



THE CONSERVATION REPORT

www.cumberlandcd.com

Cumberland County Conservation District

Winter 2010

8th Annual Rain Barrel Project



The Cumberland County Conservation District is partnering with Cedar Cliff High School to construct rain barrels promoting Stormwater Runoff Management and Education. This year the District plans to construct 50 rain barrels for distribution to county residents by the end of May. In the past, rain barrels were sold for \$40. The District hopes to offer them at a similar price again this year. Currently, rain barrels are limited to one per person until the District can get a rain barrel to all of the individuals on our waiting list.

Rain barrels are containers that collect and store rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for future use. The rain barrels are constructed from a recycled 55-gallon pickle barrel, a screen to remove debris and keep insects out, and components found at most hardware stores.

Rain barrels can be constructed in a number of ways. No matter how they are constructed, they serve the same purpose and that is to collect rainwater and decrease the amount of stormwater runoff that leaves your property. Using rain barrels is one way to decrease your household's impact on local streams and also become a good steward in your watershed.

If you are interested in getting your name on the mailing list or have any questions about the project, please contact us at 717-240-7812.

Cumberland County Envirothon

The Cumberland County Envirothon is an annual event presented by the Cumberland County Conservation District, which offers high school students a hands-on field experience dealing with environmental issues. Students work as a team to complete five exams that test the student's knowledge on environmental issues focusing on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a current issue, which changes each year.

The 2010 Cumberland County Envirothon will be held Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at the Mechanicsburg Sportsman Association. www.msa-pa.org The Current Issue this year is *Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning*. If you are a teacher in Cumberland County and would like to participate in the Envirothon, please contact the Conservation District.



EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

On January 1, 2010 a new erosion and sedimentation control plan review fee schedule for construction activities in the county went into effect.

Log onto the district website for updated forms www.cumberlandcd.com

DEP issued a revised NPDES permit (PAG-02 2009 Amendment) for discharges from construction activities that went into effect December 8, 2009.

The new permit will only be good for two years from the date of issuance.

The fee for a General NPDES application or renewal is now \$500.

Changes to the permit may mean that you will need an Individual Permit in cases where you could have used a General Permit in the past.

Log onto the DEP website for updated forms www.dep.state.pa.us.

Chapter 102 Earthmoving regulations under revision

The proposed changes to Chapter 102 now include buffers and a permit-by-rule.

The fees have been increased.

A large number of comments were received, which will require DEP to review the proposed changes to see if they will continue with the same ideas.

DEP may make changes based on the comments received.

Continue to monitor the DEP website for updates (see above).

Cumberland County is working on a Countywide Stormwater Management Plan (ACT 167)

Previous plans were based on watersheds. i.e., Yellow Breeches Creek or Cedar Run.

The Stormwater plan will have both a volume reduction and water quality component.

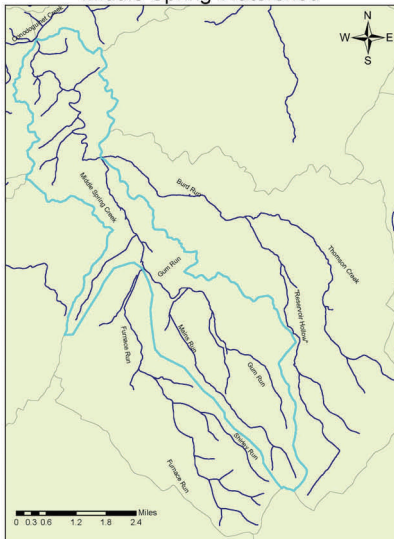
Each municipality will be required to implement the standards of the plan after the County and DEP approve it.

Please see the Planning Commission website for status updates. www.ccpa.net or call (717) 240-5362.



Sediment basins for Route 15 / 581 project.

Middle Spring Watershed



Watershed Plan Approved

Over the past several years, the Conservation District has been working to get an approved Watershed Implementation Plan for the Middle Spring Watershed in western Cumberland County. The District hired a consultant to develop the plan, which was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in December 2009. The plan will enable the District and other watershed partners to apply for grant money to install best management practices throughout the watershed to improve the health of Middle Spring. The goal of this planning and implementation project is to remove Middle Spring from PA DEP's list of impaired streams. The District is hopeful to apply for and receive a grant to start implementing practices by 2011. This project will focus on utilizing both agricultural and urban best management practices. For more information, please contact the District at 717-240-7812.

2010 Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

Deadline to order – March 26, 2010

Seedlings & Size	Quantity (per packet)	# of Packets	Cost per packet	Total
Colorado Blue Spruce 12 – 16 inches	10	_____	\$7.00	\$ _____
Douglas Fir 12 – 18 inches	10	_____	\$7.00	\$ _____
White Pine 8 – 14 inches	10	_____	\$7.00	\$ _____
Concolor Fir 9 – 14 inches	10	_____	\$8.00	\$ _____
Sugar Maple 18 – 24 inches	10	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
White Oak 18 – 24 inches	10	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
Red Oak 18 – 24 inches	10	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
Pear Tree Pack 4 feet	2	_____	\$24.00	\$ _____
Apple Tree Pack 5 – 7 feet	3	_____	\$38.00	\$ _____

Groundcover (2.25" peat pots – 50 per flat)

Myrtle: _____ x \$20.00 per flat = \$ _____

Red Oak Acorns (50 – 60 acorns per pound depending on size)

_____ x \$6.00 per pound = \$ _____

Showy Northeast Native Wildflower Mix with Native Grasses

(1 oz. covers approximately 300 square feet)

_____ x \$3.00 per ounce = \$ _____

Bulb Packages (\$6.00 per package)

E _____ Spectacular Gladiolus (14 bulbs) annual, likes sun

F _____ Hosta (one plant) perennial, likes partial shade

G _____ Tiger Lilies (3 bulbs) perennial, likes sun

H _____ Everbearing Strawberry (10 plants) perennial, likes sun

Tree Shelters

2 foot tubex shelter \$2.25 each x _____ = \$ _____

3 foot tubex shelter \$3.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

4 foot tubex shelter \$3.75 each x _____ = \$ _____

5 foot tubex shelter \$4.25 each x _____ = \$ _____

Locust wood stakes for shelter support or garden use

2 foot wood stake \$0.60 each x _____ = \$ _____

3 foot wood stake \$0.80 each x _____ = \$ _____

4 foot wood stake \$1.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

5 foot wood stake \$1.25 each x _____ = \$ _____

Totals

PA Sales Tax Included in Prices – Do Not Add Tax

Seedlings \$ _____

Groundcover \$ _____

Acorns \$ _____

Wildflowers \$ _____

Bulbs \$ _____

Tree Shelters \$ _____

Wood Stakes \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please include entire order form page with check.

Make check payable and mail to:

Cumberland County Conservation District
310 Allen Road, Suite 301, Carlisle, PA 17013-9101

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

PICKUP LOCATION: 310 Allen Road, Carlisle
April 15th (2 pm – 6 pm) and April 16th (8 am – 3 pm)

Manure Management Regulations for Farms

These days there is a lot of talk about proper management of manure which is either generated on the farm or being imported for on farm use as a supplement to fertilizer.

Properly handled, livestock manure is beneficial for plant growth, improving soil structure, and increasing soil fertility. However, over application and mis-handling of manure can result in elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in streams and groundwater. The runoff can cause pathogen contamination, fish kills, and odor and taste problems.

Not only is managing your nutrients a sound environmental practice, it is regulated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection under Chapters 91 and 102 of the Clean Streams Law for farms which produce or utilize manure. Under DEP regulations all farms which produce or utilize manure are required to develop and maintain a manure management plan.

What is a Manure Management Plan?

A manure management plan is a *written plan* addressing the use of manure on the operation in accordance with the most recent edition of the DEP Manure Management Manual.

The plan in its basic form takes into account nutrient needs throughout the crop rotation, expected crop yields, liming requirements, existing soil nutrient levels, and timing, placement and amounts of additional nutrients applied to the soil. In addition, site limitations based on potential environmental impacts are considered. To determine and develop these plans the following background information may be needed: crop acreage, crop field histories, measured harvest or crop yield checks, livestock or poultry numbers and average weights, amount and kind of manure applied per acre, amount of purchased fertilizer applied per acre, soil analysis, manure analysis, and manure spreader calibration.

The manure management plan also identifies the total amount of animals on the operation and the amount of manure generated. Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs) and manure storage concerns, if present are also identified and addressed in a manure management plan.

Once the plan is developed, it is implemented and maintained at the operation and does not need to be submitted to the Conservation District or approved by the District Board of Directors. The manure management plan can be developed by the farmer using the PA Department of Environmental Protection publication "Field Application of Manure". This manual is available through the Cumberland County Conservation District or on DEP's website at <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-48423/361-0300-002.pdf>. Plans can also be developed by private consultants or with assistance from the Conservation District staff.

The Manure Management Manual also sets forth general guidelines for spreading manure on environmentally sensitive areas and guidelines for winter spreading of manure.

If you would like more information on developing a manure management plan for your operation, you can contact Kristen Kitchen, Nutrient Management Specialist at 240-5360 or by email at kkitchen@ccpa.net.

2010 Grassland Reserve Program Sign-Up Underway

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program for landowners to protect and enhance grasslands (pasture or hayland) on their property. GRP applications may be filed for a permanent easement or rental agreement with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) at any time. Established approval dates using standardized ranking criteria have already been developed.

Annual rental payments will be disbursed by USDA to GRP participants that are approved for a 10, 15, or 20 year rental agreement contract.

FOR ADDITIONAL GRP DETAILS, CONTACT THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY OFFICE AT (717) 249-3924 EXTENSION 2 PROMPTLY.



Federal Initiatives for the Chesapeake Bay

In May of 2009, President Obama signed an executive order that recognizes the Chesapeake Bay as a national treasure and calls on the federal government to lead a renewed effort to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and estuary.

Part of this executive order establishes a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay. Now you are probably ready to move on to a different article because your eyes are glazing over, but please stick with me for awhile. A TMDL is important to consider, because it sets limits on the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that can enter a watershed in a specified amount of time. Hopefully your interest has perked up a little bit, because anyone familiar with agriculture production is familiar with nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. And, by the way, all of Cumberland County is located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Bottom line; we all need to be aware of what legislation may be coming down the road regarding water quality. The federal government is mandating Pennsylvania to come up with goals and strategies to accomplish cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. At this point, the Conservation District does not know what all the implications will be. We can at this point try to be as proactive as possible, since we do know that agriculture **will be** affected.

By law, all farming operations in Pennsylvania are required to have a Conservation Plan, or an Erosion and Sedimentation (E & S) plan. If manure is generated on the farm, a manure management plan is also required, and depending upon the farm operation, an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan may be needed.

If you are unsure whether your farm is compliant with state law regarding conservation policies, please contact the Cumberland County Conservation District. We can assist you by identifying what you need for your farming operation. Please contact Pam Eyer at (717)-240-5357 or peyer@ccpa.net. When you see information regarding this issue from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Chesapeake Bay, please take the time to be informed about the issues that could affect how you operate your business.

Chesapeake Bay Program

The economy is still presenting many challenges on the farm. For a producer that is interested in implementing conservation practices, it may be even more challenging to meet those goals. The Cumberland County Conservation District has funding available for renting no-till planters, or hiring a custom operator to plant by no-till means. This funding is available for the Spring 2010 crop season. There is also funding available to plant a small grain winter cover crop in the Fall of 2010. If you are new to cover crops or no-till, this is your opportunity to see how they can benefit your farm.

Pre-Sidress Nitrogen Testing

If you plant corn and want to know if you have applied enough fertilizer for maximum yield, the Conservation District can help. Pre-sidress Nitrogen Testing for corn fields is available for the 2010 crop season. This test will help determine if you actually need to add that extra fertilizer. Not only will you keep excess nitrogen from entering the ground water, it may save you money!

If you would like more information about any of these programs, please contact Pam Eyer at 717-240-7812 or peyer@ccpa.net.



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Residential Well Workshop and FREE Water Test

The hour and a half workshop starts at 4:30 or 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Cumberland County Service Center, 310 Allen Road, Carlisle. It will be taught by Kim Falvey from the Conservation District and Tom McCarty and George Hurd from Penn State Extension. To register, contact Kim Falvey at 240-5359 or kfalvey@ccpa.net. You will learn how to protect your well, get tips on managing your septic system, and learn how to interpret a water test report. Water samples must be returned on April 7, 2010 to be tested for total coliform and E. coli. Testing will be done through a DEP certified lab and will be free to the first 50 people who sign up for the workshop.

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