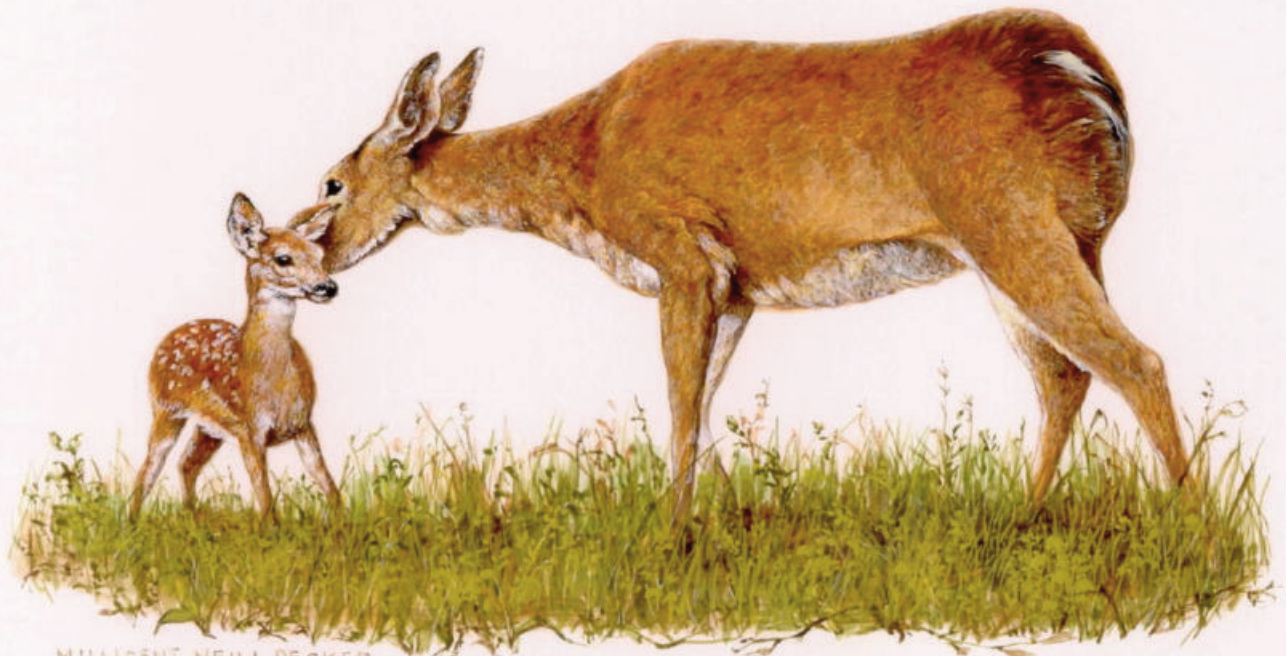


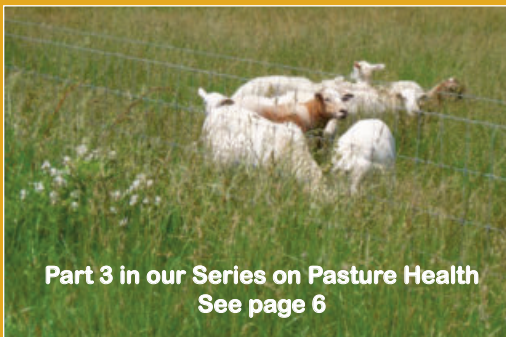
Conservation Horizons



Since 1948 * 71 Years of Conservation, Education & Stewardship *

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Part 3 in our Series on Pasture Health
See page 6

Annual Tree & Seedling Sale

please see pages 13 & 14 for details

FREE Coupon for bare-root seedling inside



Redbud



Eastern White Pine

Changes are Coming to the District

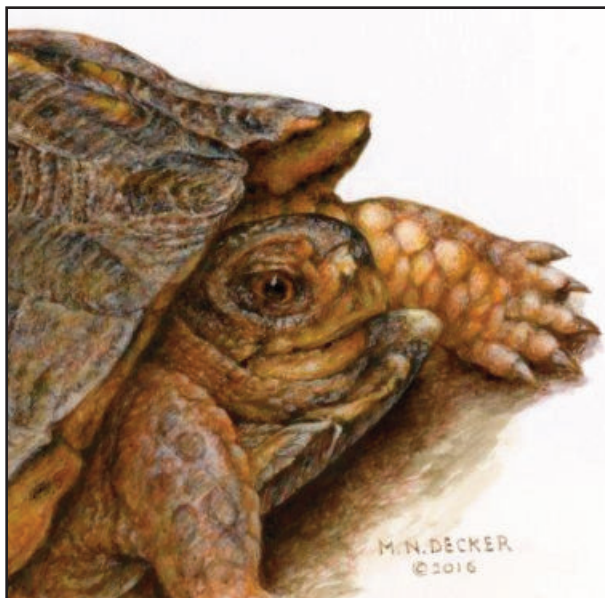
The York County Conservation District launched a new website in February, and later this year our offices are moving to a brand new space on Pleasant Valley Road.

See page 4 for more details

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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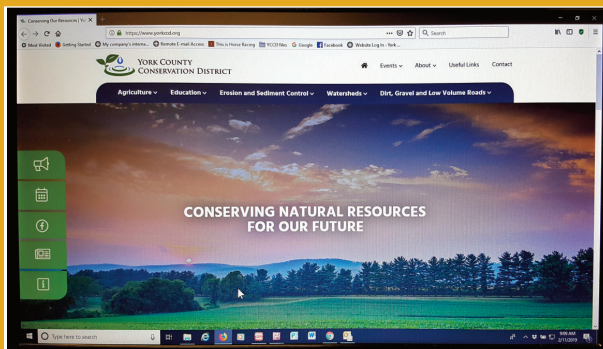
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The York County Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall in no way discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on account of age, religion, color, national origin, sex, ancestry, disability, and/or any political or union affiliation.



Around the District

The York County Conservation District is getting a make-over!
We have a new website and this summer our offices are moving.



Check out our new website at www.yorkccd.org. Later this summer our offices are moving to the Graham Packaging Building on Pleasant Valley Road, along with the offices of Penn State Extension, Ag Preserve, West Nile Program, Coroner, Traffic Safety, Weights and Measures and Facilities. The District offices will be located on the 1st floor in the wing closest to Pleasant Valley Road. Many more details in our summer issue.



Around the District

We are happy to welcome Tom Smith (at right) to our Erosion & Sediment Control staff as our new Engineering Technician I. Tom is a familiar face to many York Countians due to his previous work experience as the Administrator of York County's Mosquito Surveillance Program. Some of his experience in that position will serve him well in this new position.

Residents would report many E&S controls and post construction stormwater management BMPs as the source of their mosquito problems. As Tom puts it, "Following up on these complaints allowed me to educate residents about the importance of E&S control, stormwater management and provide information to help them properly identify and resolve their mosquito concerns."

Tom grew up in Baltimore City where his interest in the outdoors was fostered by time spent playing sports and exploring parks. He graduated from Polytechnic Institute High School and has an Associates Degree from Essex Community College, with some time spent at York College as well.



Tom and his family have lived in Windsor Township for twenty years and it was this move that introduced him to the Conservation District. First working with Watershed Specialist, Gary Peacock, to address a large detention basin in his development. Tom also served on our Envirothon Committee for nine years as our 3rd & 4th Grades Aquatics Station Leader.

In addition to his volunteer work with the Envirothon, Tom's hobbies include native gardening & landscaping, birding, hiking and four wheeling. He is a Penn State Extension Master Gardener and serves as the Executive Director of Keep York Beautiful. A member of the Uptown York Rotary Club and the Elks Lodge in York, he is also President of the PA Vector Control Association and currently Vice President of the Mid Atlantic Mosquito Control Association.

Tom has a clear vision for conservation - "Protecting and improving our natural resources. This is something I learned at a very young age. Thanks to receiving a National Wildlife subscription as a child, I became interested in ecological succession and how nature adapts and changes over time. With this in mind, I believe conservation includes recognizing the importance of biodiversity and the implications of climate change. Ultimately, our health, survival and economy depend on maintaining the environment a certain way."



Joe Rebert (*photo at right*), has recently been promoted to Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II.

Our District Board has recently had several reappointments. **Commissioner Susan Byrnes** has been reappointed to her 4th one-year term, and our Vice Chair, **Travis Sherman**, has been reappointed to a second four-year term.





Ag Resources

A Look at Pastures, Part III by Joe Rebert

This will be the third and final part in our “A Look at Pastures.” We will finish this series by covering some agronomic practices related to pasture maintenance. We will also be discussing pasture renovation as well as touching on forage species selection.

A large component to maintaining pasture is nutrient management. Nutrient management is an important practice for maintaining a healthy and productive pasture. Soil testing is a major tool for nutrient management as the test will tell you what your pasture is lacking. It is recommended that soil tests are taken at least once every three years. A soil test will tell you how much phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) or other nutrients you should be applying to a pasture in addition to the nutrients it receives from deposited manure. Nitrogen is also a very important nutrient for grass production, but unfortunately it does not show up on soil tests. Because of this, the PennState Extension Agronomy Guide recommends applying 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre per year for grass pastures. This total should be split into multiple applications throughout the growing season. This is a general guide and actual rates may vary depending on your forage species.

A soil test will also let you know the pH within your pasture. If you are unfamiliar with pH, it is a scale used to measure acidity or basicity. Lower numbers are more acidic, while higher numbers are more basic, and neutral is 7. It is common for ground receiving chemical fertilizer or manure to have an acidic pH. When pH becomes too low you should apply lime in order to get back to an appropriate pH level for forage production. Most forage plants require a pH of 5.8 or higher and some species, especially legumes, require a higher pH than that. Generally speaking, you should try to maintain a pH between 6 and 7 within your pastures for optimal forage production.

Biological control can be an effective way to suppress weeds in a pasture. Biological control refers to the introduction of a pest or predator to eat or harm your targeted species. In a grazing system, biological control usually refers to using livestock to suppress weed populations. The most common animals for this are cattle, sheep, and goats. Cattle generally won't concentrate their grazing enough to control weeds, though hoof traffic has been shown to be effective at destroying young weed shoots. But the best species for weed control in pastures is goats. Goats will eat a wide variety of weeds, and studies have shown that goats can greatly reduce or eliminate the population of spiny and prickly weeds in pastures. Though biologic control through livestock can be an effective method, it does take time to work and usually isn't 100 percent effective.



Maintaining proper pH and nutrient levels in a pasture is also important for pest management. Though not all weeds are necessarily bad, it is important to control them to maintain the yield of your forage, and because some weeds can be toxic to livestock. When controlling weeds, prevention is key. Weeds are much more difficult to control once they have taken over, but getting them early or not letting them grow at all is much more effective. This is why maintaining pH and nutrient levels in the optimal range for your chosen forage is important.

Continued on next page

Maintaining those levels will help maintain dense growth of your forage, which can limit the opportunity of weeds to grow. Another way weeds can be prevented is by minimizing bare areas within the pasture by not overgrazing. Bare areas will allow weeds a chance to move in where they don't have competition from other plants. Mowing pastures regularly can help suppress existing weed populations and prevent them from producing seeds. To keep a large weed population suppressed to the point where it starts to reduce, it may require mowing several times a year. It is also important to keep weeds trimmed around fences to limit production of new weed seeds which can move into the pasture. Often times if there are not many weeds present in a pasture, handpicking them can be a good solution. Be sure to get the roots and seed head and remove them from the pasture when using this method. Herbicides can also be used in established pastures to control weeds either through spot control or by spraying the entire pasture. When using herbicides in a grazing system, be sure to follow all the label directions and be mindful of the grazing and haying restrictions.

Usually the best approach to weed management in pastures involves an integrated approach where you utilize multiple methods as discussed above to control or prevent weeds. Depending on the type of forage you are growing, it can also be important to control insect populations within your pastures. Pesticides are one method to control insects. Be sure to follow all the label directions so as to not harm your livestock when using pesticides. Another way to control insects is by renovating or reestablishing a pasture. An increase in insect eating birds can greatly reduce insect populations within a pasture. Because of this, creating bird habitat or placing bird boxes near pastures can also be an effective biological control for insects.

Overseeding a pasture can be an effective tool in extending the life of a pasture. It is a method to introduce desirable species into your pasture without a full renovation. Perennial rye grass can be a good choice for overseeding due to its fast establishment. It is a high quality, high yield cool season grass, but usually will only persist for several growing seasons.

Frost seeding (at right) is another method of planting that can be used to overseed a pasture. Frost seeding is done by broadcasting seeds onto a frozen pasture in late winter and allowing the freeze thaw cycle to work the seed into the ground. Frost seeding is a good way to introduce species such as clovers into a pasture.



Maintenance of a pasture isn't always enough to keep up productivity. If your pasture becomes too thin, weedy, or your desired forage is absent, you may need to renovate your pasture. Pasture renovation can result in a thicker, more vigorous pasture with a suppressed weed population and improved productivity. Renovation can be costly and will require some time for your forage to properly establish. When renovating a pasture you should first obtain a soil sample to be sure you are adding the right amendments such as fertilizers and lime. It is important to have your soil amended correctly before the seeding occurs. The best way to renovate is to start with a clean seedbed. This is important so as to destroy existing undesirable species and to maximize the amount of your desired forage which grows. Starting with a clean seedbed is an important part of the prevention aspect of weed control discussed earlier. To obtain a clean seedbed for pasture renovation you can either use herbicides to burn down existing vegetation and then no-till your new forage into the soil, or use tillage to kill and bury existing vegetation. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages, and a combination of the two may also work. Once a clean seedbed is established the new forage can then be either drilled or broadcast to start your new pasture. The best time to renovate a pasture is usually the early fall, but it can also be done in the spring. Be sure to allow adequate growth on your newly renovated pasture before grazing it so as not to destroy all your hard work. Keep in mind when establishing a pasture that the two most common reasons for a grass planting to fail are lack of weed control and planting seed too deep.

This chart depicts some common species used as forage for livestock grazing.



SPECIFICATION GUIDE SHEET- PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING (512)

Species' written by Carl Majewski, UNH Extension Educator, Agricultural Resources

'Vegetating with Native Grasses in Northeastern North America' a guide. VT NRCS FOTG Plant Materials and Application Reference #7.

USDA NRCS Plants database
http://plants.usda.gov/

TABLE 1 Crop Use Information								
<i>E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor</i>								
Crop	Annual or Perennial	Mechanical Harvest		Pasture (Grazing)		Palat-ability ¹	Maturity <i>Early Medium Late</i>	Provides <i>Mid, Early, or Late Extended Grazing</i>
		Hay	Silage	Continuous	Prescribed			
LEGUMES								
Alfalfa	Perennial	E	E	P	E	E	E-M	M
Alsike clover	Short-lived Perennial	G	G	P	G	E	L	M
Birdsfoot trefoil ²	Perennial	G	E	G	G	E	M-L	M
Hairy vetch	Winter annual used primarily as a cover crop						E-M	M
Ladino clover	Perennial	F	G	E	E	E	E-L	M
Mammoth red clover	Short-lived Perennial	F	G	P	P	G	M-L	M
Medium red clover	Short-lived Perennial	G	E	P	G	E	M-L	M
Sweet clover	Biannual	F-P	G	P	F	F	N/A	N/A
GRASSES								
Kentucky bluegrass	Perennial	G	G	E	E	E	E	E&L
Orchardgrass	Perennial	E	G-E	G	E	E-F	E-M	E&M
Perennial ryegrass	Short-lived Perennial	E	E	E	G	E	E-M	L
Red top	Perennial	F	F	F	F	F		N/A
Smooth brome grass	Perennial	E	F	F	E	E	M-L	E&L
Timothy	Perennial	E	E	F	G	E-G	L	N/A
ANNUAL FORAGES								
Chicory	Short-lived Perennial	P	P	G	G	G-P	E-M	E&M
Millets	Annual	F	F	F	G	G-F	M	M
Rape	Annual	P	P	F	G	G-F	M	E
SorghumXSudan	Annual	P	G	F	G	G-F	M	M
Sudangrass	Annual	P	F	F	G	G-F	M	M

¹ Palatability will improve with the newer varieties that are disease-free.

² When planting this species, in particular, but also all the species, one should use the newest disease-resistant varieties if no other plant species will meet the planting goal. Refer to Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management.

There are many options for forage species. Selecting a species depends on your own system and the environmental conditions at your selected site. Thus, its important to do your own research or consult a professional when deciding what species of forage you should plant. The PennState Extension Agronomy Guide is a great reference tool for learning more about forages. Often times in this area pastures consist of cool season grasses sometimes mixed with some legumes. Cool season grasses tend to grow most in spring and then slow down during the summer until picking back up around September. Because of this, some forage species will allow you to fill in gaps in the grazing season or extend it to later in the year. Having warm season grass pastures can maximize grazing during the summer months. This is because warm season grasses tend to grow better during hotter temperatures than do cool season grasses. Warm season grasses are also beneficial to wildlife and some native varieties include Big and Little Bluestem, Indian grass, and Switchgrass. Tall fescue is a resilient, cool season grass that can be "stockpiled" for use in the fall due to its tendency to stay green later than other grasses. Annual forages such as small grains or brassicas can extend the grazing season as long as late fall and early winter. To extend the grazing season even deeper into the winter, some operators will also allow their livestock to graze crop residues such as corn or soybean stubble. For some varieties of livestock there must be additional feed options to supplement grazed crop residues.

Dragging your pastures can be a good practice that can have a variety of benefits. Pastures can be dragged with a spike tooth harrow, a flexible chain harrow, or even a section of chain-link fence. The purpose of this is to break up manure piles and aerate the surface in your pasture. Breaking up these piles helps disperse nutrients more evenly across the pasture. Dragging also exposes fly and parasite eggs within the manure to the sun, which destroys them. Because of this it is best to drag pastures on warm, sunny days. Pasture dragging can also be used to loosen the soil prior to overseeding, to provide for better seed to soil contact. Pasture dragging over winter feed areas can disperse manure and waste feed to spread out the nutrients. Dragging areas where hay was fed can spread out any grass seed that was left behind and work it into the soil for some potential reseeding. Just remember there are costs associated with pasture dragging and you should evaluate if the benefits can offset these costs before you decide to use this practice.



Much like dragging your pasture, this series has only scratched the surface about pastures. More information is available to those interested. Our next newsletter will be discuss cover crops.



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Erosion & Sediment Control

E&S Program Accomplishments for October 2018 - January 2019

Preconstruction Meetings - 25, New Plan Reviews - 87, Revised Plan Reviews - 87

Total Project Acres - 2,118, Total Disturbed Acres - 574

General NPDES Issued - 23, Complaints Investigated - 98,

Total Site Inspections - 217, Sites in Compliance - 45

Five Things Your Plan-Preparer Can Do to Streamline the Approval of Your Plan and/or Permit Issuance:

- 1) Conduct a field visit of the site to verify the correct location of all critical environmental resources such streams, wetlands, ponds, and springs as well as any other existing features (ex. all points of discharge, sinkholes, old dumps, overgrown cemeteries, mature trees to be saved, etc.).
- 2) Contact the District E&S staff to schedule a pre-application meeting prior to submitting your plans for formal review. This is not a requirement but is strongly recommended as it provides the opportunity for the District to put an extra pair of eyes on your plans and catch any future “showstopper” comments. This will allow any identified issues to be addressed before they become formal written deficiencies that could significantly delay the approval of your plans.
- 3) Provide the specific locations (page numbers) on the Notice of Intent’s (NOI) Completeness Review Checklist so the District reviewer does not have to “hunt” for the required information.
- 4) Have a fellow staff person provide internal quality control by running through the NOI Completeness Review Checklist and verifying all required information has been provided in the location (page number) referenced in the checklist prior to submitting your plans.
- 5) When resubmitting revised plans, provide an item-by-item response letter specifically identifying what was done to correct the deficiencies and identifying the specific locations (sheet and page numbers). Highlighting the locations on the plan drawings and in the plan narratives is extremely helpful to the plan reviewer and will expedite the review of your plans.

In addition to the above five items, the **District staff respectfully requests that applicants and their plan preparers use restraint in calling and emailing the District to inquire about the status of their application(s).** Please note that each phone call, voice mail, and email that we respond to is time and resources taken away from reviewing E&S plans and issuing NPDES permits. Last year was a very challenging year with the booming economy and record rainfalls, and this year appears to be starting out the same. We thank you for your patience!



Important Erosion and Sediment Control Program Updates

On December 14, 2018, the York County Conservation District Board of Directors approved a Fee for District Services increase to cover E&S program costs in anticipation of hiring an additional E&S technician this year to assist with complaint investigations, E&S plan reviews, NPDES permit processing, and site inspections. The District Board of Directors also approved of assuming the Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection in mid-to-late 2019. The PCSM delegation agreement requires the District to employ a licensed professional engineer on staff. The licensed professional engineer will complete technical reviews of PCSM plans submitted to the District as part of NPDES permit applications and may assist in other District program areas requiring engineering support. The revised “YCCD Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control (E&SPC) Program Services Fee Schedule, Rules, & Guidelines” and “Application for District Services” became effective on January 1, 2019 and are available on the District’s website at www.yorkccd.org.



Education & Communication

Meet one of our 2018 - 2019 YCCD College Scholarship Recipients

Mitchell Grove (at right) currently attends Iowa State University studying Agricultural Engineering - Land & Water Resources. With a family background rooted in livestock and crop production, Mitchell's goal is to become an Agricultural Engineer. Aware of the challenges farmers face when complying with conservation and animal welfare regulations, he hopes to return to York County as a professional to help farmers balance these issues by incorporating Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect our water quality and environment.

Mitchell has been involved in 4-H for most of his life and hopes to give back to that community by serving as a 4-H volunteer. He also plans to start a side-business on his great-grandfather's farm raising purebred, show-quality livestock and market animals. His accomplishments include winning multiple Champion and Reserve Champion awards with sheep born and raised on his own family farm, earning a State FFA Keystone Degree in 2016, and serving as a member of the livestock judging teams locally and at the Big E Livestock Exposition.



Our second College Scholarship recipient is **Nathan Metzger**. We will feature Nathan in the summer issue of our newsletter. **Check out our website later this spring for details on our 2018-2019 College Scholarships.**

York County ENVIROTHON



The Envirothon has a new logo (above), and a newly launched Envirothon Coaches Facebook page. The facebook page is open only to Envirothon coaches and is providing a great way for us to connect with the coaches with announcements like a pop-up Wildlife ID Weekend at Nixon Park (at right), or for the coaches to share ideas with one another.

Envirothon Competition Dates:

Tuesday, April 23rd - Senior High Event
 Tuesday, April 30th - Middle School
 Wednesday, May 1st - 5th & 6th Grades
 Tuesday, May 7th - 3rd & 4th Grades





Watersheds

Gary Peacock & Emily Neideigh

DEP Announces Grant Award for Stream Restoration Project - In December 2018, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of a \$509,395 Growing Greener grant to the York County Conservation District for the restoration of 1,000 linear feet of the West Branch of Codorus Creek. The proposed improvements will reduce sediment runoff pollution by an estimated 116 tons; nitrogen pollution by 312 pounds, and phosphorus pollution by 210 pounds annually.

This part of the West Branch of Codorus Creek is exhibiting severe downcutting and bank erosion, with vertical banks exceeding three feet along portions of the reach. Increased stream flow velocities and lack of bank protection are contributing to bank stress and erosive scour throughout the reach. By establishing a riparian buffer, velocities and nonpoint source pollution related to storm runoff and streambank degradation will be minimized before entering and adversely affecting the stream channel.

The overarching goal of this restoration project is directed towards best management practices related to streambank protection and stream corridor improvement (at right). Following best management practices, this restoration aims to improve water quality, specifically by cooling water temperatures for aquatic species; reduce sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen from nonpoint source pollution and streambank degradation; as well as enhance data collection of nonpoint source pollution as described as a goal in Pennsylvania's Nonpoint Source Management Plan (2014). The proposed restoration of West Branch Codorus Creek will maximize the riparian forest adjacent to the restored stream.

One of the largest investments to improve Pennsylvania's environment, Growing Greener projects have been instrumental in cleaning up abandoned mine lands, preserving farmland, and protecting and restoring watersheds throughout the Commonwealth. The Growing Greener grant program is supported by the Environmental Stewardship Fund, which receives its funding from landfill tipping fees and a transfer from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.



Existing conditions



Proposed conditions



Before photo



After photo

On Tuesday, October 30th, the York County Conservation District presented a \$24,200 check to Monaghan Township for the successful completion of the culvert replacement project on Dorsey Lane (at left). Funded through the District's **Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program**, the Township replaced a former corrugated metal arch, which was deteriorating, collapsing, and in need of repair. The new culvert has been properly aligned and enlarged to the full width of the streambank, which will help maintain clean stream waters. Additionally, it was connected to the nearby floodplain and constructed to allow aquatic organisms to pass through it.

At the check presentation (bottom left) were Doug Hoke, York County Commissioner; Linda Altland, secretary/treasurer Monaghan Township; Vicki Aycok, Board of Supervisors Chairman; Keith Frick, Township Road Foreman; Ron Allen, Board of Supervisors; Bruce Holbrook and John Riedel, District Board Members; and staff Gary Peacock and Emily Neideigh.



Large Woody Debris Funding Available: Financial & technical assistance is available to landowners and local governing entities for the management in-place and/or removal, for the purposes of protecting public health and safety and property from flood damage. To learn more: Call 717-840-7430 or Visit our website at [www.yorkccd.org/Watersheds/Large Woody Debris](http://www.yorkccd.org/Watersheds/Large%20Woody%20Debris).

It's Our 2019 Annual Seedling Sale: Did you know trees have been documented to improve the quality of our lives? Trees clean our air and beautify our communities. They reduce soil erosion and enhance the water quality of our local waterways. Trees reduce heating and cooling costs, and improve human health. For over 40 years, the York County Conservation District has hosted an annual tree seedling sale. Each year, the Conservation District sells over 20,000 seedlings that are planted throughout York County. The many varieties available at the spring 2019 sale include native tree seedlings as well as fruit-bearing shrubs, and tree such as sweet cherry and Fuji apple.



Lapin Sweet Cherries



Fuji Apple

Go to <http://www.yorkccd.org//TreeSale> to see the complete order form and the description of each plant being offered. **The DEADLINE for orders is March 18th.** Return completed order form, including a check payable to YCCD or your credit card information, to York County Conservation District 118 Pleasant Acres Road York, PA 17402. **The PICK-UP DATE for your order is Thursday, April 11th at Rocky Ridge County Park** between 10 AM and 6 PM. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Conservation District's education programs including the annual Envirothon county-wide school event.

Pick up date: Thursday, April 11 Rocky Ridge Park -10:00 - 6:00 pm

Please note: seedlings are not mature shrubs & trees as seen in photos

Anyone is welcome to stop by Rocky Ridge Park on April 11 with the **coupon below** to pick up one **FREE bare-root white pine or blue spruce seedling** (while supplies last). Please bring this coupon with you. You may also purchase leftover plants from the District Sale as long as the supply lasts.



2019 York County Conservation District Annual Seedling Sale

YCCD
118 Pleasant
Acres
York PA 17402
717.840.7430

Stop by Rocky Ridge County Park
10:00 am-6 pm Thursday April 11th 2019
to receive a free White Pine or Blue Spruce
bare root seedling based on availability.

Check out our
website for
complete listing of
seedlings available
www.yorkccd.org

Coupon redeemable for one FREE bare root seedling
Limit one per customer while supplies last

Send to: York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road York PA 17402

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

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 hosted a public information meeting on December 13, 2018 with nearly 50 landowners in attendance. Attendees learned about the requirements for applying to the farmland preservation program as well as current PA Conservation Law, who needs a conservation plan and why. Specific information was shared on how a Farm Conservation Plan protects the natural resources on the farm, such as the soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy, and human resources. The YCALPB Program Office thanks our Conservation Partners, Mark Flaharty of the York County Conservation District and Eric Samus of the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service for their conservation expertise.

It is important for every landowner to know that lands cropped or pastured in Pennsylvania, regardless of preservation status, require a conservation plan or ag erosion and sedimentation plan. Lands harvested for timber also require a timber harvest erosion and sedimentation plan. This is State Law. For landowner's who haven't obtained a conservation plan, you need to begin that process as soon as possible. Many funding opportunities are available today to assist with the cost of plan writing. Contact the Conservation District or USDA-NRCS for those details. The YCALPB office also maintains a list of conservation plan writers with funding options. The current Chesapeake Bay Model which identifies York County's Total Maximum Daily Load, uses in part conservation plan information to determine York's permitted "pollution diet". If that information is not fully available for our County, York as a whole will be inaccurately assessed for permitted Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment. Farming with a conservation plan ensures we keep our waters clean, locally and in the Bay Watershed. Farmers are reminded that DEP still has funding to reimburse landowner's for the cost of conservation plan and manure management plan writing. Please contact Jedd Moncavage, Team Ag, for more information on the Agricultural Planning Reimbursement Program, at (717) 721-6795. Plans must be submitted to Team Ag no later than May 30, 2019 for reimbursement.

Matt Kern, Service Forester for Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, recently shared an article from www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers that states, "Pennsylvania has a buffer initiative. Forested Buffers are the trees, shrubs and grasses planted along streams that play an important role in maintaining the health of our waterways. Technically known as Riparian Forest Buffers, they serve as a transition from land to water. They act as filters for the sediments and pollutants from farm fields, residential lawns, and roadways. PA has more than 86,000 miles of rivers and streams. Maintaining and restoring buffers is a key strategy for improving water quality and aquatic habitat in Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of riparian forest buffers statewide by statewide by 2025 to improve waterways in PA and the Chesapeake Bay. For general information about buffers, contact DCNR Bureau of Forestry at PAForester@pa.gov. "Ask about their Landowner's Guide to Conservation Buffer Incentive Programs in PA. For landowners seeking technical assistance and funding to plant Riparian Forest Buffers consider the Keystone Ten Million Trees Partnership, an effort that seeks to plant 10 million trees in Pennsylvania by 2025. Program contact is Brenda Sieglitz, reach her through www.tenmilliontrees.org.

The YCALPB is now accepting agricultural conservation easement applications for 2019. If you haven't updated your past easement application, please contact our office. Three years of crop information and farm income are required to keep the application active. Funding for the 2019 Farmland Preservation Program was kicked off by the York County Board of Commissioners on January 16, 2019 with approval of \$ 277,320 for the 2019 Farmland Preservation County Allocation. PDA-Bureau of Farmland Preservation will announce the county-state matches following the February 21, 2019 Pennsylvania Ag Land Preservation Board's meeting.

Farmland Preservation activity in York County, through a purchased easement, includes 42,400 acres with an additional 10,000 acres preserved through Conservation Easement Donations to the County of York and the Farm and Natural Lands Trust. The York County Ag Land Preservation Board selected 618 acres for preservation in 2018. York County's Ag Conservation Easement Purchase Program continues to rank third in the state for acres of farmland preserved. Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or visit www.YorkCountyPA.gov. Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. 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 BUT STAY TUNED for our move in 2019 to Pleasant Valley Road, the former Graham Building.



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

Cover art, an original egg tempera by Millicent Neill Decker

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*“Each hoof of each animal makes
 the sign of a heart as it touches
 then lifts away from the ground.”
 - Mary Oliver*

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 yccd@yorkccd.org.

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

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

YCCD District Calendar

March 2019

March 1	Manure Mgmt Workshop, York Annex
March 8	YCCD Board Meeting – 11:00 am Annex
March 18	Seedling Sale Order Deadline
March 21	DGR/LVR QAB Meeting, Annex

April 2019

April 4	YCCD Board Meeting – 7:00 pm Annex
April 11	Seedling Sale Distribution at Rocky Ridge Park
April 19	Good Friday - Office Closed
April 23	Sr. high School Envirothon @ Rudy Park
April 30	Middle School Envirothon @ Rudy Park

May 2019

May 1	5th – 6th grade Envirothon, Rudy Park
May 7	3rd – 4th grade Envirothon, Rudy Park
May 9	YCCD Board Mg, Annex Rm 1, 7:00 pm
May 21-22	PA Envirothon, U. of Pitt @ Johnstown
May 27	Memorial Day – Office Closed

June 2019

June 13	YCCD Board Mtg, Room 1, 7:00 pm Annex
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