



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

(717) 240-7812

Cumberland County Conservation District

Summer 2006

Cumberland County Cover Crops Incentive Program

With the signing of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, Pennsylvania has made a commitment to help remove the Chesapeake Bay from the federal Clean Water Act's list of impaired waters by 2010. Pennsylvania is important in this effort since 50% of the fresh water entering the Chesapeake Bay flows from the Susquehanna River.

The Cumberland County Conservation District has been providing cost-share to Cumberland County farmers for installation of best management practices (BMPs) under the Chesapeake Bay Program since 1987. In these years of the Bay Program, practices such as manure storages, barnyard improvements, waste transfer systems, streambank fencing and others were the common best management practices utilized by the farming community in an effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

In order for Pennsylvanians to reach goals established by the Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania and participating counties have put together strategies including: point source, air reduction, urban, non-point source and agricultural. When it comes to the agricultural strategy, the strategy utilized a complement of existing and newly developed BMPs to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction.

One of the new BMPs approved for Cumberland County that will be rolled out this summer is Cover Crops. This BMP is for fields where corn has been taken off for corn silage and the field is left bare. A winter cover crop is planted in late summer or fall to provide soil cover during the winter. Types of cover crops to be planted can be wheat, rye, barley and others approved by the Conservation District.

Benefits of cover crops include the following: soil erosion protection from wind and water, green manure – soil incorporation of any field or forage crop while green for the purpose of soil improvement, scavenge residual nitrogen reducing the possibility of groundwater contamination, weed suppression, retention of soil moisture and many more.

The Conservation District has received funding to implement a cover crop incentives program over the next few years. Final details of the program are being worked out by Conservation District staff at this time. If you are a farmer in Cumberland County who will be taking off corn silage this fall and are interested in establishing cover crops on your fields, contact Pam Eyer at the Conservation District at (717) 240-7812 for an application and guidelines on this new program to improve the natural resources of Cumberland County. **Deadline to apply is September 15, 2006.**



New Conservation District Employee

Growing up on a dairy farm in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania gave Pam Eyer a love for farming and the outdoors. Her career started in Carlisle in the 1980's as a Soil Conservation Technician. She then worked in the excavating field for many years and was recently hired by the Conservation District as the Chesapeake Bay Technician. She and her husband, Dick, enjoy camping and spending time in Northeast, PA. Pam looks forward to working with the landowners in Cumberland County, and providing assistance to help them protect their valuable farmland.



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4th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament



The 4th Annual Cumberland County Conservation District Golf Tournament will be held at Mayapple Golf Links on October 4, 2006 with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. The entry fee is \$60/participant and is due to the Cumberland County Conservation District no later than September 29th. The entry fee includes golf, cart, prizes, non-alcoholic beverages, and a steak and chicken dinner afterward. Practice balls will be provided for warm-up before the event. For more information about the tournament and for an entry form please visit our website at www.cumberlandcd.com and for information and directions to Mayapple Golf Links please log on to www.mayapplegolflinks.com. All proceeds from the event support environmental education scholarships for Cumberland County students. Register early to make sure you get a spot and share this announcement with your friends and co-workers. Please contact Vince or Mike at (717) 240-7812 with any questions you may have. We hope to see you on October 4th.

Pennsylvania Manure Regulations Updated

The State Conservation Commission has spent the last five years reviewing and updating Pennsylvania's nutrient management regulations. The new regulations will go into effect on October 1, 2006. These changes address scientific advances in agronomics and manure management. By adopting the new practices, producers can improve their profitability while enhancing water quality and doing their part to help improve the Chesapeake Bay.

The regulations are a balance between properly applying manure generated on high density animal operations (operations with more than 2,000 pounds of animal per acre) without over restricting the movement of nutrients throughout the state. The revisions cover a wide range of topics, including phosphorous management, exporting manure from farms, manure setbacks from water sources, seasonal application of manure, manure stacking in crop fields, soil testing, and financial assistance for best management practice implementation and plan development. The regulations changes also take into account pleasure operations that have greater than 8,000 pounds of animals and met the 2,000 pounds of animal per acre. This will include many pleasure horse operations that were excluded from the previous version of the regulations.

CONSTRUCTION SITE STABILIZATION

With the hot days of summer ending and the cooler days of fall approaching it is time to start thinking about stabilizing your construction site. The stabilization can be either a temporary measure until some future activity disturbs the site again or it can permanent. DEP regulations require that when the earthmoving activity ends the site must be stabilized. What does end mean? Is that every day, a weekend or an extended period. The regulations do not specify, but common sense says that any extended period of inactivity will require some type of temporary or permanent stabilization. For example, any site where the earth moving equipment has been removed should be stabilized. Sites that are completed should be stabilized per the approved erosion control plan. That usually requires a soil sample be tested for the proper amounts of lime and fertilizer, seed and straw mulch. Other options maybe erosion control matting, compost or even sod. Any swales or concentrated flow areas will require some type of erosion control matting.

Temporary measures may be seed and mulch or compost or wood chips or some other non-erosive material, such as stone. The seeding should be completed as soon as possible in the fall to allow the grass to become established. Late season planting may require a cover crop such as wheat or barley to be added to the mix. Help to keep Cumberland County streams clean by doing your part. Get those sites green!

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOLDS ANNUAL ENVIROTHON

MECHANICSBURG, PA – Students from seven area high schools competed in the annual Cumberland County Envirothon on Tuesday, May 2, at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association, Silver Spring Township. The top three overall scores were The Bundle of Sticks from Cumberland Valley High School in first place, The Droptine Dreamers from Carlisle Area in second place, and The Swamp Monsters! from Carlisle Area in third place. The Bundle of Sticks team represented Cumberland County at the 2006 Pennsylvania Envirothon at Penn State Mont Alto Campus in Franklin County on May 22 and 23. The team finished in 37th place at the station testing part of the competition out of 64 teams. In the oral component part of the competition, the Bundle of Sticks finished 48th out of the same amount of teams.

The annual Cumberland County Envirothon, presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, gives high school students hands-on field experience dealing with environmental issues. Students complete five exams that present problems focusing on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a current issue; this year's issue was water stewardship in a changing climate. Seven schools totaling 26 teams representing 104 students participated. Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association prepared a snack and lunch for the event and all participants and advisors received a Cumberland County Envirothon t-shirt. Additionally, the Conservation District received financial support from the following local businesses, which helped to provide for lunch, trophies and t-shirts for the event.

2006 Contributors

Alpha Consulting Engineers, Inc
Michael C. D'Angelo, PLS
H Edward Black & Associates
Diffenbaugh Surveying
Evans Engineering, Inc.
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
John W. Gleim Jr., Inc.
The Homestead Group, Inc.
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Melham Associates P.C.
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Rettew Associates, Inc.
Snoke's Excavating & Paving, Inc.
Triple Crown Corp
Yingst Homes, Inc.



Caption for photo: Pictured is the winning team of the 2006 Cumberland County Envirothon, held at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association. They are from left to right, Lindsey Leonard, Andy Welte, Kisha Flawd, John Ballou, and Tasha Bretz.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 06/07 SCHOOL YEAR

The Cumberland County Conservation District has established an Environmental College Scholarship Program to support agricultural and environmental education students residing in Cumberland County. Profits from the 2006 tree seedling sale have enabled the Conservation District to once again offer two scholarships for this school year.

Two \$500 scholarships are being offered for the 06/07 school year to College students who meet the requirements listed below and are chosen as recipients by the Conservation District Board of Directors.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:

1. Cumberland County Resident
(Graduated from Cumberland Co. H.S.)
2. Major in:
 - a) Agriculture
 - b) Environmental Resource Management
 - c) Conservation
 - d) Forestry
 - e) Other Related Field
3. Four year majors - Junior or Senior
4. Associate Degrees - Second Year

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS OCTOBER 20, 2006

FOR APPLICATION CONTACT:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
43 BROOKWOOD AVE., SUITE 4
CARLISLE, PA 17013-9172
Phone 717-240-7812
cgoshorn@ccpa.net



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www.cumberlandcd.com
Email—conserve@pa.net

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER:

4.....Labor Day – Office Closed
11-13.....Annual Dirt & Gravel Road Conference
13.....Water Testing – District Office
26.....Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

OCTOBER:

4.....Annual Golf Tournament - Mayapple
11.....Water Testing – District Office
24.....Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM

NOVEMBER:

8.....Water Testing – District Office
10.....Veteran's Day – Office Closed
21.....Board Meeting – District Office 7:30 PM
23.....Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
24.....Day after Thanksgiving – Office Closed

DECEMBER:

13.....Water Testing – District Office
19.....Board Meeting – District Office 8:00 AM
22Christmas Holiday – Office Closed
25Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

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Farmer Director Donald Deckman
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District Technician	Brian Jaymes
District Technician	Kim Falvey
District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
Chesapeake Bay Tech.	Pam Eyer
Nutrient Mgt. Spec.	Amy Skvarka
Watershed Spec.	Vince McCollum
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