



# YORK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2019 Annual Report



## A Message from our Chair & Manager

2019 was another challenging year with a booming economy, several new staff hires, one resignation, continued program changes and new opportunities and funding challenges.

As we've come to expect, the members of the Board continue to provide excellent leadership and commitment to guiding the mission of the District. This is much appreciated by all of us on staff.

We kicked off the New Year with a New Website as Jennifer Risser and staff did an excellent job transitioning from the old one. While we bit into our years-long Ag Erosion & Sediment Control (E&S) and Conservation planning backlog, we continued to receive new requests for assistance at a steady pace. We were able to convince Gary Peacock to postpone retirement to help us address a looming Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Program (DGLVR) deadline. This gave Emily Neideigh another year to tutor under Gary. We again received strong support from the Board of Commissioners. And, we posted the Engineer position for the Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Delegation but have not had success finding a candidate yet. Of the four new positions approved for 2019, we only added an engineering technician, as we wait to add two additional Ag planners, in order to determine our role in the Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) and County-wide Action Plan (CAP) and soon to come Conservation Excellence Grant. We did fill an Ag Tech opening that we held for some time, when we found a candidate too good to pass on in Stephen Miller, who has met and exceeded our expectations. We now have a staff compliment of 23! Mark Kimmel spent a good deal of time with the County Open Space Protection Committee, which met with success when the Commissioners adopted a dedicated millage to be used to preserve open space. Yeah! And, we look to prepare for a move in early 2020 to newly renovated office space, at the Pleasant Valley Road County Departments Building, located only a few miles away. Thank you Commissioner Susan Byrnes and the Board of Commissioners for making this a reality! Meanwhile, we are deep into packing, purging and preparations for the move. YIKES! We keep telling ourselves, "change is good".

We look forward to welcoming two new Directors and six new Associate Directors to the 2020 Board, Both exciting and bittersweet as we say good-bye to long-time member Jeff Gossert and Commissioner Director Extraordinaire, Susan Byrnes. As we close out 2019, thank you to our tremendous Board and staff for another great year of service to the York County Community. We will continue to work to help make York County better than we found it, for the benefit of present and future generations. We hope we can count on you to partner and support natural resource stewardship and conservation of our great County.



*Jeffrey L. Gossert, District Chairman  
(above right with associate Beth Lucabaugh)*



*Mark Kimmel, District Manager  
(above)*

### **Conservation District Directors 2019 Officers:**

Chairman Jeff Gossert,  
Vice Chairman Travis Sherman  
Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh,  
Assistant Treasurer Gordon L Brown

**Directors:** Commissioner Susan Byrnes, Jack Dehoff,  
Kenyon Miller, Travis Sherman, Jim Rexroth

**Associate Directors:** Randy Craley, Leroy Bupp,  
Bruce Holbrook, Jackie Kramer, Beth Lucabaugh,  
John Riedel, Rochelle Black, Dan Innerst, Dan Paulus

**Directors Emeritus:** Ellis Crawl, Keith Eisenhart



### **York County Commissioners 2019**

President, Susan Byrnes (C)  
Vice President, Doug Hoke (R)  
Christopher Reilly (L)



### ***YCCD Board Members***

#### ***Annual Awards Picnic, August 2019***

*Standing L-R: Dan Innerst, Leroy Bupp, Michael Flinchbaugh, Commissioner Doug Hoke, Gordon Brown, Randy Craley, Jeff Gossert, Mark Kimmel*

*Sitting L-R: Jack Dehoff, Commissioner Susan Byrnes, Kenyon Miller, Rochelle Black*

*Absent: Jim Rexroth, Dan Paulus, Bruce Holbrook, Beth Lucabaugh, Harry Bickel, John Riedel*

### **District Staff**

District Manager - Mark Kimmel  
Assistant Manager Administration - Jennifer Risser  
Administrative Specialist/Financial Coordinator  
- Christina Dehoff  
Administrative Assistant II - Robin Sharp  
Administrative Assistant - MJ Serrano  
E&S Resource Conservationist/  
Program Manager - Eric Jordan  
E&S Resource Conservationist/  
Network Administrator - Robert Fetter  
Engineering Technician II - Tiffany Crum  
Engineering Technician I - Zachary Fry  
Engineering Technician I - Tom Smith  
Engineering Technician I—Nick Hoffman

Senior Ag Resource Conservationist - Mark Flaharty  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II - Joe Rebert  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II - Brita Runkle  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II - Michele Grove  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I—Stephen Miller  
Ag Resource Conservationist P.T.—Jim Myers  
Watershed Specialist - Gary Peacock  
Watershed Technician—Emily Neideigh  
Education/Communication Coordinator - Kim J Young

## Director's State & National Involvement

We are fortunate to have tremendous leadership from our Board of Directors, with several of them active on the state and national level. **Director Jack Dehoff**, below left, serves on the PACD Conservation Committee.

**District Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh**, below right, continues to serve as a farmer member of the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC) and was elected Vice-Chair for 2017/2018.



**Manager, Mark Kimmel**, center left, serves on the PACD District Operations Committee and PACD Managers Advisory Committee.

### Pennsylvania Envirothon News

The District's **Education & Communication Coordinator, Kim Young**, far right, continues to serve as an Associate Board member for the state Envirothon as well as serving on the state's Current Issues committee.



**District Finances:** The audit of the Conservation District accounts for the calendar year of 2019 will be available at the Conservation District office.



Board Meeting



Photo on right: Administrative Specialist/Financial Coordinator Christina Dehoff, Assistant Manager Administration, Jennifer Risser, far right

The mission of the York County Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of York County

## Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (RC&D)

The Capital RC&D Area Council builds partnerships of concerned citizens, businesses, agencies and organizations to work together improving the quality of life within the seven county area: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York. The District has three representatives serving on the RC&D board: Travis Sherman represents the District Board of Directors, and Patricia Devlin, Dillsburg, is an alternate member. Jim Myers, current part-time employee with the District, was appointed as member-at-large. Capital RC&D Council consists of volunteer representatives from local government, conservation districts, business, development organizations, nonprofit groups and individuals.

This council of 21 volunteers initiates and directs program activities. Projects are selected by evaluating local needs that promote conservation of our natural and community resources. The council provides the selected projects with necessary tools, such as technical expertise and assistance in locating funds. Resource Conservation & Development projects can focus on land conservation, water management, community improvements, alternative energy applications, recreation and tourism, forestry resources, recovery/recycling, rural economic development, as well as public information and education. We contracted with Capital RC&D to assist with the tillage survey in York County.

For more information about the Council, contact: Susan Richards, RC&D Coordinator at (717) 241-4361 or e-mail [srichards@capitalrcd.org](mailto:srichards@capitalrcd.org) or [www.capitalrcd.org](http://www.capitalrcd.org)

Annual Envirothon Coaches  
Mini-Workshop



Annual Clay Shoot

Annual Seedling





# Ag Resources

## 2019 Agricultural Conservation Program Accomplishments

- Wrote Ag E&S and conservation plans on 248 tracts covering 8,960 acres.
- Assisted two farm operations with the implementation of conservation practices that are funded with PPL Brunner Island and York County Community Foundation grants. Construction started in the fall but carrying over into 2020.
- Provided educational opportunities to farmers, cooperators, and the general public about the York County Conservation District ag program and manure management planning. Staff took displays and handouts to the following events: the York County Crops Day and the Ag Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Ag Business Council. Presentations were also done at the Jefferson Sportsman Association meeting, a Equine Pasture Walk hosted by Penn State Extension and the York County Ag Land Preservation Annual meeting.
- District staff published the third and final article in a series on Pasture Management in the spring edition of the District newsletter and one article on Managing Cover crops in the summer newsletter



Cover crop mixture of sunflower, sudex, radish, sunhemp, and crimson clover.

- Provided support for the REAP program administered by the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Performed two Ag E&S and Manure Management plan verifications for program applicants.
- Continued to support the agreement with DEP and the York County Solid Waste and Refuse Authority to monitor the Land Application of Biosolids program. Assisted with the monitoring of farms for conservation compliance and reviewed Ag E&S/Conservation plans for permitted farms.
- Assisted the District Erosion and Sediment program staff with implementing the Agriculture Complaint Handling Guidelines. This includes Ag E&S and manure complaints, site visits, and plan reviews.
- Continued participation with PACD and NRCS on a Contributory agreement to support District ag staff. We completed the second full year of the agreement and earned \$48,730 for providing conservation planning and technical assistance.
- Provided support for the REAP program administered by the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Performed two Ag E&S and Manure Management plan verifications for program applicants.
- Continued to support the agreement with DEP and the York County Solid Waste and Refuse Authority to monitor the Land Application of Biosolids program. Assisted with the monitoring of farms for conservation compliance and reviewed Ag E&S/Conservation plans for permitted farms.



Beef cows and calves on a managed pasture.

- The District improved assistance to the ag community by continuing to employ a part-time planner- Jim Myers and by adding a new employee in May- Stephen Miller.
- The Senior Ag Resource Conservationist continued to participate in the York County Bay County Action Plan implementation process.
- Ag Team incorporated the Practicekeeper program and database into our daily work routines. We are using the Nutrient Management module for program documentation and reporting and are starting to complete Ag E&S plans in the Planning module.
- Ag team member Michele Grove earned Public Review Nutrient Management Program certification and Stephen Miller started the certification training and process.
- Joe Rebert, Brita Runkle and Michele Grove continued training and gained experience as they work toward obtaining conservation planner certification from NRCS.
- The District applied for and was awarded an \$83,200 grant from NACD to provide conservation planning and technical assistance for NRCS federal program applicants and contracts.



No till corn planted into a cover crop.

## 2019 Nutrient Management Act Program

The York County Conservation District is delegated by the State Conservation Commission to oversee Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) in York County.

### Active plans on file:

- 31 current Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are on file in York County.
- 12 are on file for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in York County.
- 12 are regulated as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and CAOs.
- Two plans are for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) only (not a CAO).
- An additional, five plans are for Volunteer Animal Operations (VAOs). These operations are not required by Act 38 regulations to have an approved plan, but voluntarily choose to do so.

### Annual Status Reviews:

- Under Act 38 regulations all CAOs are required to have an annual review conducted to determine if they are in compliance with regulations. Twenty-five Nutrient Management Plans received status reviews in 2019.
- Under Act 38 regulations, VAOs are required to have an annual status review completed every three years. No VAO operations received a status review in 2019.

### NMP Plan Reviews and Approvals:

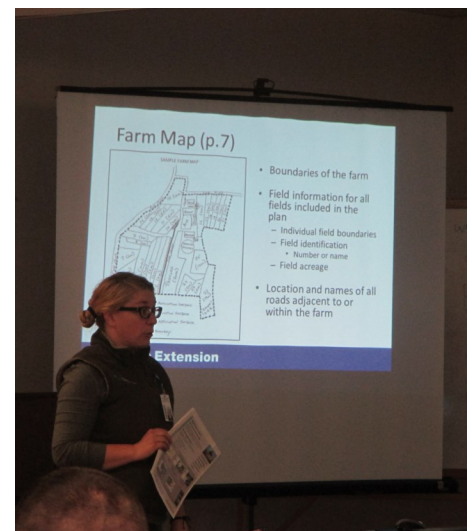
In 2019, nine Nutrient Management Plans were received for review by the District.

- Eight plans were updates for existing CAO or CAFO plans.
- One plan was for a new CAO.
- Eight Nutrient Management Plans were approved by our YCCD Board of Directors in 2019. One plan is still under review.
- One CAO operation became a VAO and the NMP was withdrawn.
- Two CAO/CAFO operations were transferred.

## Educational Activities

As part of our Pennsylvania Nutrient Management and Manure Management delegated responsibilities, the District provided the following outreach and educational activities:

- Shared a Facebook post with Penn State Extension article, "The Do's and Don'ts of Importing Manure" - 300 views.
- Displays with Manure and Nutrient Management Planning materials (brochures & manuals) at the following events:
  - York County Crops Day on Jan. 24th—57 attendees/25 vendors
  - York County Ag Recognition Banquet on March 29th—370 attendees
- Educational presentations at the following meetings:
  - Jefferson Sportsmen's Association meeting on January 17th—30 attendees. Presentation included CAO identifications, Act 38 and Manure Management regulations and principles.
  - York County Crops Day on January 24th with 57 producers and 25 vendors. Highlighted manure application setbacks and winter spreading regulations.
- Penn State Extension Pasture Walk on July 23rd. Presentation on manure mgmt. requirements, manual orientation and ACA mgmt. Twenty-one were in attendance.



Above: Brita Runkel, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, explained what information is needed to be shown on the plan map.

## **Educational Activities continued**

Educational presentations at the following meetings:

- York County 4-H program hosted a meeting featuring newly developed manure management curriculum for youth, “The Smelly Side of Agriculture.” While 4-H members participated in hand-on activities, Michele Grove met with parents to present an overview of the Manure Management Manual and manure management principles to 25 attendees.
- York County Ag Land Preservation public meeting on December 14, with 45 attendees. Presentation included Chapter 102 & 91 regulations and what plans are required.
- A Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop was offered on March 1st with 31 farmers and one District staff member present. Staff presented manure management principles and assisted attendees with writing their Manure Management Plans in a step by step process.



Above left: Joe Rebert, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, provided examples of Best Management Practices that could be used to control soil erosion. Above right: Mark Flaharty, Senior Ag Resource Conservationist, described how to determine what is or is not an Animal Concentration Area.

- Michele Grove obtained final Nutrient Management Public Review certification. Stephen Miller also went through the training program and passed his certification exam to become provisionally certified.
- Ag staff worked with two individually certified nutrient management specialists (certified by PA to write plans for their own animal operations) to assist them in acquiring certification update credits.

## **2019 District Cooperators:**

Daniel Whitcraft, Shrewsbury Twp.; Dennis L. Klinedinst, Windsor Twp.; John Stepanchak, Conewage Twp.; Susan Dudley, Codorus Twp.; Philip Roberts, Chanceford Twp.; Ron DiAngelo Jr., L. Windsor Twp.; Frank Fisher, Springettsbury Twp.; Benue Blank, Peach Bottom Twp.; Nicholas Hauck, Manchester Twp.; David W.S. Curry, Hellam Twp.; Richard Anderson III, York Twp.; Kenyon Miller, East Hopewell Twp.; Thomas Pollard, Shrewsbury Twp.; David Graser, York Twp.; Thomas Langley, N. Hopewell Twp.; Michael Jordan, N. Hopewell Twp.; Darlene Lichty, York Twp.; Linda Jones, Shrewsbury Twp.; Dan Paulus, Monaghan Twp.; Lauren Murphy, E. Hopewell Twp.; Andrew H. Snyder, Codorus Twp.; Daniel Laird, Hellam Twp.; Joe Berkstresser, E. Manchester Twp.; Mark O'Rourke, York Twp.; Ronald Newcomer, Hellam Twp.; Darryl Bollinger, W. Manheim Twp.; Jeffrey Fromm, Windsor Twp.; Harold Mummert, Springfield Twp.; John Lapp, Fawn Twp.; Seth Welty, Penn Twp.; Steven Laucks, Windsor Twp.; John E. Stoltzfus, Peach Bottom Twp.; Charles Green, W. Manchester Twp.; Michael Hyser, W. Manchester Twp.; Patricia May, Chanceford Twp.; Leonard Leiphart, Hellam Twp.; Christian Petersheim, Codorus Twp.; Andrew Dehoff, Windsor Twp.; Richard Anderson IV, York Twp.

## **District Ag staff (L-R):**

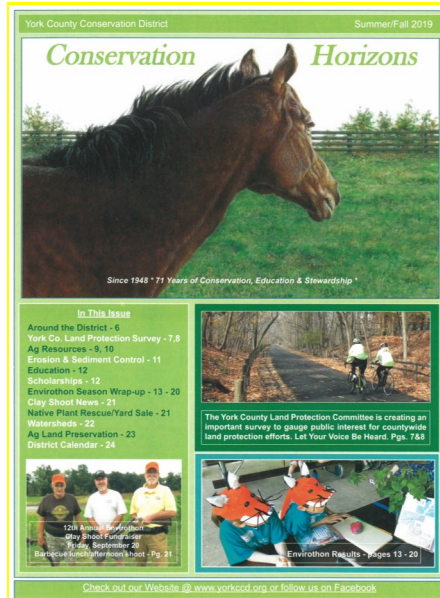
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II, Brita Runkle;  
PRN Ag Resource Conservationist, Jim Myers; Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I, Stephen Miller;  
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II, Joe Rebert;  
Senior Ag Resource Conservationist, Mark Flaharty





## Education & Communication

Our full-color, magazine-style newsletter, **Conservation Horizons**, is mailed to over 8,000 homes & businesses 3 x/year. Featured articles this year included a three-part series on Pasture Health & Maintenance, The Envirothon programs, Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads, Watersheds, Stormwater Authority Proposals, Celebrating our 70th Anniversary, Training new E&S Techs, and Conservation Awards and Workshop coverage.



### Scholarship Recipients:

**Mitchell Grove** (at right) attends Iowa State University studying Agricultural Engineering—Land & Water Resources. His family background is rooted in live-stock and crop production. He has been involved in 4-H for most of his life and would like to serve at a 4-H volunteer in the future. He would also like to start a side-business on his great-grandfather's farm raising purebred, show-quality livestock and market animals. Among his accomplishments are winning multiple Champion and Reserve Champion awards with sheep born and raised on his family's farm, earning a State FFA Keystone Degree, and serving as a member of the livestock judging teams locally and at the Big E Livestock Exhibition.



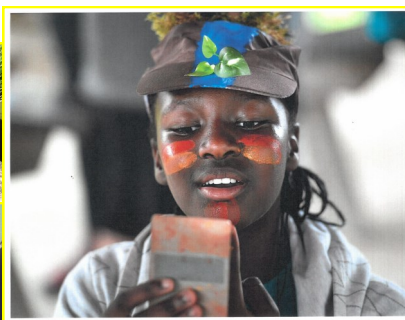
**Nathan Metzger** (at left) is studying Fisheries Biology at Mansfield University. He plans to make a career out of field research on fish interactions, and methods to improve waterways, after earning his masters degree. Passionate about water conservation and aquatic preservation since he was a kid, Nathan has attended Eco Camp, and the Brookies and Bass Camp run by the Wildlife Leadership Academy. He has also been active with his local chapter of the Izaak Walton League, volunteering with the junior members on projects like making bluebird boxes and building improvements to the junior clubhouse. He is also a member of Craley Fish & Game, Trout Unlimited, and the Glen Rock Shooting Club.

# York County ENVIROTHON



## THE 2019 ETHON-NEWS - Our 34th Season in Review

For once, all four of our Envirothon competitions had good weather. What a treat that was for a perennially outdoor event. Good weather, nature-loving, enthusiastic students, learning how technology is shaping our farming future, and a visiting black bear pretty much sums up our year of York County Envirothons. Science, surprises & fun! If you don't know, the Envirothon - which is now international - is the largest and longest-running environmental high school competition in North America. But here in York County we begin in the 3rd grade. Once again, over 1,000 York County students participated on 186 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, 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.



## 12th Annual Clay Shoot—September 20, 2019

Held at Central Penn Sporting Clays, this annual event helped kick off our 2020 Envirothon Sponsorship Drive with a profit of \$7,989.70. We wish to thank our generous sponsors of this event: **EVENT SPONSORS (\$2,000.00)**: Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC); **EVENT PARTNERS (\$1,000.00)**: Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), HRG, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Randy Barnes, Lauer Construction; **STATION SPONSOR (\$500.00)**: PPL Electric, York Ag Products, Keystruct Construction; **STATION PARTNERS (\$100-\$250.00)**: ELA Group, Inc., Warehaus, JMT, Mark Flaharty, Commissioner Doug Hoke, Irvin W. Allot, C.E. Williams Sons, Inc.; **General Donations**— Delta Peach Bottom Fish & Game Association.

Trophies were awarded to the five top-scoring individual shooters: David Simmons (1st), Justin Challenger (2nd), Donald Meckley (3rd), Ryan Bailey (4th), Rick Myers (5th). The North Mountain team took high score for the fifth year in a row. The high-score youth trophy was awarded to the Red Lion Senior High Envirothon team. Our gun raffle—A300 Outlander 12-gauge semiautomatic shotgun—was won by Rob Bertram. Certificates were also awarded to the top individual shooters in 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> place overall.

## 2019 Envirothon Sponsors

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Aquatic Resource Restoration Company; Bottom Line Contracting, Inc.; Bruce Holbrook; C.S. Davidson, Inc.; Carroll and Linda Missimer; Central York School District - North Hills PTO; Christine and Travis Sherman; Commissioner Doug Hoke; Conewago Enterprises, Inc.; Covanta York; David Leese; Dehoff Farms LLC; Delta Peach Bottom Fish & Game Assoc.; Environmental Concepts Landscaping; First Capital Engineering, Inc.; First Energy Foundation; Flying Excavating Inc; Friends of Chris Reilly; Glatfelter Insurance Group; Gordon L. Brown and Associates, Inc.; Grimm Trophy; Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic Inc; Hively Landscapes; Hoover Engineering Services Inc.; Izaak Walton League of America, York Chapter #67; Jefferson Sportsmen's Assoc.; Keller-Brown; Ken Sheffer; Liberty Excavators Inc; M. Jo Bowman-Ruth; M. Jo Bowman-Ruth; Miller Plant Farm; Millicent Neill Decker; Northeastern School District; Randy and Susan Byrnes; River's Truck Center; Rotary Club of York, PA; Roundtown PTO; Shiloh Garden Club; Shrewsbury Elementary PTO; Sinking Springs PTO; Southern Elementary PTO; Spoutwood Farm Center; Spring Grove Area School District; Spring Grove Elementary PTO; Stewartstown Elementary PTA; Stoney Brook Elem PTO; Tammy Grove; The York Water Company; W. Craig Adams, Inc; Walmart (gift card); Warehouse; Waterbody Builders LLC; Windsor Township; Wolf Farms, Inc.; York County Solid Waste Authority; York Excavating Co, LLC; York Township. *A list of our 2019 sponsors by sponsor level can be found in our summer 2019 edition of Conservation Horizons.*

The York County Envirothon is made possible by a combination of area cooperating agencies and generous sponsors. Agencies involved include: York County Parks & Recreation Dept., York County Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Fish & Boat Commission, USDA-NRCS, York County Conservation District, York County Solid Waste Authority, York Water Company, and individual volunteers Amy Slagel, Jill Oles, Judy Grove, Kim Richard, Kelly Arcieri, Blaine Snyder and PA Game Commission Game Wardens Justin Ritter, Scott Brookens, Cameron Murphy and the PA Fish & Boat Commission's WCO Darrin Kephart.

We would also like to thank the following people and organizations for their ongoing support and in-kind donations: The Pennsylvania Envirothon, Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market, Stauffer's, Millicent Neill Decker, and Grimm's Trophy & Gifts.

This year's Non-Testing Stations were presented by Kirk Dreier—Primitive Tools, Michael Buleza—Critter Connections, and Jodi Sulpizio and the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards.



Emma Pond Olney was awarded the \$500.00 Paul Wilson Conservation Award for 2019, presented by Representative Keith Gillespie and Leisa Miller (for Senator Kristin Phillips Hill).



YCCD Education & Communications Coordinator,  
Kim J Young (below)



## Annual Conservation Awards Picnic

Our 2019 Conservation Awards Picnic was held at Rocky Ridge Park on Tuesday, August 8th. The following were recognized for their contributions to conservation during an evening of catered dinner and fellowship.

**Outstanding Ag Educator**—Jon Darby

**Outstanding Citizen Conservationist**—Mitzi Eaton

**Outstanding Conservation Farmer (North)** — Dale & Sondra Bentz



Jon Darby (above) - Education Director of The Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education.

Above left: Representative Stan Saylor, Senator Kristin Phillips Hill, Mitzi Eaton, Kim Young; Above center: Dale & Sondra Bentz

**Outstanding Conservation Farmer (South)**—James & Janet Archer

**Distinguished Service Award**— Commissioner Susan Byrnes



Above left: Board members and Commissioner Susan Byrnes (sitting with artwork); Above right: Sitting—James & Janet Archer, Standing—Senator Kristin Phillips Hill, Commissioner Doug Hoke, Board member Kenyon Miller.



### **Our annual Seedling Sale marked it's 45th year in 2019.**

Sales this year totaled \$32,370 with a profit of \$11,281 from the 534 orders. The profit will be used for the District's educational programs as well as discretionary expenses. Favorites this year included Norway spruce, Eastern white pine, Fraser fir, Winterberry, Pawpaw and Dogwood. We offered a coupon on our website redeemable for a free bare-root white pine seedling. Leftover seedlings were donated to the Keep York Beautiful Program, to be planted at the City's Hope Street Garden and the Broad Street community vegetable garden, and to the York County Parks system.



## Erosion & Sediment Control

### PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS for Pollution Control and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

With the continued boom in the economy, 2019 was another exceptionally busy year in the E&S/ NPDES program. The E&S Team was comprised of Eric Jordan, Robert Fetter, Tiffany Crum, Zach Fry, Tom Smith, Robin Sharp and MaryJean Serrano. We welcomed the addition of Nicholas Hoffman – Engineering Technician I to the E&S team. We continued to administer the E&S/NPDES program at Level III of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) delegation agreement. Level III includes reviewing E&S plans; processing NPDES permits; investigating complaints; and conducting educational workshops, site inspections, and enforcement actions at the local level. Providing an active field presence to ensure that Best Management Practices were fully implemented on the ground was a top priority while beginning to implement new NPDES permit conditions and prepare for our office relocation at the end of the year.



#### **The following is a summary of the E&S team's activities for 2019:**

- Conducted 1,161 site inspections, pre-construction meetings, site meetings, plan review site visits, and status checks.
- Investigated 232 new complaints.
- Due to lack of voluntary compliance, four sites resulted in an enforcement action.
- Reviewed 210 new and 151 revised plans affecting 9,048 project acres and 1,957 disturbed acres.
- Received and processed 165 General NPDES permit applications.
- Issued 120 new General NPDES permits.
- Received and processed nine new Individual NPDES permit applications.
- Renewed 37 General NPDES permit and one Individual NPDES permit.
- Staff attended 13 formal pre-application meetings with DEP, developers, and engineers to proactively identify and address any issues prior to submittal of NPDES permit applications.
- Staff attended 113 engineer meetings related to informal pre-application meetings and to discuss and resolve administrative/technical review comments generated during our plan reviews.
- Staff continued to foster a working relationship with the County's 72 municipalities.
- Rob continued to participate and attend the York County GIS Advisory Council meetings.
- Rob continued to help with District Website updates and attended meeting on making updates with new website developed by WebTek.

### **E&S team's activities for 2019 continued:**

- Rob continued to manage the District computer system and network.
- Eric, Rob, Tiffany, Zach, Tom & Nick attended the Department of Environmental Protection's Fall 102 Regional Training held at the Dauphin County Conservation District office in Dauphin, PA.
- Eric & Tiffany presented two hour-long E&S BMP PowerPoint presentations to nine employees of JVH Excavating, Garman Builders, and Yingst Homes at JVH Excavating's office.
- Eric and Rob presented two hour-long E&S BMP (Best Management Practices) PowerPoint presentations to nine employees of Snyder-Secary & Associates at their office in Linglestown, PA.
- Eric, Tiffany and Zach also presented two E&S BMP PowerPoint presentations to 12 employees of Ryan Home Builders.
- Eric prepared and presented a 25-minute presentation to 57 fourth through sixth grade students for Clearview Elementary School's career day.
- Eric, Rob, Tiffany and Zach attended DEP Access and Entry training held at DEP Southcentral Region Office in Harrisburg.



L-R: Zach Fry, Nick Hoffman, Eric Jordan, Tiffany Crum, Rob Fetter, Tom Smith, Robin Sharp, MJ Serrano

- Zach and Rob attended technical stormwater training titled "Computational Methods and Strategies in Stormwater Management using Storm QC Design Software" at Penn State Great Valley Malvern, PA.
- Zach, Nick, & Tom attended Sediment Basin Design Training at the DEP South Central Regional Office.
- Tom & Nick attended Dirt & Gravel Roads Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance training at Penn State's Mont Alto Campus.
- Eric and Tiffany attended two-day PA-DEP Chapter 102 Topic-Based training in State College.
- District E&S staff attended a meeting with the PennDOT York County Maintenance Manager and five Assistant Maintenance Managers to discuss Chapter 102 requirements, complaint handling, etc.
- Eric, Zach, & Tom attended the Regional E&S Technicians' meeting at Lebanon County Conservation District.
- Eric and Tiffany participated in PA DEP's Chapter 102 Listening Session.
- Zach and Tom attended Ag Program training with Mark Flaherty.



## Watershed Program Activities 2019

York County's water resources and watershed program continues to be a high priority for the Conservation District.

The Conservation District's Watershed Specialist is a resource to both the public and private sectors, providing technical, informational and organizational assistance that will improve watershed organization development and the quality and quantity of the Commonwealth's surface and groundwater resources. The focus of this work relates to watershed assessment and monitoring, procurement of funding, technical assistance, education and outreach, and the creation, implementation and coordination of work plans and strategies to restore and protect groundwater and surface water resources.

### Technical Assistance

- 32 HELP-Streams (Headwaters Environmental Legacy Program) assessments and recommendations made to private and public landowners.
- 5 Stormwater residential assessments and BMP recommendations made to private landowners.
- 1 Large Woody Debris project in progress.



Above left: EXHIP Project before

Above right: EXHIP Project after

### Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection

- Assisted York County Planning Commission (YCPC) with the preparation and implementation of York County's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III in support of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Agreement restoration goals.
- Assisted to the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) with achieving its watershed-based planning, restoration, and protection mission and goals.
- Assisted the Red Lion Municipal Authority's (RLMA) Steering Committee with the implementation of its Source Water Protection Plan.
- Assisted with the initial phases of the implementation of a water quality monitoring program to establish baseline water quality and demonstrate long-term regression trends of improving water quality, through reduced sediment and nitrate nitrogen loads, removing stream impairments, quantifying local municipal stormwater and agricultural Best Management Practices cost-effectiveness and efficiency, in anticipation of saving York County residents millions of dollars.
- Assisted the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) and partners with the vision and scope of the Codorus Beautification Initiative with the goals of improving community access, economic opportunities, and environmental quality of Codorus Creek in the City of York.

### **Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection continued.**

- Received 25 Exelon Habitat Improvement Project applications; 4 EXHIP contracts funded; 1 EXHIP contracted project was completed, and \$39,500.00 grant money spent.
- Assisted YCPC with the York County Stormwater Authority development and public participation.
- Worked with Ecotone on the restoration of 1200 LF of the West Branch Codorus Creek funded by a Growing Greener Plus grant.
- Submitted three Growing Greener Plus Grant stream restoration design proposals with contractor Ecotone:
  1. Bennet Creek, Newberry Twp; \$129,500 grant request for 1,815 LF
  2. UNT to Leibs Creek, Hopewell Twp; \$106,500 grant request for 1,860 LF
  3. UNT to Bald Eagle Creek, Fawn Grove Boro; \$106,500 grant request for 2,157 LF
- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Program's Keystone 10 million Tree partnership.
- Supported York County Master Watershed Stewards ('60) in their various programs including Street 2 Creek, Youth Fishing Day, riparian forest buffer planting project at Northeastern School District, etc.
- Supported local Watershed Organizations (25) with financial and technical assistance.

### **Dirt and Gravel Road Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance**

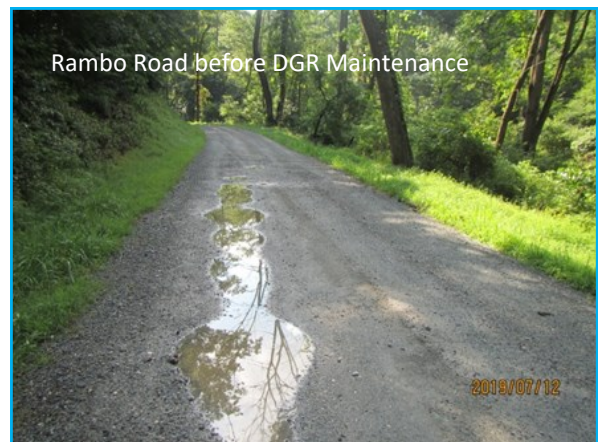
- Five contracts awarded for a total of \$489,639.80 grant requested.
- Six contracts completed for \$390,496.58 grant money spent.
- Three miles of dirt and gravel road environmentally sensitive maintenance.
- 9,209 tons Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) applied; 1,414 tons fill added.
- 140' underdrain installed; two turn outs installed; two cross pipes replaced; three cross pipes installed.
- 750 yd<sup>2</sup> French mattress constructed; 1,300' of select thinning pruning; 537 yd<sup>2</sup> seedling and mulching.
- 4 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds – 2 Codorus; 3 Kreutz/Muddy; 1 Conewago.

### **Conservation District Dollars Brought to York County**

- \$362,269 Dirt & Gravel Road Program
- \$258,284 Low Volume Road Program
- \$225,000 Exelon Habitat Improvement Program
- \$45,250 Conservation District Watershed Specialist Position

### **Education & Outreach**

- >500,000 Effective public education and outreach through multi-media: Conservation Horizons newsletter; Conservation awards picnic; WAY E-News; educational programs; exhibits and displays at public events; public presentations; radio talk show; website; 13 Watershed Weekend venues; e-mail; Facebook; and other local media contributions.
- Partnered with PA Audubon (300 youth reached), York County Envirothon (1000+), and other programs to educate students.
- Held 12<sup>th</sup> rain barrel workshop at Nixon Park, with 6 participants learning about and making their own rain barrel.



Rambo Road before DGR Maintenance



Rambo Road after DGR Maintenance



Above left: Frogtown Road before LVR Maintenance

Above right: Frogtown Road after LVR Maintenance

### **Low Volume Road (<500 vehicles/day) Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance**

- Two contracts awarded for a total of \$236,621.60 grant requested.
- Six contracts completed for \$408,749.75 grant money spent.
- Two miles of low volume road environmental sensitive maintenance.
- Six new cross pipes installed; 15 cross pipes replaced; 650 ft<sup>2</sup> underdrain added; 960 yd<sup>2</sup> geo-separation fabric.
- 21,933 ft<sup>2</sup> Full Depth Reclamation of road base; 21,256 ft<sup>2</sup> paved surface sealed; 1706 tons of fill added.
- 70 yd<sup>2</sup> detention; 100 yd<sup>2</sup> dispersal; 100 yd<sup>2</sup> geo stabilized.
- 3 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds: one Yellow Breeches; two Kreutz/Muddy; one Gunpowder.



Above photos: Limekiln Alley before; Limekiln Alley after/ Limekiln Alley check presentation.

### **2019 Feature Accomplishment: Limekiln Alley, Wrightsville**

Resource Challenge – The homes downslope of Limekiln Alley would continually flood during heavy rains. The purpose of this project was to allow rain water to infiltrate into the subsurface and become groundwater, reducing surface runoff, municipal infrastructure, maintenance and cost. The total project value : \$85,287.05; Grant amount: \$65,606.94; In-kind contributions: \$19,680.11. The key project partners were Wrightsville Borough and funding to complete the project was provided by the State Conservation Commission through its LVRs funding program. The grant was administered by YCCD.



Watershed Specialist, Gary Peacock

Watershed Technician, Emily Neighdeigh



## York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

"It shall be the mission of the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to protect York County's agricultural resources through the preservation of economically viable farms and the creation and maintenance of stable agricultural communities."

### News and Accomplishments for 2019:

#### Board Member:

Kristina Wilt, Chairwoman  
Mack Smith, Vice Chairman  
Daniel Innerst, Rep. Farmers  
James "Gus" Parlett, Rep. Elected Officials  
Dolores Krick, Rep. Citizens  
Ed Livingston, Rep. Citizens Farmers  
Andrew Baumgardner, Rep. Farmers

#### Program Staff:

Claire O'Brien—Farmland Preservation Tech  
David Boose—Farmland Preservation Specialist  
Patty McCandless—Director

- YCALPB welcomes new hire Claire O'Brien to the Agency in March to serve as Farmland Preservation Technician, replacing Eric Naylor.
- York County's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program receives State Approval for additional changes to the program guidelines from the PA Agricultural Land Preservation Board.
- York County continues to rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pennsylvania in terms of acres of farmland preserved through Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program.
- Since program establishment in 1989, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 284 farms, covering 43,284 acres of productive farmland through easement purchase.
- Since 2012, the County of York has received the donation of 5 conservation easements covering 244 acres, through the County of York Conservation Easement Donation Program, administered by the YCALPB.
- The County Board saw 48 easement applications totaling 5,118.5 acres, offered for farmland preservation. Of the total, 37 qualifying applications, covering 4,073.5 acres were scored and ranked. An additional 29 inquiries, on an estimated 1,866 acres, requested program information.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board selected 2 farms for preservation on an estimated 499 acres.
- Staff conducted inspection visits on 203 farms, covering 28,013 acres of productive farmland.
- Ag Land Preservation staff continued work with Land Use Planning and Conservation Partners to develop a Land Preservation/Protection Strategy. The workgroup developed a survey with York College to gauge support of York residents for continued land preservation efforts. The successful results prompted York County Commissioners to approve a dedicated funding stream for land preservation efforts. *Continued on next page.*



*York County Agriculture Land Preservation Board continued.*

- Collaborated with Land Preservation/Protection Partners to prepare a Resolution for County Commissioner approval establishing the York County Land Protection Committee on November 20, 2019.
- Continued monthly mapping updates to the York County Ag Viewer layer for agricultural conservation easements and agricultural security areas.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program's conservation requirements contributed to additional conservation planning efforts on 38 tracts of working farmland, covering 4,085 acres.
- Participation with the County WIP efforts to assist with water quality efforts in the Bay Watershed.
- The York County Board of Commissioners certified \$277,320 for farmland preservation, resulting in a \$ 1,445,626 match from the State for local preservation efforts.
- The YCALP Office, with Conservation Partners, hosted a "Preserving Your Farm" Workshop on December 11, 2019 with 55 Landowners in attendance and 6 Presenters.
- YCALPB is a member of the PA Farmland Preservation Association with staff serving on the Policy Committee and attended 2 state association meetings.
- YCALPB is a member of the York County Agriculture Business Council and assisted with Council events such as Ag Exchange, Ag Night at the Revs Stadium, and the Ag Recognition Banquet.
- As a member of PA Farm Bureau, collaborated on policy favorable to PA's ag economy.
- The YCALPB provides citizens with agency farmland preservation information as they maintain the County's Ag Land Preservation Web Page at [www.yorkcountypa.gov](http://www.yorkcountypa.gov)



Program Staff (L-R): David Boose, Claire O'Brien, Patty McCandless

The YCALPB provides citizens with agency farmland preservation information as they maintain the County's Ag Land Preservation Web Page at [www.yorkcountypa.gov](http://www.yorkcountypa.gov)

# U.S.D.A. York Field Team Report

- NRCS and Conservation District employees wrote or updated 309 plans on 11,671 acres of land in York County in FY 2019.
- The York Field Team implemented conservation practices that benefited environmental quality on approximately 7998 acres.
- Obligated \$1.15 million in 15 new contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Certified 71 contracted items accounting for 25 different practices in 2019. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$274,000.
- Enrolled six new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts totaling over \$148,000 on 826 acres.
- Funded and started the implementation of three Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) projects to stabilize streambanks where the stream moved within 50 ft of the houses due to the flooding events of 2018.
- Partnered with Pheasants Forever to hire a biologist, Julia Smith, to assist with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and other wildlife planning needs.
- Hired new Civil Engineering Technician (CET), Gary Ballina, and a new Soil Conservation Technician (SCT), Sally Barnes, to assist landowners in implementing structural practices.



Staff L-R: Gary Ballina, Charles “Eric” Hueter, Tara Lauer, Eric Samus, Sally Barnes, Julia Smith. Missing from photo: Ryan Cornelius.



The United States Department of Agriculture's York Farm Service Agency (FSA) works to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. Agency efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a farm.

This last year was extremely busy for FSA as we continued to implement the 2018 Farm Bill, along with trade and disaster programs. The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) was implemented this year to assist farmers and ranchers impacted by tariffs and the loss of traditional export markets. York County FSA issued approximately 900 payments for 2018 and 2019, totaling nearly \$9,000,000 so far.

York County FSA has nearly 3,400 producers associated with over 5,000 farms. We accepted acreage reports on approximately 160,000 acres consisting of over 20,000 individual fields.

Over 400 York County producers on approximately 2,800 farms are eligible for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs. These help protect producers when there are either price or revenue losses. In October, we issued approximately 500 payments for crop year 2018 losses. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2019 and 2020 crop years.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) continues to be important to protecting our environmentally sensitive land and we have roughly 200 contracts for CRP and CREP, consisting of over 2,100 acres generating annual rental payments totaling nearly \$500,000. Additionally, we provided thousands in cost-share and incentive payments for the installation of long term resource conserving covers, much of which was matched by Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture.

Our Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can be an important tool for producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters. Coverage levels range from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 55 or 100 percent of the average market price. This year the program provided coverage to several fruit and vegetable growers who were affected by abnormal freezing or drought.

York County producers who participated in our 2019 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) have received nearly 3.1 million dollars to allow for more flexibility on when to market their crops. Producers can also take advantage of our many other programs: Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC), Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL), Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)** to name a few.

All of us here in the York County FSA office look forward to continuing to provide exceptional service to the farmers and ranchers of York County.

Visit our website [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or sign up for our newsletters at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new> for updates as they are available. Producers can also sign up for text messaging by texting "PAYork" to FSANOW (372669).

For the York County Committee,  
Richard Csutoras, County Executive Director



L-r: Wendy Kindig, Michele Grove, Anne Crist, Tina Gross, Rick Csutoras

**Farm Production and Conservation  
Farm Service Agency;  
York County FSA Service Center  
3500 Concord Rd. York, PA 17402  
Voice: 717-755-2966 / Fax: 855-847-3608**

## Cooperating Agencies

### PENN STATE EXTENSION—YORK COUNTY

112 Pleasant Acres Rd, York, PA 17402

PHONE: (717) 840-7408 / extension.psu.edu

District Extension Director: Nina Redding

### USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

401 E. Louthier St. Suite 304, Carlisle, PA 17013

PHONE: (717) 218-3002

FAX: (717) 218-3006

Supervisor: George Klaus

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

PHONE: (717) 755-2966 ext. 190

Supervisor: Richard Csutoras

### YORK CO. PLANNING COMMISSION

28 E MARKET ST 3rd FL, YORK, PA 17401

PHONE: (717) 771-9870

Director: Felicia A. Dell

Watershed: John Seitz

### US FISH & WILDLIFE

David Densmore PHONE: (814) 234-4090

### DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES MGMT:

(DCNR)-FORESTRY: Region 3

Jim Nagy (717) 772-4362

Service Forester: Matt Kern

1066 Blooming Grove Road; Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA 17331

PHONE: (717) 637-1770

### ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/BALTIMORE DISTRICT

401 E. Louthier Street, Suite 205 Carlisle, PA 17013

Enforcement-Frank Plewa: PHONE: (717) 249-0425 (717) 249-2522

Permits:

Pat Strong - PHONE: (410)962-1846 FAX: (410)962-6024

Mike Danko PHONE: (717)249-0425 (717) 249-8730

### YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

400 Mundis Race Road

York, PA 17402 (717) 840-7440

Director—Tammy Klunk 717-840-7227

### FISH & BOAT COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

For draw down permits, pond assessment, stream classification

PHONE: (814) 359-5147

Mark Martel (717) 657-4521

York County WCO: Darrin Kephart, Rachel Thurner-Diaz

### PA GAME COMMISSION—

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL OFFICE

448 Snyder Rd Reading, PA 19605

PHONE: 1-610-926-1966

Land Management: Bruce Metz

York County WCO: Justin Ritter—[juritter@pa.gov](mailto:juritter@pa.gov)

### PENN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Penndot District 8

Manager—Glenn Rowe

1920 Susquehanna Trail, York, PA 17404

PHONE: (717) 848-6230

District Engineer: Barry Hoffman (717) 772-0778

Right of Ways – Larry Sarver 717-783-1235

### PA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION

DISTRICTS- PACD

5925 Stevenson Avenue, Suite A

Harrisburg, PA 17112

PHONE: (717) 238-7223

FAX: (717) 238-7201

Executive Director: Brenda Shambaugh

### IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA

(IWLA) – York Chapter

Phone: 717-428-2000,

Secretary – Cathy Wilson

THE HORN FARM CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, 4945 Horn Farm Road, York, PA 17406

## Cooperating Agencies cont.

PA DEPT OF AG PHONE: (717) 787-8861

State Conservation Commission: Karl Brown

2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Eastern Regional Director: Daniel Naylor

(570) 836-6266 email: [dnaylor@pa.gov](mailto:dnaylor@pa.gov)

RT 92 PO Box C, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM

Dave Creamer PHONE: (717) 787-2103

DGR (866)668-6683

## PA Department of Environmental Protection

Karen Books

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)

Conservation District Support

PO Box 8555

Harrisburg PA 17105-8555

[kbooks@pa.gov](mailto:kbooks@pa.gov)

Austen Randecker, Water Quantity Specialist

Clean Water Program

Department of Environmental Protection

909 Elmerton Avenue

Harrisburg PA 17110

717-503-7121

[www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov)

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL (DEP) OFFICE

Assess & Planning Emergency Response – 888-975-9690

909 Elmerton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200

PHONE: (717) 705-4700 FAX: (717) 705-4930

Regional Director: Joseph Adams, P. E.

Service Rep: Valerie Marx, [vm Marx@pa.gov](mailto:vm Marx@pa.gov), 717-705-4709

Program Manager: Scott Williamson (717) 705-4802

Conservation, Restoration & Inspection Section: Andrea Blosser (717) 705-4802

Waste Management Program: Anthony Rathfon (717) 705-4706

York County Recycling Coordinator: Jeff Fox (717) 845-1066

Local DEP offices: WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT & AIR QUALITY (outside)

150 Roosevelt Ave . Suite 200 York, PA 17401

Water Testing (717) 771-4481 Supervisor: Susan Foster

BWM : Dir. Office (717) 787-5267 / CD & NM (717) 783-7577

WS Prot. (717) 772-5707 / Planning (717) 772-4048

WW & SWM (717) 787-6827

# York County Conservation District



**York County Conservation District**  
2401 Pleasant Valley Road  
Suite 101, Room 139, York, PA 17402

***Our Vision:*** The York County Conservation District is committed to the improvement and protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

***Our Mission:*** To achieve that vision, the York County Conservation District 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.

**District main office Phone: 717-840-7430 / Fax: 717-755-0301**

**Website: [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org) / Email: [yorkccd@yorkccd.org](mailto:yorkccd@yorkccd.org)**

