



YORK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 Annual Report



A Message from our Chair & Manager

Measuring Success Differently

Many annual reports may focus, yet again, on the challenging year that businesses and agencies experienced in 2021. It is no secret that the challenges faced were, in some ways, greater than those seen in 2020 when the pandemic first started. It is easy to get caught up in the “why”, the “what if” or the “what could have been.” Though the District was not immune to any of those challenges, our staff faced adversity head-on and exceeded expectations at every turn.

Long-standing District functions, such as the Seedling Sale, Envirothon, and Clay Shoot were huge successes with support from York County residents. In most cases, records were shattered from historical highs of years past. This support from our community is something we hope to build upon in 2022. Our social media outreach expanded exponentially, allowing us to keep the public informed of new programs, grants, and District functions with little-to-no direct contact. Whether at home in quarantine or out experiencing our county parks, our constituents tuned in to our updates and helped share our message. Our field presence in both our E&S and Agriculture Departments helped navigate the “new normal” when it came to implementation of Best Management Practices and the Watershed Department exhibited success through numerous grant awards and completed projects.

Finding ourselves in uncharted waters from one minute to the next, on any given day, was stressful enough. Add in a change in management, and the possibilities for disruption were endless. Both the District Manager and the Assistant District Manager stepped away after many successful years at York County. Although not unexpected, it was a transition that left many staff members unsure of what the future may hold. Yet again, the staff stepped up and assisted at every opportunity. They lent historical knowledge of District functions, new insights on ways to improve processes and procedures, and every once in a while raised an eyebrow with the “we’re not sure, but we’ll trust you on this decision.” It made for a seamless transition that crafted new bonds and bolstered existing partnerships.

Hopefully while reading this you are able to see a recurring theme: Staff. They are the backbone of the District and its functions. Without them, county residents and their natural resources would be at a serious disadvantage. 2021 was a harsh, unforgiving year that tested each staff member in their own way. Watching the staff navigate together, as one unit, to overcome the challenges faced both personally and professionally cemented their commitment not only to the District, but to each other. That bond will pay dividends in the coming year when, fingers crossed, we can return to a sense of normalcy.

We look forward to 2022 and the challenges it may bring, knowing that we are well-prepared for the journey ahead.

Travis Sherman, District Chairman

Jeff Hill, District Manager

Conservation District Directors 2021 Officers:

Chairman Travis Sherman,
Vice Chairman Jim Rexroth,
Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh,
Assistant Treasurer Rochelle Black

Directors: Commissioner Julie Wheeler, Jack Dehoff,
Kenyon Miller, Dan Innerst, Jackie Kramer

Associate Directors: Randy Craley, Leroy Bupp,
Bruce Holbrook, Beth Lucabaugh, James Elliot, Doug
Goodlander, Mike Smith, Harry Bickel

Directors Emeritus: Ellis Crawl, Keith Eisenhart



York County Commissioners 2021

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



District Staff

District Manager—Jeff Hill
District Manager—Mark Kimmel (*retired*)
Assistant Manager/Administrative Specialist/
Financial Coordinator—Christina Dehoff
Assistant Manager—Jennifer Risser (*retired*)
Administrative Assistant II—Robin Sharp
Administrative Assistant—MJ Serrano
Professional Engineer—Jeff Spangler
Program Manager/
E&S Resource Conservationist—Eric Jordan
E&S Resource Conservationist/
Network Administrator - Robert Fetter
E&S Resource Conservationist—Tiffany Crum
Engineering Technician II—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 I—Melodie Jones
Ag Resource Conservationist P.T.—Jim Myers
Watershed Specialist—Emily Neideigh
Watershed Technician—Alyssa Swartz
Education/Communication Coordinator—Michael McKelvey
Education/Communication Coordinator - Kim J Young (*retired*)



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 its 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, former 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 that protect the natural resources and economic vitality of our community. The council provides the selected projects with necessary tools, such as technical expertise and assistance in locating funding. During 2021, Capital RC&D programs assisted York County farmers with rotational grazing, including farmer-to-farmer technical support and funding for fencing and watering systems. They also worked with partners at NRCS to add to staffing in the York County office. In addition, they contracted with the District to assist with a cover crop and tillage survey to make sure the positive steps farmers are taking to preserve soil and water are being counted.

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

2021 Seedling Sale

Our 2021 Seedling Sale was a great success! This year we held our first drive-thru Seedling Sale pickup due to covid-19. We fulfilled nearly 650 orders and distributed over 20,000 seedlings. Pick up day was very busy but staff and volunteers worked together as a team and the event ran smoothly.

We look forward to the 2022 Seedling Sale for which we will offer convenient online ordering on our website.



Above Right: Pachysandra order awaits pickup at drive-thru.

Below Right: Customer picks up order at drive-thru event.

Below Left: A generous quantity of traffic cones directs customers to drive-thru pick up site at Rocky Ridge Park.



2021 Conservation Awards Picnic

On August 12th we held our Annual Conservation Awards Picnic at Rocky Ridge Park. Each year a committee selects individuals and businesses in York County to recognize for their commitment to conservation efforts. Award recipients were presented with a signed, limited edition framed print by Millicent Neill Decker while guests enjoyed a catered picnic dinner.

Award Recipients:

Outstanding Stewardship Award: **Glenn Hope Care Farm/Agricare, Aimee Morris**

Glenn Hope Care Farm aims to bridge the gap between health care and natural healing environments. Agricare focuses on farming operations and production. They embrace “Green Care” philosophies and assist veterans re-entering the workforce.

Watershed Stewardship Award: **Cindy Pizziketti**

Cindy just passed over 1,000 volunteer hours with the Master Watershed Stewards (MWS). This includes volunteering for buffer plantings, participating in the Greener Codorus Initiative, assisting with water quality monitoring, educating the public, and organizing MWS, LSRK, and WAY events. She is a rock star volunteer, and her enthusiasm is infectious.

Outstanding Partnering Organization: **Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Ted Evgeniadis**

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association is dedicated to improving the ecological health of the Lower Susquehanna River Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. Ted, as LSRK, has hosted various creek cleanups, the Susquehanna River Plastic Purge, while advocating for clean water, protective policies, and enforced regulations.

Transplanting the Memorial Garden

When YCCD moved to Pleasant Valley Road in 2020, we left behind our Memorial Garden at the former office. In 2021 we partnered with York County Parks and Deller Excavating to uproot our Memorial Garden and transplant it at our new office. An eastern redbud, the centerpiece of the memorial garden, was the first to make the transition as shown below. The redbud adapted well to its new setting and will soon be accompanied by a variety of other native plants.



Above: Guests attend 2021 Conservation Awards Picnic





Agricultural Conservation Program

2021 Agricultural Conservation Program Accomplishments

The 2021 calendar year was another one of changes and challenges for the District Ag team. We continued the ongoing saga of dealing with Covid, changing schedules, working from home, and everchanging masking guidelines. We continue to write Ag E&S and manure management plans, assist cooperators with practice installation and complete our delegated duties with the Nutrient Management Program. Unfortunately, we had two team members leave the District, Jim Myers to take on a new challenge and Stephen Miller, who moved back to the Midwest with his family. We plan to refill Stephen's position in early 2022.

- Wrote Ag E&S and conservation plans on 128 tracts covering 5,390 acres. Developed 4 manure management plans covering 2,986 acres.
- Assisted multiple farm operations with the implementation of conservation practices. These included multiple grass waterways, lined outlets, and a roof over a barnyard.
- Provided limited educational opportunities to farmers, cooperators, and the general public about the York County Conservation District ag program and manure management planning. The usual in person events that we would take a display to or attend were not held again in 2021.
- The Ag team hosted and presented an in-person Manure Management Workshop in August to assist farmers and landowners with 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. Topics covered were Manure Management and Record-keeping, Conservation Excellence Grant funding and Soil and Manure Testing.
- Provided support for the REAP program administered by the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Performed nine Ag E&S and Manure Management plan verifications for program applicants.



Above Left: Grassed waterway with erosion control netting installed at farm operated by Andrew Macklin—Exelon Funding

Above Right: Tillage radish cover crops at the Randall Patterson farm—funded with Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)

2021 Agricultural Conservation Program Accomplishments continued.

- 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 fourth full year of the agreement and earned \$25,070 for providing conservation planning and technical assistance. A final one-year extension was agreed to in September 2021.
- The Senior Ag Resource Conservationist continued to participate in the York County Action Plan implementation process. The Ag team started planning new initiatives for Data Collection and BMP reporting projects in 2021. We worked with York Township and will be partnering with three other townships in 2022. We are also working with the Ag Preservation program on a similar project
- 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.
- Brita Runkle submitted a plan toward obtaining conservation planner certification from NRCS.
- The District continued to receive funding from NACD to provide conservation planning and technical assistance for NRCS federal program applicants and contracts. The first grant was completed in early 2021. The second grant will carryover in to the first quarter of 2022.
- Stephen Miller, Troy Zirkle and Melodie Jones all continued to work toward obtaining NMP certification.
- Joe Rebert received his Conservation Planner Certification from NRCS.
- The District continued 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. Funding has been applied for and paid toward the installation of cover crops, grass waterways and a diversion. New applications were approved for field practices and barnyard runoff control systems.



2021 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 (30) current Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are on file in York County.
- Ten (10) are on file for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in York County
- Sixteen (16) are regulated as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs and CAOs)
- Two (2) plans are for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation only (not a CAO)
- An additional two (2) 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.
- One (1) plan withdrew from the Act 38 program.

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-five (25) Nutrient Management Plans received status reviews in 2021.
- One (1) Nutrient Management Plan was out of compliance with regulations
- 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 2021, ten (10) Nutrient Management Plans were received for review by the District.
 - Nine (9) plans were updates for existing CAO or CAFO plans.
 - One (1) plan update was for a VAO plan.
 - Ten (10) Nutrient Management Plans were approved by our YCCD Board of Directors in 2021.
 - One (1) CAO plan update is currently under review
 - Two (2) VAO plans are currently under review.
 - 1 CAO plan was withdrawn due to closure of the operation

Nutrient Balance Sheet Acknowledgements

- In 2021, thirty-seven (37) Nutrient Balance Sheets were received, recorded, and acknowledged.
- Five (5) Nutrient Balance Sheets were reviewed by staff.

Educational Activities

The District is delegated responsibilities for public outreach and education regarding the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management and Manure Management Programs. 2021 was another 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 2021, the District was able to provide the following outreach and education:

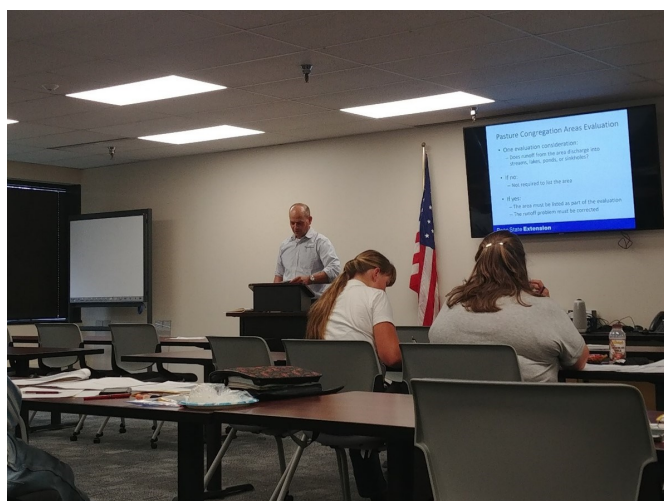
- The District shared a Facebook and an Instagram post about 4R nutrient stewardship– 300 views.
- The Ag Team wrote an article for the Spring Newsletter reminding operators of their requirement to obtain a Manure Management Plan and advertising the Manure Management Plan writing workshop - 8,960 people reached.
- An article was printed in the Spring newsletter encouraging operators to keep detailed records- 8,960 people reached.
- An article was shared with York County Coalition for Clean Water’s newsletter describing the legal requirements to obtain the proper plans- 300 people reached.
- Mark Flaharty presented information at the PA Veteran Farming Network’s field day on manure management planning – 20 people reached.
- An article was printed in the Fall newsletter discussing the benefits of manure and soil sampling and how to properly take these samples- 9000 people reached.
- The District maintained a Nutrient Management/Manure Management page on the District website outlining state planning requirements for animal operations and advertising individual assistance offered by District staff.
- The District held our annual Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop on August 19. Attendance was eight 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.



Above: YCCD vehicle at site visit to observe status of cover crop planting funded by CEG program

Educational Activities (continued)

- 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. Melodie Jones and Troy Zirkle went through the Nutrient Management Public Review certification program and passed their exams to become provisionally certified in 2020. Stephen Miller reviewed a Nutrient Management Plan to continue working toward his final certification and wrote an NRCS 590 Plan. Both Troy Zirkle and Melodie Jones reviewed a Nutrient Management Plan to continue with their certification. Troy Zirkle successfully wrote a Volunteer Nutrient Management Plan that counted towards certification. Melodie Jones has a volunteer plan currently under review.
- 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: Troy Zirkle, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, discusses pasture congregation areas to workshop participants.



Above Right: Stephen Miller, Ag Resource Conservation Specialist, explains the difference between AOs, CAOs, and CAFOs to workshop participants.

2021 District Cooperators:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Ryan California, Windsor Twp. | • Robert Fetter, Springettsbury Twp. |
| • Stephen Lantz, Fawn Twp. | • Bill Kohler, Warrington Twp. |
| • Dave Harvey, Peach Bottom Twp. | • Troy Swartz, Warrington Twp. |
| • Allen Hollenbach, Dover Twp. | • John Kolemba, N. Codorus Twp. |
| • Plum Creek Village Condominium Assoc., Penn Twp. | • Kenneth Scott, East Hopewell Twp. |
| • Matthew Scarpato, Spring Garden Twp. | • Ben Proud, Dallastown Twp. |
| • Timmy M. Brose, Shrewsbury Twp. | • Darby Shue, Windsor Twp. |
| • Scott Powell, E. Hopewell Twp. | • Travis Shearer, West Manheim Twp. |
| • Devvin Earnest, Shrewsbury Twp. | • John Gartside, Franklin Twp. |
| • Lee Irwin, Codorus Twp. | • Ellen Darby, Shrewsbury Twp. |
| • Mark Derr, Jackson Twp. | • Larry Martick, Monaghan Twp. |
| • York Water Company, York Twp. | • Kelsey Toth, Fairview Twp. |
| • John David Sanderfer, Dover Twp. | • Lawrence Sanders, Manchester Twp. |
| • Coty Gall, Conewago Twp. | • Benjamin Niner, Heidelberg Twp. |
| • Bruce Canty, Chanceford Twp. | • Daniel Curran, Chanceford Twp. |



Education & Communication

Our full-color, magazine-style newsletter, **Conservation Horizons**, is distributed to nearly 9,000 homes & businesses 3 x/year. Featured articles this year included content on Cover Crops, Best Management Practices, Soil Sampling, Establishing Native Vegetation, Conservation Award Recipients, Envirothon News, and much more!



2021 Scholarship Recipients

Every year we award two **\$1,000.00 Scholarships** to any York County residents majoring in – or planning to major in – the field of conservation (agriculture, environmental, natural history, natural resource management or related science field).

Grace Wills - a future Environmental Resource Management major at Penn State University Main Campus. Her goals are to solve environmental issues and guarantee ecosystem service security while educating others on environmental topics. Grace has been involved in the York County Teen Naturalist Club, Wildlife Leadership Academy, Science Olympiad, and Central York High School Community Conservation Corps. She has participated in the Envirothon since she was in fourth grade.

Peter Junkin - a future Environmental Science major at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. His goals are to contribute important environmental data, research findings, and observations in remote regions around the world. Peter's professional interests include bird banding, creating habitats for threatened species, and researching environmentally friendly agriculture practices. He has a background as an Eagle Scout volunteering to maintain local parks and trails.

York County ENVIROTHON



THE 2021 ETHON-NEWS - Our 36th Season in Review

Due to ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Envirothon occurred virtually this year. Students and coaches stepped up to the plate and adapted to the changing circumstances. This year, 76 teams participated across the four grade level events. Despite going virtual this year, coaches found creative solutions to engage students such as socially-distanced nature walks, virtual scavenger hunts, interactive educational games, and more.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, we provided Envirothon t-shirts, awards, and study resources. We announced the winners via our Virtual Awards Ceremony and delivered the awards to the schools. Thank you coaches, students, station leaders, and sponsors for making 2021 an unforgettable Envirothon season!

We also want to congratulate **Catie Koch, recipient of the Paul Wilson \$500 Conservation Award.**



Above Left: Student catches bluegill after completing virtual station tests—Above Center: 2021 Envirothon T-Shirt—Above Right: Students complete virtual tests

14th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser—September 2021

This year we returned to Central Penn Sporting Clays for our 14th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser.

Our generous supporters shattered our fundraising expectations and made this an unforgettable event.

Due to an outpouring of support, we added a morning shoot this year to accommodate more participants. The morning shoot was slightly calmer than the afternoon shoot, and was well-received by participants.

Below Left: Team York Ag proudly displays their 1st Place trophy & awards.



Below Right: YCCD team takes a break from the action to pose for a photo.



2021 Envirothon Sponsors

York County ENVIROTHON



Sinking Springs Elementary

Glatfelter Insurance Group, Inc.

Conewago Enterprises, Inc.

Dehoff Farms LLC

Flyway Excavating, Inc.

York Township

Bruce Holbrook

Wolf Farms, Inc.

Northeastern School District

Spoutwood Farm Center

Tammy L. Grove

Central Penn Sporting Clays

W. Craig Adams, Inc.

Miller Plant Farm

Keith Eisenhart



Byrnes Family

Izaak Walton League
York Chapter #67



York County
Solid Waste Authority



Jefferson Sportsmen's
Association



Ken Sheffer

Keller-Brown Insurance

David Leese

Travis & Christine Sherman

Environmental Concepts Land-
scaping

Thank You Sponsors & Cooperating Agencies!

The York County Envirothon is made possible by a combination of 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.

Envirothon Cooperating Agencies



YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



York County
Solid Waste Authority





Erosion & Sediment Control

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

In 2021, we returned to some semblance of normalcy with our E&S staff returning to the office and field with only the need to work from home occasionally as potential COVID exposures occurred and the resulting need to quarantine. 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 conducted over 1,000 site visits and issued 108 new NPDES permits as new construction continued to boom throughout the year despite the on-going pandemic, widespread inflation and construction worker and material shortages. DEP's new ePermitting system went live on January 25th however only 1 electronic NPDES permit application was received out of a total 142 NPDES permit applications processed. NPDES permit applications included several solar farm projects as well as numerous distribution warehouses. Complaint numbers increased over the previous year with the heavy tropical rains experienced in the late summer months. Last but not least, we welcomed the addition of Jeffrey Spangler, P.E. to the E&S team as our new District Engineer and look forward to entering into the Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) delegation agreement with DEP in the coming year.

The following is a summary of the E&S team's activities for 2021:

- Conducted 1,056 site inspections, pre-construction meetings, site meetings, plan review site visits, complaint investigations and status checks.
- Received 197 new complaints.
- Due to the lack of voluntary compliance, 2 sites resulted in an enforcement action.
- Reviewed 234 new and 278 revised plans affecting 10,544 project acres and 2,581 disturbed acres.
- Received and processed 142 General NPDES permit applications.
- Issued 108 new General NPDES permits.
- Received and processed 16 new Individual NPDES permit applications.
- Renewed 11 General NPDES permits.
- Staff attended 62 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 53 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 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.
- E&S staff participated in several hours of PA DEP ePermitting training webinars, reviewing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document of 209 questions and answers.

E&S team's activities for 2021 continued:

- Zach, Tom, & Nick participated in a 5-hour long sediment basin technical training webinar hosted by DEP.
- E&S staff participated in 1-hour long “Ponds, Impoundments, & Why People Call About Them” DEP webinar.
- Tiffany, Zach, Tom, and Nick participated in a 2-hour Channel Review Panel Discussion Webinar and 1- hour Riprap Apron Review Panel Discussion Webinar hosted by DEP and PACD.
- E&S staff participated in a 2-hour long EPA NPDES ICIS Introductory Training webinar.
- E&S staff participated in a 3-hour long “Effective Conflict Management—Parts I & II—Understanding Conflict” webinar hosted by PACD.
- E&S staff participated in a “Native Plants & Pollinators” virtual training hosted by NRCS and PACD.
- Eric, Tiffany, Zach, and Tom attended a 1.5-hour long “Introduction to EV Wetland Classification Analysis” webinar hosted by PACD & DEP.
- Tiffany coordinated and hosted Chris Shenberger and Rebecca Love for job shadowing experiences.
- Eric, Tom, & Nick participated in a 1-hour long “Aquatic Organisms Passage in PA” Microsoft Teams webinar presented by PFBC.
- Jeff Spangler attended Bog Turtle Training Seminar hosted by US Fish & Wildlife and PA Fish & Boat Commission.
- E&S staff completed and passed numerous PA Clean Water Academy virtual courses.
- E&S staff attended Ag Planning Training meeting led by Mark Flaharty.
- Eric and Zach presented a 2-hour long PowerPoint E&S training for 20 employees of Burkentine and Sons, Inc.
- Eric and Zach presented a 2-hour long PowerPoint E&S training for 66 employees of J.A. Myers Homes.
- Eric and Zach presented a 2-hour long E&S Power Point Presentation to 11 representatives of White Pine Construction and Woodhaven Building & Development.
- E&S staff participated in a 2-hour long Managed Release Concept Current Standards and Future Updates webinar presented by Villanova University and PACD.
- Chris Tanczos of Northumberland County Conservation District spent a week job shadowing/training with the E&S staff.
- Zach, Nick, Tom, Jeff S., & Eric participated in the DEP/CCD Chapter 102 Fall Training and Update virtual meeting.
- Eric, Tiffany, Zach, Nick, Tom, and Jeff S. participated in a “Temporary/Permanent Vegetation and Stabilization” webinar hosted by PACD, Ernst Seeds, and Civil & Environmental Consultants.
- Rob, Tiffany & Eric & other District program staff met with Andrew Hake of GeoDecisions regarding updates to the PracticeKeeper database.
- Eric worked on completing a draft District “Stream-lined Plan Review Process.”
- E&S staff compiled information requested by DEP for our Chapter 102 Program Evaluation as part of seeking the PCSM Delegation Agreement with DEP.
- Tiffany worked with Michael McKelvey to begin an E&S BMP Photo Library to be placed on the District’s website.
- Tiffany completed numerous E&S-related District newsletter articles and social media posts.



Watershed Program Activities 2021

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

- 29 stream assessments and Best Management Practices (BMP) recommendations made to private and public landowners.
- 5 Flood residential assessments and BMP recommendations made to private landowners.
- 5 Headwaters Environmental Legacy Program (HELP-Streams) projects contracted; 3 projects completed for \$16,750 in grant money spent.
- 1 Stormwater residential assessment and BMP recommendation made to a private landowner.
- 6 Large Woody Debris sites surveyed for potential projects.

Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection

- Assisted the York County Planning Commission (YCPC) with the implementation of York County's Countywide Action Plan (CAP) in support of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Agreement restoration goals.
- Assisted the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) with achieving its watershed-based planning, restoration, and protection mission and goals.
- Participated in the Education and Outreach, Data Management, and Watershed Forestry Committees of WAY.
- Co-hosted a stream clean-up along the South Branch of Muddy Creek.
- Worked with the County Commissioners, United States Geological Survey (USGS), and YCPC in the management of the York County water quality monitoring program to establish county-wide TMDL baseline water quality and demonstrate long-term regression trends of improving water quality.
- Received 12 Exelon Habitat Improvement Program (EXHIP) applications; 6 EXHIP applications were approved for funding by DEP, totaling \$363,274.87 in grant funding allocated; 4 EXHIP contracted projects were completed, totaling \$191,091.75 in grant money spent.
- Completed 1200 linear feet of stream restoration on the West Branch Codorus Creek with contractor Ecotone funded by a Growing Greener Plus grant (see below 'Featured Accomplishment' for more details).
- Awarded three Growing Greener Grant stream restoration design proposals with contractor Ecotone:
 - Bennet Creek, Newberry Twp; \$129,500 grant request for 1,815 linear feet
 - UNT to Leibs Creek, Hopewell Twp; \$106,500.00 grant request for 1,860 linear feet
 - UNT to Bald Eagle Creek, Fawn Grove Boro; \$106,500.00 grant request for 2,157 linear feet
- Awarded two 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants for stream restoration design and construction:
 - Three projects in the Codorus Creek Watershed; \$280,898 grant award for 3,130 linear feet
 - Willis Run, City of York; \$508,581 grant award for 1,200 linear feet
- Awarded a \$2,000 PACD Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-grant for 'Making the Most with Multimedia – A Virtual look at Watersheds.'

Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection continued

- Awarded a \$2,143 DEP Environmental Education Grant for watershed-related multimedia educational outreach.
- Submitted three Growing Greener Grant stream restoration construction proposals with contractor Ecotone:
- Bennet Creek, Newberry Twp; \$861,591.00 grant request for 1,815 linear feet.
- UNT to Leibs Creek, Hopewell Twp; \$585,989.00 grant request for 1,860 linear feet.
- UNT to Bald Eagle Creek, Fawn Grove Boro; \$786,828.00 grant request for 2,157 linear feet.
- Submitted one Growing Greener Grant stream restoration design and construction proposal with contractors SMC and Stantec – West Branch Codorus Creek, Codorus Twp, \$654,910.00 grant request for 1,700 linear feet.
- Submitted one 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant with contractor Working Lands – Buffalo Valley, Codorus Twp; \$515,000.00 grant request for 3,245 linear feet of stream restoration.
- Planted a 2.0-acre riparian buffer on Cabin Creek with funding made available through a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant.
- Assisted the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper with the Greener Codorus Initiative.
- Assisted the Horn Farm Center with the planting of 10,000 trees on their property.
- Participated in the Chesapeake Bay Program's Keystone 10 Million Tree partnership. Worked with 21 landowners to supply ~2,480 trees. Hosted three tree plantings with volunteers.
- Supported the York County Master Watershed Stewards in their various programs.
- Assisted the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay with the Riparian Ranger program.
- Assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with identifying properties eligible for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding.
- Supported local watershed organizations with financial and technical assistance.



*Above & Below: EXHIP Project After—
Codorus Creek Watershed*



Dirt and Gravel Road

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance

- 3 contracts completed for \$434,239.38 in grant money spent.
- 2.25 miles of dirt and gravel road environmentally sensitive maintenance.
- 50,442 tons Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) applied; 1,088 tons of fill added.
- 25 square yards of French mattresses constructed, 27 square yards of geo stabilized bank, 44 square yards of stormwater detention, 200 square yards seeding and mulching.
- 2 stream crossing replacements.
- 2 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds – 1 Codorus; 2 Kreutz/Muddy.
- Completed dirt and gravel road county-wide assessment.



*Above: Blymire Hollow Rd., North Hopewell
Twp.—Before DSA Placement*

*Below: Blymire Hollow Rd., North Hopewell
Twp.—After DSA Placement*





Above: Pre-Construction—Simpson Rd. degraded road surface

Below Left: During Construction—Simpson Rd. Full Depth Reclamation

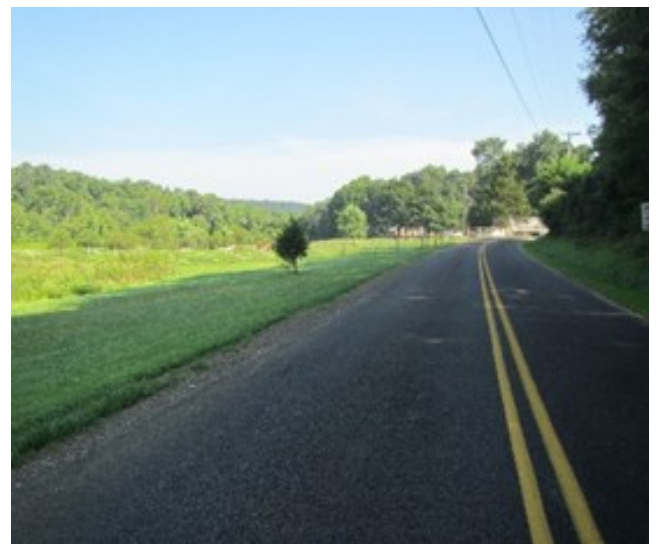
Below Right: Post-Construction—Simpson Rd. with new surface



Low Volume Road (<500 vehicles/day)

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance

- 1 contract awarded for a total of \$40,267.00 in grant money requested.
- 3 contracts completed for \$302,568.39 in grant money spent.
- 1.08 miles of low volume road environmental sensitive maintenance.
- 270.67 tons of road fill added; 2 cross pipes replaced; 750 square yards of detention installed; 2,480 yd² seeding and mulching.
- 12,796.56 square yards full depth reclamation of road base; 12,796.56 square yards of paved surface sealed.
- 1 stream crossing replacement.
- 3 municipalities engaged.
- Watersheds: 1 Codorus; 1 Kreutz/Muddy; 1 Gunpowder



Conservation District Dollars Brought to York County

- \$ 241,924 Dirt & Gravel Road Program
- \$ 258,694 Low Volume Road Program
- \$225,000 Exelon Habitat Improvement Program
- \$25,000 Headwater Streams Environmental Legacy Program (HELP-Streams)
- \$25,000 Large Woody Debris Program
- \$342,500 Growing Greener Grant
- \$789,479 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
- \$2,000 PACD Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant
- \$2,143 DEP Environmental Education Grant
- \$45,250 Conservation District Watershed Specialist Position



2021 Featured Accomplishment:

West Branch Codorus Creek Stream and Unnamed Tributary Restoration

- Resource Challenge – The West Branch of the Codorus Creek and its tributary were experiencing severe downcutting and bank erosion, with vertical banks exceeding three feet along portions of the reach. This section of stream lacked a significant riparian buffer.
- Project Summary and Results – The project consisted of approximately 924 linear feet of stream channel realignment, installation of in-stream woody structures such as toewood to provide habitat and roughness, bank grading to reconnect the stream to the floodplain, and a riparian buffer planting.
- Total Project Value: \$509,395.00



Above Left & Below Left:

Pre-Construction—Unstable, Actively Eroding Streambanks



Above Right & Below Right:

Post-Construction—Reconnection to Floodplain



Education & Outreach

- >500,000 Effective public education and outreach through multi-media: Conservation Horizons newsletter; Conservation awards picnic; WAY social media; educational programs; website; 22 Watershed Weekend venues; e-mail; Facebook; and other local media contributions.



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 2021:

Board Members:

Kristina Wilt, Chairwoman
Mack Smith, Vice Chairman
Daniel Innerst, Rep. Farmers
Eric Bacon, Rep. Elected Officials
Dolores Krick, Rep. Citizens
April Cooper, Rep. Citizens
Andrew Baumgardner, Rep. Farmers

Program Staff:

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

- York County Commissioner's approve new board member April Cooper to the YCALPB for a 3 year term and reappoint Kristi Wilt to a 3 year term. Ms. Wilt is appointed Chairwoman.
- York County Commissioner's certify \$ 1,266,181 resulting in a \$ 2,699,527 dollar match in state funds for local farmland preservation efforts. This funding reflects the second year the agency receives funding for land preservation efforts.
- YCALPB receives 74 easement applications and inquiries by the February 15, 2020 application deadline for farmland preservation beginning a two year selection process for preservation. Fifty qualifying applications on 4,479 acres are offered for farmland preservation. In 2020, 16 farms on 1,507 acres are preserved. In 2021, 15 farms on 1,227 acres are appraised for preservation using dedicated ag land funds.
- The American Farmland Trust awards \$10,000 to the YCALPB for Soil Health Stewardship efforts in 2021 and 2022.
- The agency's three employees inspect 217 farms, covering 29,912 acres to ensure agricultural conservation easement requirements are observed.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program's conservation requirements contribute to the additional conservation planning efforts on 12 tracts of working farmland, covering 1,014 acres in 2021.
- YCALPB, working with York County Conservation District and Farm Bureau, begin joint efforts to identify implemented best management practices thus granting conservation credit to York County farmers contributing to our Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Initiatives.
- Continued participation on the Watershed Alliance of York to assist with water
- quality efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Since program establishment in 1989, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 311 farms, covering 45,531 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.
- York County continues to rank 3rd in Pennsylvania in terms of acres of farmland preserved through Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program.
- YCALPB, as a member of the PA Farmland Preservation Association and York County Farm Bureau, collaborate on public policy favorable to PA's ag economy.
- The YCALPB provides farm owners with farmland preservation opportunities. Information can be found at York County's Ag Land Preservation Web Page at www.yorkcountypa.gov



USDA York County Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Richard Csutoras, County Executive Director

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.

We would like to thank all our producers for their patience while we continue to have 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.

York County FSA has nearly 3,400 producers associated with over 5,100 farms. Last year we accepted acreage reports on approximately 175,000 acres consisting of over 21,000 individual fields. In 2021 we continued to implement the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) issuing over \$8,460,000 to provide financial assistance to help producers absorb some of the increased costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, 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. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2022 crop year.

The Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program provides risk management coverage to dairy producers to protect their operations and York County issued approximately \$1,235,000 last year. The program was recently expanded to allow enrolling supplemental production.

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 Farm Loan staff provides Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership loans and Operating loans to producers in York County who may have difficulty receiving credit through traditional lenders. FSA has provided over \$22,500,000 in funding to York County producers. York County producers who participated in our 2021 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) have received over 3.3 million dollars to allow for more flexibility on when to market their crops.

Producers can also take advantage of our many other programs: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) to name a few.

Finally, I want to share that Anne Crist has retired after over 20 years of service. I want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication. 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 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

**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**

- NRCS and Conservation District employees wrote 83 Conservation Plans on 3637 acres of land in York County in CY 2021
- Obligated \$1.27 million in 16 contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) covering approximately 6,186 acres
- Certified 104 contracted items accounting for 25 different practices in 2021 through the RCPP and EQIP programs. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$524,000
- Certified and processed over \$615,000 in payments under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with enhancements and practices on over 5,000 acres
- Received 2 new applications for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) due to the September flooding events that effected the county
- NRCS went through staff turnover in 2021. Hired two new Soil Conservationists in Natalie Agee and Bryce Woodard. Also hired Alyssa Jeffries as a new Soil Conservation Technician
- Partnered with Capitol RC&D to hire a Program Assistant, Jon Weaver-Kreider, to assist with the federal programs and planning assistance

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. 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

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: 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

Cooperating Agencies cont.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/BALTIMORE DISTRICT
401 E. Louthier Street, Suite 205 Carlisle, PA 17013
Enforcement: 410-962-6079

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 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

THE HORN FARM CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION,
4945 Horn Farm Road, York, PA 17406
(717) 757-6441, Alexis Campbell, Executive Director

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

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

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

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: 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

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 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

