



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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2024 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

Neil Darhower & Family



Clean Water Award

Mike Wadel, Wadel-Mell Inc.



Legislator Recognition Award

Representative Barbara Gleim



Conservation Educator of the Year

Darla Romberger, Cumberland Valley High School



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

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required when earth disturbance greater than or equal to one acre is planned. As part of the NPDES permit, a Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) plan that includes Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) is to be developed. These SCMs are designed to manage the net change in stormwater volume, rate, and water quality. Sometimes, the SCMs are constructed to be used temporarily as sediment control best management practices (BMPs) during earthmoving and then converted to a post-construction stormwater function, once the site is adequately stabilized. Other times, the SCMs are installed as the permanent post construction facility once the site is stabilized and are not used as a temporary sediment control BMP. Whichever way these SCMs are used, it is important to either convert or install the SCM at the proper time of year and with proper oversight by a qualified professional. SCMs should only be converted or installed during a growing season. This is important because the vegetation protects the infiltration surface and soil media from compaction and erosion, helping to ensure the proper function of the SCM.

Most SCMs will be over excavated to allow for an amended or engineered soil to be installed. The amended or engineered soil can help control the rate of infiltration. Some areas of Cumberland County have karst geology, which is prone to developing sinkholes. If the infiltration rate of the in situ soils is too high, the likelihood of a sinkhole forming increases. By engineering or specifying the percentage of topsoil, clay, and sand of the soil mixture in the SCM, the rate of infiltration can be slowed down to reduce the risk of sinkhole formation.

If the SCM is to function as an infiltration basin, an infiltration test should be conducted on the uncompacted native soil at the infiltration elevation prior to adding the amended or engineered soils. This is done to ensure the infiltration rates of the native soil match the rates used in the stormwater management design. The amount of time the infiltration surface is exposed without having amended or engineered soil should be minimized to protect the designed function of the SCM. Once the SCM is constructed as designed and outlet structures are installed, it should immediately be stabilized with a vegetation type that is appropriate for the function of the SCM. Ideally, the basin bottom should have a diversity of plant types, including some woody shrubs. Stabilizing with a mix of seed and plugs will give the SCM the best chance of proper function.



Amended soils (mix of topsoil and sand) being installed in an infiltration SCM.



Infiltration SCM after the amended soil is installed and the floor is seeded and straw mulched.

DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS

Mount Holly Springs Borough, Ridge Road (Dirt & Gravel)

In the summer of 2024, drainage and road surface improvements were made to 3,775 feet of the Mt. Holly Springs portion of Ridge Road. Construction included the installation of 11 new cross pipes and the replacement of 14 cross pipes to drain water from the road. Mount Holly's Dirt & Gravel Roads grant along with contributions from DCNR helped to fund the placement of shale to improve the road surface. The final step included topping the road with 2A stone.



Before construction



After construction



On October 28, 2024 the Conservation District hosted a ceremony to celebrate the finished Mount Holly Springs portion of Ridge Road. Joining us was State Representative Thomas Kutz, Senator Greg Rothman, Commissioner Jean Foschi, DCNR, the State Conservation Commission, and the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies.

Applying for a Road Grant!

The grant application period opens in April 2025 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 vehicles per day on average. A traffic counter is available to borrow. Applicants must complete the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance certification training prior to the application deadline in June 2025.

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

bsweary@cumberlandcountypa.gov, 717-240-5358

WATERSHED



Rain Barrel Workshop: Residents of Cumberland County have the opportunity to make a rain barrel at our upcoming Rain Barrel Workshop. This is a chance to learn the importance of rain barrels for mitigating stormwater runoff on your property. The workshop will be held on April 19th, 2025 at the Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival. This workshop is first come, first serve, with only 30 spots available.

Purchase a Rain Barrel: Rain barrels will also be available for purchase in the Spring of 2025. Barrels are constructed by Cumberland Valley High School students. Call the Conservation District to be placed on the rain barrel wait-list. Individuals on the wait-list will be notified when rain barrels become available.

If you're interested in attending the workshop or would like to purchase a rain barrel, please contact Brooke Weary
bsweary@cumberlandcountypa.gov
717-240-5358

Stuart Park Stream Restoration Walk-Through

The Conservation District received a Non-Point Source Pollution mini-grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) that was used to purchase an educational sign to display at Dickinson Township's Stuart Park. The sign educates others on the purpose of the stream and riparian zone restoration that took place along the Yellow Breeches Creek at Stuart Park in 2023. The Conservation District held a workshop at Stuart Park in April of 2024 to present the new sign, and showcase the stream work that was designed by Trout Unlimited and implemented by Dickinson Township.



Guest speaker, Lori Glace, of Juniata Conservation District. Lori implemented the Stuart Park project during her time working for the Cumberland County Conservation District.

ENVIROTHON

On April 24th, 2024, the Global Warmers from Carlisle High School took first place at the 39th Annual Envirothon that was held at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, located in Cooke Township. Second place was awarded to the Chlorinated Hydrocarbons from Shippensburg High School and third place went to the Powerbait Predators from Cumberland Valley High School. The Global Warmers advanced to the state competition at Camp Mount Luther where they placed 11th out of 63 teams!

Save the date for the 40th Envirothon, which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The winning team from Cumberland County will advance to the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition at Windber Recreational Park on May 21, 2025.



The Global Warmers from Carlisle High School. Team Members include: Tom Gehman, Steven Kunkin, Jack Pontius, Connor Heckman, and Wyatt Colestock. Team advisors (not pictured) Robert Smetana & James Wilkinson

MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS VS. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Every farm or operation that generates and/or utilizes manure (including imported manure) is required by state regulation, to obtain an administratively complete Manure Management Plan (MMP). MMPs can be prepared by the farmer or by a trained individual. MMPs do not need to be submitted for approval but must be available to DEP or Conservation District staff upon request.

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is only required for farms that fall under the Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) or the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) categories. NMPs must be written by a certified plan writer. NMPs are to be submitted to the Conservation District for review by staff and approval by the Board of Directors.

CAO

Farms that meet both of the following criteria:

Farm contains 8 or more Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs).

AND

Has an animal density in excess of two (2.00) animal equivalent units (or 2,000 lbs.), on an annualized basis, per acre of land, and suitable for manure application.



Nutrient Management Plan

CAFO

Farms with more than 700 cows, 2,500

Hogs, 82,000 layers, 125,000 broilers.

OR

1,000 Animal Equivalent Units when all animal types are combined.

AND

Farms that are a CAO that have more than 300 AEUs when all animal types are combined.



Nutrient Management Plan

Farms that generate and or utilize manure on their operation, have less than 8 Animal Equivalent Units

AND

The animal density is less than 2 Animal Equivalent Units on an annualized basis, per acre of land suitable for manure application.



Manure Management Plan

If you are unsure what plan you need for your operation, please contact Dylan Varner at 717-240-5360

AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Cumberland County Conservation District has two grant programs available to assist farmers with the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on their farms. The Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) and the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), provide 90% cost-share of eligible expenses associated with the implementation of on-farm BMPs, up to a maximum of \$500,000.00 per applicant. To be eligible, proposed BMPs must address a resource concern on the farm, such as erosion or manure nutrients or sediments impacting nearby waterways. Projects that are eligible include but are not limited to: roofed animal heavy use areas, liquid manure storage tanks, manure stacking facilities, animal mortality facilities, animal trails and walkways, streambank fencing, stream crossings, grassed waterways, and silage leachate management systems. So far, the Cumberland County Conservation District has completed 7 CEG projects and 3 ACAP projects across the county.

Applications for both programs are accepted on a continual basis, though there is currently a waitlist to receive engineering assistance from the District. All applications must be approved by the Conservation District Board before proceeding. Applicants must also possess a Chapter 91 Manure Management Plan or equivalent, a Chapter 102 Ag Erosion and Sediment Plan or equivalent, and agree to participate in a Chesapeake Bay Phase I Inspection (review of the aforementioned plans). If you have questions about the programs, need assistance completing an application, or have a project that you think may be eligible, please contact Emily Stambaugh at (717) 240-5357 or at erstambaugh@cumberlandcountypa.gov.

Before



An outdated concrete level-lip spreader creates concentrated manure flow to a stream.

After



A new circular concrete manure storage tank was installed and cost-shared by ACAP to properly contain manure and improve manure management efficiencies.



A denuded barnyard, mixing with rainwater, contributes nutrient and sediment runoff to a nearby waterway.



A new roofed animal heavy use area was installed and cost-shared by CEG to house cattle and eliminate runoff.

COVER CROP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Cumberland County Conservation District is in its 19th year providing incentive payments to farmers who plant cover crops using no-till or minimum till management systems. The cover crop cannot winter kill and must be planted after corn silage, corn grain, soybeans, or sorghum. The incentive for no-till is \$30 per acre and minimum till is \$20 per acre. In the 2023-2024 program we were able to incentivize up to 82 acres per farmer and had 95 farmers participate. The District has incentive programs for both single species and multi-species cover crops. The multi-species CEG program pays \$40/acre, up to 200 acres. Multi-species must be terminated under this program. The signup period ends December 1 of every year. Please contact us if you would like to get on our cover crop mailing list.

To apply or for more information contact our Chesapeake Bay Technicians!

Rachel Zimmerman 717-240-7796 rezimmerman@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Emily Stambaugh 717-240-5357 erstambaugh@cumberlandcountypa.gov



Cover crop fields in late March with good growth to help keep soil in place.

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 21 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 17, 2025**

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

**Cumberland County Conservation District**

310 Allen Road, Suite 301, Carlisle, PA 17013-9101

717-240-7812

www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/cd

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