

Conservation Horizons



Since 1948 * 70 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship *

MILICENT NEILL DECKER
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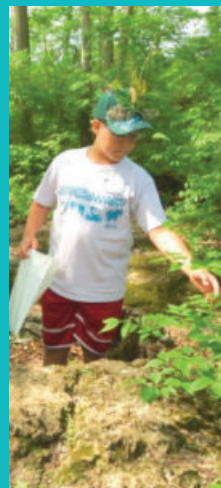
The York County Conservation District celebrates its 70th Anniversary this year.



Established during the historic Dust Bowl in the 1930s, after farmers lost valuable topsoil from their land and turned to the government for help. See how we've grown. - pgs. 6&7



Don't miss our
**11th Annual Envirothon
Clay Shoot Fundraiser**
Friday, September 21
Catered barbecue lunch & afternoon
shoot See page 12



Envirothon Results
See pages 13 - 20



York County Conservation District

Our purpose is to promote wise use and management of soil, water, air, plants, wildlife and other natural resources through four program areas: Agricultural Resources, Education, Erosion & Sediment Control and Watersheds

We have served York County since 1938, when a group of 554 farmers from 18 townships signed a petition to form the York County Conservation District. This petition was approved by the state Soil Conservation Commission in 1948. Like all Conservation Districts, we are a legal subdivision of state government like townships or school districts. Our budget is supplied by county, state and federal programs, as well as foundation grants & fees for services. And we are managed by a board of environmentally aware York County citizen volunteers.



We have traditionally assisted agricultural producers and other landowners in protecting soils & reducing erosion in our waterways. Today, the District also works with non-agricultural landowners, developers and local government officials to protect our natural resources.

We do this by coupling technical & financial assistance with conservation planning and permitting requirements.

Education is a cornerstone of the District and we target a wide audience about effective pollution-prevention techniques to farmers, landowners, local officials, watershed associations, conservation organizations, civic groups, churches, schools, teachers and youth.

Our Vision - We are committed to the improvement & protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

Our Mission - To achieve that vision we will be proactive providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance, to enable the citizens of York County be good stewards of our natural resources.

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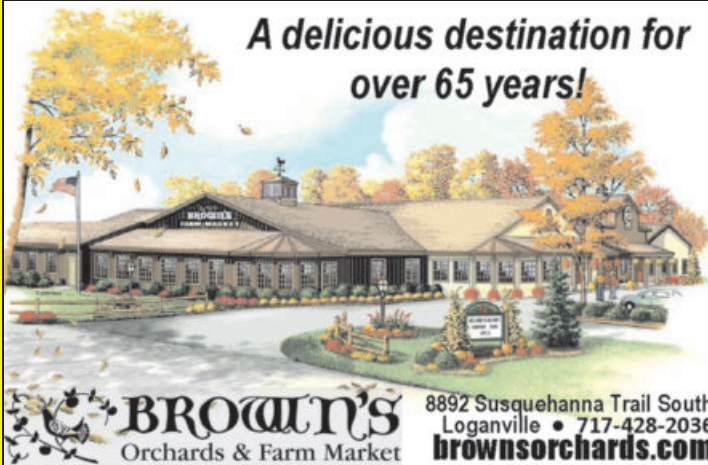
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Around the District

We welcome **MaryJean Serrano** to our staff as our new Administrative Assistant (*pictured at right*). Or rather, we welcome her back. MJ previously served as a temp for us two years ago and is excited to come back in a full-time position. A native of Elmont NY, she attended Sewanhaka High School before moving on to St John's University in Queens, New York, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts. MJ worked for many years in Manhattan in the TV/Media industry before moving to York in 1994, to continue working in the same industry. MJ is a huge music lover (especially Stevie Nicks!), she enjoys watching movies, reading, and spending time with her big, loveable Maine Coon cat - named Clapton - after one of her favorite guitar players.

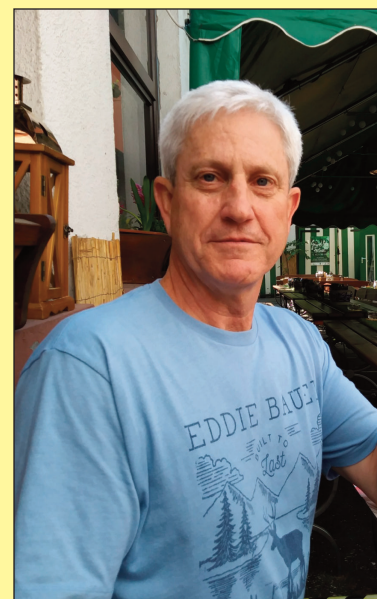


If **Emily Neideigh** (*at right*), looks familiar to our readers it is because she has worked in our office as an Engineering Technician for several years before recently transferring to our Watershed department in the newly created position of **Watershed Technician**. Created due to an increased demand and volume of projects related to the improvement of water quality within York County, she will be working with Gary Peacock, our Watershed Specialist. And as with Gary's work, Emily's focus will be on watershed assessment and monitoring, procurement of funding, technical assistance, and education and outreach.

Emily's interest in streams and water quality has been lifelong. She still remembers her elementary school field trip to Nixon Park to collect aquatic insects from the stream. In college her coursework Emily had a similar emphasis as she completed an honors thesis on stream restoration and macroinvertebrate community response.

After graduation, she spent time in Alaska working on a project to study the impacts of climate change on juvenile salmon. She has already begun work assisting Gary with the implementation of the District's various watershed programs including, but not limited to, the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program, the Exelon Habitat Improvement (EXHIP) Program, the Large Woody Debris (LWD) Program, and the Floodplain Management (FMP) Program. Look for Emily steamside!

Jim Myers is our new **PRN Ag Resource Conservationist**. He grew up in Hanover on a diversified farm that focused mainly on dairy. After graduating from Southwestern High School Jim volunteered for the US Army, serving over 3 years, first in FT Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne, and then 1^{1/2} years in Germany with a medical ambulance company. The 9th of 11 siblings, he was the first to attend college, graduating with an agronomy degree in 1987 from Penn State. His career began as a soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Gettysburg, serving Adams County farmers, followed by a position as environmental scientist with Gannett Fleming in Camp Hill for three years until working as soil conservationist in the York SCS field office. In 1998, he received a promotion to District Conservationist in Carlisle before moving south to become the District Conservationist in Howard County, MD. Later he served as supervisory district conservationist in Frederick, MD and finally, Howard and Montgomery County MD for a total of almost 31 years of federal service. Jim is married to wife, Brenda and they live in West Manheim Township on the back 20 of the home farm. According to Jim, although blessed with no children of their own, they endure 35 nieces and nephews and almost 70 grand nieces and nephews.



York County Conservation District Celebrates 70 Years of Conservation

It began with farming. Like all Districts across the state and country, our Conservation District was established in response to the destructive Dust Bowls during the Great Depression. A century before, millions of bison grazed our Central Plains states on the lush native prairie grasses that had been there for millennia. But by the mid-1800s a great influx of settlers had spread west. They staked a claim on the land and began to cut the native grasses and plow the ground in order to grow wheat – hoping the crop would prosper like the prairie grasses.

But good harvests are no guarantee when you farm the land. It takes a lot of nurturing to maintain healthy soils and no one does it better than mother nature. In good years, many farmers took advantage and planted and harvested constantly – never allowing the fields to go fallow (rest crop-free). Rotating crops was not yet a common practice, nor was the use of cover crops – the practice of growing plants during your off seasons so the roots can both enrich the soil, and hold it in place to prevent erosion.



Then in the 1930s our country was hit with a decade of lengthy droughts. Those prolonged droughts, combined with a 100 years of poor farming techniques, led to the catastrophic loss of precious topsoil throughout the middle of our country. Approximately 35 million acres of food-producing farmland was destroyed. Essentially, our nation's "breadbasket" was no longer able to feed much of the country. The timing of the agricultural disaster – during our nation's worst economic downfall – could not have been worse.



The result was a barren wasteland. In an effort to recover, farmers turned to their government for help in developing conservation farming techniques to preserve and protect their topsoil – that precious foot or so of rich soil containing all essential nutrients for plant growth. In 1945, Pennsylvania's first Conservation District was formed in Potter County. York County was established in 1948. Today every county in Pennsylvania, except Philadelphia, has a County Conservation District.

In 1945 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted ACT 217, and amended in 1986. It is known as **PENNSYLVANIA'S CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAW**. And the policy states:

(1) To provide for the conservation of the soil, water and related resources of this Commonwealth, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to preserve natural resources; assist in the control of floods; assist in developing and implementing plans for storm water management; prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs; assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors; protect air quality; preserve wildlife; preserve the tax base; protect public lands; and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

(2) To designate conservation districts as a primary local government unit responsible for the conservation of natural resources in this Commonwealth and to be responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities to quantify, prevent and control nonpoint sources of pollution.

(3) To authorize and encourage conservation districts to work in close cooperation with landowners and occupiers, agencies of Federal and State Government, other local and county government units and other entities identified and approved by the commission for the purposes of effectuating programs and policies under this act. (2 amended July 9, 2008, P.L.986, No. 75)

Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation, continued.

Conservation Districts are formally described as local units of government required by state law to carry out natural resource management programs. We work with cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all public and private lands. It did begin with farming, but seven decades later we do so much more. Simply put – **Conservation Districts now advise all landowners in the best use of the natural resources on their property.**



The goals are the same, though no two Districts share the exact same focus. In York County our primary effort is to help farmers save topsoil and control manure runoff to protect our water quality. We play a critical role working closely with contractors and developers in the control of post-construction storm-water runoff and flood-plain management. Our Watershed Program conducts stream assessments, developing work plans and strategies with landowners and townships to preserve our water cycle. Our Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads Program is designed to reduce the impact of road runoff and sediment into local streams and reduce road maintenance costs on paved or sealed roads with daily traffic counts on 500 vehicles or less per day.

And finally, our Education Program features the Envirothon for 3rd – 12th grades to guide our students in making informed environmental decisions that will impact their future.

As we move forward the District will continue to practice stewardship that ensures our soil & water health, protects vital plant and wildlife habitats, and secures our agricultural heritage.

One of our recent projects was part of our Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program. Director Bud Brown of the Conservation District, State Rep Phillips Hill, and County Commissioners Susan Byrnes & Doug Hoke presented Mayor Greundler of Jacobus and Borough Councilman Donald Wright with a check for \$73,727.23 to celebrate the completion of their East Meadow Street Low Volume Road Project.



The result is a much improved driving surface, the prevention of tons of soil erosion, and cleaner water entering Lake Redman. Also participating in the presentation were site contractors John Hendrix and Bob Ferstler with Easy Dig, Grant Anderson with Site Design Concepts, and District Staff Mark Kimmel, Rob Fetter, and Emily Neideigh. Another 15 projects to improve our Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads will be completed this year across York County. Watch for more projects to be posted throughout the summer as our work to improve York County continues!



Ag Resources

A Look at Pastures, Part I, by Joe Rebert

This article will be Part I of a series of articles related to pastures. In this part we will be covering the benefits of pastures, Pennsylvania law related to pastures, and the two main types of management used in grazing pastures. Throughout this series keep in mind that pasture should be managed similarly to a hay field, except the forage is harvested by livestock instead of by equipment. A quality pasture can provide many benefits to the environment, the livestock, and the farmer.



A well-managed pasture (*as pictured at left*) can be greatly beneficial to the environment. Covering the ground with vegetation of any kind lessens the amount of soil erosion, though heavy grass cover is optimal for preventing erosion. Another way pastures are environmentally beneficial is by improving soil health. Healthy soils allow more water to infiltrate into the ground, helping to reduce soil erosion, resulting in less runoff flowing into our surface waters. This improved water quality obviously benefits habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. Birds, mammals, and soil organisms can also thrive in a healthy pasture. A healthy pasture also improves carbon storage, when compared to a crop field, which benefits air quality, and in turn benefits everything that breathes the air. These are just a few ways of how pastures can be environmentally beneficial.

Besides being beneficial to the environment, a pasture can also be beneficial to the livestock using it. Animals such as cows are built to eat grass. By allowing these animals to graze a pasture they are doing exactly what they are meant to be doing. It also provides a place for them to be out in the fresh air and off hard surfaces which can really improve their health. Have you ever walked around on concrete all day? How do your feet and knees feel after that? Well, livestock feel that too even if they don't show it. With improved animal health we can get improved animal production. This leads me into the next benefits, which are those to the farmer.

With increased animal production the farmer can get more income from his livestock. Another benefit to pasturing animals is that manure is being deposited by the livestock exactly where it can be utilized. This can save time and money by creating less manure to be collected, hauled, and spread. Pasture can also save money through feed expenses. According to Penn State Extension's 2017-2018 Agronomy Guide, dairy farms utilizing pastures as main forage source can save up to \$1 per head per day on feed costs during the grazing season.



In addition to the benefits of a pasture, you should know the requirements of having pasture in Pennsylvania. The PA Manure Management Plan workbook, *Land Application of Manure*, has two options for managing pasture. First manage your pasture according to a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 528 Prescribed Grazing Plan. You might have one of these plans if you have worked with NRCS for one of their programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - a cost share program that NRCS uses to assist farmers with the installation of best management practices (BMP). Most farmers will use the second option - to manage your pasture to maintain dense vegetation during the growing season. Dense vegetation means minimizing pasture bare spots and maintaining an average of at least 3 inches of grass cover and good sod all year long. If your pastures are not meeting these requirements, you must either restore dense vegetation or manage you pasture as an animal concentration area (ACA), which is not always feasible.

A Look at Pastures, continued.

Managing an Animal Concentration Area is more difficult than managing a pasture, which is why it is not practical or economical to do. A pasture needs to be managed to meet the requirements mentioned in the previous paragraph. Whereas an ACA must be managed as follows: clean upslope water must be diverted around the ACA, runoff from the ACA must be directed to a storage or to a BMP such as a vegetated filter strip, animals may not have free access to surface waters within or adjacent to the ACA, the size of the ACA must be minimized as much as possible, and accumulated manure must be routinely removed from the ACA. There are also several other restrictions. For more information on managing ACAs please refer to *Land Application of Manure* guidance section page 22. Because of these requirements, it is much easier just to maintain dense vegetation on your pastures and avoid having to deal with all the restrictions of managing an ACA.

One thing PA does NOT require in a pasture is streambank fencing. (a *fenced streambed corridor is pictured at right*) This means your livestock are allowed to have access to your streams as long as the pasture is being managed to meet the dense vegetation requirement. Even though it is not required by law, there are some occasions where streambank fencing may be needed. If you become involved in certain cost share programs you may be required to fence the stream at a certain distance from the streambank, the distance can vary per program. Another time you would need to fence the stream is if your pasture becomes an ACA. If this is the case, streambank fencing would be required to keep livestock out of the stream except for in stabilized areas called stream crossings. We will cover more on this topic in the next issue.

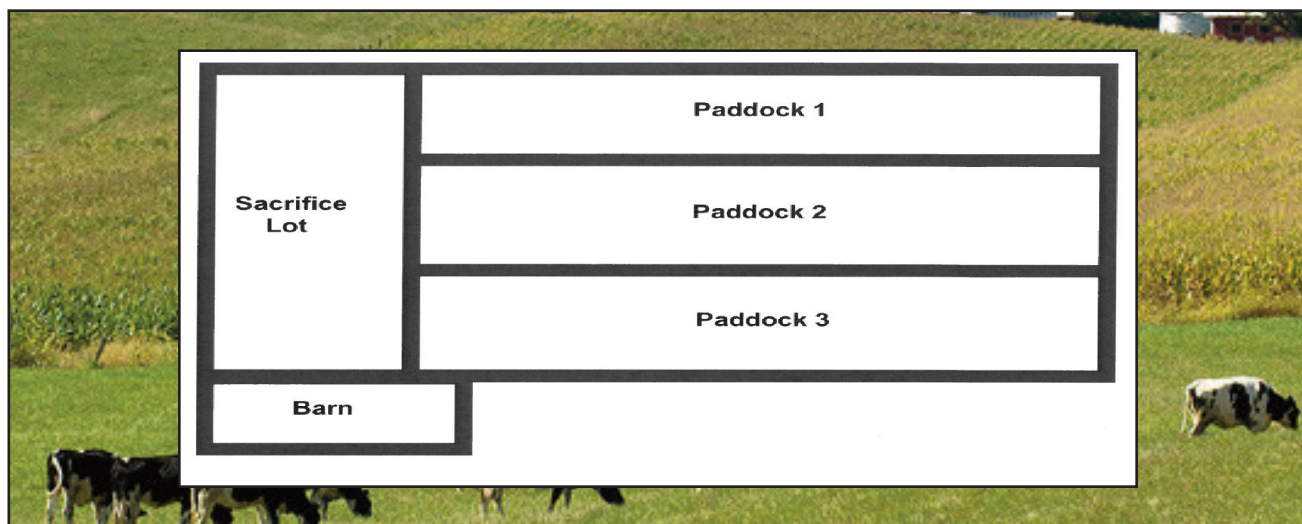


Having gone through the requirements of maintaining a pasture, it is time to discuss some different strategies to graze a pasture. In general, there are two methods that can be used to graze a pasture. These are continuous grazing and rotational grazing. Continuous grazing is pretty much exactly what it sounds like. The animals are put out on pasture and allowed to graze an area for as long as the vegetation lasts (*bottom left*), and then are brought back to the barn or barnyard (*bottom right*) until the vegetation has regrown enough for them to return to the pasture. The time that the livestock are allowed to graze the pasture depends on many factors such as pasture size, animal numbers, animal size, animal species, etc. Because of this, continuous grazing may last a few weeks, a few months, the entire growing season, or there may be enough forage for the animals to be in the pasture all growing season and beyond. The advantage of continuous grazing is that very little management is required. As long as there is adequate food and water the animals are allowed to freely roam around the pasture eating where they please. The main disadvantage of continuous grazing is that the pasture is not utilized efficiently. This means some areas may be overgrazed or some areas may not be grazed much at all. Because of this poor utilization it generally means that you and the animals are not getting as much benefit from the pasture as possible.



A Look at Pastures, continued.

The second method of grazing is rotational. Rotational grazing is where the pasture is divided into two or more paddocks (*below*) and the livestock are moved from one to another to allow the vegetation time to re-grow. In many cases a rotational grazing system also has a sacrifice lot. A sacrifice lot is an area intentionally managed as an ACA, with the purpose of preventing the pasture from becoming an ACA. Times animals are usually kept on the sacrifice lot are during inclement weather or overwinter. The advantage of rotational grazing is that it allows for better utilization of the pasture. The disadvantage is that there is more management involved than continuous grazing. Rotational grazing can have management levels all over the board. It could be as casual as moving your livestock a few times during the grazing season or as intense at moving them every day or more often. Rotational grazing may also mean moving your watering sources/supplemental feed, or having multiple watering/supplemental feed sites so that they are available in each pasture. In the end, continuous and rotational grazing both have multiple advantages and disadvantages. It's up to you to decide which type of management suits you and your operation best. This concludes Part I of our series on pastures. Please look out for Part II in our next newsletter where we will cover some agronomic and engineering practices used in pasture management.



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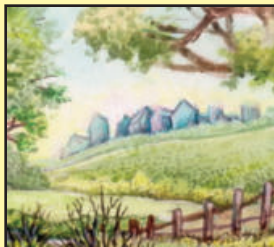
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Erosion & Sediment Control

E&S Program Accomplishments for February - April 2018

Preconstruction meetings	14	General NPDES Issued	26	Total Disturbed Acres	841
New Plan Reviews	57	Total site inspections	104		
Revised Plan Reviews	19	Sites in compliance	29		
Total Project Acres	3,507	Complaints Investigated	29		

Zachary Fry recently joined the E&S team as our new Engineering Technician I and is currently learning the ropes from Assistant Manager for Programs, Eric Jordan, spending a great deal of time in the field as well as spending office time pouring over erosion and sediment control plans to learn to understand the common elements of plans and to develop plan reading skills.

Zach's focus revolves around administering the PA Clean Streams Law, Chapter 102 of Erosion and Sediment Control, and Chapter 92 of National Pollution Discharge Eliminations Systems Permit (NPDES) for stormwater discharges from construction activities. His primary responsibilities will be reviewing and approving NPDES permits and erosion and sediment control (E&S) plans, investigating complaints and inspecting construction sites, timber harvests, and agricultural operations to obtain voluntary compliance, and assisting educational workshops.



Other duties include natural resource related programs involving environmental education, stormwater management, and water quality management. A graduate of Penn State with a degree in Environmental Resource Management and focus on Watersheds and Water Resources, Zach grew up in York County and currently lives in Seven Valleys. He is an avid outdoorsmen and loves to hunt, fish and hike. Prior to working for the District he worked with the York County Parks as the seasonal Assistant Manager of Natural Resources. The position gave him the opportunity to work on conservation projects benefitting both the environment and county residents. He has seen firsthand the value of our natural resources and the challenge of preserving them. Zach believes working for the District will continue to allow him to assist residents in protecting the county's natural resources in a sustainable manner. As Zach puts it, "To me, conservation is the protection and restoration of our natural resources so that future generations have the same natural resource opportunities that past generations have had. As a conservationist, I am challenged to practice and act upon these ethics within our communities."

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Education & Communication

Kim J Young

Our 2018 Envirothon has just concluded but we are already planning for **Envirothon 2019**. It all begins with our **11th Annual Clay Shoot** at Central Penn Sporting Clays in Wellsville on Friday, September 21st. It is a day of catered lunch, camaraderie, sportsmanship and competition spent afield for a great cause. Consider putting together a team of friends, family or co-workers, or join one of our teams. Register details should be posted on our website at yorkccd.org mid-summer. Or contact our office at 717-840-7430.



Our **2018 Paul Wilson Conservation Award** was presented to Samuel Zink of Kennard-Dale High School during their recent Academic Night. Registered team members of the York County Senior High Envirothon are the only students able to apply for this \$500.00 award. Named in honor of Paul Wilson - longtime Izaak Walton League member, Director Emeritus of the District, and "father" of the York County Envirothons, we look for applicants who follow Paul's ideals of conservation. Recipients are chosen on educational merit, involvement in conservation activities, personal/professional recommendations and student's own statement of interest.

Since Sam was unable to attend our Senior High Competition this year he received his award at his school. It is being presented by current Izaak Walton League, York Chapter #67, Director, Don Robertson. Congratulation Sam. The Paul Wilson Conservation Award can be used for any purpose that furthers a student's interest in conservation. It does not have to be used for college. Though Sam plans to use his award to major in Marine Biology when he attends college.

The Annual York County Conservation District **College Scholarship Application Packets** for 2018-2019 are currently in the process of being created. We plan to have the new scholarship information posted on our website by mid-July and anticipate offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to York County residents attending an accredited college or university and majoring in agriculture, conservation, environmental studies, natural resource management or a related science field. *Senior high school students may apply if they are already accepted at a college when submitting their application.* Please check mid-summer by going to www.yorkccd.org - click on education in the drop-down menu - then click on scholarships.

Greene County won this year's Pennsylvania Envirothon at Susquehanna University. The team is currently studying and preparing to represent Pennsylvania at the NCF Envirothon held this year in Idaho (against teams from 45 states, nine Canadian Provinces and two Chinese Provinces). To see how York County fared at our state competition and view the results of all four of our County events please turn to our Ethon Summer News review on the following pages.

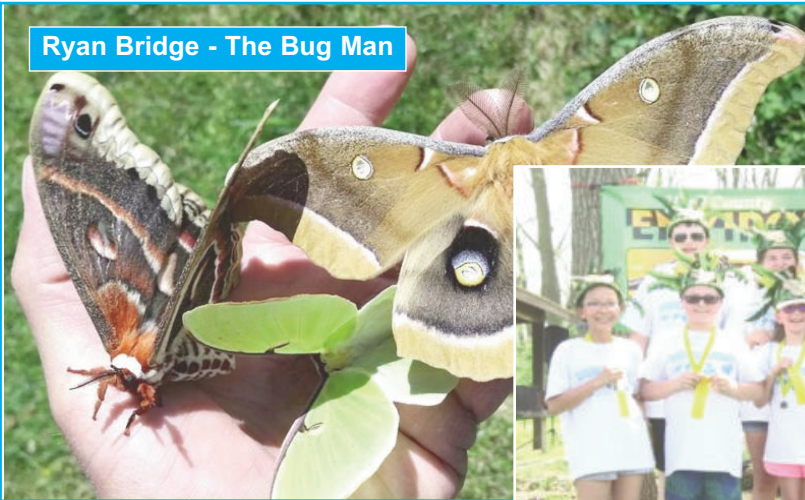
York County ENVIROTHON



THE 2018 ETHON-NEWS - Our 33rd Season in Review

What do black angus cattle, cecropia & luna moths, and free-range chickens all have in common? Well, this year they all played a role in another successful season of York County Envirothon Events! If diversity is the key to the stability of all of our natural ecosystems, then diversity of Envirothon study resources certainly helps to strengthen the knowledge of our Envirothon students. The Envirothon - which is now international - is the largest and longest-running environmental high school competition in North America. But as most of you know, in York County we begin in the 3rd grade. Once again, over 1,000 York County students participated on 188 teams through their District school buildings. Beginning each fall, they spend the better part of their school year studying & competing extra-curricularly in Aquatics, Environmental Current Issues, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, and Wildlife. Today, more than ever, appreciating and understanding science is a necessary and crucial life skill. With a huge nod to our sponsors during this record-breaking year, we wish to thank you and assure you that the Envirothon will continue to provide students with the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed conservation decisions in school, at home and - most important - as they become adults.

Ryan Bridge - The Bug Man



Locust Point Cattle Company



Dallastown Frondly Fiddleheads



Heritage Creek Farm photo



York Homeschoolers take 6th Overall at the Pennsylvania Envirothon (against 65 teams)



Thank You to our Sponsors!

The Envirothon is a success because of our sponsors - it would not happen without them. Our fundraising starts in September with our **Annual Clay Shoot** and continues through April. Thank you to the many individuals, companies, cooperating agencies, and schools, who continue to support us. We raised a record \$34,020.00 this year, including an additional record of \$8,900 during our Clay Shoot!!! We also thank John Rudy County Park - "The Official Home of the Envirothons."



Door Prizes



High Score Traveling Trophy
North Mountain team



PULL!

Thank you to our 2018 Clay Shoot Sponsors: Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC), Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), Mr. and Mrs. Randy Byrnes, HRG, Inc., Trumbull, Mark Flaharty, Commissioner Doug Hoke, JMT, ELA Group, Inc., Exelon-Peach Bottom, DH Funk & Sons LLC, Conewago Enterprises, Inc., Keystruct Construction Inc., River's Truck Center, Representative Kristin Phillips-Hall, H. Edward Black and Associates, Ltd., Krall Contracting Inc., Ellis Crowl. **Thank you to our Gun Raffle Sponsors:** Representatives Mike Regan, Stan Saylor, Keith Gillespie, Seth Grove, Kristin Phillips-Hill, Kate Klunk, Dawn Keefer, and Senator Scott Wagner.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 21st for our 11th Annual Clay Shoot @ Central Penn Sporting Clays to kick off our 2019 Envirothon Sponsorship Drive.

A special thank you to **Lee Irwin and Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC)**

for generously contributing at our **\$5,000.00 Bald Eagle Platinum Level**



We wish to thank the following for graciously donating at the \$1,000.00 & up **ELK SILVER LEVEL**

Covanta York, Glatfelter,
Izaak Walton League of America-Chapter #67,
Jefferson's Sportmen's Association,
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Byrnes,
York County Solid Waste Authority,
York Excavating Co. LLC

We wish to thank the following for donating at the
\$500.00 & up BROOK TROUT BRONZE LEVEL

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc., C. S. Davidson, Inc.,
Exelon Generation - Peach Bottom, Warehouse AE,
Republic Services, Inc., Rotary Club of York,
Spring Grove Area School District,
Stantac, Stewart & Tate Inc.,
York Audubon Society, York Water Company



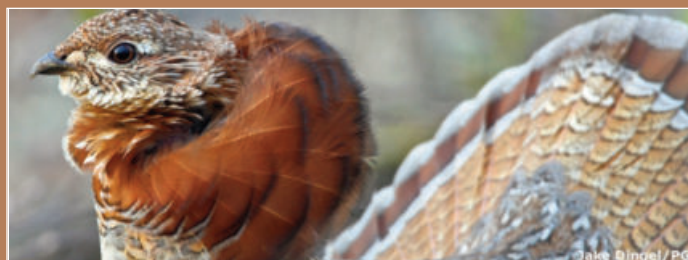
We wish to thank the following for donating as
\$250.00 & up MOUNTAIN LAUREL PATRONS

Adhesives Research, Inc., Bruce Holbrook,
Conewago Enterprises, Inc., Deanna & Francis Velazquez,
Dehoff Farms, LLC, First Capital Engineering, Inc.,
Glatfelter Insurance Group, H. Edward Black & Associates,
Hively Landscapes, Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Missimer,
Northeastern School District, PTO Southern Elementary,
Shrewsbury Elementary, Sinking Springs Elementary PTO,
Spoutwood Farm Center, Tammy Grove, W. Craig Adams, Inc.,
Wolf Farms, Inc. York Township



We wish to thank the following
RUFFED GROUSE PATRONS

Bottom Line Contracting, Inc., Carol Park, Stony
Brook PTO, David Leese,
Delta Peach Bottom Fish & Game Assoc.,
Ellis Crowl, Friends of Chris Reilly,
Environmental Concepts Landscaping



Gordon L. Brown and Associates, Inc., Grim Trophy and Gifts, Heather A. Raul, Joy Howell,
Keith Eisenhart, Keller Brown Insurance Service, Ken Sheffer, Leo and Marjorie Rutter,
Lucy Kniseley, Miller Plant Farm, Patricia Sueck, PTO North Hills Elementary,
Shiloh Garden Club, Stauffers of Kissel Hill, Stewartstown Elementary PTA,
T. C. Warehousing Inc., Travis & Christine Sherman, Water Body Builders, Windsor Township

Thank you to our Cooperating Agencies & Volunteers

York County Parks & Recreation Dept., York County Planning Commission,
Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission,
Penn State Cooperative Extension, U.S.D.A., Natural Resource Conservation Service,
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection,
York Rotary PPE Committee, York County Conservation District, Farm Service Agency,
York County Solid Waste & Refuse Authority, The Pennsylvania Envirothon

Thank you to our Envirothon Committee and the many additional volunteers
who help make our competitions such a success.

Thank you to Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market, Rutter's Dairy, Stauffer's, Grimm's Trophy & Gifts
and Millicent Neill Decker for their In-Kind Donations.

A special thank you to the **Cindi Hughes from Heritage Creek Farm, Ryan Bridge - The Bug Man, and
the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards** for their entertaining and educational programs presented
during our lower grade competitions.

Senior High Envirothon (21 teams): The York Homeschool team placed first overall after a challenging run by Dallastown. Representing York County, the Homeschoolers placed 6th overall out of 65 teams at the Pennsylvania Envirothon in late May (photo on front cover). **Sam Zink, from Kennard-Dale** was awarded our \$500 **Paul Wilson Conservation Award**. Sam would like to major in marine biology when he goes to college.



Red Lion Roadkill



Dallastown Wrenegades & Hellbenders

Senior High top-ten overall placing (total score 500)

- 10th Place – Northeastern Psychedelic Squirrels - 260
- 9th Place – Red Lion Roadkill – 268
- 8th Place – Northern Nighthawks - 281
- 7th Place – Susquehannock Slippery Salamanders - 283
- 6th Place – YHSA Leptocephalus - 305
- 5th Place – Central York Iconic Isopods - 324
- 4th Place – West York Wildfire - 366
- 3rd Place – Dallastown Wrenegades - 376
- 2nd Place - Dallastown Hellbenders - 384
- 1st Place – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 482



Kennard-Dale students

Testing Station Results - out of 100 points

- Aquatics – 3rd – Central York Iconic Isopods 84
 2nd – West York Wildfire 89
 1st – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 97

- Current Issues – - "Benefits of Pasture & Grassland Mgt"
 3rd – West York Wildfire 83
 2nd – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 88
 1st - Dallastown Hellbenders - 88 (tiebreaker)

- Forestry – 3rd - West York Wildfire 64
 2nd – Dallastown Hellbenders 70
 1st – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 83

- Soils – 3rd - Northern Nighthawks 81
 2nd – Red Lion Roadkill 86
 1st – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 92

- Wildlife – 3rd – YHSA Onomatopoetic Omnipoetics 72
 2nd – Dallastown Hellbenders 78
 1st - Dallastown Wrenegades 84



Wildlife



Aquatics Station

Middle School Envirothon - 27 teams



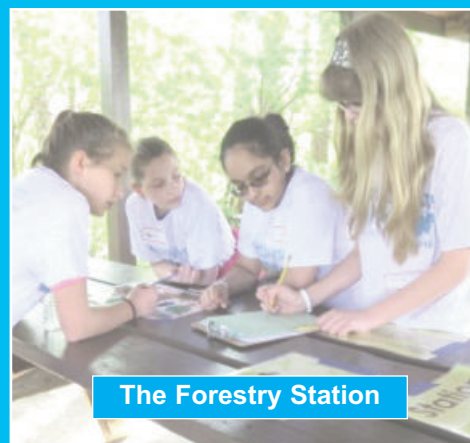
York Suburban



Dover Middle School

Top-ten overall placing (out of 400)

- 10th Place – Northern Nature Nerds - 306
- 9th Place – Central York Diving Ducks - 309
- 8th Place - Northeastern Striking Kingfishers - 315
- 7th Place - Shrewsbury Christian Flaming Ducks - 334
- 6th Place – Dover Malicious Minks - 342
- 5th Place – York Suburban Artful Otters- 351
- 4th Place – York Suburban Turbo Turtles - 352
- 3rd Place – York Suburban Balding Eagles - 367
- 2nd Place – YHSA Mindful Minks - 369
- 1st Place – YHSA Carrion Carryout - 377



The Forestry Station

Testing Station Results (100 pts. each category)

- Aquatics:**
- 3rd – York Suburban Artful Otters - 84 (tiebreaker)
 - 2nd – YHSA Mindful Minks - 84 (tb)
 - 1st – YHSA Carrion Carryout - 94



Compass Reading

Current Issues: "Conservation in Your Life"

- 3rd – YHSA Carrion Carryout - 94
- 2nd – York Suburban Artful Otters - 97
- 1st - Central York Ruddy Ducks - 100

Forestry:

- 3rd – York Suburban Turbo Turtles - 96
- 2nd – YHSA Carrion Carryout - 97 (tiebreaker)
- 1st – York Suburban Balding Eagles - 97 (tb)

Wildlife -

- 3rd – York Suburban Artful Otters - 94
- 2nd – YHSA Mindful Minks - 96
- 1st – York Suburban Balding Eagles - 98

5th & 6th Grades Envirothon - 65 Teams



St. John's British Bitterns



YHSA Cheese & Quackers

5th & 6th Grades top-ten overall Placing (out of 400): (TB- tiebreaker)

- 10th Place – North Hills Raging Raccoons - 328
- 9th Place – Dallastown Egg-cellent Egrets - 344
- 8th Place - Sinking Springs Heroic Herons - 346
- 7th Place – South Eastern Poppin Peepers - 352 (tb)
- 6th Place – Sinking Springs Super Survivalists - 352 (tb)
- 5th Place – St. John's British Bitterns - 354
- 4th Place – Dallastown Frondly Fiddleheads - 357
- 3rd Place – Sinking Springs Wetland Warriors - 362
- 2nd Place – YHSA Amazing Minks - 369
- 1st Place – YHSA Cheese & Quackers - 378

Testing Station Results - 100 pts each category

Aquatics:

- 3rd – Sinking Springs Heroic Herons - 90
- 2nd – St. John's British Bitterns - 92 (tb)
- 1st – YHSA Cheese & Quackers - 92 (tb)

Current Issues: "Conservation in Your Life"

- 3rd – Dillsburg Maple Syrup Lovers - 98
- 2nd – Dallastown Frondly Fiddleheads - 100 (tb)
- 1st - Sinking Springs Heroic Herons - 100 (tb)

Forestry:

- 3rd – YHSA Amazing Minks - 97
- 2nd – YHSA Cheese & Quackers - 98
- 1st – Southeastern Poppin' Peepers - 100

Wildlife:

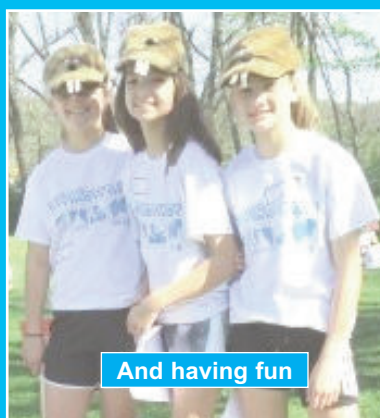
- 3rd – Sinking Springs Wetland Warriors - 90
- 2nd – YHSA Cheese & Quackers - 94 (tb)
- 1st – YHSA Amazing Minks - 94 (tb)



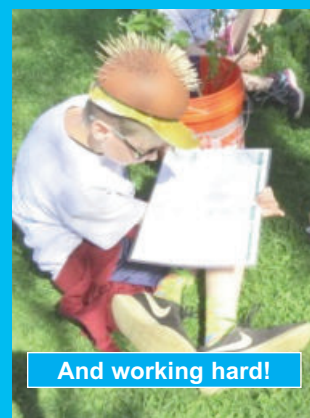
Forestry Station



It's Teamwork



And having fun



And working hard!

3rd & 4th Grades Envirothon - receive proficiency level ribbons and fun prizes - 75 Teams



Ready to Compete!



Best Teamwork Champions!

Gold Level - Blue Ribbon category - scoring between 269 & 314 out of total of 320 pts:

Top-scoring Aquatics: Dallastown Intermediate Nutritious Nutria

Top-scoring Forestry: Dallastown Intermediate Nutritious Nutria

Top-scoring Wildlife: Dallastown Intermediate Soaring Sparrows

Best Teamwork Champions: York Township Super Salamanders

Dallastown Int. Nutritious Nutria, Dallastown Int. Soaring Sparrows, Indian Rock Hovering Hummingbirds, YHSA Slytherin Snakes, Fawn's Five Fun Hummingbirds, Ore Valley's Mohawk Kingfishers, Hayshire Talented Turtles, Ore Valley's Awesome Osprey, Leader Heights Fierce Flickers, Trimmer Wild Woodpeckers, Paradise Passionate Pioneer Planters, Indian Rock Talented Turtles, Stewartstown Humble Happy Hummingbirds, Dallastown Int. Wondering Willows, Lincolnway Powerful Pileated Woodpeckers, East York Tough Turtles, Leib Elementary Brilliant Birds, Spring Grove Elegant Eagles, Stewartstown Mind-Blowing Chickadees, Trimmer Beautiful Barbaric Birds, East York Soaring Eagles, Spring Grove Cool Canvasbacks, Clearview Happy Hippy Hummingbirds



Paradise Elementary Teams

Your 2019 Envirothon Event Dates

Senior High - Tuesday, April 23rd

Middle School - Tuesday, April 30th

5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 1st

3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, May 7th



Silver Level – Red Ribbon category - scoring between 234 & 267 out of total score of 320:

York Academy Fighting Falcons, Macaluso Lovely Jolly Mosquitoes, Shrewsbury Terrifying Tree Cookies, Fawn's Five Brilliant Buffleheads, North Hills 13 Scutes, Stony Brook Bold Eagles, St. John's Ferocious Deer, Paradise Painting Peacocks, St. Patrick's Athletic Ospreys, Dallastown Elementary's Pleasant Pheasants, York Township Super Salamanders, Hanover Street Chirping Chickadees, Lincolnway Cheerful Charming Chickadees, Shrewsbury Dynamite Diving Ducks, New Salem Woody Woodpeckers, Locust Grove Humble Hummingbirds, Shallow Brook Daring Damselflies, Dillsburg Really Dead Deadwood, St. Patrick Cool Canvasbacks, Sinking Springs Eagle Flyers, North Hills Happy Hummingbirds, Southern Elementary Determined Ducks, New Salem Wonderful Willows, Mazie Gable Tufted Titmice, Spring Forge Pileated Picidae

Bronze Level - White Ribbon category – scoring between 123 & 230 pts. out of total of 320:

St. Joe's Dallastown Soaring Eagles, Clearview Perky Pleasant Pheasants, NHW Mischievous Monkeys, Wellsville Tortured Turtles, Hanover Street Outstanding Ospreys, NHW Happy Hummingbirds, Roundtown Bird Master, South Mountain Sassy Salamanders, Macaluso Lovely Jolly Maples, South Mountain Ninja Nighthawks, Leib Elementary Mercurial Mantis-Shrimp, Sinking Springs Rockin Raccoons, Stony Brook Nature Lovers, Mazie Gable Golden Lions, Loganville Springfield Auspicious Ospreys, Locust Grove Grazing Turtles, Hanover Washington Wildlife Rangers, St. Rose Courageous Cougars, Southern Elementary Wildlife Whitetails, Dillsburg Pink Feathered Hummingbirds, YHSA Titan Turtles, Delta Great Exploring Eagles, St. Rose Clever Canaries, Shallow Brook Happenin' Hemlocks, Delta Fierce Nesting Fledglings, Spring Forge Munching Mosquitoes, Hanover Washington Terrific Turtles



Birds study birds!



Forestry is a challenge



See
You
Next
Year!



At the Senior High level, over 10 million people have participated in the Envirothon nationally since 1979. More than one million dollars in scholarships have been presented and 55% of Envirothon students go on to careers in natural resource & conservation.

Traditionally a Senior High program, the York County Envirothons begin in 3rd grade.

*Is your child & school involved?
Contact The York County Conservation
District for more information 717-840-7190*



Watershed Specialist - Gary Peacock

What Do Large Woody Debris, Roads & Streams Have in Common?

What relationship do all three of these things have in common? Most people would think nothing. But, they are all interconnected and all have both benefits and risks. The challenge is finding a balance between their benefits and risks, individually and collectively. What can you do to help? Be aware of and take advantage of three of the York County Conservation District programs that offer free financial and technical assistance to private landowners and local public works departments.

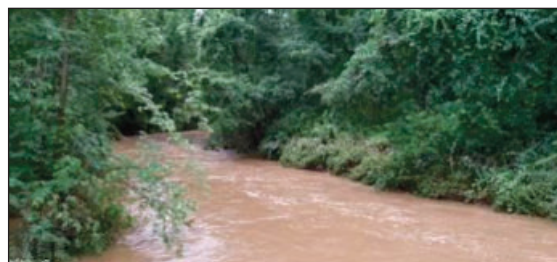
Dirt and Gravel roads, and Tar and Chipped Low Volume Roads crisscross our watersheds collecting and concentrating stormwater runoff, encroaching and obstructing small streams, and causing accelerated streambank erosion and water pollution from loose sediment (or soil) entering our local streams.

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance of Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads

The purpose of the Program is to create a better public road system with a reduced environmental impact. The Program focuses on “Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices” that reduce the impact of road runoff and sediment to local streams, while reducing long term road maintenance costs. Funding is available to local governments to fund safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance of sections of dirt and gravel roads which have been identified as sources of dust and sediment pollution, and to fund safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance of sections of low-volume roads that are sealed or paved with an average daily traffic count of 500 vehicles or less. Funding is available to eligible entities, annually. For more information, visit <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/dirt-gravel-roads-program/>



Our small streams provide habitat and food sources for an array of aquatic organisms throughout the county, but those same streams also drain excess stormwater runoff from the land, eroding streambanks and washing away roads, bridges and trees causing water pollution from sediment and nutrients.



Small Stream Habitat Improvement

The Water Quality Certification for the Muddy Run Pumped Storage Project and Related Mitigation (Muddy Run Certification) dated June 3, 2014, provides the York County Conservation District with funds committed to Habitat Improvement Projects for the implementation of agricultural pasture and barnyard best management practices, riparian forest buffer plantings, stream and wetland restoration and maintenance, and other habitat improvement projects - all of which reduce sediment pollution. Incentive payment funding is available to private and public landowners, annually. For more information, visit <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/habitat-improvement/>.



Fake Stream Restoration before



Fake Stream Restoration after

Large woody debris may fall into streams providing good habitat and food for aquatic organisms, but it may also fall onto roads during storms causing public safety hazards and property damage, and accumulate in streams causing streambank erosion and pollute the water with sediment.

Large Woody Debris

The York Haven Hydro Electric Station pays the Conservation District to remove large woody debris from the Lower Susquehanna River watershed. In general, woody debris in streams is good, providing habitat and food sources for aquatic life (*below right*). However, sometimes large woody debris accumulates in the wrong place threatening public health and safety, property, and the environment (*below left*). The District strives to manage large woody debris in-streams, but sometime it must be removed for the reason stated above. Cost-share funding is available to private and public landowners, annually. For more information, visit <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/large-wood-debris/>.



The York County Ag Preservation Program

Patty McCandless, Program Director
118 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite F
York PA 17402

717-840-7400 / Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is pleased to announce the totals of their ag land preservation efforts since 1990. Program totals as of June 1st, 2018, including farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation, total 284 farms covering 42,399 acres! On May 22 – 23, 2018 the York County Ag Land Preservation Office hosted the Spring Conference of the PA Farmland Preservation Association (PFPA). A heartfelt thank you to Ken & Deb Snyder of Lakeview Farms for providing the venue and to Leroy & Brenda Walker and Josh & Sundee Hoffman for sharing their farms for the farm tour. Congratulations to Ralph McGregor, on receiving the Local Hero's Award from the American Farmland Trust and the PFPA for a lifetime of dedicated service to York County's agricultural community.

We presented our Local Hero's Award to Ralph McGregor (center) at our recent State Conference.

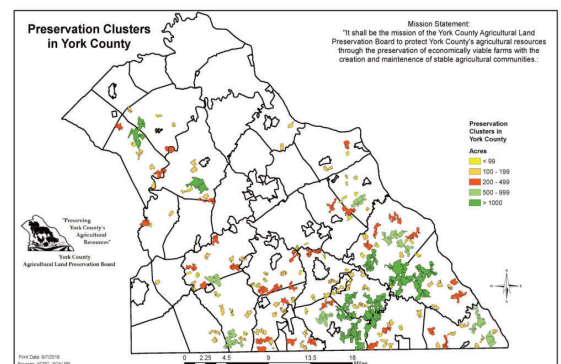


Also pictured L-R are Matt Knepper, President, PA Farmland Preservation Assoc., Director, Patty McCandless, Jim Baird, American Farmland Trust and Commissioner Chris Reilly.

The York County Commissioners have allocated \$284,707 for Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchases in 2018. We have received our state match of \$1,493,652, totaling \$1,778,359 available for easement purchase. Half way through 2018, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board have selected two farms for easement purchase, one in Chanceford Township, and one in Peach Bottom Township. With available funds, we hope to select a few more this year.

Staff of the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board have been utilizing GIS mapping software to analyze and research different aspects of the county, specifically relating to preservation. One project that has been completed is an analysis of Preservation Clusters, or groups of preserved farmland that are contiguous. We found that our largest cluster of contiguous preserved farmland is over 5,140 acres, located in Chanceford and Lower Chanceford Townships. These are lands that will never be developed for non-agricultural uses. Our second largest cluster totals 2,905 acres, in Fawn and East Hopewell Townships. York County has seven clusters of over 1000 acres of preserved farmland.

In addition to the Clustering project, staff is also working to complete a mapping project which will show preserved farms that have used their one allowed residential structure right, which farms have assigned the residential structure to a certain tract, and which farms still have the residential structure right available. This project will directly assist landowners, planners, staff, and inquirers determine which farms have used the permitted residential structure right. To date, only 14 of York County's 284 preserved farms have used their one allowed residential right. We plan to make these maps available on our website. Please go to our website, find the Ag Lands Viewer Link, click, and enjoy!



Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or at www.YorkCountyPA.gov. Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. See if any preserved farms are near you. The York County Ag Land Preservation Program ranks third in the state and ninth in the Nation for acres of farmland preserved. YCALPB Office Hours are 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. We are located in the County Annex Building at 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402.



Conservation Horizons
York County
Conservation District
118 Pleasant Acres Road
York PA 17402

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"Keep your face to the sunshine
and you cannot see the shadow.
It's what sunflowers do."

- Helen Keller

Would you like to be on our mailing list?

Our newsletter *Conservation Horizons* is **published 3 times each year free** to over 8,000 York County homes & businesses. To be put on our mailing list call or email: 717-840-7430 or yorkccd@yorkccd.org.

If you would rather "Go Green" and save paper, send us an email request and put "Electronic Newsletter" in subject line to receive your newsletter electronically.

Or contact us with address changes or to be dropped from our mailing list. Thank you.

YCCD District Calendar

July 2018

July 4 Office Closed - Independence Day
July 12 YCCD Board Mtg – 7:00 pm Annex
July 15-16 NACD NE Region Meeting @ Lancaster
July 17-18 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference @ Lancaster
July 26 Dirt Gravel Low Volume Road Application Deadline

August 2018

Aug 9 Annual Conservation Awards Picnic
Aug 14-16 Ag Progress Days, Rock Springs
Aug 23 DGLVR QAB Mtg.

September 2018

Sept 3 Office Closed - Labor Day
Sept 13 YCCD Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Annex
Sept 21 11th Annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser @ Central Penn Sporting Clays - Noon
Sept 29-30 Watershed Weekend

October 2018

Oct 8 Office Closed - Columbus Day Holiday
Oct 11 YCCD Board Mtg, 7:00 pm Annex