

# 2020 Annual Report



#### A Message from our Chair & Manager

The Year of the Pandemic - What a Year it has Been

With everything that has transpired since March of this year, we could almost forget about our move to a newly renovated County Building at Pleasant Valley Road. The long-anticipated move from our previous facility was less than perfect. We were barely able to get staff settled in and unpacked and get Directors and visitors accustomed to several layers of security just to see us before we were forced into COVID Protocols, remote work, and awkward Zoom meetings. Suffice it to say, the opinions on meeting by conference call or Zoom, while affording the ability to accomplish business, were nearly unanimous - far from ideal.

While we learned we can function if we must while telecommuting, it came at a cost with regard to communication and team building. Thank you to our IT staff whiz, Rob Fetter, for his tireless efforts to work out the wrinkles and get staff members set and be able to function working remotely. The staff was very appreciative when we allowed all to return to work in the office. Fortunately, the office layout is conducive to social distancing. Unfortunately, as positive tests across the region skyrocketed with cooler weather, we reluctantly returned to a limited skeleton crew and remote work again. We cannot say enough about how blessed we have been by the staff's ability to focus on the tasks at hand implementing our plan of work, amidst incredible distraction! Thank you to all for their dedication, commitment, and great work this past year!

The District's Personnel Committee has been very busy this year, as it has been a challenging year to hire and train new employees. With numerous positions to fill and several retirements to contend with, it was important to ensure continuity of work. We were able to bring four new employees onto the team with great success. Long-time watershed specialist Gary Peacock did retire, and long-time education/communications coordinator Kim Young is planning her retirement in early 2021. Our manager Mark Kimmel has also declared his plans to retire in 2021. And we still must fill our year-long vacant professional engineer position. A Special Thank You to Michael Flinchbaugh, Travis Sherman, and Bruce Holbrook, for their invaluable volunteer service on this committee.

We have also welcomed six new associate directors, who are trying to learn the ropes during this most unusual year. With most monthly meetings being virtual or with limited attendance of voting directors, the new associates have not had much of an opportunity to truly delve into the work of the conservation district. We also will be replacing longtime director Gordon L (Bud) Brown, who has been serving as a public director for 20 years. Bud has served exceptionally well and will leave very large shoes to fill.

Despite staff turnover, board changes and COVID, we have managed to continue the good work of conserving, protecting, and educating about the importance of protecting our soil and water resources. Just a few examples of new initiatives include the implementation of technology and equipment that will provide real-time water quality monitoring at six key locations in the County, the addition of a new Conservation Excellence Grant Program for implementing soil and water quality Best Management Practices, and participation in the new Open Space Land Protection Easement and Planning Program funded by York County Taxpayers and supported by the York County Board of Commissioners.

Key changes are coming to our Erosion and Sediment Control Team too. Electronic Permitting will begin in early 2021. With time this will be a time-saver and save a few forests. However, we anticipate hardcopy plans to continue to be a necessary tool, particularly in the hands of those who excavate and construct, for the foreseeable future.

So many projects, programs and plans were postponed or cancelled this year, in an abundance of caution, but we look forward to and anticipate a return to normal as soon as possible. We hope we can continue to count on your support to advance conservation in the coming year. How? Review this annual report and see where you might fit in, as we have programs for just about everyone.

Travis Sherman, Chairman

Mark Kimmel, District Manager

#### **Conservation District Directors 2020 Officers:**

Chairman Travis Sherman, Vice Chairman Jim Rexroth, Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh, Assistant Treasurer Gordon L Brown

Directors: Commissioner Julie Wheeler, Jack Dehoff, Kenyon Miller, Rochelle Black, Dan Innerst

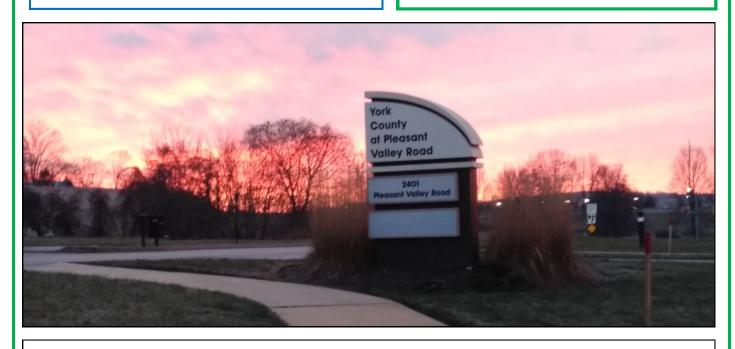
Associate Directors: Randy Craley, Leroy Bupp, Bruce Holbrook, Jackie Kramer, Beth Lucabaugh, James Elliot, Doug Goodlander, Chris Moul, Mike Myers, Mike Smith, Mark Stambaugh

Directors Emeritus: Ellis Crowl, Keith Eisenhart



**York County Commissioners 2020** 

President, Julie Wheeler (C) Vice President, Doug Hoke (L) Ron Smith (R)



### **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 E&S Resource Conservationist - 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 I—Stephen Miller

Ag Resource Conservationist I—Troy Zirkle

Ag Resource Conservationist—Melodie Jones Ag Resource Conservationist P.T.—Jim Myers

Watershed Specialist - Gary Peacock (Retired)

Watershed Specialist—Emily Neideigh Watershed Technician—Alyssa Swartz

Education/Communication Coordinator - Kim J Young

Education/Communication Coordinator—Michael McKelvey

#### 2020: The Final Year for 2 YCCD All-Stars

Gary Peacock and Kim Young have retired.

#### **Gary Peacock—Watershed Specialist:**

One of our rare hires who brought several decades of experience, Gary was originally hired as Education/Comm Coordinator; demonstrating his versatility and wealth of experience and talents, as a hold to eventually move him into the first ever Watershed Specialist position. He was hired in the first group statewide under Growing Greener grant funding for watershed initiatives. We knew the position was coming, but we had to wait another year for funding. Gary never said "no" to any request and routinely looked for opportunities to advance district programs. He set the bar very high for watershed specialists across the state with his approach to education and collaboration with development of the Watershed Association of York, approach to watershed assessments, restoration projects and plans, Large Woody Debris Removal program, and efforts to help landowners address their stream erosion problems through development of our HELPStreams program targeting issues on the smaller tributaries. Again showing his versatility and wealth of knowledge he developed a very successful On Lot Disposal Systems (OLDS) workshop series we hosted for years. This program helped landowners understand the importance of managing their systems for cost savings and water quality protection. He hosted countless rain barrel workshops over the years in partnership with Nixon County Park. Gary played a significant role in the Pinchot Clean Lakes Project, helping implement projects in and around the Pinchot Lake Watershed to improve the health of the Lake. Gary accepted the Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Road Program Leadership years ago and has done a fantastic job promoting and implementing projects in excess of \$10 million dollars and another \$5 million of in-kind funds. His crown jewel, however, was shepherding our Water Quality Monitoring Initiative. By working with multiple County, State and Federal agencies to obtain funding and Commissioner Support, Gary enabled us to have real-time local water quality data. This data helps us make decisions on where to focus efforts to most effectively reduce nutrient pollution, as the County works to implement the County Corrective Action Plan under the PA DEP and US EPA's Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. Finally, Gary stuck around a couple years longer than he might have to train his successor, Emily Neideigh, and her successor Alyssa Swartz, to allow for a smooth transition. I could go on and on... Gary is perhaps the best-known district employee ever, to citizens of the County and local, county and state elected officials alike. A True Conservation Ambassador and All-Star!

#### **Kim Young—Education & Communications Coordinator:**

Another of our rare hires with several decades of experience, much of it with the York County Parks System. Kim brought with her connections and an extensive network of contacts in the environmental and conservation education community. Her years in the Park System, where she was point person establishing what we know now as the Nature Center at Nixon County Park, gave her opportunities to meet dozens of educators and conservation professionals. Her attention to detail, writing skills, resourcefulness and creativity have provided us with 15 years of excellence in our Conservation Horizons Newsletter. While Kim didn't have to create her program from the ground up, she took each program and task to another level. Kim did establish our Facebook page with assistance from our more technologically savvy staff, helping us to move into the world of social media. The York County Envirothon clearly consumed much of Kim's time and she developed the program to become the envy of conservation districts around the state and nation. Teams prepared in York County were regularly in the hunt for State Championships and several high placements in the National Event. Her crown jewel, if not the Envirothon program and the thousands of school aged children who participated, may be the Wildlife Journal she authored, and we published. She even managed to engage student involvement with this publication as their artwork can be seen throughout the pages of the Journal. Kim's acumen for fundraising has put the County Envirothon event on firm financial footing for more than a decade, regularly financing the events \$20,000 plus budget from donations large and small. Connecting the District with many artists over her years working with us has proven to be invaluable, saving us thousands of dollars in professional artist fees while producing beautifully illustrated publications and social media postings. While it may take a village to raise a child, it takes partnerships to run the 4 County Envirothon Events and Kim has taken the existing partnerships and expanded upon them. It's easy to see Kim's passion for environmental education and conservation in all that she does both at work and in her free time. Kim has been preparing for the next educator for months and has developed hundreds of pages of "how-to" procedures for the various projects, events and tasks ensuring that her successor, Michael McKelvey, will have a smooth transition. Kim is another Conservation All-Star who will be greatly missed.

Mark Kimmel, District Manager

#### 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 2019/2020.



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,* continued to serve as an Associate Board member for the state Envirothon as well as serving on the state's Current Issues Committee until retirement.







**District Finances:** The audit of the Conservation District accounts for the calendar year of 2020 will be available at the Conservation District office.





Above: New Office at 2401 Pleasant Valley Road

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 or www.capitalrcd.org



# Annual Seedling Sale and Conservation Awards Picnic Cancelled in 2020

Unfortunately, our annual Seedling Sale and Conservation Awards Picnic were cancelled this year in accordance with restrictions designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Though we are disappointed by this cancellation, we look forward to the return of these events in 2021.



# Ag Resources

# 2020 Agricultural Conservation Program Accomplishments

The 2020 calendar year was a challenging one for the Ag Program. We moved to the new District office in January after many years of being housed with NRCS. Just as we were starting to get in a rhythm, the coronavirus changed everything as staff began working remotely with limited office and team interaction. We did our best to write plans, assist cooperators and complete our delegated duties with the Nutrient Management Program. We added two new team members; training them as best we could and getting them started on their conservation journey. We gradually got back into the office in the summer and fall but later in the year went remote again. The quantity of plans completed may have decreased but we still maintained the quality and cooperative team effort in all we accomplished.

- Wrote Ag E&S and conservation plans on 107 tracts covering 5346.7 acres.
- Assisted two farm operations with the implementation of conservation practices funded with PPL Brunner Island
  and York County Community Foundation grants. Construction started in the Fall 2019 and was completed in Spring
  2020. Used all of the remaining funds in these grants.
- Provided limited educational opportunities to farmers, cooperators, and the general public about the York County
  Conservation District ag program and manure management planning. We were not able to take a display or attend
  any educational events as they were all cancelled after early March. The Senior Ag Resource Conservationist gave a
  presentation at the York County Crops Day in January about the need to have Ag E&S and Manure Management
  Plans.
- The Ag Team hosted and presented a Manure Management Workshop in early March to assist farmers and landowners writing their own manure management plans.



- The Ag Program page of the District website was updated and revised as necessary by the Ag team.
- District staff published articles in the District newsletter. Kim Young- Education Coordinator published a two-part series of articles about Hemp production and Stephen Miller-Ag Resource Conservation Specialist wrote an article about the Web Soil Survey and how it can be used and referenced.

#### 2020 Agricultural Conservation Program Accomplishments continued.



- 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 third full year of the agreement and earned \$ 38,439 for providing conservation planning and technical assistance. A one-year extension was agreed to in September 2020.
- The District improved assistance to the ag community by continuing to employ a part-time planner- Jim Myers and by adding two new employees, Troy Zirkle in June and Melodie Jones in August.
- Senior Ag Resource Conservationist continued to participate in the York County Bay County Action Plan implementation process. Started planning new initiatives for Data Collection and BMP reporting projects for 2021.
- Ag Team continued to incorporate the PracticeKeeper system 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. BMP reporting for progress toward reaching the County Action
  Plan goals was initiated by Ag team staff.
- Stephen Miller and Brita Runkle continued training and gained experience as they work toward obtaining Conservation Planner Certification from NRCS.
- The District applied for and was awarded a second grant (\$ 62,400) from NACD to provide conservation planning and technical assistance for NRCS federal program applicants and contracts. The first grant will be completed in early 2021.
- Stephen Miller continued to work toward obtaining NMP certification and Troy Zirkle completed the NMP training and exam process.
- Mark Flaharty was recertified as a Conservation Planner and Joe Rebert completed his initial Conservation Planner Certification from NRCS.
- The District entered into an agreement with the State Conservation Commission to administer the Conservation Excellence Grant program. The program funds the installation of planned Best Management Practices that are necessary for the cooperator to obtain compliance with Ag E&S and Manure Management Regulations. The District was awarded \$ 1.25 million dollars for the effort to be completed in the next three years. Initial contracts were awarded for cover crop plantings in the fall.
- The District received a \$65,000 grant from the York County Open Space & Land Preservation Committee to support Ag Technical & Planning Assistance efforts. The Commissioners have committed a dedicated fund source from County Property Tax Revenues for Land Preservation & Open Space Initiatives. This includes County & municipal park land acquisition, Ag Preservation easement, & municipal open space planning grants.

#### **2020 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**

- Thirty-three (33) current Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are on file in York County.
- Twelve (12) are on file for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in York County
- Fifteen (15) are regulated as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs and CAOs)
- One (1) plan is for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation only (not a CAO)
- An additional five (5) 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 the regulations. Twenty-six (26) Nutrient Management Plans received status reviews in
  2020.
- Under Act 38 regulations, VAOs are required to have an annual status review completed once every three years. One (1) VAO operation received a status review in 2020.

#### **NMP Plan Reviews and Approvals**

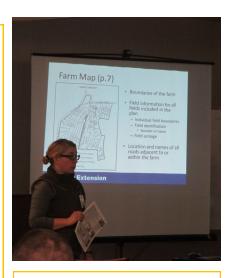
- In 2020, seven (7) Nutrient Management Plans were received for review by the District
- 4 plans were updates for existing CAO or CAFO plans.
- 3 plans were for a new CAO or CAFO.
- 1 plan amendment was submitted
- 0 plans were for a new VAO
- 7 Nutrient Management Plans were approved by our YCCD Board of Directors in 2020.
- 2 CAO/CAFO operations were transferred to new operators
- 1 CAO/CAFO plan update is currently under review
- 1 CAO plan is currently in the process of being withdrawn due to closure of the operation

#### **Nutrient Balance Sheet Acknowledgements**

In 2020, thirty-five (35) Nutrient Balance Sheets were received, recorded, and acknowledged.

#### **Educational Activities**

- The District is delegated responsibilities for public outreach and education regarding the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management and Manure Management Programs. 2020 was a challenging year for public outreach. Most annual events where the District normally provides Nutrient Management Program outreach were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the District was able to provide the following outreach and education:
- The District shared a Facebook and an Instagram post about winter manure application restrictions – 300 views.
- The District maintained a Nutrient Management / Manure Management page on the District website. The page outlines the state planning requirements for animal operations and advertises individual assistance offered by District staff.
- District staff presented Nutrient Management / Manure Management information at York County Crops Day on January 23. Handouts regarding state planning requirements were distributed to approximately 40 farmers in attendance after an educational presentation.



Above: Brita Runkle, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, explained what information needs to be shown on the plan map.

#### **Educational Activities continued:**

- The District held our annual Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop on March 6. Attendance was eleven farmers
  with two District staff / agency staff attendees. Staff presented manure management principles and assisted attendees
  with writing their Manure Management Plans in a step-by-step process.
- In order to obtain certification and keep informed on current nutrient management issues, Ag staff members attended as many trainings as they could throughout the year. Troy Zirkle went through the Nutrient Management Public Review certification program and passed his exam to become provisionally certified. For the first time, most of the NMP trainings were held virtually in 2020. Stephen Miller reviewed a Nutrient Management Plan to continue working toward his final certification.
- 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.





Above left: Joe Rebert, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, answers a workshop participant's question about her farm. Above right: Mark Flaharty, Senior Ag Resource Conservationist, discusses animal concentration areas with an attendee.

#### **2020 District Cooperators:**

- William T. Yanavitch, Hellam Twp.
- Barbara J. Spengler, Fawn Twp.
- Kathleen McTavish, L. Chanceford Twp.
- Daniel Petre, Shrewsbury Twp.

- Kim Lewis, Fawn Twp.
- Josh Miller, L. Chanceford Twp.
- Ron Bozis, Fairview Twp.
- Ephraim Z. Fisher, Fawn Twp.

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

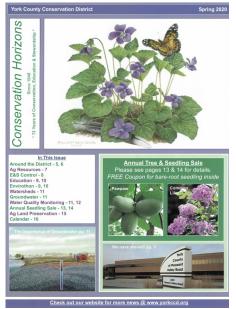
Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II, Brita Runkle; PRN Ag Resource Conservationist, Jim Myers; Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I, Stephen Miller; Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II, Joe Rebert; Senior Ag Resource Conservationist, Mark Flaharty

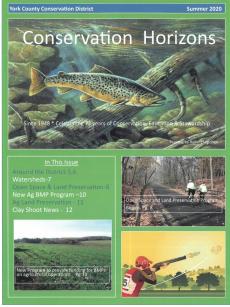




## **Education & Communication**

Our full-color, magazine-style newsletter, *Conservation Horizons*, is mailed to over 8,000 homes & businesses 3 x/year. Featured articles this year included articles on Water Quality Monitoring, The Envirothon programs, Watersheds, Open Space & Land Preservation, New Ag BMP Programs, College Scholarship Award Recipients, and much more!







#### **Scholarship Recipients:**

Alyssa Swartz (at right) - a graduate of Northern York High school and now a graduate of McDaniel College with a degree in Environmental Biology and Environmental Policy & Management. Through the Dept. of Agriculture, Alyssa was an engineering scientific and technical intern at the PA Farm Show in 2019 and an intern at Project Oceanology as a Marine Science Educator. Through local, regional, and global efforts, her goal is to have the compassion to mindfully provide a safe and sustainable future for generations to come and to understand that everyone is impacting our environment. Alyssa has since joined the York County Conservation District as Watershed Technician.





<u>Patrick Trostle</u> (at left) - a graduate of Northeastern High School, currently attending York College, majoring in biology. Patrick says his passion for conservation was fueled by a high school biology teacher whose mentorship helped him understand how the preservation of our natural world is a fundamental part of our everyday lives. The experience molded his decision to major in this field in hopes of making a difference in his community's efforts to preserve its natural resources. Most recently, he has trained and volunteered with the Penn State Master Watershed Stewardship Program, enabling him to connect with people with different viewpoints from all walks of life.









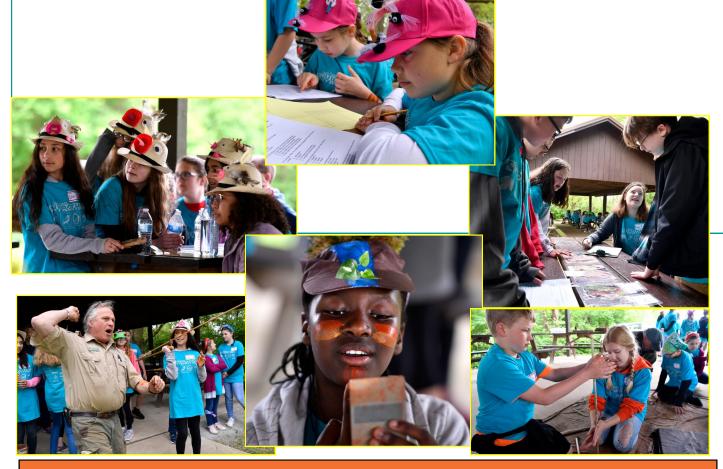


#### THE 2020 ETHON-NEWS - Our 35th Season in Review

Despite all our grand intentions, Envirothon 2020 - the 35th Anniversary of the York County Envirothons, was cancelled due to COVID-19. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were still able to reward the over 1,000 students who had been preparing for their spring competitions all year. Over the summer, all Team T-shirts were delivered to coaches in almost every building in almost every School District in the county. Tests, Study Resources, Study Session Programs, and more are all being rolled over to our 2021 Season. Envirothon 2021 will be a Virtual Competition.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon will also be going virtual for their spring competition, so we will be following their lead and using their templates for timed online tests. Registered coaches & teams will receive a link on specific days at specific times in order to take their tests and compete for trophies, ribbons, and prizes. There is still much to be organized and announced, but we are pleased to be able to still offer the Envirothon to so many deserving students.

We also want to congratulate Anna Hawkins, recipient of the Paul Wilson \$500 Conservation Award.



#### 13th Annual Clay Shoot—September 2020

Unfortunately, this year's Clay Shoot was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We look forward to resuming the Clay Shoot as normal in September 2021.

We are grateful to our sponors for their continued support, especially through these difficult times.

#### **2020 Envirothon Sponsors**

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc., Aquatic Resource Restoration Company - ARRC, Beth Lucabaugh, Brown's Orchards & Farm Market, Bruce Holbrook, C. S Davidson Inc, Carroll L & Linda L. Missimer, Central Penn Sporting Clays Inc, Conewago Enterprises Inc, Covanta, Craley Fish & Game Assoc., David E Leese, Deanna & Francis Velazquez, Dehoff Farms LLC, Deller Excavating LLC, Delta Peach Bottom Fish & Game Assoc., Ellis & Joyce Crowl, Environmental Concepts Landscaping LLC, First Capital Engineering, Flyway Excavating, Inc., Friendship Elementary PTO, Glatfelter Insuraces Group, Grimm Trophy and Gift, Herbert Rowland & Grubic, Inc., Hively Landscapes, Izaak Walton League Of America, Inc., James R. Holley & Associates, Inc, Jefferson Sportmen's Assoc., Keith Eisenhart, Keller-Brown Insurance Services, Ken Sheffer, Lauer Construction Services, Lee Fence and Outdoor, M. Jo Bowman-Ruth, Miller Plant Farm, Northeastern York School District, Penn Waste, Randy & Susan Byrnes, Rotary Club of York, Roundtown PTO, Shiloh Garden Club, Sinking Springs Elementary PTO, Spoutwood Farm Center, Spring Grove Area School District, Spring Grove Elem PTO, Stewart & Tate, Inc, Stewartstown Elementary PTA, Tammy Grove, Travis & Christine Sherman, W. Craig Adams, Inc., Windsor Township, Wolf Farms, Inc., York Ag Products Inc., York County Solid Waste & Refuse Auth., York Township

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, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Fish & Boat Commission, 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.

New Education & Communications
Coordinator, Michael McKelvey



Anna Hawkins was awarded the \$500.00 Paul Wilson Conservation Award for 2020.

YCCD Education & Communications
Coordinator, Kim J Young





# **Erosion & Sediment Control**

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS for Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Pollution Control and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

It seems with every annual report we note that it was another challenging year. Well, 2020 was no exception, and by far, the most challenging yet! Who could have guessed that as soon as we settled into our new office location that we would be working remotely from our homes, wearing face masks while in the office, struggling to see through steamed -up glasses, socially distancing, sitting in on virtual meetings, avoiding handshakes, and checking our temperatures on a daily basis? Despite all the obstacles presented in 2020, new construction still boomed and 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. We are grateful that throughout the pandemic that we have maintained our entire E&S team and that we have all remained healthy. With all the change brought about in 2020 and more changes to come in 2021 (ex. ePermitting going live and our District Manager retiring), our mission of protecting water quality remains the same.





#### The following is a summary of the E&S team's activities for 2020:

- Conducted 1,032 site inspections, pre-construction meetings, site meetings, plan review site visits, complaint investigations and status checks.
- Received 179 new complaints.
- Due to the lack of voluntary compliance, 3 sites resulted in an enforcement action.
- Reviewed 229 new and 268 revised plans affecting 5,896 project acres and 1,679 disturbed acres.
- Received and processed 120 General NPDES permit applications.
- Issued 98 new General NPDES permits.
- Received and processed 15 new Individual NPDES permit applications.
- Renewed 10 General NPDES permits and 1 Individual NPDES permit.
- Staff attended 66 formal pre-application meetings with DEP, developers, and engineers to proactively identify and address any issues prior to the submittal of NPDES permit applications.
- Staff attended 37 engineer meetings related to informal pre-application meetings and to discuss and resolve administrative/technical review comments generated during our plan reviews.
- Staff assisted with organizing for and moving to the new County office building.
- Rob worked with the County & Comcast to set up the network at the new office building in preparation for the move.

#### E&S team's activities for 2020 continued:

- Staff continued to offer 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 manage the District's computer system and network and assist with District website updates.
- Staff attended the Penn State Extension Webinar Training series on Green Stormwater Infrastructure.
- Nick completed DEP Chapter 102 E&S Basic Training along with 8 prerequisite training modules on the PA Clean Water Academy.
- Tom & Nick completed PennDOT's Construction Stormwater Inspection training.
- Staff attended the DEP e-Permitting kick-off meeting and tested the system.
- Zach attended the PACD webinar on Creating Educational Videos/Content via Zoom meeting.
- Eric & Tiffany hosted Commissioner Wheeler on a Friday afternoon office and field tour to introduce her to the District's E&S program.







(Left & Right) Tiffany Crum—E&S Resource Conservationist & Zach Fry—Engineering Technician I

(Middle) E&S Site visit with Commissioner Wheeler

- Eric & Rob attended 8-hour long remote DGLVR Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance training.
- Eric & Tiffany visited the Cumberland County Conservation District office to observe their computer system set-up in preparation for e-Permitting.
- Eric, Tiffany, & Tom participated in the "Erosion Control in Our Forests" webinar hosted by the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Rob participated in the PA Constitution presentation hosted by Meg Murphy, DEP Counsel.
- Tiffany, Zach, & Tom attended the DEP Regional Permit Coordination Office (RPCO) update webinar.
- Zach passed the Envirocert International Inc. Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) Exam and is now CPESC certified.
- Tiffany was promoted from Engineering Technician II to E&S Resource Conservationist and will now serve as acting supervisor in Eric's absence and will take the lead on E&S-related education and outreach activities to the regulated community.
- Eric & Zach presented a 2.5-hour long E&S PowerPoint presentation and Q&A session for 16 attendees of Inch & Co.
- Tiffany, Zach, Tom & Nick attended the 4-day Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Restoration webinar hosted by PACD.
- Tom & Nick attended the DEP Access & Entry training webinar.
- Tom & Tiffany attended the "MS4s and Interactions with Districts" training webinar.



## **Watershed Program Activities 2020**

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**

- 12 HELP-Streams (Headwaters Environmental Legacy Program) assessments and recommendations made to private and public landowners.
- 1 Stormwater residential assessment and BMP recommendation made to private landowners.





Above left: EXHIP Project before

Above right: EXHIP Project after

#### Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection

- Assisted York County Planning Commission (YCPC) with the implementation of York County's Countywide Action Plan (CAP) in support of Pennsylvania's WIP Phase III and Chesapeake Bay Agreement restoration goals.
- Assisted the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) with achieving its watershed-based planning, restoration, and protection mission and goals.
- Assisted with 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 nitrogen loads, removing stream impairments, quantifying local municipal stormwater and agricultural Best Management Practices cost-effectiveness and efficiency, saving York Countians millions of dollars.
- Received 2 Exelon Habitat Improvement Project applications; 4 EXHIP contracted projects were completed, and \$188,904.58 grant money spent.
- Worked with Ecotone on the restoration of 1200 LF of the West Branch Codorus Creek funded by a Growing Greener Plus grant.
- Submitted and obtained a DCNR grant for a 2.0-acre riparian buffer planting on Cabin Creek.

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

- Assisted the Lower Susquehanna River Keeper with the Greener Codorus Initiative.
- Participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna River.
- Submitted three Growing Greener Grant stream restoration design proposals with contractor Ecotone:
- Bennet Creek, Newberry Twp; \$129,500 grant request for 1,815 LF
- UNT to Leibs Creek, Hopewell Twp; \$106,500.00 grant request for 1,860 LF
- UNT to Bald Eagle Creek, Fawn Grove Boro; \$106,500.00 grant request for 2,157 LF
- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Program's Keystone 10 Million Tree partnership.
- Supported the York County Master Watershed Stewards (~60) in their various programs.
- Supported local Watershed Organizations (25) with financial and technical assistance.

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

- 6 contracts awarded for a total of \$475,262.10 grant requested.
- 6 contracts completed for \$510,061.35 grant money spent.
- 2.5 miles of dirt and gravel road environmentally sensitive maintenance.
- 7,347.21 tons Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) applied; 65.61 tons fill added.
- 134.22 square yards infiltration installed; 1 cross pipe replaced; 1 cross pipe installed; 177 yd<sup>2</sup> seeding and mulching.
- 3 Stream Crossing Replacements.
- 3 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds 2 Codorus; 4 Kreutz/Muddy.
- Began dirt and gravel road county-wide assessment.

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

- \$ 343,316 Dirt & Gravel Road Program
- \$ 250,247 Low Volume Road Program
- \$225,000 Exelon Habitat Improvement Program
- \$25,000 Headwater Streams Environmental Legacy
   Program
- \$10,000 CBF RFB Grant
- \$45,250 Conservation District Watershed Specialist

# Cramer Rd. BEFORE Stream Crossing Replacement

#### **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.



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

- 3 contracts awarded for a total of \$264,908.00 grant requested.
- 4 contracts completed for \$266,655.53 grant money spent.
- 0.6 miles of low volume road environmental sensitive maintenance completed.
- 3 cross pipes replaced; 425 ft<sup>2</sup> underdrain added; 3 access drainage improvements installed; 40 yd<sup>2</sup> infiltration installed; 516 yd<sup>2</sup> seeding and mulching.
- 3,436.50 ft<sup>2</sup> Full Depth Reclamation of road base; 900 yd<sup>2</sup> paved surface sealed.
- 4 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds: 1 Codorus; 2 Kreutz/Muddy; 1 Gunpowder





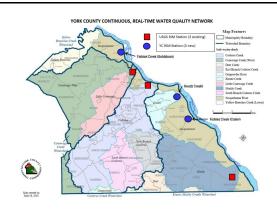
Above Left: Charles Street Before Infiltration Pit—Above Right: Charles Street After Infiltration Pit Installation

#### **2020 Feature Accomplishment:**

#### Implementation of Continuous, Real-Time, In-Stream Water Quality Monitoring in York County

- Resource Challenge To evaluate water-quality change as land management action and land conversions occur throughout the county. WQM data will help monitor progress toward WIP goals and other modeling activities.
- Project Summary and Results USGS deployed continuous monitors to measure water quality at three existing streamgages and installed stations at three new stream locations in York County. For links to the data, visit: <a href="https://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/water-quality-monitoring">https://www.yorkccd.org/watersheds/water-quality-monitoring</a>
- Total Project Value: Start up ~\$792,190; Maintenance ~\$440,000/year (both costs include USGS cooperative match funds)
- Key Project Partners United States Geological Survey, York County Commissioners, York County Planning Commission







USGS Fishing Creek at Craley

York WQM Station Locations

Multi-probe sonde



#### **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 2020:

Board Members:
Kristina Wilt, Chairwoman
Mack Smith, Vice Chairman
Daniel Innerst, Rep. Farmers
Eric Bacon, Rep. Elected Officials
Dolores Krick, Rep. Citizens
Kevin Mulholland, Rep. Citizens Farmers
Andrew Baumgardner, Rep. Farmers

Program Staff:
Marty Druck—Farmland Preservation Monitor
David Boose—Farmland Preservation Specialist
Patty McCandless—Director

- YCALPB Agency moves into the County of York at Pleasant Valley Road Facility January 27, 2020.
- County Commissioners certified \$ 1,388,049 dollars resulting in a \$ 2,676,760 dollars in state match for local farmland preservation, after COVID-19 Pandemic impacts. This funding reflects the first year the agency received dedicated land preservation dollars from the 2019 York County Ag Land and Open Space Initiative efforts
- YCALPB receives 74 easement applications and inquiries by the February 15, 2020 application deadline for farmland preservation.
- YCALPB ranks 50 Qualifying Applications on 4,479 acres for farmland preservation, selecting 16 farms on 1,507 acres for appraisal. 2020 represents an increase, over the 2019 activity of only 2 farms on 499 acres selected, due to dedicated ag land and open space funding received in 2020.
- YCALPB welcomes Marty Druck in September as Farmland Preservation Monitor. We wish Claire O'Brien best wishes in her new role with USDA-NRCS as GIS cartographer in South Dakota.
- 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 298 farms, covering 44,080 acres of productive farmland through easement purchase and donation.
- 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.
- Staff conducted inspection visits on 138 preserved farms, covering 23,278 acres of productive farmland.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program's conservation requirements contributed to additional conservation planning efforts on 72 tracts of working farmland, covering 7,362

acres.

- Participation with the County WIP efforts to assist with water quality efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- YCALPB as a member of the PA Farmland Preservation Association and York County Farm Bureau, collaborated on public policy favorable to PA's ag economy.
- The YCALPB provides farm owners with farmland preservation opportunities. Information can be found on York County's Ag Land Preservation Web Page at <a href="https://www.yorkcountypa.gov">www.yorkcountypa.gov</a>

Right: New Employee Marty Druck— Farmland Preservation Monitor



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

- NRCS and Conservation District employees wrote or updated 116 plans on 4559 acres of land in York County in FY 2020.
- The York Field Team implemented conservation practices that benefited environmental quality on approximately 4450 acres.
- Obligated \$553,728 in 12 new contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Certified 84 contracted items accounting for 21 different practices in 2020. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$214,000
- Finished implementing 3 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. Total NRCS and State funding totaled over \$231,000
- Most work was coordinated and contracted remotely during the 2020 Covid Pandemic. Staff were able to use more technology for items like signatures which reduced time spent by staff.
- Staff also transitioned to a new planning and ranking software called Conservation Desktop and CART, respectively. Training for both new programs were the beginning of the 2020 pandemic
- Partnered with Capitol RC&D to hire a Program Assistant, Julia Chain, to assist with the federal programs and planning assistance.



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.

While we spent much of this last year with limited in-person appointments, the York Service Center staff is still available by phone appointment as we continue to offer our traditional programs along with several ad-hoc disaster programs. We implemented two phases of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) issuing over \$4,400,000 to provide financial assistance to help producers absorb some of the increased costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) also continued for a portion of the year to assist farmers and ranchers impacted by tariffs and the loss of traditional export markets. York County FSA issued another \$4.1 million this year. In addition, we issued payments to producers suffering losses related to previous flooding and excessive moisture through our Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+).

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 1600 payments for crop year 2019 totaling nearly \$1.2 million. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2021 crop year.

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 2020 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) have received over 3.8 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), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the <u>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)</u> 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 <a href="www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a> or sign up for our newsletters at <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new</a> 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 2401 Pleasant Valley Road York, PA 17402 PHONE: (717) 840-7408 / extension.psu.edu District Extension Director: Nina Redding

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

401 E. Louther 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

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

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

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. Louther 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—Mike Fobes 717-840-7227 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 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

Assess & Planning Emergency Response – 888-975-9690

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL (DEP) OFFICE

909 Elmerton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 PHONE: (717) 705-4700 FAX: (717) 705-4930

Regional Director: Rod Nesmith, P.E.

Assistant Regional Director: Andrea Blosser (717) 705-4704 Service Rep: Valerie Marx, vmarx@pa.gov, 717-705-4709 Program Manager: Scott Williamson (717) 705-4802 Waste Management Program: Bob Benvin (717) 705-4706 York County Recycling Coordinator: Jeff Fox (717) 845-1066

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

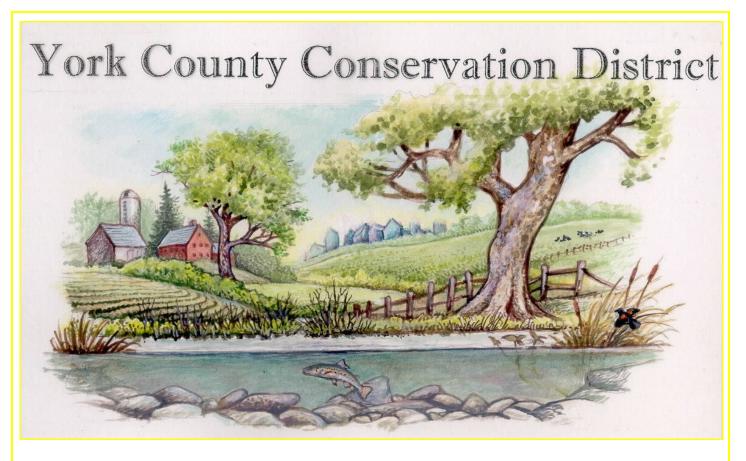
150 Roosevelt Ave . Suite 200 York, PA 17401

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

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



#### **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 in 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 / Email: yorkccd@yorkccd.org





