



*Since 1948 * 67 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship **

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(L-R) DCNR Secretary, Cindy Dunn; Renee Benner, Adams Electric; Michael Flinchbaugh, Director, Commissioner Doug Hoke; Nadine Hubner, representing Senator Scott Wagner - Annual Awards Picnic

8th Annual Clay Shoot see page 15 for all the results.

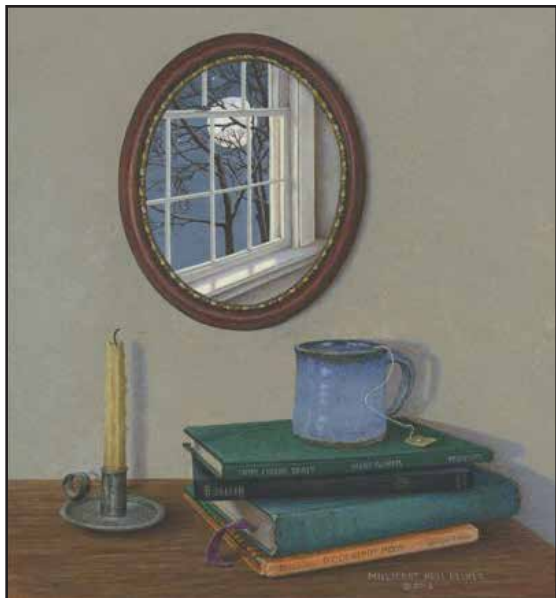


< Avian Flu
What the
District Knows.
What you need
to know. pg. 9

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 offer conservation education, technical services and financial assistance to the citizens of York County helping to enable them to become good stewards of our natural resources.

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Robin Sharp	Secretary/Receptionist
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Eric Jordan	E&S Resource Conservationist /Program Manager
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Sally Barnes	Ag Resource Cons. Specialist II
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Phone: 717-840-7430 / Fax: 717-755-0301 / Email: yorkccd@yorkccd.org / Website: www.yorkccd.org



Around the District



We are updating District events regularly on Facebook now. Please Like Us & Follow Us.



Administrative Assistant, Christine Dehoff, celebrates 10 years with the District. Pictured above with her twins Delana & Landon.



Forestry Notes...One Consultant's View, part one

Jeff Gossert, ACF,CF, RPF, JL Gossert & Co Forestry

Jeff is Vice-Chair of our Board and owner of JL Gossert & Co Forestry. He has created a series of forestry related articles on the broad topics of woodland resource management and commercial timber harvesting.

If you own woodland acreage, please contact a consulting forester before making any final decisions. The short amount of time spent will provide information that will help you avoid some very common and very costly mistakes.

The selling and harvesting of timber resources is perhaps the most important activity done on most private woodland acreage. Harvesting is the primary "tool" used to achieve multiple objectives. And, if done properly, harvesting can help woodland owners enjoy short and long term multiple-use benefits. But for many woodland owners, no attention is given to their woodlands until a timber "buyer" knocks on the door trying to purchase their standing timber.

Most woodland owners sell and harvest timber resources without the advice of a forestry professional. Know which forestry professional can serve you best. There are three options available: Option #1 is a government-employed Service Forester or an extension forester. **Government-employed Service Foresters** are charged with providing information, education & assistance to private woodlot owners. *They are not permitted*

to represent you in any commercial activity.

Option #2 is perhaps the most common contact for woodland owners. It is the direct relationship with a **timber procurement individual**. This person may or may not have formal forestry education, training and experience. Their job is to purchase your trees under the guidance of their boss, the sawmill or logging company. *They do not work for you!*

Option #3 is the retention of a **Consulting Forester**, the only option that represents your interests without conflict. The Consulting Forester, having proper education and wide experience, will provide a range of services for a fee that will help woodland owners achieve ownership goals and maximize short and long term benefits from all woodland resources. **They work for you.**

continued on next page

Forestry Notes, con't

For options 1 & 2, the fees charged often outweigh the benefits achieved. For timber sales, a good consulting forester generates values greater than a "buyers" offer, and at a minimum, net you more value while harvesting through utilization of best management practices. **Only a consulting forester works for you, with no conflict of interest.**

If you own woodland acreage and wish to gain information regarding BMPs regarding timber harvest, I recommend contacting a Consulting Forester. Most consultants offer a free no-obligation initial consultation.



See the Association of Consulting Foresters of America and the Pennsylvania DCNR for lists of Consulting & Industrial Foresters.

Time spent with a consultant will help you identify your ownership objectives, provide general information about your woodland's resources, give some general management and harvest options and clarify the consultant's service and fee package.

The initial meeting with a consulting forester will give you a chance to explain your interests and objectives as the owner, understand the consultant's services and fees, and get general information about your woodland's many resources, including but not limited to, its timber resources. General management and harvest options can also be discussed.

Harvesting trees is an essential management tool for managing your woodland's resources. Before making any decision to sell and harvest your standing timber, seek the advice of a true professional forester. And, remember, only a Consulting Forester works for you. Timber is a crop...manage & harvest it wisely!

In our next issue - How & what to conserve while you remove & harvest.

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Around the District, con't

Associate director, **Beth Lucabaugh**, joined our board five years ago in an effort to satisfy her need to be involved in the field of conservation. Beth holds a master's degree in environmental studies from Johns Hopkins University, but has spent most of her professional career working in the pharmaceuticals industry for Adhesives Research in Glen Rock, and most recently, for ARx LLC,. Nevertheless, she **has found a way to make conservation part of her life both personally & professionally.**



Beth grew up in York, graduated from York Suburban, and earned her bachelor's degree in business and language from Penn State University. She and husband, Jerry, own a 128 acre farm in Glen Rock, where Jerry grows corn, wheat, hay, soybeans and barley, and Beth tends to a small mixed flock of chickens for their eggs, and a few steers each year, to feed family and friends.

They have received the **Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award** for their ongoing efforts to keep their area creeks and streams clean. They employ conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as contour farming, strip cropping and swale installation to control soil erosion and prevent nutrient runoff.

And because part of Beth's belief system means preserving land for her kids & grandkids and teaching them to be stewards of that land, she and Jerry have **preserved their farm in conservation easements** through the York County Ag Land Preservation Board.

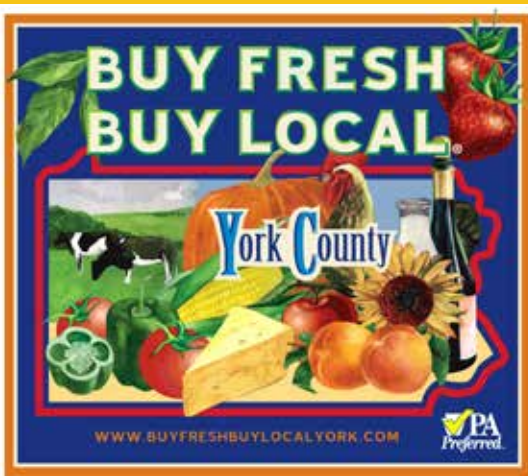
In addition to her work on the District board, Beth has been a **York County Envirothon board member**, and Senior High Current Issues Station Leader for over 8 years, spending a great deal of time helping us to prepare for our annual competitions. She also serves on the **board of Spoutwood Farm**, an organic Community-Supported-Agriculture farm in Glen Rock.

In her spare time she enjoys gardening and reading, and she and daughter, Sarah, occasionally play fiddle and perform together locally.

Beth tells us what she most enjoys about serving on the District board is the time spent working with the staff. "I think the District programs and people are exceptional. It's why I am here. They do a great job of protecting and preserving our local environment."



Educational Outreach Farm Visits - The district is in its fifth year of outreaching to the public regarding updates to the PA Clean Streams Law. **This effort includes updating farmers, livestock owners, and landowners about requirements for conservation plans and manure management.** We have contacted 874 people thus far and anticipate completing this effort in June 2016. If you have not been contacted and wish to be, please call or email Mark Flaherty at mflaherty@yorkccd.org or 755-2966 x106.



The **York County Buy Fresh Buy Local® Chapter** is a volunteer organization to connect the people of York County to locally produced food & farm products.

Buy Fresh Buy Local® is the premier trademark of the local foods movement in the United States, administered by our National Partner, FoodRoutes Network and coordinated in the state of Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture. For updated listings of local events, fresh, local foods & farms, and farm products: www.buyfreshbuylocalyork.com

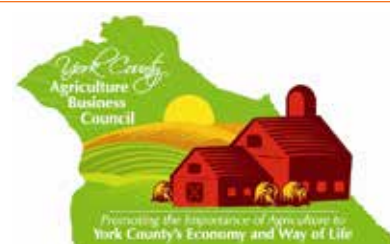
Their **2015 Local Food Guide** is still available. It is a wonderful resource for locally grown, fresh, healthy food choices.



2015 Tony Dobrosky Future Leaders Award winner - Alana Eisenhour. Laurie Dobrosky-Henry, left & Pat Dobrosky, right



2015 Outstanding Farm Family - the Livingston Family Farms, Dover. The Livingston family pictured, front row: George & Madeline; 2nd row: Tim, Nancy & Colleen; back row: Kate, Marris & Ed.



SAVE THE DATE:
30th Annual
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Ag Resources

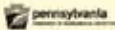
Manure Spreading & Winter Applications (part 2 of Manure Management Plans) by Grant Deller

In the last issue of Conservation Horizons we answered some commonly asked questions about the Manure Managements Manual (MMM), pictured below. In part 2 we will touch on just a few commonly asked questions and key points in this article and discuss some of the guidelines to follow in manure spreading and how they differ with applying manure in the winter season.

The actual spreading of manure brings about a set of questions in itself. For specific details, the MMM should be consulted. **People most often want to know about, or in some cases infringe upon, setbacks.** The setbacks discussed in this article refer to spring, summer, and fall manure spreading. Manure may not be applied within 100 feet of a sinkhole. The setback for streams, lakes, and ponds is normally 100 feet. If you can prove excellent management, you may apply as close as 35 feet. Please refer to the MMM to see specific details and requirements for applying within the 100 foot setback. Manure may not be applied in non-vegetated swales. Intermittent streams are streams that do not have a continuous flow of water throughout the entire year. Manure can be applied within the 100 foot setback if there is no water present at the time of spreading. Perennial streams, on the other hand, always have a continuous flow of water and the more stringent setbacks always need to be followed.

LAND APPLICATION OF MANURE

Manure Management Plan
Guidance
361-6308-002



Other areas where the 100 foot setback needs to be observed are drinking water sources. These include, but are not limited to, private wells, springs and sources of public drinking water. In these circumstances setbacks may be established by state or federal laws.

Although it can be done, **we discourage spreading manure in the winter.** Winter applications can lead to significantly higher losses, causing major environmental problems. A stricter set of guidelines must be followed in winter than other times of the year. **Winter is defined** in the MMM as any of the following: December 15 through February 28 OR anytime the ground is frozen more than four inches deep OR anytime the ground is snow-covered.

Hay fields, pastures and fields with an established cover crop should be given the highest priority for winter spreading. The maximum application rates during this season are:

- * Liquid manure - 5,000 gallons per acre.
- * Dry non-poultry manure - 20 tons per acre.
- * Dry poultry manure - 3 tons per acre.

A 100 foot setback needs to be followed from an above ground inlet to an agricultural drainage system where surface water flow is toward the above ground inlet. In addition, a 100-foot setback, measured from the top of bank, applies to any stream which generally flows during the winter or any spring, lake or pond. These are additional requirements to the setbacks described for the spring thru fall applications. There are no setback exceptions in winter applications regardless of the type of stream. This is one of the big differences between winter spreading and other times of the year. All fields where manure is applied in the winter must have at least 25% crop residue or an established growing cover crop.



Manure spreading con't.

As in any business, detailed records must be kept. Farms are no exception! There are two different records that must be kept up to date: The first is the completed worksheets developed as part of your MMP in the MMM. The second are records showing the MMP has been implemented. In order to document MMP implementation, you must complete the manure application rate record, crop yield record, manure transfer record and manure storage facility monthly inspection record. While not all of these may be applicable, depending on your farm operation, samples of all of them can be found in the MMM. These records must be made available upon the request of DEP or the York County Conservation District.

One final note - manure importers must use either Nutrient Balance Sheets (NBS) developed by a certified professional or develop their own MMP.

Copies of the Manure Management Manual are available for pick up at the District office. Hopefully this article clears up some of the questions and misconceptions about Manure Management Plans, pastures, and manure stacking and spreading. Please stay tuned for Part 3: Pasture Management in the next installment of Conservation Horizons!

What Can NRCS Do For You? - Stephen Ludwig, Civil Engineering Technician, NRCS

Labor Day is behind us and the fall harvest is rapidly approaching. While you are in the fields during the harvest keep the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the back of your mind. You may be in the field and discover a gully which was not there at the time of planting. Maybe you are planning a project for after the growing season, or you would like to become a better steward of the land. **The York NRCS office can provide free technical advice to help you develop ideas or implement the ideas to better manage the land.**

Here are some examples of how our staff can help you - the landowner. We can help with cropland storm water issues. We can help with best management practices such as contour strips, terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways. You may have a livestock operation and we could assist you with a manure storage, mortality compost, or nutrient management. These are the things NRCS is well known for. How about the not so obvious best management practices? Have you thought of developing a rotational grazing system? We can help with determining forage needs, paddock sizing, livestock watering systems to name a few. We also work with vegetable and fruit growers to help with practices such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), irrigation systems and agricultural chemical handling facilities. We also work with forest and woodland owners to help control invasive species, develop forest management plans and improve the wildlife habitat.



Once you have decided which best management practices will suit your operation, the next step is implementation of the plan or practice. **NRCS can assist you with the implementation as well.** We can provide free assistance to ensure the practice is being built correctly if you would choose to install the practice on your own. If the plan or practice is something you do not want to tackle on your own, NRCS can help with financial assistance as well.

We will help guide you to the proper source for financial assistance. Sources of funding can be local funding where we work with the York County Conservation District, or through our Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). **If you are thinking of EQIP funding, there is an application process.** The EQIP funding applications are accepted on a continuous basis. We have several rounds of funding depending when an application is received. **The first round EQIP application deadline is Friday October 16.** If you are interested in an EQIP application, please call our office at 717-755-2966 x3, or stop in for more information.

York County's **Gobbler's Knob Farm** received the **Clean Water Farm Award** from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) in July. It is only the second time in 12 years that a York County farm has won. According to the PACD, "The honor is awarded annually to farmers who manage their daily farm operations in an environmentally conscious manner that helps to protect Pennsylvania's water quality."

Owned and operated by **David & Cathy Reifsneider**, the Felton farm is a four-house certified organic broiler operation. under contract with Coleman Natural Foods.



The Reifsneiders have been growing chickens for Coleman Natural since 2011.

"We're proud of the Reifsneiders for implementing sound management and conservation practices that benefit the local environment and their overall farm operations," said Steve Fannin, Coleman director of live operations. **"They represent the best in farmers in Pennsylvania who are working hard to do their part to improve water quality."**

David (above right with the District's Ag Resource Conservationist, Wendy Kindig) has worked with the District to install many conservation practices including mortality composting, a waste storage facility, a grassed waterway, and drop boxes to prevent erosion and control roof stormwater runoff.

Controlling the Avian Flu in York County

Avian Influenza (AI) viruses occur naturally in birds. Wild bird species, especially migratory birds such as ducks, geese & swans, can carry the viruses and infect other species of birds. And while the wild migratory birds rarely get sick from the disease, they can easily pass the disease on to our domestic birds who can easily succumb to the disease.

The Avian Influenza viruses of concern in poultry & wild birds are called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses. They are extremely infectious, often fatal to domestic poultry, and can spread rapidly from flock to flock.

Avian influenza does not usually infect humans, but certain strains, known as zoonotic strains, can make people ill. While public health is a concern, the real danger of HPAI is its potential to seriously impact the economy of our poultry industry.

So far, HPAI has not been documented in Pennsylvania, but **nearly 60 million birds in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest have already died, or been destroyed, in an effort to control the outbreak.** According to the PennAg Poultry Council, concerns are escalating as waterfowl migration continues along the Atlantic Flyway. They know that migratory waterfowl picked up the disease in Russia and spread it to flocks of birds in Western parts of the country when they settled in with waterfowl living there.

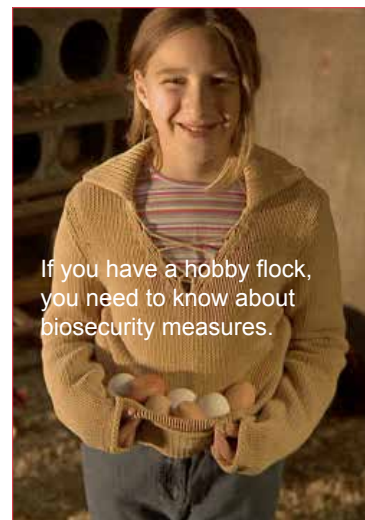
If you have a commercial poultry farm, interact with birds in the wild (hunting, birding, etc.) or you keep birds in your backyard as a hobby, you need to know the proper steps to take to keep Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) from spreading.

con't on next page

If you interact with birds in the wild, you should be aware of biosecurity measures.



If you have a hobby flock, you need to know about biosecurity measures.





Our district staff is currently following strict biosecurity measures on farm visits. Shoes are disinfected prior to exit and re-entry of vehicles. Disinfected, waterproof boots are worn during the visit and disinfected again prior to leaving. Vehicle wheels are disinfected at entry and exit. Windows are kept closed. We park away from animals/feed/manure areas. Vehicles are washed after the visit. Staff and vehicles must wait 72 hours before visiting another poultry operation.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture established an Interstate and General Quarantine Order regarding the Avian Flu. The Reifsneiders, whose farm signs are posted below, understand the importance of biosecurity both on their property and for anyone entering or leaving their farm.

Anyone who has backyard poultry - commercial or hobby - should register their birds with the PA Department of Agriculture. Go to their website where you will find a link to all the Avian Influenza resources you need.



Biosecurity is important! Taking the proper steps to keep HPAI from spreading is the best way to protect birds:

- Keep your distance from any quarantined farm.
- Disinfect your vehicle, boots, clothing, etc.
- Don't haul disease home or lend/borrow equipment from other farms.
- Know the warning signs of infected birds - Report sick birds.
- Keep poultry separate from wild birds on your property.
- **Waterfowl hunters** - avoid taking any clothing, boots, cell phones, wallets, hunting gear, dogs, etc. to poultry farms for 72 hours.
- **Bird Watchers** - Follow the same precautions as hunters when birding for waterfowl and **walking anywhere bird waste is found.**

For more information on HPAI, see a full list of signs of illness, or to report sick birds, **contact the State Veterinarian** in Harrisburg at 717-772-2852 or extension.psu.edu/flock-help. You can also call this toll-free number with the USDA: 1-866-536-7593.



Erosion & Sediment Control

E&S Program Accomplishments for June - September 2015

Preconstruction meetings	24	General NPDES Issued	47
New Plan Reviews	108	Total site inspections	279
Revised Plan Reviews	48	Sites in compliance	55
Total Project Acres	3,016	Complaints Investigated	79
Total Disturbed Acres	497		



Education & Communication

Envirothon begins, Clay Shoot wraps-up, Conservation Awards winners

The 2016 Envirothon - our 31st season - is approaching. Our Envirothon committee, staffed by 29 local cooperating agency staff & volunteers, has been busy putting together study resources since mid-summer in preparation for our November Coaches meetings. Coaches from 16 different school districts in York County will receive their Coaches Manuals and Study Resource CDs at these mid-autumn sessions. The coaches - some of whom have been recruiting students in their school building since September - will then begin studying with their prospective teams.

Our **Coaches Meetings** are scheduled for the following dates (times to be announced):

Tuesday, November 17 - 5th - 8th Grades

Wednesday, November 18 - Senior High

Thursday, November 19 - 3rd & 4th Grades

Our **2016 Envirothon Competition dates** (at John Rudy County Park) are:

Senior High - Tuesday, April 26

Middle School - Tuesday, May 3

5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 4

3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, May 10

The proceeds from our September 18th Clay Shoot helped kick-start our 2016 season. The actual Envirothon Sponsorship Drive begins in mid-October. Over 1,000 York County Envirothon students and over 100 coaches are able to participate in their school's Envirothon thanks to our generous sponsors. Hundreds of students who are not on their school's Envirothon team benefit from the use of the annual Envirothon resources given to their schools. Please consider being a part of this great program. See the form on page 12.



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2016 ENVIROTHON DONATION FORM



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I would like to be an **American Chestnut Gold Level Sponsor** for \$2,500.00 _____

I would like to be an **Elk Silver Level Sponsor** for \$1,000.00 _____

I would like to be a **Brook Trout Bronze Level Sponsor** for \$500.00 _____

I would like to be a **Mountain Laurel Patron** for \$250.00 _____

Sponsors donating at the \$250.00 level or above receive a gift of "Follow Me," by Millicent Neill Decker. All donations are tax deductible minus the \$60.00 market value of the gift, which will be noted on your statement.

Please check this box if you wish to forfeit the gift. ☐



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please accept my general donation of \$ _____

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Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Expiration date: ____/____/____ 3-digit V code: _____

Please make checks payable to the York County Conservation District & mail to:
Attn: Envirothon, YCCD, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

The District held its **Annual Conservation Awards Picnic** on Tuesday, August 6th at Rocky Ridge County Park to present their 2015 Conservation Awards. Each year a committee selects individuals and businesses in York County to recognize for their stewardship and commitment to conservation efforts. Award recipients were presented with a signed, limited edition framed print by Millicent Neill Decker while guests enjoyed a catered picnic dinner. This year's recipients were:



Jill Oles was one of our **2015 Outstanding Environmental Educators** (*pictured at far left*). A long-time winning Senior High Envirothon coach for the York Homeschool Association, Jill is now retired but continues to serve on the District's Envirothon Committee as a station leader for the Senior High Forestry Station and station leader for 5th & 6th Grades and Middle School Aquatics Stations.

Sheri Picone (*above right*) joins Jill as our other **2015 Outstanding Environmental Educator**. Sheri coached alongside Jill Oles and led the Senior High homeschoolers to a legacy of seven county wins and one state championship (finishing 9th at the North American Envirothon in 2013). Sheri continues to coach at the senior high level, after having coached at all four grade levels as her children moved up through the competitions.

Our **2015 Outstanding Watershed Steward** is **Pam Shellenberger** of the York County Planning Commission's Long Range Planning Division. Under Pam's leadership the Planning Division has been instrumental in developing a watershed implementation plan, a Chesapeake Bay pollutant reduction plan and a municipal storm water feasibility study. (*pictured at right*). Because of Pam's foresight & vision, the county's community health and quality of life will be more vibrant and sustainable.



Renee Benner (*at left*) and **Adams Electric Cooperative** were recognized as our **2015 Outstanding Donors**. As a community services specialist, Renee has been instrumental in developing a close partnership with Conservation Districts in their five county service territory to help bolster sponsorship funding for each District's Envirothon programs. For us, Renee has been the voice of Adams Electric. The Cooperative has also been recognized with the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for their commitment to deliver electricity while preserving our natural resources. They have also been acknowledged for their efforts to reduce emissions from fossil-fuel power plants and control costs for business and residential consumers.

Dan Wolf was presented with the **Distinguished Service Award** upon his retirement from the Board, after serving for 24 years. **Wendy Zwally** retired after 35 years with the Soil Conservation Service/NRCS. She was **recognized for her contributions as a Senior High Soils Station Leader with the Envirothon**. And Office Manager, **Whitney Leland**, was presented with the **Unsung Hero** for keeping our day-to-day office running smoothly.

Our Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award for 2015 was presented to Randall & Sarah Patterson, who operate Circled Patterson Farm in Chanceford Township.

The Patterson's became District Cooperators in 1987, when they began contouring their fields, creating conservation plans and installing grass waterways and diversions. Improvements on their farm have continued ever since in an effort to prevent soil erosion and nutrient loss. In 1991, they received our Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award for beautifully maintaining their conservation practices.

They have also preserved their home farm through the York County Ag Land Preservation Board (YCALP). Patty McCandless, director of the YCALP says the following about Randall:



"He has the heart and soul of a confirmed conservationist. His land stewardship exemplifies natural resource protection. He understands not only the economic benefits of its protection, but also the benefits to his home and community when water quality is considered first by the farmer."

OUR 2016 SEEDLING SALE

Sponsored by the York County Conservation District
& hosted by the York County Parks

*Newsletter subscribers will receive
their order form in the mail.*

- We offer a nice variety of two and three-year-old bare root evergreen & deciduous seedlings 7"-24" high
- Cherry Trees & Peach Trees 4'-5'tall
- Blueberry and Blackberry bushes
- **New this year-** Chinkapin Oak and Gray Dogwood
- Pachysandra Ground Cover & much more

Please note we do not offer matures trees
like the oak or dogwood pictured at right



Gray Dogwood



Chinkapin Oak

Order Deadline: March 24, 2016

Pick-up Date: **Thursday, April 14, 2016**

10:00 am-6:00 pm

Rocky Ridge County Park (off Mt. Zion Road)

Our **8th Annual Clay Shoot**, held on Friday, September 18, at Central Penn Sporting Clays in Wellsville, raised \$4,657.00 to kick off our 2016 Envirothon Sponsorship Drive. The afternoon event was a great success with 65 shooters joining us. Our sponsorship was among the highest ever thanks to **Event Sponsor**, Aquatic Resource Restoration Company; **Event Partner**, Resource Environmental Solutions; **Station Sponsors**, Mark Flaharty, Trumbull Corporation and HRG; **Station Partners**, Commissioner Doug Hoke, Representative Kristin Phillips-Hill, Conewago Enterprises, Inc., ELA Group, Inc., JMT, and LSC Design; and our **Gun Raffle Sponsors**, Representatives Mike Regan, Kate Klunk, Stan Saylor, Kristin Phillips-Hill, Seth Grove and Keith Gillespie.



Due to a scoring error on our part, we had **Co-Champions for our High-Score Traveling Team Trophy** this year: The North Mountain Senior Open Trap Team (*center photo above*) and Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC), team #2. **The top three individual high scorers** were Roger Becker, Steve Stambaugh and Dale Wertz (in that order). George Snyder was our gun raffle winner and Galen Weibly won the silent auction with his bid.



Team Watershed Conservation Clay Busters (*above left*) enjoyed their afternoon. Dave Simmon, Derek Higgs and Dr. Steve Cruse (*above center*) were part of the high-score winning team from ARRC. Amy Kimmel, Sandra Diller and John Seitz, represented the Envirothon, courtesy of RES. (*above right*) **Please mark your calendars** for next year - Friday, September 16, 2016.





Fall & Winter



November

- Average precipitation 3.62 inches; average temps: 40 degrees; average day length: 10 hours & half hours.
- Make sure horses are in good weight before winter. They use a lot of calories just staying warm in cold weather.
- Monitor their appetites & water intake; colic is often associated with weather changes.
- The final deworming for the year should be after the first hard frost.
- Keep all feed in pest-resistant containers, as wildlife search dry barns & outbuildings for warmth.
- Finish corn grain harvests, make sure fields near streams have at least 2-3" of cover crop or crop residue in the soil to control erosion and limit nutrient runoff. It is a good time of year to plant trees & shrubs to establish a streamside buffers. to sustain good water quality. When you do plant, plant natives.
- Update harvested manure spreading records & apply manure on growing cover crops.
- Migrating Golden Eagles are passing through. It is the height of waterfowl migration, osage orange fruits are ripening, white-tail deer rut is reaching its peak, black bears are entering their dens for hibernation and rare snow buntings may show up on freshly manured farm fields.
- Thanksgiving Day is traditionally the Blessing of the Hounds for foxhunters. Most often, this centuries-old, ancient tradition is held in a churchyard, where a bishop blesses the horses, the hounds and yes, the foxes.
"Grant to us, therefore, on this our nation's day of Thanksgiving, the wisdom and grace to see all about us the works of your hand; grant that everyone of us who looks into the eyes of horse or hound this day may see the reflection of your face; and grant that the skilled and cunning fox may be our pilot to a deeper understanding and love for your natural world."
- The territorial hooting of the great horned owls begins in earnest later this month and those large, elegant, white tundra swans are migrating along the Susquehanna.



December

- Average temperature is 30 degrees. Small ponds began to freeze in early December and our winter solstice begins at 12:30 a.m. on the 22nd of the month.
- Overwintering short-eared owls hunt low over fields at dawn & dusk.
- Christmas ferns carpet the woodland floors with their evergreen leaves contrasting among the browning leaf litter.
- This is a good time of year for farmers to attend meetings on soil & nutrient management & streamside buffers while planning next year's crop rotation.

- Check the footer drain at the manure storage for foul-smelling flow. Fix any leaks you find.
- Update harvest & manure spreading records. Plan next year's crop rotation, including cover crops.
- Reduce the size of your heavy use areas by grazing cattle on stockpiled forages.
- The end of December brings about the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. This century-old birding excursion is a day afield for thousands of birders in Pennsylvania and around the country to count as many individuals birds & birds species as they can find in one day. Though done mostly by amateurs, this long-running survey of birds is taken seriously by professional biologists.

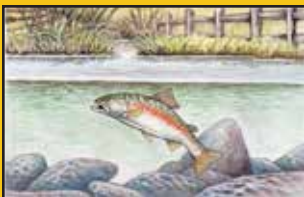
January

- Our coldest days of the year, averaging 25 degrees, occur between mid-to-late January. The dropping barometers bring mixed flocks of songbirds, no longer worried over breeding territories, into backyard feeders.
- Black bear cubs are born in winter dens while red foxes and gray squirrels are actively courting mates.
- Raccoons and skunks are holed up for days at a time during cold snaps. Not true hibernators, they amble out in search of food from time to time.
- If you are planning a construction project that impacts one or more acres, you need an NPDES permit before you begin. Check with the Conservation District for more information.
- Manure management regulations require monthly inspections of manure storage areas. Even a slow leak could lead to a serious pollution problem.
- If you're spreading manure, keep it 100 feet from streams, lakes or ponds. Make sure to only apply manure on flat fields that have good crop residue.
- Review your grazing records and adjust paddock sizes or your rotation schedule to reduce any bare spots.



February

- Average monthly temps - a frigid 28 degrees - with 10.5 hours of sun.
- Groundhog Day may forecast the start of spring for us, but the ground hogs themselves are simply taking a stroll in search of a mate.
- Whitetail deer bucks are shedding their antlers - and in turn - feeding small rodents who crave the calcium in winter and need to keep their incisors in tiptop shape.
- Northern cardinals are singing, red-winged blackbirds return from wintering grounds down south and repopulate open marshlands and male Eastern bluebirds start exploring possible nesting cavities, with which to entice the females who will return several weeks later.
- Striped skunks have begun to mate, gray squirrels have their first litters of the year, and chipmunks are emerging from their hibernaculums towards the end of the month.
- The plaintive whistle of the white-throated sparrow pierces the air on the coldest winter days in open fields while the chirps & calls of the tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch and chickadees fill the winter woods.
- Through the end of the month farmers should be following the winter application guidelines in their *Manure Management Manual - Land Application of Manure*. In manure guidelines, winter ends on February 28th.
- Cropfields & pastures receiving fall or winter manure applications must have at least a 25% cover or cover crop already established to help prevent manure runoff into streams.
- Water is the most important nutrient livestock have access to, but February can be a brutal time of year to supply water to animals living outside. One horse needs to drink 5-10 gallons of water per day; a cow may need as much as 20 gallons per day, depending on whether she is nursing a calf. Be sure to keep water buckets and troughs clean and ice-free. Their lives depend on it.



Watershed Specialist

Gary Peacock

York County Watersheds Happenings - Here is a listing of upcoming activities, events and other fall and winter watershed happenings around York County.

- **Dirt, Gravel and Low-Volume Road Grant Applications** are due November 17, 2015. Because of the state budget passage delay, we do not expect to receive our 2015-16 funding allocations until November or December of this year. Program guidelines, policy and application form may be found online at <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/dirt-gravel-roads-program>.
- **Exelon Habitat Improvement Grant Applications** due January 1, 2016. Note revised guidelines and application form is available online at <http://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/habitat-improvement/>



Clinton River Watershed Council



• **Floodplain Management Program** –Please join the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conjunction with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Ordinance Update Workshops to aid communities that are required to update their local floodplain management ordinances as a result of receiving an updated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). **These free workshops will be conducted via webinar**, and FEMA/DCED representatives will be available to cover common questions or compliance issues that we see during the map update process. During this time we will also answer your specific questions pertaining to required language, higher regulatory standards, or other questions you may have pertaining to the update process. Whenever possible we ask that you submit your questions in advance of the webinars to our mailbox: FEMA-R3-FMI@fema.dhs.gov. These webinars are intended to provide additional information as you update your local floodplain ordinance, but your State NFIP Coordinator, Dan Fitzpatrick (dafitzpatr@pa.gov), and Fred Chapman (frchapman@pa.gov) remain excellent resources through this process. Please continue to provide draft and adopted ordinances to them for review.

Date	Time	Webinar Link & Conference Number
Wednesday, November 17th	6:00-7:30 PM	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r6jq3hrgid3/ 1-800-320-4330; PIN: 603776
Thursday, November 18th	9:00-10:30 AM	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r5ii75qh8zo/ 1-800-320-4330; PIN: 276602

• **Large Woody Debris Funding Available.** Private landowners and local municipalities may apply for cost share grants to manage or remove large woody debris in streams. The District will pay private landowners and local municipalities up to 75 percent and fifty percent of the total project cost, respectively. Program guidelines and application form is available online at <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 (YCALPB) is pleased to announce that from 1990 until now, **two-hundred and seventy farms covering 40,833 acres have been preserved!!!** This includes farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation. These farms represent working lands across the county which produce field crops, milk, fruits, berries, vegetables, Christmas trees, nursery stock, timber, and a variety of livestock. On behalf of the County of York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we thank the farm families who have made this forever commitment.

Our office reports the selection of six farms on 512 acres for the 2015 preservation activity. **This year, 46 applications, covering 4,391 acres, were received for easement consideration.** An additional 19 program inquiries on 1,063 acres was also received. **Clearly, York County landowners are interested in farmland preservation.** Preservation began in York County in 1990 with the passage of Act 149, the Farmland Preservation Act, amending the Ag Security Area Law, Act 43, allowing County governments to preserve farmland through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (ACE). **Think of ACE's as the right to say no to development through a deed restriction.** Zoning may not change that land use as ACE's are perpetual, or forever. Protecting this farmland has allowed us to create many farming neighborhoods across the County devoted entirely to commercial agricultural production.

Farmers in these regions have confidence their farm operations may operate with little to no conflicting uses next door and their farm capital improvements are safe investments. Finally, **farmers can plan for the next generation of farmers.** How we use our land affects all of us. Land uses influence population distribution, where people live, work, play, shop, and go to school. So naturally real estate taxes, school taxes, and the cost of public services will follow the human footprint across the landscape. Careful and thoughtful land use planning is critical to the best use of our limited lands and is key to communities remaining livable, enjoyable, and affordable for all York residents. As we plan our future living, working and play space, we must not overlook planning for the lands which feed us.

The YCALPB will host a public meeting for landowners interested in preserving their farms, Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:30 PM, Room 1 of the County Annex Building. The meeting will discuss the County's easement purchase and easement donation program. To reserve a seat or update your application for 2016 call (717) 840-7400.

We **welcome new board member, Ms. J. Kenetha Hansen,** of York. Ms. Hansen was appointed recently to a three year term as Representing Citizens. We look forward to her service on the YCALPB. Ms. Hansen currently serves as Vice President, Economic Development for the Economic Development Alliance. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Dickinson College.



Interested land and farm workers may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or go to 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 continues to rank 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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"Grant to us, therefore, on this our nation's day of Thanksgiving, the wisdom and grace to see all about us the works of your hand; grant that everyone of us who looks into the eyes of horse or hound this day may see the reflection of your face."

- The Annual Blessing of the Hounds

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

November 2015

Nov. 3 Office Closed - Election Day
Nov. 11 Office Closed - Veterans Day
Nov. 12 YCCD Board Mtg – 7:00 pm Annex
Nov. 17-19 Envirothon Coaches Mtgs.
Nov. 26, 27 Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2015

Dec. 11 YCCD Board Mtg - 11:00 am Annex
Dec. 17 DGR/LVR QAB Mtg - 8:00 am Annex
Dec. 25 Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

January 2016

January 1 Office Closed - New Year's Day
January 8 YCCD Board Mtg. 11:00 am Annex
January 18 Office Closed - MLKing Holiday
January 30
- Feb. 3 NACD 2016 Annual Meeting,
Reno, Nevada

February 2016

Feb. 9-10 PACD Winter Meeting, Ramada State
College
Feb. 12 YCCD Board Mtg, 11:00 am Annex
Feb. 15 Office Closed - President's Day