Bay downstream.

Recent announcements from the federal government underscore that while traditional, voluntary participation within the Ag community is important, it is not enough to help us reach the desired clean up goals by 2025. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection responded to this announcement by announcing plans for a "reboot" of their Chesapeake Bay strategy that targets the agricultural community to make additional improvements to move us forward faster. The initial goal of this reboot strategy is to make sure all agricultural operations in the Bay watershed are compliant by having the required Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (AG E&S) and a Manure Management Plan (MMP). These two plans create a basic management tool that help farming operations minimize the amount of potential pollutants that run off their operations into local streams and waterways. Using these tools agricultural landowners and producers can get really **M.A.D.**; meaning **Make A Difference**.

The Conservation District's technical assistance is the balancing point on the teeter-totter of compliance and new "reboot" strategies. The District shares a thank you to the many county residents including home owners, farmers, contractors, and excavators who proactively got M.A.D. and Made A Difference in their local watershed protecting and conserving natural resources for future generations installing best management practices. Are you a farmer ready to get M.A.D.? Please contact the Conservation District

at 717-299-5361 x.5 and we'll be able to help you Make A Difference in your community.

—Chris Thompson,
Administrator



The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award is given to a conservation district director or associate director for his or her outstanding volunteer efforts which have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

PACD HONORS

Conservation District directors, staff, state officials, and legislative partners convened in State College in July to honor conservationists during the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) and State Conservation Commission's 69th Joint Annual Conference. The awards luncheon took place July 27 at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, PA. Ken Meck and Chris Thompson were recognized at the banquet.

Christopher Thompson was honored with the President's Award. This award is presented at the discretion of the PACD President to an individual, organization, or agency recognizing outstanding efforts that have resulted in furthering the accomplishments of the non-profit organization, PACD.

Conservation District Board Chairman Meck was surprised to find that the Lancaster County Conservation District Board had nominated him for the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award. Ken was even more surprised when members of his family arrived to see him receive the award (pictured).

Ken has been actively engaged with the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) since 1998. Over those 18 years, Ken has served on all board committees and represented LCCD as a PACD voting delegate, attended several National Association of Conservation District meetings, and has served as either Secretary or Treasurer on the PACD Executive Board since January 2008. At home, Ken is a lifelong farmer who has raised alfalfa, barley, corn, soybeans, wheat, pork-farrow to finish, beef finishing, and pullets. He currently has 150 head of steers and 260,000 pullets. His community activities extend beyond the realm of conservation. Ken is active on the West Lampeter Community Fair Board, is a Strasburg Township Supervisor, and is a member of the Strasburg Township Planning Commission.

Congratulations Chris Thompson and Ken Meck (pictured above).



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Maddie Klein, *Ag Conservation Tech*
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Sallie Gregory, *Education Coordinator*
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Kefeni Kejela, *Soil Cons./Dist. Conservationist*
Gary Ballina, *Civil Engineering Tech*
Omer Brubaker, *Soil Conservationist*
Dayanna Estades, *Soil Conservationist*
Mark Myers, *Soil Conservationist*
Sally Barnes, *Soil Conservation Tech*
Melissa Piper-Nelson, *Program Assistant*
Ashley Spotts, *Streambuffer 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

ENVIROTHON



Take the Natural Challenge

Lancaster County Envirothons

An Academic Contest for Students Grades 3-12

SAVE THE DATES:

April 25 – Senior High (grades 9 – 12)

Current Issue – Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation: local food systems, eco-system connections, and climate change

May 10 – Junior (grades 3, 4, 5, & 6)

Theme – Backyard Conservation

May 11 – Middle School (grades 7 - 8)

Theme – Backyard Conservation

- Students take an 'ed-venture' learning about environmental sciences. With teachers and parents as their guides, students will problem solve, build study skills, and an appreciation for stewardship of our natural resources.
- Contest held at Lancaster County Central Park. Students compete in teams of 5 students. Each contest level includes guidelines and study materials.
- For more information visit the Education tab at www.lancasterconservation.org.
- Educators if your school has not previously participated and would like to, please contact the District Education Coordinator at 299-5361 x.117 to learn more.



Colerain Township Outreach Update

At the invitation of township officials, the Lancaster County Conservation District Agriculture staff spent a portion of their summer work hours devoted to the education and outreach of Colerain Township farmers. Their proactive goals were simple, to sit and visit with the farming community updating them on the regulations, current events, and answering any questions farmers may have. The staff also began assisting some farmers with requests made to the District in spring 2016. These requests included Manure Management and Conservation / AG E&S Plans, which represent baseline compliance for all farms in PA. Between now and December 31, 2016, Colerain Township farmers have been asked to submit plans to the District they may have had developed previously, so those plans may be counted towards goals within the Chesapeake Bay Program. Farmers that do not submit their plans may receive a follow-up visit after January 1, 2017 to ensure compliance measures are being followed. Overall, all partners involved were well received. This venture is ongoing and illustrates a successful partnership.

–Jeff Hill, *Ag Program Manager*



Plant Your Seeds & Watch Them Grow...
THEN BRING YOUR PUMPKIN TO ONE OF OUR OCTOBER CONTESTS
CELEBRATING **LANCASTER COUNTY AG WEEK!**

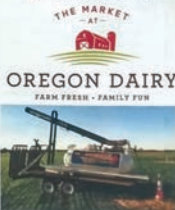
WIN \$250

or Other Cash Prizes
in the
**PUMPKIN
DECORATING CONTEST**
Saturday October 15th
12 PM - 5 PM
at **CHERRY CREST
ADVENTURE FARM**
(Rain date: October 22nd)



WIN \$250

or Other Cash Prizes
in the
**PUMPKIN CHUCKING
CONTEST**
Saturday October 29th
3 PM - 5 PM
at **OREGON DAIRY**
(Rain date: October 30th)



Bring your homegrown pumpkin and ticket to one of our two contest events.
(See reverse side of this flyer for your ticket and event details.)

Visit LancasterCountyAgWeek.com
for complete contest and event details



Seeds Provided by **ROHRER SEEDS**

How To Grow Your Pumpkin...

Planting Your Seeds

Choose a sunny location with several square feet of soil - pumpkins plants need space to develop. June is a good planting month, to allow time for your pumpkins to grow by the fall season. You may wish to create short mounds or hills of soil for your pumpkin seeds, to keep their growing area warm and properly drained. Plant seeds an inch deep and 3 inches apart; space mounds or rows 5 to 8 feet apart.

Care and Harvesting

Keep the soil well-watered. Pumpkins will mature in 90-110 days, and are usually ready to harvest in fall when they turn a deep, solid orange color. Carefully cut them off the vine, leaving a 3 to 4 inch stem on each pumpkin.

****Read the back of your seed packet for complete planting directions and cultivation tips.****

How do you grow the biggest pumpkin?

Tips from... **ROHRER SEEDS**

Rohrer Seeds says, "Less is more". When the fruit on the pumpkin plant start to reach the size of a softball, remove all of them except the most promising one. Now the plant will put all of its energy into the production of that one pumpkin. Be sure to take special care of that one until it reaches maturity!

Pick Your Pumpkin Contest... What's Next? Once you've grown your pumpkin, bring your event ticket and your homegrown pumpkin to one of our two Pumpkin Contest Events:

Decorate Your Pumpkin at Cherry Crest Adventure Farm

Saturday, October 15th - 12 PM to 5 PM Decorating (5 PM Judging)

Please present this coupon (and show your pumpkin) to the cashier when entering Cherry Crest Adventure Farm. Child (age 12 and under) with a homegrown pumpkin will receive FREE admission with full price paid adult admission. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring Your Homegrown Pumpkin to Cherry Crest Adventure Farm for the Best Decorated Pumpkin Contest! Cherry Crest will provide paint supplies and markers for decorating. A Cash Prize of \$250 will be awarded for the best decorated pumpkin (a \$100 prize for 2nd place and a \$50 prize for 3rd place will also be awarded). Enjoy Cherry Crest Adventure Farm's 50 fun fall season activities and the Amazing Maize Maze during your visit. Properly open 10am-10pm, weather permitting. Pumpkin decorating takes place from 12PM to 5PM. Judging will be held at 5 PM (must be present to win). Valid only on October 15, 2016. (Rain date: October 22, 2016.)

After decorating your pumpkin, receive a coupon for BOGO admission to return for our Pumpkin Madness Festival on November 5, 2016.

Visit us at 150 Cherry Hill Rd, Ronks, PA 17572 www.cherrycrestfarm.com

Complete rules for the "Pumpkin Decorating Contest" will be posted at www.LancasterCountyAgWeek.com

OR

Chuck Your Pumpkin at Oregon Dairy

Saturday, October 29th - 3 PM to 5 PM

Please present this ticket to the Pumpkin Chucking Contest at Oregon Dairy on October 29th -

Bring Your Homegrown Pumpkin to Oregon Dairy to see how far you can "Chuck Your Pumpkin" with our Pumpkin Chuck! Cash Prizes starting at \$250 will be awarded for the pumpkins that land closest to our chucking target (a \$100 prize for 2nd place and a \$50 prize for 3rd place will also be awarded). Enjoy Oregon Dairy's Kids Pumpkin Pickin Days activities during your visit. Event will be held October 29, 2016, 3 PM to 5 PM, weather permitting. (Rain Date: October 30, 2016 - 3 PM to 5 PM)

Visit us at 2900 Oregon Pike, Uitz, PA 17543 www.OregonDairy.com

Complete rules for the "Pumpkin Chucking Contest" will be posted at www.LancasterCountyAgWeek.com

(Note: If your pumpkin is too large for the chuck, you may exchange it for a smaller size pumpkin.)

Thursday— Agriculture benefits the community by providing local foods, local food processing opportunities, and a rich heritage of raw products and value-added products.

Friday— Agriculture benefits local water quality when vegetative or forested buffers are planted along local streams. The public is invited to join in planting a riparian buffer on a local farm.

There will be behind-the-scenes tours at 16 Ag and food related businesses coordinated through the Lancaster Chamber throughout Ag Week and beyond. Details at <http://lanastercountyagweek.com>. Register at <http://www.lancasterchamber.com/> or contact the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

A fundraising dinner entitled *Denim & Pearls* will be held Thursday, Oct. 13 at Pheasant Run Farm B&B (200 Marticville Road, Lancaster). Purchase tickets at <http://www.oregondairy.com/denim-and-pearls-dinner>.

Pumpkin seeds were handed out to families earlier this summer. As a reward to those families for growing pumpkins, 2 contests will be held. The pumpkin decorating contest will take place on Saturday, Oct 15, Noon - 5 PM at Cherry Crest Farms. Prizes will be awarded. A pumpkin "chucking" contest will be held on Saturday, October 29, 3 - 5 PM at Oregon Dairy. Prizes will be awarded. Coupons for admission were available with the free pumpkin seeds. (See photo above)

Events corresponding with each daily theme can be found at <http://lanastercountyagweek.com>. Details including dates, times, and locations are listed on the website. If you would like a Schedule of Events, a list of the Tours, more details, or would like to RSVP for events, contact Shelly Dehoff at shellydehoff@lanasterconservation.org or 717-880-0848.

—Shelly Dehoff, Ombudsman

2nd Annual

Lancaster County

Ag Week 2016

"Lancaster County Agriculture: Everyone Benefits"

Join us for events, tours, and hands-on opportunities to celebrate the hard work of local farmers, and to recognize how agriculture benefits communities, businesses, the environment, and the economy! Known as "Lancaster County Ag Week," the Lancaster County Agriculture Council is hosting the 2nd Annual Ag Week October 9-15, 2016. A Special Edition of the *Sunday News* from Lancaster Newspapers was published October 2 with an overview of the events throughout the week.

Monday— Agriculture benefits everyone through a strong local economy, and by providing economic development projects in Lancaster County and beyond.

Tuesday—Agriculture benefits the environment through proper conservation of soil and water resources; by providing groundwater recharge, and constructing innovative projects that turn waste products into energy.

Wednesday— Agriculture benefits the workforce by providing an incredible spectrum of ag-related and food-related careers in science, technology, mechanics, finances, law, engineering, public relations, politics and many more ways that most people never imagine.

Forget the Alphabet Soup, I'll Take the Meat and Potatoes

EQIP, CBWI, CREP, CRP, CSP, WRP, AMA... The variety of programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the acronyms used for them is enough to make my head spin. The simple fact is that the core mission of NRCS has not changed all that much since the agency was started over 75 years ago as the Soil Conservation Service (here we go again, SCS) as the response to the devastation to farmland during the Dust Bowl era. Although we now also consider other resources such as water, air, wildlife, plants and the human communities that depend on the land, conserving the soil resources of this great land is still at the center of our service.

Many of you have probably seen the demonstration that uses an apple to represent the earth as a way to show just how much we depend on the soil for our sustenance. (See: <http://www.earthsciweek.org>) A quarter of the apple is cut out to represent the portion of the earth that is dry land with the rest representing water. The land quarter is then halved to demonstrate that only an eighth of the earth is arable land. The eighth is peeled and the peel is held up to represent the topsoil which is all that stands between the world's population and starvation. Makes you realize how critical your role is as a Steward of the land, doesn't it?

The primary tool that NRCS uses to help landowners conserve the soil is a Conservation Plan which is simply the record of a farmer's decisions about how to manage his or her land to protect the natural resources for current and future generations. Recently, a producer who is making some conservation minded improvements to his farm relayed to me a discussion he had with a neighbor who had asked "What are they (NRCS) making

you do on your farm?" His answer was "Nothing, everything they (NRCS) are helping us to do benefits my family." That really sums up the whole process. We know that as Soil Conservationists we will never know your land as well as you do, nor understand everything about your operation. However, we can use our experience to help you identify areas where you have an opportunity to improve your farm by protecting the natural resources. In the end, it is your choice to decide what gets done and when. Our job is to provide the advice and technical resources you need to make a plan and implement it.

Fall and winter months are great times to contact us and schedule a visit to your farm to start the planning process.

If you have a Conservation Plan but don't know if you need an updated plan, here are a few signs that your plan is out of date:

1. Grandpa had a plan, but no one seems to know where it is.
2. You have gullies on your property, manure runs off of your barnyard or you have water quality issues at your well.
3. Grandma found Grandpa's Conservation Plan, but you can't remember the last time some of the crops listed were grown on the farm.

The key is anytime significant changes have been made to your operation, you should consider updating your plan to reflect the changes.

Contact the NRCS office at 717-299-5361 x. 3. We are here to help, remember natural resource conservation begins and ends with you!

—Bob Livingston, NRCS Soil Conservationist (2012)



FREE MANURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



Do you need a manure management plan or is your plan out of date? All farms that generate or spread manure are required to have a written plan and are encouraged to attend this workshop! We will show you what the advantages are of having a plan, how to complete each step of the workbook, and how to implement the plan.

This plan needs to be kept for your records only; No government agency is required to review it or have it on file.



**Don't forget to bring a map or aerial photo of your farm.
We will provide a workbook.**



Lunch will be included!

**Where: Manheim Fire Company
83 South Main Street
Manheim, PA, 17545**

**When: Wednesday October 26th
9AM- 2:30 PM**

How to RSVP: 717-299-5361 Ext. 5



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



EXTRAORDINARY GIVE: NOV. 18, 2016

Benefits Conservation School and County Envirothons

November 18, please consider being a part of Lancaster County's Largest Day of Online Giving. The EXTRAORDINARY GIVE, extragive.org offers a 24 hour giving marathon. Grow future generations of outdoor enthusiasts by clicking on the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County to give to the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School and the Lancaster County Envirothons. The **Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County** is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that supports and sustains the stewardship, education, and conservation practices undertaken by the Lancaster County Conservation District.

Every dollar you donate will be stretched by \$250,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors.

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

—Sallie Gregory, Education Coordinator

THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE™

COMMUNITY Rodgers & Associates

NOVEMBER 18, 2016



A Lancaster County Dirt and Gravel Road

Dirt & Gravel Road Program

Each year the Lancaster County Conservation District administers the county's Dirt and Gravel Road Program. This statewide conservation program was established in 1997 based on an initiative by conservation groups such as Trout Unlimited. The program provides funding to municipalities and other entities to reduce sediment pollution to streams while improving the quality of unpaved public roads. This year, the District's Dirt & Gravel Road Quality Assurance Board (QAB) met to review six Dirt & Gravel Road applications submitted by four municipalities requesting over \$136,000. The Lancaster County Dirt & Gravel Road Program had \$82,700 to allocate to local projects. Road surface maintenance, road stability, and road base improvements stood out as focal points of the projects funded again this year. Contracts were awarded to projects in Elizabeth, Fulton, Little Britain, and Drumore Townships. \$4,500 was awarded to Elizabeth Township for the continued maintenance of Pumping Station Road and Segloch Road. Fulton Township was awarded \$11,750 for work on Peters Creek Road. Little Britain Township received \$25,000 for road improvements on Camp Road. Drumore Township received \$30,000 for the long-term maintenance of Fishing Creek Road and Fern Glen Drive. These projects continue to improve local water quality by reducing sediment pollution, encouraging infiltration, and reducing long-term maintenance costs while also benefiting our road network. The Dirt and Gravel Road Program continues to be a valuable resource to the county.

—Evan Martin – D&G Road Program Assistant

Low Volume Road Program Update

Lancaster County's Low Volume Road Program has been assisting municipalities for the last several years providing more than \$500,000 in assistance maintaining roads less traveled in the county. The Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies which assists with technical aspects of the Program recently held a tour of Low Volume Road Projects here in Lancaster County. Over 80 participants from all over the state of Pennsylvania toured both rural and urban Low Volume Road projects throughout the county. The county and the City of Lancaster are being viewed as leaders when it comes to Low Volume Road projects in both areas. It was nice to share our success with peers from around the state.

As a reminder to municipalities that are thinking about applying for the next round of Low Volume Road funding next spring, now is the time to get traffic counts completed on your potential low volume road projects, so you have them recorded for the application round next winter. Remember traffic counts cannot be completed between Thanksgiving and March 1st as per the program guidelines. If your municipality is on the fence about whether or not you will be applying for a potential project, you're encouraged to get a traffic count done now so you have it just in case. A traffic count is good for 3 years; it will not be a wasted effort.

Finally, in order to assist those municipalities that are applying for Low Volume Road projects the Lancaster County Quality Assurance Board (QAB), who oversees the Low Volume Road Program here in Lancaster County, has decided to have two Low Volume Road Application Rounds in 2017. The QAB is switching timeframes when Dirt & Gravel Road Applications and Low Volume Road Applications are due to assist municipalities with traffic count data collection. In order to make this switch a reality the QAB has decided to have two Low Volume Road Application rounds in 2017 and a Dirt & Gravel Road Application round in March 2018. This would put programs on a spring schedule for Dirt & Gravel Road projects and a fall schedule for Low Volume Road projects and should ease some of the traffic count and permitting issues sometimes encountered within the Low Volume Road Program. More information will be forthcoming about these changes to the application time periods.

If you have any questions about these changes or any of the information above please contact us at the District to answer your Dirt & Gravel or Low Volume Road questions, 299-5361 x.5 or www.lancasterconservation.org.

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



LICENSE TO FILL...



SAVE THE DATE

A Healthy Bay Takes Root in Trees

The **Lancaster County Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale** will be held

Wednesday, April 12, 8 AM – 7 PM

at the Farm and Home Center.

Orders will be taken beginning February 1.

Please mark your calendar to be a part of this conservation effort.

Chapter 105 Permit Updates

The Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) is delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review and acknowledge various Chapter 105 General Permits for projects involving water obstructions and encroachments to regulated waters of the Commonwealth. As part of the permitting process, a state and federal application submission to the LCCD is required. The state application is known as the DEP Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit Registration, while the federal portion of the application is the US Army Corps of Engineers Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP). In order to qualify for a Chapter 105 General Permit, the proposed activity must meet all the permit conditions. Projects that do not meet the permit conditions require direct authorization through the Department of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Several of the General Permits that the Lancaster County Conservation District acknowledges are for the installation, operation, modification and maintenance of agricultural activities that encroach into streams and their floodways. For example, the General Permit 6 authorizes agricultural crossings and ramps, whereas the General Permit 9 authorizes grassed waterways, terraces, diversions, waste storage facilities, and spring development designed in conjunction with other agricultural best management practices through the implementation of a conservation plan.



Figure 1. General Permit 6 authorized cattle crossing

On June 30th of this year, the US Army Corps' Federal authorization PASPGP-4 expired and was replaced by the PASPGP-5. As a result, the state and federal documents needed to register for the General Permit application have been revised. Please visit the Lancaster County Conservation District website links to revised Chapter 105 forms.

<http://lanasterconservation.org/erosion-sedimentation/surface-water-projects/stream-encroachment/>

—Samantha Gordon, Erosion Control Technician

The Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County and Lancaster Clean Water Consortium

Founded in 2007, the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County is the tax exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization arm of the Lancaster County Conservation District. The mission of the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County is to promote, support, and sustain the stewardship, education, and conservation activities undertaken by the Lancaster County Conservation District. The primary goal of the Lancaster County Conservation District is to build a sustainable future for all citizens of Lancaster County. To accomplish this mission, the Foundation applies for and administers grants received for the following areas: Environmental Education, Watershed Program, Plain Sect Outreach, and Agriculture. One example of the Foundation's valuable work is helping to support the District's Environmental Education Program by sponsoring grant applications which assist with funding the Lancaster County Envirothon program and the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School. A 15-member volunteer board of directors meets quarterly on the 3rd Wednesday at 3:00 pm at the Farm & Home Center.

The Foundation also has a 9-member steering committee. The Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium's primary focus is to provide educational seminars, planning, and outreach for municipalities contending with stormwater related concerns. The mission of the Consortium is to facilitate the development of proactive, efficient, and cohesive strategies to restore and maintain the waterways of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, ultimately resulting in compliance with federal and state regulations intended to reduce pollution and accelerate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The Consortium sponsors seminars and workshops focused on environmental education and MS4 compliance for their

The mission of the Consortium is to facilitate the development of proactive, efficient, and cohesive strategies to restore and maintain the waterways of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, ultimately resulting in compliance with federal and state regulations intended to reduce pollution and accelerate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

municipal and watershed organization membership.

This year highlights the completion the Lancaster County Streamside Project Grant. The grant provided a total of \$85,000 to 5 municipalities to implement stormwater best management practices. A new Stormwater Mini-Grant Program began this year which provides \$10,000 to municipalities for stormwater BMP installation and MS4 education. The Consortium receives funding through membership fees and state grants. In an effort to raise additional funds, the 2nd annual Consortium Golf Tournament was held in September 2016 at Conestoga Country Club. The Consortium meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm at the Farm & Home Center.

If you are interested in more information or would like to donate to the Foundation or become a member of the Consortium, you can visit the Foundation page of the Lancaster County Conservation District website at <http://lanasterconservation.org/conservation-foundation/> or the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium website at www.lccwc.com/.

—Kent Bitting, Professional Engineer

Agricultural Activities Requiring NPDES Permit Coverage

The Clean Water Act of 1972 created a permitting program to address water pollution by regulating sources that discharge pollutants. This program is known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES. The original scope of the NPDES program was limited to point source pollution, which is typically defined as effluent exiting a pipe. The scope of the program has grown to address pollution from a wider range of activities.

The NPDES permit authorizes the discharge and/or potential discharge of stormwater into waters of the Commonwealth from construction activities involving one acre or more of earth disturbance. While NPDES permitting is most frequently associated with non-agricultural construction projects, there are situations where it is required for agricultural activities.

Agricultural activities that are subject to NPDES permit coverage comprise activities where disturbance exceeds one acre and new impervious cover has been introduced. These activities include, but are not limited to construction of a house,

construction of a barn, construction of chicken or hog houses, construction of manure (waste) facilities and construction of bunk silos. Agricultural activities that are exempt from NPDES permit coverage include the installation of swales, diversions, waterways, filter strips, and terraces. The conversion of land to agriculture land use and the installation of wildlife food plots are also exempt.

Furthermore, an NPDES permit may not be required for agricultural projects if the activity is proposed in association with an existing conservation plan. These projects include paving a barnyard, paving animal walkways, and building roofs. While these activities are not subject to NPDES permit coverage, there should be adequate conservation best management practices onsite to address the additional impervious area and the potential for sediment laden runoff during construction.

Use the table below as a quick guide for verifying if your agricultural project requires NPDES permit coverage.

—Emily Broich and James Fricke, Erosion Control Technicians

Activity	NPDES if 1 acre or greater of disturbance	Have to address Post Construction Stormwater Management
Building a home	Yes	Yes
Building a barn	Yes	Yes
Building chicken/hog houses	Yes	Yes
Building manure (waste) storage facility	Yes	Yes
Building bunk silos	Yes	Yes
Installing swales, diversions, waterways, filter strips, terraces	No	No
Paving barnyard	No, if covered in conservation plan	No, but must have BMPs to address the impervious area
Paving animal walkways	No, if covered in conservation plan	No, but must have BMPs to address the impervious areas
Building roofs	No, if covered in conservation plan	No, but must have BMPs to address impervious area
Converting land to ag land	No	No
Putting in wildlife food plots	No	No

Note: If local municipal ordinance is more stringent, municipal ordinance must be followed.

Staff Celebration

Nevin Greiner began his career at the Lancaster County Conservation District in April 1989. At that time, the District was comprised of 12 employees located in the Farm and Home Center. Fast forward 27 years; the District has grown to over 30 employees. Even with the numerous changes in Lancaster County over the past 27 years, two things remain the same; the Conservation District is still headquartered at the Farm and Home Center and Nevin Greiner is still a dedicated employee helping county residents become better stewards of our natural resources. Nevin's role at the District has been vital to the improvement of the Erosion and Sediment and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System programs, the development of the Chapter 105 delegation agreement with Department of Environmental Protection, and the success of the various outreach and education programs, such as the Youth Conservation School. We would like to celebrate and thank Nevin Greiner for his continued service to the Lancaster County Conservation District.

—Evan Martin, Erosion Control Technician

*Thank you Nevin for
your continued service to
the Lancaster County
Conservation District.*



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEW STAFF

There are several new faces at the Conservation District as job changes and a retirement took place. With special thanks and appreciation to Roberta Hartz, secretary/receptionist; she retired after more than ten years of service. Kate Bresaw and Justin Furnia have moved from Ag conservation technicians to Ag compliance inspectors. In addition, Rob Weaver and Wendy Coons left the Lancaster County NRCS office for new positions in the region.

Maddie Klein is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the District, who will cover Providence, Eden, Bart, Sadsbury, and Colerain Townships. She grew up near Hershey, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Penn State University in 2015 with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management. She has always been concerned with preserving natural resources due to the benefit that people receive but often take for granted or don't notice. She has been horseback riding for 14 years, but also enjoys photography, fishkeeping, hiking, and is an animal lover.

Leslie Weller is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the District, covering Rapho, Penn, West Hempfield, East Hempfield, Manheim, and Lancaster Townships. She grew up in Quarryville and now lives in Lancaster City. She graduated cum laude from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in 2016 with a degree in Environmental Geoscience and Geography and Planning and a minor in Spatial Analysis. Her hobbies include horseback riding, hiking, and fishing.

Katie Turner is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the District, covering Drumore, East Drumore, Fulton, and Little Britain Townships. She grew up in Camp Hill and now lives in Mechanicsburg with her husband. She graduated magna cum laude from Penn State in 2013 with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, Soil Science option, and a minor in Watersheds and Water Resources. She graduated with a M.S. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Delaware in 2016, where she focused her research on phosphorus management. In her spare time, Katie enjoys gardening, cooking, and hiking.

*Maddie Klein,
Leslie Weller,
Katie Turner,
Emily Broich,
Jim Fricke,
Eric Knoll*



Emily Broich is a new Erosion and Sedimentation Technician at the District. She graduated from University of Pittsburgh with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Previously, Emily worked for La Academia Partnership Charter School in Lancaster City as a bilingual para-educator for five years. Most recently, she held seasonal positions gaining experience in environmental education and wildlife conservation. She enjoys exploring the county's natural areas and learning about wildlife, with a special interest in birds.

James Fricke is a new Erosion and Sedimentation Technician at the District. He graduated from Lock Haven University in December of 2015, where he received a B.S. in Geology with a concentration in Water and the Environment. While at Lock Haven, Jim worked at the University's Water and Soil Resources Laboratory where he researched the environmental impacts of acid mine drainage and Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

Eric Knoll is a new Agriculture Conservation Technician at the District, covering Leacock, Paradise, and Salisbury townships. He is a 2013 graduate of Penn State University where he received a B. S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Previously, Eric worked at the Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in the Avian Virology Department and for Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology in Delaware, as a research assistant. In his free time he enjoys working on art projects, cooking, and getting outdoors.



Kefeni Kejela and Sally Barnes

Kefeni Kejela is a new Soil Conservationist/District Conservationist at Lancaster NRCS Field Office. He is a graduate of Krasnodar State Agricultural University earning both BSC and MSC degrees in soil science, graduate of University of East Anglia, England in MSC (Resource Management for Development Planning-1987) and graduate of Oklahoma State University in Environmental Management (PhD) in 2003. Previously, Kefeni worked as a research soil scientist at the Institute of Agricultural Research in Ethiopia, Senior Soil Conservationist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Soil and Water Conservation- Ethiopia up to 1996. From 2003 to 2004, Kefeni worked as a Soil Scientist in Maine and from 2004 to 2008, he worked as a Soil Scientist at Leesport Field Office in Berks County updating soils of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Northampton and Lehigh counties. He worked as a Soil Conservationist from 2008 to date both in Berks and Lancaster (from June 29, 2016). In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering providing technical assistance to college and high school students, writing scientific papers. In 2010, he published a book on heavy metal leaching in soils applied with biosolids. He also enjoys traveling and hunting.

Sally Barnes is a new Soil Conservation Technician with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Previously she worked for the York County Conservation District as an Ag technician. A member of the York County farming community, Sally and her husband own and operate a horse farm in York Township, where they breed and raise racehorses. They also have a 2 year old son, Louis. Sally grew up in England and has a BSc Agricultural Economics degree from the University of Reading, United Kingdom.

Beverly Parmer is a new part time Receptionist/Secretary. She is a Lancaster County native living in Millersville. She graduated from Millersville University with a B.A. in English. Beverly sings in her church choir and chairs the church's annual community yard sale. At home Beverly spoils her Shih Tzu Bernie and tabby cat Buddy.

Holly Shaub is a new part-time Receptionist/Secretary. She is from Lancaster County and graduated from Elizabethtown College. Her work background includes office management and retail buying. She is the mother of three adult children and recently became a grandmother. She enjoys reading, hiking and spending time at the Chesapeake Bay.



Beverly Parmer and Holly Shaub