



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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2023 CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Conservation award winners demonstrate excellence in their commitment to conservation best management practices and are recognized for their great work through the conservation awards. Each of these individuals and organizations go above and beyond to help conserve the natural resources of Cumberland County.

Farmer of the Year

Paul MacNamara, St. Ann's Cattle Company



Clean Water Award

Kim Graybill, Pioneer Management



Conservation Organization of the Year

Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy, Ed and Mary Franco and Kim Fealtman



EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (E&S) / NPDES PROGRAM

When getting ready to go through winter on an active construction site it is important to think about getting the areas of the site that are disturbed and will be idle over the winter stabilized. Pennsylvania regulations require that any portion of a project that will be idle for 4 or more days must be immediately stabilized. There are two methods of stabilizing these areas, temporary stabilization and permanent stabilization. If the area is at final grade, it should be permanently stabilized by adding topsoil and a perennial vegetative cover. If the area will be regraded within a year, it should be temporarily stabilized by seeding with annual vegetative cover and straw mulched.

Temporary stabilization focuses on providing cover to protect the soil from accelerated erosion. This would include plants like annual ryegrass and winter wheat. Once seed is applied the area should have straw or hay applied at a rate of about 3 tons/acre. The straw or hay should be properly anchored, which can be accomplished by crimping the straw/hay into the ground or by spraying an emulsifier onto the straw or hay.

Permanent stabilization focuses on covering the soil to prevent accelerated erosion like temporary stabilization, but it also focuses on establishing a long lasting healthy vegetative cover. The soil should be properly fertilized and it is recommended to test the soil to determine the amount of fertilizer to use. Three to six inches of topsoil should be applied to the subsoil and any compaction of the subsoil should be alleviated. The recommended plantings would be perennial cool season grasses such as fescues, perennial rye or Kentucky bluegrass. A nurse crop of annual rye or winter wheat should be added for quick germination. Once seeded the area should be straw mulched like discussed for temporary stabilization.

Stabilizing a construction site helps keep the soil where its intended and minimizes any gullies or areas that will need to be repaired. It can also help to reduce the maintenance effort need on perimeter sediment controls or on-site sediment BMP's.



Proper winter temporary stabilization and on lot E&S controls can help protect the grading work the contractor has completed as well as protect our water resources.



Title 25 PA Code 102.22 requires temporary stabilization of any disturbed area of a site that will be idle for 4 or more days. This photo shows good temporary stabilization of a disturbed area with straw mulch.

NUTRIENT BALANCE SHEETS (NBSS) Q&A



What are Nutrient Balance Sheets?

There are two types of Nutrient Balance Sheets. The first is included in an Act 38 Nutrient Management (NMP) or manure received by a manure broker. These need to be written by a certified writer. The second is in a Manure Management Plan (MMP). These balance sheets do not require certification. Nutrient Balance Sheets are developed to evaluate the nutrient inputs and outputs on a farm or agricultural system. It is used to assess the sustainability of agricultural practices by comparing the amount of nutrients added to the soil through manure, fertilizers, and other resources, to the amount removed from the soil through crop harvests and other means.

When are they needed?

Nutrient Balance Sheets are needed when manure is exported to known agricultural operations for agricultural land application for crop production from an operation that falls under the Act 38 Program (Nutrient Management Program). These sheets are also needed when manure is being exported through a manure broker and is land applied to agricultural operations for crop production. Nutrient Balance Sheets are needed in a MMP when the crop receiving the manure is not in the rate tables that are located in the back of the MMP Guidance Manual.

Why are they needed?

A Nutrient Balance Sheet is needed to determine if there is a nutrient imbalance on a farm, which can lead to poor crop yields if there is a deficit and negative environmental impacts such as water pollution if there is an overabundance.

Who needs them?

Farmers/Operators that receive any type of manure from an operation that falls under the Act 38 Program (Nutrient Management), receives any type of manure from a broker, or has/needs a MMP with a crop not in the rate tables receiving the manure.

How can I get Nutrient Balance Sheets Written?

If a farmer/operator is receiving manure from a broker, that broker may be certified to write the balance sheet. Nutrient Balance Sheets must be written by a certified plan writer if the manure is coming from an operation with Act 38 status. The Cumberland County Conservation District has a list of certified technical service providers (TSPs) who can write the balance sheets. The Conservation District will write MMP Balance Sheets if required, so the plan can be deemed administratively complete.

For more information, questions, a TSP list, or need MMP Balance Sheets written, please contact Dylan Varner at 717-240-5360 or devarner@cumberlandcountypa.org.

DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS

West Pennsboro Township, Green Hill Road (LVR)

The first phase of road work finished on Green Hill Road this past summer. This project implemented drainage improvements to 0.80 miles of road to reduce flooding, as well as nonpoint source pollution to Mount Rock Spring Creek, in West Pennsboro Township.

Phase 1 Installation of an eight foot wide by 1 foot deep, vegetated drainage swale that collects run-off and conveys the water downstream which prevents road flooding and hazardous conditions.

Phase 2: Set to begin in winter 2023 and be completed by fall 2024. This phase will include raising the road profile to promote sheet flow of water on the road surface. Additionally, cross pipes will be installed to ensure water is conveyed along the roadside drainage swale.



Green Hill Road before construction



Green Hill Road after phase 1 construction.

Lower Mifflin Township, Pipeline Road (LVR)

This project corrected stormwater and surface drainage problems on a stream that crosses under Pipeline Road in Lower Mifflin Township. This unnamed tributary to Doubling Gap Creek faced flooding issues as the existing 30 inch culvert pipe was not adequate during high flow events. A 12 foot wide aluminum box culvert with a reconstructed 8 foot stream bed has replaced the previous 30 inch culvert cross pipe.



Original stream crossing on Pipeline Road



New stream crossing on Pipeline Road

Applying for a Road Grant!

The grant application period opens in January 2024 for both the Dirt & Gravel Road Program and the Low Volume Road Program. Grants are available to public road owning entities for projects that reduce sediment and nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality along public roads. Low volume paved roads must have less than 500 average traffic count of vehicles per day. Applicants must complete the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance certification training prior to the application deadline on April 19, 2024.

Contact the District for more information and to set up technical assistance or a pre-application meeting.

Better Roads, Cleaner Streams!

WATERSHED

Yellow Breeches Creek at Barnitz Church

In June, a stream restoration project was completed along 750 linear feet of the Yellow Breeches Creek to enhance habitat as well as help protect eroding banks. Barnitz Church is located at 23 Church Lane in Dickinson Township. This project implemented best management practices for stream restoration which included the installation of long vane deflectors and in stream habitat structures for trout and other aquatic organisms. Native trees, shrubs, and grasses are planned to be planted in late fall. Funding was provided through the Chesapeake Bay Program Countywide Action Plan through the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Construction and guidance was provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited.



Finished stream restoration work at Barnitz Church

Yellow Breeches Creek at Woodcreek Development

In July 2023, a stream restoration project was completed along 1,500 linear feet of the Yellow Breeches Creek to promote stream bank stabilization and aquatic organism habitat. The Woodcreek Development is located on Woodcreek Drive in Lower Allen Township. This project implemented best management practices for stream restoration which included rock and log vane deflectors, mudsill cribbing, and random boulder clusters. A native riparian planting is scheduled to occur this fall. Funding was provided by the Countywide Action Plan through the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Construction and guidance was provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited.



Stream Restoration work within the Wood Creek Development

ENVIROTHON

On May 3rd, 2023, the Big Mouth Bass from Cumberland Valley High School took first place at the 38th annual Envirothon that was held at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Opossum Lake, located in Lower Frankford Township. Second place was awarded to the Tree Huggin' Pine Martens from Cumberland Valley High School and third place went to the Global Warmers from Carlisle High School. The Big Mouth Bass advanced to the state competition at Camp Mount Luther where they placed 19th out of 63 teams!

Save the Date for the 39th Annual Envirothon, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024. This year's Current Issue topic is "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future". The winning team from Cumberland County will advance to the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition at Camp Mount Luther on May 22, 2024, with the oral presentation scheduled for the week prior to onsite testing.



The Big Mouth Bass from Cumberland Valley High School. Team Members include: Will Nicholas, Evan Chevarria, Zade Elamir, Marcus Vener, and Jack Miller. Team advisors (not pictured) Amber Sim and Jenny Pyers.



AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ACAP)

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Budget. ACAP provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth. ACAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and delegated to participating conservation districts for local implementation of the program.

ACAP applications are available from the Cumberland County Conservation District and may be submitted at this time. There is currently no application deadline, but all applications must be approved by the Conservation District Board before any work on the project may proceed. For more information or for help completing an application, please contact Charles Heberlig III ceheberlig@cumberlandcountypa.gov or call the Conservation District at (717) 240-7812.

Project completed with Cumberland County Conservation District Conservation Excellence Grant Program funding.



Denuded barnyard with manure and soil run off.

Before



Roofed Heavy Use Area and Manure Storage to eliminate manure and soil run off.

After



Cover Crop Incentive Program



- ◇ Deadline to apply is **December 1, 2023**
- ◇ This year the program pays \$30.00 per acre for no-till and \$20.00 per acre for minimum till
- ◇ May be terminated or harvested after **April 1, 2024**
- ◇ Farms will be inspected for Ch. 91 Manure Management and Ch. 102 Ag Erosion & Sediment Control regulations
- ◇ Total acreage funded per farmer is determined after signup deadline.
- ◇ The 2022-2023 program funded up to 65 acres for each farmer.

- ◇ Cover crops improve soil health, manage weeds and pests, and protect local streams from sediment and nutrient runoff over winter. Cover crops are grown to benefit the growth of future crops. Roots and organic materials also loosen compacted soil and produce binding agents to help keep soil in place.



Multi-species field that received an incentive payment through the Conservation Excellence Grant program (CEG).

**To apply or for more information contact our
Chesapeake Bay Techs, they are happy to assist you!**

Rachel Zimmerman 717-240-7796

rezimmerman@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Charles Heberlig III 717-240-5357

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Annual Golf Tournament



The 21st annual Cumberland County Conservation District golf tournament was held September 22nd at Rich Valley Golf Course. Thank you to the 122 golf participants and to our generous hole sponsors and prize sponsors! This year's event was the largest since the inception of the tournament generating \$8,500 for student scholarships. To date, the Conservation District has raised over \$66,000. The weather cooperated and we were able to get the event in before the effects of Tropical Storm Ophelia entered our region. The winning team of Kevin Rucker, Kelly Kelch, Brady Crouse and Wes Warehime shot a 20 under par, 51, nice job!

The District would like to thank everyone at Rich Valley Golf that helped make the day a success. Also, a special thank you to all of our hole sponsors, especially the Conservationist Hole Sponsors below. Their contributions allow us to continue our efforts in providing scholarships to Cumberland County students. Finally, thank you to all the golfers. We hope to see you all again next September!

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Scholarships Available for College Students

More than five thousand dollars in scholarship funds are available for Cumberland County college students majoring in Agriculture, Environmental Resource Management, Conservation/Natural Resources, Forestry, or other related fields.

For the past 20 years, the Cumberland County Conservation District has been supporting students through its Environmental College Scholarship Program. The top applicant will receive the Wilbur E. Wolf Jr. Scholarship of \$1,000 and other selected applicants will receive \$500.

Recipients must be current college students, who graduated from a Cumberland County High School. They must meet the qualifications set forth by the Conservation District Board of Directors, which includes having a major in agriculture, conservation and natural resources, environmental resource management, forestry, or other related fields.

Profits from the annual golf tournament and tree seedling sale have enabled the Conservation District to offer scholarships for the current school year. **Deadline to apply is January 12, 2024**

Students can apply for a scholarship online at www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/cd or pick up an application at the Cumberland County Conservation District, 310 Allen Road, Suite 301, Carlisle PA, 17013. Email conservationdistrict@cumberlandcountypa.gov or call 717.240.7812 for more information.

Capital Resource Conservation & Development Council

Catalyzing Conservation Actions

(Carlisle, PA) – South Central Pennsylvania farmers are known for their conservation work and a new Capital RC&D project is designed to ensure that more of that work is counted for Countywide Action Plans (CAP) in Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin Counties. Project partners include the CAP coordinators, conservation districts, and agricultural agencies working in each of the participating counties.

The project kicks-off in Autumn 2023 with Capital RC&D staff reaching out to farmers and landowners, starting in south central Cumberland County near Mooredale and Mount Holly Springs. The goal is to identify conservation practices not currently credited toward CAP goals.

To learn more about the Countywide Action Plan in Cumberland County visit: https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/2021/Cumberland_County_CAP_Narrative.pdf

To learn more about this project or Capital RC&D's work throughout South Central Pennsylvania, visit <https://capitalrcd.org>.

Capital RC&D's Catalyzing Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation in the Tri-County Region project is funded through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant. Questions about this project can be directed to Anna Basehore at Capital RC&D at 717-241-4361 or via email at abasehore@capitalrcd.org.





Cumberland County Conservation District

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