



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Board of Directors

- Chair & Public Director – Mike Clark
- Vice Chair & Farmer Director – Marsha Snyder
- Treasurer & Public Director – Larry Gildner
- Farmer Director – Ken Martz
- Farmer Director – Lloyd Byers
- Public Director – Scott Flanders
- Commissioner – Bill Lyons
- Associate Director – Dave McLaughlin
- Associate Director – Shawna Swartz
- Associate Director – Jay Elsessor
- Associate Director – Bill Shilling
- Associate Director – Grant Finkenbinder

2024 District Staff

- Gabe Guthrie – District Manager
- April Skethway – Office Manager
- Tara Collier – Resource Specialist
- Baily Miller – Watershed Specialist
- Lauren Leinbach – Ag Resource Lead
- Kyle Fake – Ag Resource Tech
- Rebecca Radel - Ag Resource Tech

2024 NRCS Staff

- Kevin Morgan – District Conservationist
- Samantha DiLorenzo – Soil Conservationist
- Don Graybill - Engineer



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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from the Perry County Conservation District,

2024 was a year of change within the Conservation District. The new year brought new board members and new hires, as we said goodbye to individuals who played an integral role within the District – see staffing updates for more information.

I would like to give a big thank you to Mike Clark for his dedicated service to the district. Mike served as our board chair since 2022 and as a public director since 2014. He first became an associate member of the board in 2004. The impact Mike has had on the district over the past 17 years will be missed immensely. Always an active member of the Board of Directors, Mike was very involved in all the district’s activities whether it be at land judging, the Envirothon, the district’s booth at the fair, speaking in to district projects, sitting on the interview committee for the district’s new hires, giving insight and direction to the board, forming committees for the betterment of the district, district staff and the board of directors. Many of Mike’s ideas have been implemented to keep the lines of communication open between the board and the staff which in turn allows the district to better serve the county. Mike’s leadership skills and positive attitude, as well as his vast knowledge as an educator of conservation, environment and natural resources made him an invaluable member of our board. We will miss you, Mike!



Michael Clark

**2024 Chair
and Public Director**

As the Conservation Board of Directors, we are excited for both new and familiar developments in the District in 2025. Perhaps most exciting of all is the Perry County Conservation District’s 75th Anniversary Celebration – stay tuned for details in Summer 2025. We encourage everyone to come out and see what the Perry County Conservation District has to offer as we continue to strive to conserve and sustain Perry County’s natural resources and environment.

Regards,
Marsha Gray Snyder, Board Chair

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to Right: Marsha Snyder – Vice Chair & Farmer Director, Ken Martz – Famer Director, Bill Shilling – Associate Director, Grant Finkenbinder – Associate Director, Lloyd Byers – Farmer Director, Jay Elssor – Associate Director, Bill Lyons – Commissioner

Not Pictured: Larry Gildner – Treasurer & Public Director, Scott Flanders – Public Director, Dave McLaughlin – Associate Director, Shawna Swartz – Associate Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Greetings,

This has been another year of change and growth at the District. Following the departure of staff and manager, we are back on track to have a great year! This past year also saw the resignation of our Board Chairperson, Michael Clark. We thank him for his many years of service with the Conservation District and hope to see him at events in the future as he enjoys some well-deserved time with family!

The continued implementation of our County Action Plan allowed us to continue offering the Cover Crop Incentive Program which was started in 2022. This program along with our No-Till Drill Rental Program has been responsible for the implementation of hundreds of acres of no-till planting and cover crop usage. The CAP funding also allowed us to fund other conservation projects such as Clee McMillen's barnyard roof.

Another exciting opportunity for the District is the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). We have had many applications and funded several projects since the program's inception. We are looking forward as we continue to help farmers put good conservation practices on the ground with this funding!

Our Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs also continue to do great work in the county. This year, in partnership with Jackson Township, Centre Township, and Watts Township we completed a project to resurface a gravel road with DSA, added much more drainage to roads in the County, and will be finishing up projects in 2025, as well as new projects lined up for the new year!

The Chapter 102 Program continues to provide important services to the county. With the expiration of the statewide National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), many applications flooded into the District this year. With all these projects, the 102 program ensures the quality of Perry County natural resources.

Farmland Preservation has been in full swing this year, allowing us to get closer to settlement on many of our farms in easement.

Additional county programs, such as the Tire War, Envirothon, and the County Land Judging contest have also served to not only clean up the county but engage and educate students and the public on the importance of our work. We look forward to continued outreach and even more community participation in the coming year.

As you read this report, I hope the hard work and dedication of the staff is evident and that it sets the stage for an even more successful 2025 as we continue to work as a District and community for the conservation of our county's natural resources.

Sincerely,
Tara Collier
District Manager



Honoring Sally Tengeres for her many years of service at the Conservation District



2024 DISTRICT STAFF

(Left to Right) Tara Collier, Bailey Miller, Gabe Guthrie, Lauren Leinbach, Rebecca Radel, and April Skethway



COOPERATING AGENCIES AND CONTACTS

Perry County Ag-Land Preservation Board—William Lyons, Chairman
 Natural Resources Conservation Service—Kevin Morgan & Samantha DiLorenzo
 Penn State Cooperative Extension—Ashley Issacson
 Farm Service Agency—Bobbie Jo Zimmerman, CED
 PA Fish and Boat Commission—Seth Strawser, Conservation Officer
 PA Game Commission— WCO Scott Frederick and WCO Michael Smith
 PA Dept. of Environmental Protection— Ramez Ziadeh, Acting Secretary
 PA Department of Agriculture—Russell Redding, Secretary
 DCNR Bureau of Forestry—Luke Book, Service Forester
 State Conservation Commission—Doug Wolfgang, Executive Director
 Department of Transportation— New Bloomfield HQ
 County of Perry Maintenance Manager—Marty Smith
 Community Partnerships RC&D—Sam Price, Executive Director
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation—Julia Krall, Executive Director
 Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership—Joe Hallinan, Program Manager
 PP&L Community Roots Program—Donna Haskins, Penn E&R
 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful—Shannon Reiter, President
 Capital RD & D - Ann Basehore, Executive Director
 Herbert, Rowland & Grubic - Erin Letavic, Senior Project Manager





NRCS

During fiscal year 2024 (October 1st through September 31st), the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in Perry County was comprised of three full time staff members and a volunteer.

Conservation Planning Highlights

- 25 conservation plans were written, covering over 5,000 acres.
- Conservation practices were documented on over 70 plans, totaling 4,600 implemented acres.

Cropland Conservation Practices & Enhancements

- 4 waterways and diversions installed (3.6 acres) to prevent gully erosion
- 4,300 acres of conservation crop rotation, no-till farming, and cover cropping
- Over 1,000 acres of nutrient management implemented

Farmstead & Livestock Operation Improvements

- 3 waste storage facilities completed
- Multiple waste transfer systems installed
- Over 12,000 square feet of heavy-use protection added
- Several hundred feet of underground outlets installed
- 1 Animal Mortality Composting Facility constructed

Grazing & Pasture Management

- 1,100 feet of fencing installed to improve grazing operations
- 2,600 feet of stabilized animal trails added
- 171 acres of prescribed grazing implemented

Forest Conservation

- Multiple contracts completed, treating over 800 acres through shelterwood cutting or herbicidal spraying

Funding & Contracts

- 22 contracts (CSP Classic, CSP Renewal, and EQIP) were written, providing over \$1.6 million to Perry County producers and landowners for resource conservation and water quality improvements
- 60+ applications have been accepted, indicating another strong year for contracting
- A busy construction season is expected with these new contracts.



The work done by NRCS, in partnership with the Perry County Conservation District and other organizations, continues to provide significant environmental benefits for private landowners, the public, and the community in Perry County.





STATE PROGRAMS

Nutrient Management Program

The Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) has been in effect since October 2006. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) oversees the statewide Nutrient Management Program, while conservation districts are delegated to administer it at the county level. Under Act 38, Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) are required to develop and maintain a site-specific Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). A CAO is defined as an agricultural operation with eight or more Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs), where the animal density exceeds two AEUs per acre of land suitable for manure application on an annualized basis. The goal of the program is to protect and maintain soil and water quality through the development and implementation of NMPs and agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on livestock operations that possess livestock, generate, store, and/or spread manure. Examples of BMPs include certified concrete manure storage tanks, HDPE-lined lagoons, roofed solid manure stacking areas, composting facilities, reinforced animal stream crossings, concrete barnyard areas, vegetated or riparian buffers between barnyards and wells/streams, rain gutters to divert clean water around barnyards, and fencing to improve pasture management and prevent livestock from accessing streams, reducing erosion. The District administers the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program in Perry County. Currently, there are 16 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and 20 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in the county. The District is responsible for reviewing and approving NMP amendments, reviewing updates, conducting status reviews, investigating complaints, maintaining technician certification, and providing education and outreach within the community.

In 2024, the District received six Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) for triennial review and approval—three for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and three for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs). Status reviews were conducted during the plan review visits for these operations. This year, our former Agricultural Resource Specialist, Rebecca Radel, continued her Nutrient Management Certification process. Following her provisional certification, she began writing and reviewing Nutrient Management Plans. To achieve full certification, planners must review two and write one Nutrient Management Plan within three years.



Texturing Soil Out to Help Pinpoint Where Water Issues Were Originating

Chesapeake Bay Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program was created by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to promote and facilitate the installation of Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Bay watershed to support the Pennsylvania Watershed Implementation Plan efforts. Through this delegation agreement, the District provides technical assistance, assists with REAP applications and associated BMP verifications, conducts farm inspections to check that required agricultural plans are in place, processes complaints, and offers educational outreach and workshops. During 2024, we stepped back from the inspection program to make sure that staff was trained for the program expecting to complete the inspections in early 2025. The inspection list is created by randomly pulling 2 farm operations from each township. During the inspection, a determination is made on what plans are needed. If the reviewed plans are up-to-date and administratively complete at the time of the inspection, the inspection is closed and marked complete. If plans cannot be produced, the operation is given 90 days to write the plans themselves or hire someone to write the necessary plans. The Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (PA REAP) is a State Tax Credit program administered by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission (SCC). In 2024, the District verified plan completeness for 2 operations and met with multiple farmers to discuss how to fill out the application and what paperwork they needed.



Erosion & Sediment Control Program

Pa. Code Title 25 Chapter 102 was created to require persons proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities to develop, implement and maintain BMPs to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation during construction and plan for post construction stormwater management. Through a delegation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Perry County Conservation District reviews Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (E&S Plans). Each E&S plan is reviewed for technical adequacy under Chapter 102 requirements. A Federal regulation that works in conjunction with the State E&S program is the Chapter 92 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. This regulation requires earth-moving activities disturbing one acre or more to obtain an NPDES permit which is reviewed by the District.



Temporary Stabilization with Straw

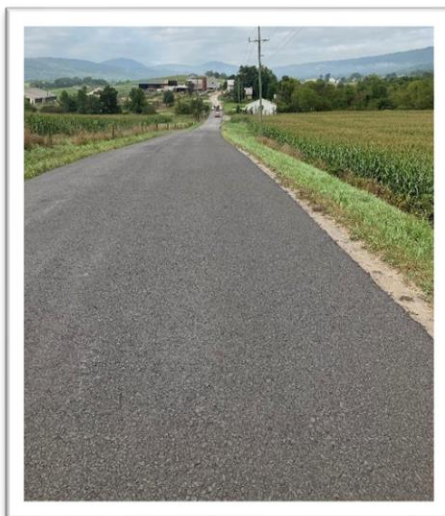
In 2024, 9 Erosion and Sediment Control Plans were reviewed and approved. On an average year, Perry County typically processes 10-15 NPDES Permits, but in 2024 the NPDES permits expired and more permit applications were received than typical. In 2024, 37 NPDES Permits were processed, 18 construction site inspections were conducted with a total of 91 technical assistance contacts, and 15 complaints investigated.

Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road Program



The Perry County Conservation District partners with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies to improve roads to reduce pollution that directly impacts Perry County's streams. Since 1997, Perry County has spent \$2,221,382.95 on Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) projects and \$1,239,297.28 on Low Volume Road (LVR) projects

Funding is provided through yearly allocations by the SCC and distributed to each qualified County based on potential workload. The District then distributes the funds to eligible municipalities. Eligibility depends on meeting project criteria and the program requirement, that each municipality have a current employee(s) working directly on the project that has attended the two-day Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training.



Conococheague Road DSA Placement and Culvert

In 2024, the CDGRS held its 3-day Annual Maintenance Workshop in DuBois and the return of the ESM Bootcamp in State College. During 2024, one Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road projects was completed, while two were still in construction. Jackson Township placed 2,969 tons of driving surface aggregate, replaced old culvert pipes and added more for increased drainage on Conococheague Rd. Centre Township replaced culvert pipes and added additional pipes as well as raising the profile of Boose Rd. Driving surface aggregate will be placed in the spring of 2025. Watts Township will begin construction of stormwater pipes on Blacksnake Rd. in 2025. These projects reduced the sediment and dust entering Perry County's streams while leaving each road more drivable and easier to maintain.



DISTRICT PROGRAMS

No-Till Drill Program

The District has four No-Till Drills available for rent to Perry County residents who actively practice no-till farming. These include two 10-ft wide John Deere 1590 no-till grain drills (85 HP minimum) and one 12-ft wide Esch 5612 no-till drill (100 HP recommended). Both drill types are primarily used for reseeding large crop fields, whether for grain, silage, or as cover crops intended for use as green manure. They can also be used to plant or reseed large pastures and hay fields.

No-till farming helps maintain soil integrity, improve water infiltration and retention, preserve nutrients for the next crop, keep soil biology active between harvests, and reduce weed presence.

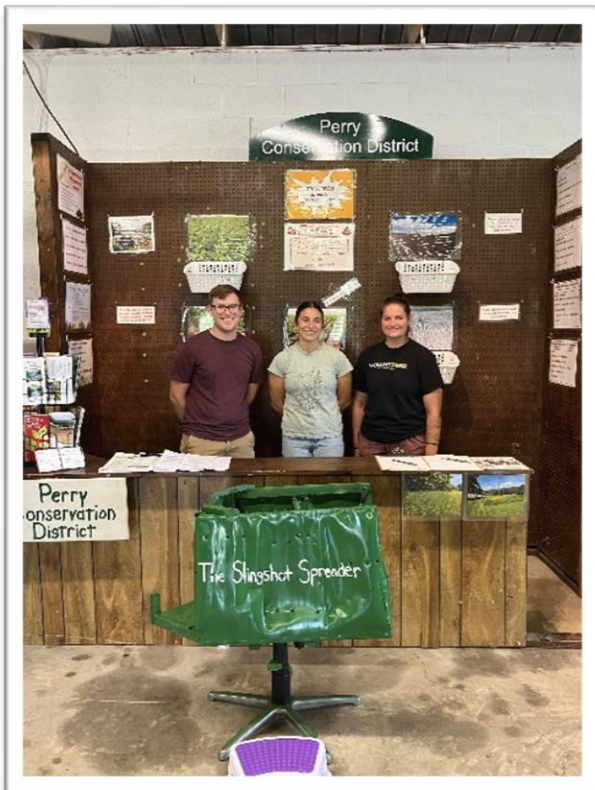
The fourth no-till drill is a smaller Land Pride 606 (40 HP minimum) with a 6-ft wide planting width, ideal for reseeding pastures, small crop fields, and hay fields. While this drill can plant the same grain or cover crop seeds as the larger John Deere and Esch no-till drills, it also features an additional seed bin designed for planting a wide variety of light and fluffy native grasses, such as Brome or Kentucky Bluegrass.

In 2024, the No-Till Drill Rental Program planted a total of 1,361.6 acres using no-till practices throughout Perry County.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Presentations & Displays

We strive to reach more students and members of the public with our programs by participating in community events, providing in-classroom demonstrations, submitting press releases to the local newspapers, conducting presentations as requested, and posting to social media. During 2024, we were able to provide several trainings and every year we attend the Perry County Fair to make more connections and share new information with the community. This year we highlighted manure management with a fun hands-on game called the Slingshot Spreader! We also targeted our new Lawn Conversion program and our upcoming events in our display. It was a great opportunity for the public to meet our new hires as well!



Perry County Fair Display



Newport 8th Grade Field Trip at Little Buffalo State Park



Envirothon

The District sponsors the Perry County Envirothon competition each spring, which is open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The winning County team also gets sponsored to travel and compete at the State Envirothon. “The mission of the PA Envirothon is to provide students with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges of today’s world.”



Winning T-Shirt Design with Artist

In 2024, the traditional activities within the Envirothon program were back in full swing. Our county competition was graciously hosted by Little Buffalo State Park on May 1st. As always, the tests were standardized from the PA State Envirothon Board and Agency staff from the PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, DCNR, and NRCS were able to join us at each of the stations. It was great to see a crowd of 131 participants back in action! Greenwood High School had 10 teams, Newport had 2 teams, West Perry had 8 teams, and Susquenita had 8 teams. When the results were in, the West Perry Wild Woodchucks Team were the overall County winner with members Draven Stout, Dale Pfeil, Sayde Weidenhof, Erin Rice, and Gavin Neff. Mason Preston from Greenwood was chosen as the winner of the T-shirt design contest and received a \$25 prize and a framed copy of his wearable artwork. The Wild Woodchucks went on to compete in the State Envirothon at Camp Mt. Luther on May 22nd and came in 33rd place out of 64!

Land Judging

The District serves as the coordinator and sponsor of the county-wide Land Judging Competition, held each fall for students in grades 9 through 12. Land judging sites are selected on a rotating basis with local farmers. This event provides students with a hands-on learning experience, allowing them to evaluate soil composition, determine the best use for the land, and select appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs). After completing a short test, the student with the highest score is named the Perry County Land Judging Winner.



On November 6, 2024, students from all four school districts, West Perry, Greenwood, Susquenita, and Newport High Schools, gathered at Lyons Brothers Farm in Loysville for this year’s competition. A total of 59 students participated in the event, which featured five educational stations covering various agricultural and environmental topics. The Demo and Test Pits allowed students to identify soil components such as surface texture, land slope, depth to mottling, and surface stoniness. Lauren Leinbach, the Ag Program Lead at PCCD, presented on soil health and conducted a cover crop demonstration. Test Pit #1 was led by District Board Treasurer Larry Gildner and NRCS volunteer, while Test Pit #2 was run by District Board Vice Chairman Marsha Snyder. The Farm Talk and District Overview were presented by farm owner and Commissioner Bill Lyons alongside Adam Campbell and PCCD Manager Tara Collier.

At the conclusion of the event, the top three winners were announced: Sayde Weidenhof (3rd Place, West Perry High School), Emmaly Plank (2nd Place, Newport High School), and Jordyn Turnbaugh (1st Place, Greenwood High School). We extend our gratitude to Bill Lyons and his family for generously hosting this event on their beautiful farm. A special thank you also goes to Linda Byers and her fellow Perry Valley Grange members for preparing an excellent lunch for all attendees.



Tree Sale

In preparation for spring, the District promotes and publicizes our Annual Tree Sale through the use of brochures sent out to a lengthy list of previous customers, a paid advertisement featured in the local newspapers, and through social media in hopes of attracting new buyers. The seedlings that are selected each year are native species that have been known to grow well in the average backyard habitat, as well as the wildflower seed mixes that are offered. These are all intended to benefit our local birds and wildlife. Proceeds from the sale are used towards environmental education programs sponsored by the District, such as the Envirothon and Land Judging events. On average, over 3,000 trees are sold each spring. We sincerely thank the community for their continued support of this program.

In 2024, we offered three types of conifers: Fraser Fir, American Arborvitae, and Norway Spruce. The deciduous varieties that we offered were Sugar Maple, Black Walnut, and Persimmon. We also sold Viburnum and Serviceberry shrubs. Under the umbrella of 'Habitat Enhancers' we offered a Northeast Perennial and Annual Wildflower seed mix, a Butterfly and Hummingbird seed mix, and an Oat seed variety for cover cropping in gardens and small plots. A customer favorite is the wooden Bluebird Nesting Boxes hand-crafted by the local West Perry FFA Chapter.

Keystone 10 Million Trees

'Clean Water Grows on Trees' is the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's slogan for this state-wide initiative that is designed to assist partners in producing more local community tree plantings. Planting trees helps reduce air pollution and supplies cleaner water for Pennsylvania. In October 2024, we hosted a landowner tree seedling giveaways. We gave away 125 trees this year thanks to our partners over at Keystone 10 Million Trees. Trees distributed included Black Willow, Red Maple, and Red Oak. We also gave away shrubs such as Silky Dogwood and Spicebush. We enjoyed meeting new landowners with interest in helping K10 reach their goal of planting 10 million trees by 2025.



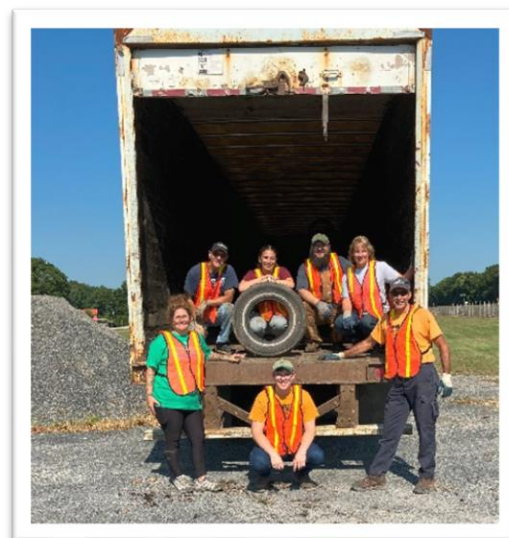


WATERSHED INITIATIVES

Keep Perry County Beautiful

Tire Wars

Our annual Tire War event was held on September 14th and it was a big success! With the help from several volunteers, Mahantango Enterprises, and the Loysville Community Center, we were able to collect 439 tires! Perry County did not come in first place, but next year we hope to take home the Golden Rim! Thank you to all who helped and participated in this year's event. Thanks to you, we made a difference in preventing illegal dumping! We were not able to conduct our annual Juniata River Clean-up, but we intend to have it next year! Please reach out to the Conservation District if you are interested in volunteering.



Volunteer Team

COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Farmland Preservation

In 2024, The District worked to bring all 6 of our easements closer to settlement. This includes the Dick Metz farm, a 168.12 mixed crop and cattle farm expected to close in late 2025. The Jason and Rhonda Saylor farm is a 128-acre crop farm that is expected to close in early 2025. The Shawn and Carmen Good farm in Millerstown is a 72-acre crop farm that is also planned to be closed on by early 2025. The Board is also working on a 280 acre easement donation on the Nevin and Mary Ann Rice farm in Blain, PA. The Rice donation is a crop and dairy operation that is contiguous to 235 previously preserved acres. The Board is anticipating to close on 2 donations from Ann Miller of Landisburg for 300 acres in the first part of 2025.

Recycling & Municipal Solid Waste

The District serves as the Recycling Coordinator for the County. Grants are processed to obtain State support for educational outreach and program assistance. The PA Department of Environmental Protection is the cooperating agency. The local municipalities that have maintained a regular recycling service for their residents are Marysville Borough, Duncannon Borough, Wheatfield Township, Rye Township, and the DCNR Bureau of Forestry Office located in Toboyne Township. Our Keep Perry County Beautiful affiliate also organizes special collections each year. Sylvester's Services Inc. continues to work with several municipalities with its buy-a-bag deposit service. The District provides Solid Waste Planning and oversight for the County as we are currently updating our 2015 Solid Waste Plan. The Conservation District Solid Waste Advisory Committee started meeting in 2024 to discuss changes and updates that could be implemented in the new Solid Waste Plan. Administrative support is offered on an as needed basis to municipalities who create and implement their own ordinances. In 2023, the total tonnage collected was reported as 1,524 tons.





Technical Assistance

The District provides free technical assistance to farmers addressing issues such as soil erosion, compaction, poor pastures, and animal heavy-use areas. Assistance typically begins with a farm visit, followed by practice recommendations or referrals to specialists as needed. Several technical assistance requests led to ACAP applications and contracts, while others were resolved through guidance provided over the phone.

ACAP

In 2022, Pennsylvania established the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) through the Clean Streams Fund legislation. This state program is administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and delegated to County Conservation Districts. In December 2022, the Board of Directors voted to accept the delegation, giving the District until 2025 to allocate and spend \$3,046,968.14 on implementing farm Best Management Practices (BMPs). Through 2024, the District made its first program payment and contracted six additional projects. Of these, three had Stahl Sheaffer Engineering hired for project design, bidding, and quality assurance, while the remaining projects partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), receiving engineering assistance from NRCS.

County-Wide Action Plan

Cover Crop Incentive Program

The CCIP generated significant anticipation for the 2024-2025 crop year. Below are the figures from CCIP applications received by the District this past fall from **26 operators**:

- **Tier 1:** 646 acres enrolled, requiring a seed mix of at least five species, planted between August 1 and September 15. The payment rate is \$70 per acre, totaling **\$44,730** in funding.
- **Tier 2:** 626 acres enrolled, requiring a seed mix of at least three species, planted between September 15 and October 30. The payment rate is \$50 per acre, totaling **\$31,300** in funding.
- **Tier 3:** 1,883 acres enrolled, requiring a single-species winter small grain planted any time after August 1. The payment rate is \$30 per acre, totaling **\$53,730** in funding.

In total, **3,155 acres** were enrolled across **26 operators**, amounting to **\$133,010** in County-Wide Action Plan funding.

Verification will take place in late March. Farmers are reminded that cover crops cannot be terminated before April 1. During this period, soil cover—whether through crop residue or live cover crops—must reach at least 50%. Incentive payments will be distributed accordingly.

The District plans to continue this program for the 2025-2026 crop year. Those interested in participating should contact the District in the spring for updated application documents. Funding allotments will be based on overall participation.

Agricultural Projects

Two agricultural projects were partially completed in 2024 with CAP funds. The projects include:

1. Barnyard Roof Construction – A roof was built over an existing barnyard at Clee McMillen’s Hill Farm, with completion expected in early 2025. The total cost, including construction and engineering, amounted to \$244,771.
2. Liquid Manure Storage Construction – The liquid manure storage facility was completed in the summer of 2024, with \$78,121 in CAP funding allocated to the project.



STAFF UPDATES

Farewells and New Hires

Our District Manager, Gabe Guthrie, left the District in October. We wish him well as he transitions into his new position working for Penn State.

In June, Don Graybill, engineer for NRCS, retired after 49 years of dedication to conservation, most of which were spent here in Perry County. Don had stepped foot on nearly every farm in Perry County! His dedication, experience, and stories will be missed around the office. We wish him well in his retirement!

More updates in District staffing occurred this year! In May, Kyle Fake was hired as the new Ag Resource Specialist, focusing on the Chesapeake Bay Program and Farmland Preservation. Since then, Kyle has accepted another position and is leaving the District.

In December, Erin Ritzman was hired as the new Watershed Specialist, after Bailey Miller left the District in November. She is the Recycling and Keep Perry County Beautiful Coordinator and organizes educational outreach for the District.

Mitch Kauffman also joined the team in December. He is the new Ag Resource Specialist and has taken over Nutrient Management and the No-Till Drill program from Rebecca Radel, who left the District in September.

Our latest new hire is Aaron Bollinger as Ag Resource Specialist. He is taking over the Chesapeake Bay and Farmland Preservation Programs at the District.

In addition to the new District staff, Collin Miller joined the NRCS office in September. Collin will work alongside Kevin and Sam as a Soil Conservationist.

Board Members

In December of 2024, our District Board Chairman, Mike Clark, decided it was time to step back from the District Board. Mike began as an associate in 2007 and became a director in 2014. The last two years of service were spent as Board Chair. Mike will be greatly missed and his years of dedication have not gone unnoticed. Shawna Swartz moved from associate to director in December. We welcome Shawna to the director position!



Rosie Decided She Wanted to Help Survey



Agitating Manure Before Spreading



2025 Contact Information

31 W. Main St.
P.O Box 36
New Bloomfield PA
17068

perryccd.org

perrycd@perryco.org



Tara Collier
District Manager

tcollier@perryco.org
717-582-5139



April Skethway
Office Manager

askethway@perryco.org
717-582-8988



Mitch Kauffman
Ag Resource Specialist

mkauffman@perryco.org
717-275-5111



Aaron Bollinger
Ag Resource Specialist

abollinger@perryco.org
717-636-1854



Lauren Leinbach
Ag Program Lead

lleinbach@perryco.org
717-636-0976



Erin Ritzman
Watershed Specialist

eritzman@perryco.org
717-562-4560



NRCS

Samatha DiLorenzo
samantha.dilorenzo@usda.gov
717-594-3004

Kevin Morgan
kevin.morgan@usda.gov
717-594-3006

Collin Miller
collin.miller@usda.gov
717-594-3008