



2019 Annual Report

2019 Board of Directors

- Chair, Farmer Director—Oscar Campbell, Newport PA
- Vice Chair, Farmer Director—Mel Weaver, Ickesburg PA
- Treasurer, Public Director—Larry Gildner, Duncannon PA
- Commissioner Director—Stephen Naylor, New Bloomfield PA
- Farmer Director—Ken Martz, Duncannon PA
- Public Director—Mike Clark, Newport PA
- Public Director—Dave McLaughlin, Elliottsburg PA
- Associate Director—Lloyd Byers, Liverpool PA
- Associate Director—William Shilling, Liverpool PA
- Associate Director—Shawna Weller, Loysville PA
- Associate Director—Grant Finkenbinder, Duncannon PA

2019 District Staff & Corresponding Programs

Sally Tengeres—District Manager

Mary Lou Moyer—Administrative Assistant

Neil Imes—Resource Specialist—Erosion & Sediment Control Program, Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road Program and Farmland Preservation Program

Kristie Smith—Watershed Specialist— Watershed Specialist Program, Environmental Education, Keep Perry County Beautiful Coordinator, Recycling and Solid Waste Program Coordinator

Lauren Leinbach—Ag Resource Specialist— Chesapeake Bay Program, NRCS Contribution Partnership, Nutrient Management Program

Ben Smith—Ag Resource Specialist— Nutrient Management Program, No-till Drill Rental Program Coordinator

2019 NRCS Staff

Kevin Morgan—District Conservationist

Inside this Report

| | |
|--|-------|
| Cooperating Agencies & Contacts..... | 2 |
| 2019 District Board | 2 |
| A Message from the District Manager..... | 3 |
| 2019 District Staff | 3 |
| State Programs..... | 4–6 |
| District Programs..... | 7 |
| District Highlights..... | 8–9 |
| NRCS Partnership..... | 9 |
| District Outreach & Education..... | 10–11 |
| Watershed Initiatives..... | 12–13 |
| County Assistance..... | 14 |
| Special Awards..... | 15 |
| 2020 Contact Information..... | 16 |

2019 District Board Members

District Board Highlights

“As Chairman, I get to work with a great Board and Staff. We strive to educate and create interest in conserving our natural resources through presentations to students in our schools, field days, fair display, and presentations at public meetings. With our teamwork, we are trying to keep Perry County an environmentally sound place to live and work.”

-Oscar Campbell



(Front row, left to right) Board Chairman Oscar Campbell, Vice Chairman Mel Weaver, Board Treasurer Larry Gildner, and Commissioner Stephen Naylor. (Back row, left to right) Michael Clark, Ken Martz, and Dave McLaughlin.

“A sincere thank you from all of us here at the Conservation District for your continued support of our programs.”



*Juniata River Clean Up Volunteers
August 24, 2019.*

Cooperating Agencies & Contacts

Perry County Ag-Land Preservation Board—Jonas Stoltzfus, Chairman
Penn State Cooperative Extension—Dr. Liz Bosak and Becky Kaucher
Farm Service Agency—Bobbie Jo Zimmerman, CED
Natural Resources Conservation Service—Kevin Morgan, District Conservationist and Don Graybill, Engineering Technician
PA Fish and Boat Commission—Richard Morder, Conservation Officer
PA Game Commission— WCO Kevin Anderson and WCO Steve Brussese
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection— Patrick McDonnell, Secretary
PA Department of Agriculture—Russell Redding, Secretary
DCNR Bureau of Forestry—Luke Book, Service Forester
State Conservation Commission—Karl Brown, Executive Director
Department of Transportation—Steve Switaj, New Bloomfield HQ
Perry County Maintenance Manager—Marty Smith
Community Partnerships RC&D—Sam Price, Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation—Bill Chain, Agriculture Program Manager
Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership—Brenda Seiglitz, Program Manager
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful—Shannon Reiter, President

A Message from the District Manager

Greetings!

Here we are again looking back at another year gone by, and wondering just how that could have happened so quickly. Yet, as I review all of our 2019 activities, assists, and offerings I am not surprised at all. Time seems to disappear when you are busy. In addition to our normal workload that this report details, 2019 saw us through two state program evaluations, numerous complaints, DEP program policy changes plus major revisions to both the Dirt Gravel Low Volume Road Policy Manual and the Perry County Ag Land Preservation Manual.

Our triennial Nutrient Management and Dirt Gravel Low Volume Road Program evaluations required that the District prepare and submit requested files, provide documentation of completed program outputs, visit project sites, and meet with state program officials. It is a thorough process that provides feedback on program delivery and record keeping, thus also offers an opportunity for improvement. The District received and met expectations to excellent marks from the evaluations.

This past year was also notable for the number and variety of complaints the District received. The majority involved issues we could work through such as potential well contamination, questionable locations of manure stacking areas, wetland encroachment, manure storage overflows, illegal dumping, pond dredging, and excessive fly populations. However, we also fielded calls bound for other entities such as a sand mound spewing water like a geyser, unusual insect identification, and baby raccoons in need of rescuing. As always, we respond to each situation and strive to assist both parties involved with understanding the regulations and, if necessary, provide the contact information of the proper agency to resolve the issue at hand.

In March, we welcomed Ben Smith on as an Ag Resource Specialist. Ben delivers the No-till Drill Program and is our lead Nutrient Management Technician. We were also pleased to have a new Associate Director appointed in 2019; Grant Finkenbinder of Duncannon.

Thank you for taking a look back at 2019 with us! I look forward to 2020 as the District continues to work within the communities of Perry County to protect and preserve our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Tengeres
District Manager



District Staff gathered at the 2019 Annual Banquet.

2019 District Staff



*Sally Tengeres,
District Manger*

*Mary Lou Moyer,
Administrative
Assistant*



*Neil Imes,
Resource Specialist*



*Kristie Smith,
Watershed Specialist*



*Lauren Leinbach,
Ag Resource
Specialist*



*Ben Smith,
Ag Resource
Specialist*



Mission Statement

Conserving Natural
Resources For Our Future

State Programs

Project Photos



New stream crossing structure installed on Timber Road in Juniata Township.



Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placed on Robinson Road Phase 3 in Jackson Township.



Bank stabilization project completed on Reward Road in Greenwood Township.



Constructed Rain Garden at Bible Baptist Church.

Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road Program

The Perry County Conservation District works with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies to improve roads that directly impact Perry County's stream network. Funding is provided through yearly allocations by the SCC and distributed to each county willing to participate in the program. Since 1997, Perry County has spent \$1,090,259.11 on Dirt and Gravel Road projects and \$351,088.68 on Low Volume Road projects. Each year, the District distributes grant funds to eligible townships. Municipality eligibility depends on meeting project criteria and the program requirement that each municipality have a current employee (s) who will be working directly on the project that have attended the two day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Workshop put on by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads.

During 2019, Perry County completed one low volume road project and two dirt and gravel road projects. Timber Road was funded through the program to replace a failing stream crossing structure in Juniata Township. The existing 4' wide circular pipe was replaced at full bank-full width with a 9' wide aluminum arch pipe. Jackson Township completed their third phase of Robinson Road by improving road surface runoff, subsurface runoff, road ditch stabilization, and adding driving surface aggregate (DSA). Approximately 1,185 tons of DSA was delivered and placed by New Enterprise Stone and Lime Company. Greenwood Township's project on Reward Road consisted of adding approximately 825 tons of 2RC road fill material, installing 3 new cross pipes, and significant off right-of-way bank grading for proper vegetative stabilization. Approximately 2,700 square yards of vegetative management was implemented for proper stabilization.

Erosion & Sedimentation 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 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. This regulation requires earthmoving activities disturbing one acre or more to obtain an NPDES permit which is reviewed by the District.

In 2019, the District's program was impacted as a result of the following changes. In April, our Erosion and Sediment Control Fee Schedule was reviewed and updated to include waste or borrow areas disturbing less than one acre and we moved linear projects, such as highways and pipelines, in with our Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Utility Projects disturbed acre fee category. We waded through the proposed PAG 02, PAG 01 and Individual Permit draft policy, attended training sessions, and provided comment ultimately implementing the new PAG 02 and Individual Permit guidelines in December. In 2019, thirty two (32) Erosion and Sediment Control Plans were reviewed and approved and sixteen (16) NPDES Permits were authorized. Thirty nine (39) construction site inspections were conducted with a total of 137 technical assistance contacts. Pictured right is the Sunoco project that was inspected in 2019.



Sunoco Pipeline Vegetative Stabilization.

Nutrient Management Program

The Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) has been in effect since October of 2006. The State Conservation Commission has oversight of the state wide Nutrient Management Program and conservation districts are delegated to administer it at the county level. Act 38 requires concentrated animal operations (CAOs) to develop and maintain a site specific Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). A CAO is defined as an agricultural operation with 8 animal equivalent units or more where animal density of all livestock on the farm exceeds 2 animal equivalent units per acre 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 may include: a certified concrete manure storage tank, or HDPE lined lagoon, a roofed solid manure stacking area, a composting facility, reinforced animal stream crossings, concrete barnyard areas, a vegetated or riparian buffer between the barnyard and a well or stream, rain gutters to divert clean water around barn yard areas, fence to improve pasture management and/or prevent animals from accessing streams to protect stream banks from erosion, but there are so many more!

The District is delegated to administer the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program in Perry County. Currently, there are 16 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) 16 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), and 4 Volunteer Animal Operations (VAOs) in Perry 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.

The District's new Ag Resource Specialist, Ben Smith, made significant progress in obtaining Nutrient Management Specialist Public Review Certification by successfully completing all the required courses, the certification exam, and reviewing two NMPs under the direction of the State Conservation Commission. In 2019, the District received 14 NMPs for triennial review and approval: 7 CAFOs, 6 CAOs, and 1 VAO. The District conducted 17 annual status reviews on 6 CAFOs, 10 CAOs, and 1 VAO.



Dairy cows line up for feeding time at the Trout Farm in Blain.

State Programs continued

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 on an as needed basis, assists with REAP applications and associated BMP verifications, conducts 50 farm inspections to check that required agricultural plans are in place, receives and processes complaints, and offers educational outreach and workshops.

The District finished our first year of 50 farm inspections during the fiscal year of 2018-2019. All inspected operations came into 100% compliance by either having the correct plans at the time of the inspection or by getting the plans in place within program's time frame. During the second half of 2019, 35 initial inspections were completed, 8 of which were able to produce the plans needed for their operation. In addition to the inspections, the District also ran several educational events including a CREP workshop, a soil health day for the Perry County No-till Group Winter Meeting, a manure management plan workshop, and a mini cover crop workshop in partnership with NRCS. Through these events, we reached over 130 people. A colleague of ours in Juniata County let us know that after the mini cover crop workshop, she had 2 farmers, who sit on the Perry—Juniata line, come in to talk to her about how they could switch from plowing to no-till!



Small grain cover crop coming up through soybean residue in Liverpool Township.

Technical Assistance Efforts

The District coordinates agricultural plan development workshops each year to assist landowners and operators in achieving agricultural compliance under state regulations. Participants learn about manure management and agricultural erosion and sedimentation planning, best management practices, and potential funding opportunities. The District held a Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop on March 5 at the Penn State Extension building. There were 10 participants representing a wide range of operations. There were 2 poultry litter importers, 3 horse operations, 2 dairy operations, 1 heifer operation, 1 beef operation, and 1 poultry operation. In addition, the final version of The Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Manual for Agricultural Operations was approved and became effective on October 5, 2019. As a result of the final format, the District will provide guidance and a simplified method for completing Ag E & S Plans to better serve our operators.



Dickinson College students at Little Germany Farm in Elliottsburg during a mini-field day hosted by Dave McLaughlin, NRCS, and the District.

The Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (PA REAP) is a State Tax Credit program administered by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission. The District offers fee based assistance to farmers seeking help with completing an application and determining BMP and Plan eligibility. The District charges a fee of \$50 to verify three or less REAP BMPs, and \$100 for four or more REAP BMPs per application and/or required plan, as well as a \$150 fee per Plan reviewed for completeness. In 2019, the District verified a plan completeness for one operation as well as meeting with two farmers to discuss what plans they need to have in order to be eligible for REAP.

District Programs

No-till Drill Program

The District has four No-till Drills that are available to be rented out to residents in Perry County. Three of which are 10ft wide John Deere 1590 no-till grain drills, which are primarily used for reseeding large crop fields either to be harvested for grain, silage, or to serve as cover crops destined to be used as a green manure. This helps to keep the soil intact, improve soil water retention/ infiltration, retain nutrients for the next crop to be planted, and keeps the soil biology active between primary crop harvests. The rental rate for a John Deere drill is \$11/acre for crops that are to be harvested for grain



Ben Smith delivering one of the John Deere No-till Drills with the District's new Dodge Ram 2500.

and \$8/acre for crops planted to be used as cover crops. The fourth no-till drill is a smaller Land Pride LP 606 with a 6ft wide grain bin that is convenient for reseeding pastures, small crop fields, and small hay fields. While this drill can plant the same grain or cover crop seeds as the larger John Deere drills, it has an additional seed bin for planting a wide variety of light and fluffy native grasses such as Brome or Kentucky Blue Grass. In 2019, the No-till Drill Rental Program planted a total of 1,961.25 acres in no-till throughout Perry County. 1,506 of those acres were in cover crops.

2019 Capital RC&D Spring Cover Crop Survey Results

On July 31st 2019, with the help from Capital RC&D interns, and ACES NRCS Staff, the Perry County Conservation District participated in the annual Spring Cover Crop Survey for the Chesapeake Bay model. The team surveyed a total of 417 crop observations and found 64.3% of all the observations in Perry County to have residue levels of greater than (>) 60%. 33.32% of which were planted as cover crops.

| Notes: | | Represents the percentage of total crop observations at each residue level. | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|--------|--------|-------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Cover crop survey results are percentages of total crop observations. | | | | | | | |
| County | Crop | % residue level (1) | | | | Total # Observations | cover crops (2) |
| | | 0-15% | 15-30% | 30-60% | >60% | | |
| Perry | Beans | 5.4 | 3.0 | 28.0 | 63.6 | 132 | 33.32% |
| | Corn | 3.9 | 7.4 | 23.9 | 64.8 | 284 | |
| | Veg | 100.0 | | | | 1 | |
| | All Crops | 4.5 | 6.0 | 25.2 | 64.3 | 417 | |
| Juniata | Beans | 5.5 | 0.7 | 7.6 | 86.2 | 144 | 21.74% |
| | Corn | 8.6 | 6.2 | 9.7 | 75.3 | 288 | |
| | Forage | | | | 100.0 | 2 | |
| | Veg | 50.0 | 50.0 | | | 2 | |
| | All Crops | 7.8 | 4.5 | 8.9 | 78.7 | 436 | |
| Cumberland | Beans | 23.1 | 15.7 | 25.6 | 35.3 | 121 | 25.55% |
| | Corn | 18.5 | 17.4 | 18.1 | 45.9 | 270 | |
| | Forage | 100.0 | | | | 12 | |
| | All Crops | 22.3 | 16.3 | 19.8 | 41.4 | 403 | |

Of the total percentage of cover crops planted in Perry County, 12.87% were planted as a commodity crop to be harvested. 14.75% in Juniata County and 18.6% in Cumberland County. The rate of cover cropping was down considerably in 2019 over previous years due to a very wet fall planting window.

District Highlights

No-till Highlights

“This year, the 2019 No-till winter meeting was held at the Martz Farm, where we talked to local farmers about no-till, its soil health benefits, and introduced the new District Soil Health Bucket. The soil health bucket is exactly what it sounds like, a 5 gallon bucket that includes: a trowel to dig for earthworms and collect soil samples, plastic wrap and a section of metal pipe for conducting a soil water infiltration test, and soil pH (acidity), Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium test kits. A manual is also provided to guide users through the test procedures, point out soil traits and characteristics, and is designed to show users the productivity level of their soils. For more information on the soil health bucket, please contact the Perry County Conservation District.”

-Ben Smith



Contents of the soil health bucket.

Annual Tree Seedling 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 and a paid advertisement featured in the local newspapers the first week of March in hopes of attracting new buyers. The seedlings that are selected each year are native species that have been recognized to grow well in the average backyard habitat, as well as the wildflower seeds 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 & Land Judging events. On average, over 3,000 trees are sold each year. We graciously thank the community for their continued support of this program!



Eastern White Pine seedlings in a bundle of 10.

In 2019, we offered four types of conifers: Norway Spruce, Concolor Fir, Douglas Fir, and Eastern White Pine. The deciduous varieties that were offered included Silky Dogwood, Grey Dogwood, American Cranberry, Sycamore, Redbud, and Black Chokeberry. Under the umbrella of ‘Habitat Enhancers’, we offered a Northeast Perennial and Annual Wildflower seed mix, a Butterfly and Hummingbird seed mix, and a Wildlife Food Plot seed mix. A fan favorite, though, are the wooden Bluebird Nesting Boxes hand-built by the local West Perry FFA Chapter.

Conservation District Field

The District held our Field Day on August 2, 2019 graciously hosted by Darryl Eberly and family at their farm located just outside of Loysville. A full day of helpful information on topics of livestock grazing and soil health were covered. The event attracted 80 participants. Attendees heard presentations by NRCS Grazing Specialists Titus Martin & Suzette Truax, ‘Grazing Cover Crops’ with John David Hoover of Green Park Seeds, ‘How Grass Affects Nutrition’ with David Hartman of Penn State Extension, ‘What is a Pasture?’ with Brady Seeley of the Cumberland County Conservation District, a local Farmer Panel discussion, a live demo of the soil health rainfall simulator with Kevin Morgan and Suzette Truax of NRCS, followed by a pasture walk with Titus Martin and Darryl Eberly.



Joel Hurst, local farmer, with Titus Martin of NRCS demonstrating how to use a grazing stick to monitor a pasture.

Other activities included the Farm Safety/Kids Craft Corner & the 4-H Dairy Promotion team who served local ice cream during lunch.

Field Day Photos—August 2, 2019



NRCS Partnership

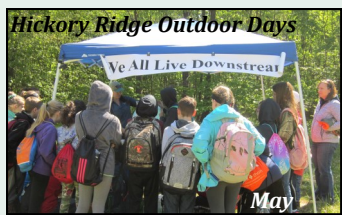
During the past fiscal year (October 1st through September 31st), the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in Perry County was comprised of one full time staff member, a part time employee, a partner, and a couple volunteers. It has been a year of change, as Ashley Lenig, the District Conservationist for many years, has moved on to the NRCS State Office. I came on as the new Soil Conservationist and have since been promoted to the District Conservationist, the Soil Conservationist position is currently being filled. Through a team effort, the following conservation practices were planned and installed on the landscape. Conservation planning highlights included writing 28 conservation plans on over 1,800 acres and documenting conservation practices applied on over 90 plans for a total of over 4,000 acres. In addition, NRCS reviewed 2 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP). Installation highlights consisted of the following cropland practices and enhancements: 8 acres of grassed waterways and diversions were installed to prevent gully erosion (10), 3,500 acres of conservation crop rotation/ no-till farming/ cover cropping, over 200 acres of nutrient management, 425 acres of drift-reducing nozzle use, 175 acres of precision application technology to apply nutrients, a high tunnel system, and 72.3 acres of warm season grasses were planted to improve wildlife habitat and preserve soil. On farmsteads and livestock operations, the following conservation practices were completed: 5 waste storage facilities, multiple waste systems, over 8,000 square feet of heavy use area protection (2), and a couple hundred feet of underground outlet. On pastures and hay land the following grazing practices were completed: installed just under 6,000 feet of fence to improve a grazing operation and 25 acres of prescribed grazing. On forest land, 4 acres of tree and shrub site prep was completed. We wrote out multiple new contracts this year that will provide Perry County producers with over \$600,000.00 to treat resource concerns and improve water quality in Perry County. We also worked with 2 small grazing operations to obtain just under \$10,000.00 in grazing improvements from a Capital RC&D grazing grant.

The work done by NRCS in conjunction with the Perry County Conservation District and other partners has provided a variety of benefits to the environment, the private landowner, and the public right here in Perry County.

Submitted by Kevin Morgan, NRCS District Conservationist.

District Outreach & Education

Outreach Photos



Newsletters

The District's winter newsletter included a promotional ad for the annual District Tree Sale, a friendly reminder about winter manure spreading, the announcement of available agricultural planning reimbursement funding, and an overview of the REAP Program. A short article about 'What's in Your Run Off?' along with a call to landowners with streamside properties as there are buffer resources available through several avenues, a write-up from NRCS with information on the EQIP Program and an employee update, an announcement for the Grazing Field Day scheduled for the summer, and general information for the Cumberland County E-cycling Barn. Dates and times were also listed for all upcoming meetings and workshops.

The District's summer newsletter included the announcement of our District Field Day, a tidbit on grassland management, an employee update, and an update about the Chesapeake Bay Inspections. 'Biosecurity is a Big Deal' highlighted the proper steps to be taken for composting deceased live-stock accompanying the procedure on 'How to Control those Pesky Flies', the announcement of a free home water & septic system workshop set for October in partnership with Penn State Extension, and the no-till drill rental rates. Information on emergency permitting for streambank stabilization through DEP was included along with a Keystone 10 million Tree Partnership announcement and a quick plug for the PPL Community Roots program. Dates and times were also listed for all upcoming meetings and workshops.

Erosion & Sedimentation, Dirt and Gravel & Low Volume Road Program Outreach

Perry County routinely performs technical assistance throughout the year. In 2019, 137 technical assistance contacts were made by either phone conversation, email, or meetings held in-office or on-site. In 2019, Perry County was required by DEP to notify current NPDES Applicants regarding the expiration of the master General NPDES Permit and the implementation of PAG 02. The District continues to assist residents of Perry County for compliance with Chapter 102 regulations.

A Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road field day was held on October 4th, 2019. Five municipalities attended the field day as well as State Conservation Commission and PSU Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies personnel. The field day consisted of visiting previously completed Dirt and Gravel Road Projects & Low Volume Road Projects in Perry County and discussing results.

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, posting to social media, and conducting presentations as requested. In 2019, 62 mass outreach activities were conducted with the potential of reaching 121,463 individuals through these District activities.

Envirothon

The District sponsors the Perry County Envirothon competition each spring, which is open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The winning 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.”

This year, our Envirothon was held at Big Spring State Park in the Blain/New Germantown area on May 2nd in partnership with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, NRCS, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and the PA Game Commission.

The Misbehaved Basses of West Perry High School took 1st place at the County level and 17th place at the State Competition! Team members were Garrett Beal, Garrett Bolze, Sam Groff, Tim Foster, and Shane Orris (Pictured top right with Representative Mark Keller and Envirothon Coordinator Kristie Smith).

The winner of our annual t-shirt design contest was Sarah Radel (Pictured middle right) of Greenwood High School with her ‘Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World’ design, which was also the 2019 Current Issue topic.

Honorable team mentions were Team Boaz and the Brilliant Brookies of Greenwood High School, and the Whitetails of West Perry High School who came in second, third, and fourth at the County Envirothon. Congratulations to all of our participants and thank you to all agency staff who make this event possible!

Land Judging

The District serves as the coordinator and sponsor of the county-wide land judging competition for students in grades 9 through 12 each fall. Land judging sites are chosen on a rotating basis with local farmers. This event is designed to provide a hands-on learning experience for students so they can effectively evaluate the composition and health of soils in relation to agricultural systems. In 2019, the contest was held at the Campbell Farm (home to Oscar and Winnie Campbell) in Newport on November 6th. Fifty-eight students from West Perry, Greenwood, Newport, and Susquenita high schools participated in the event. Caleb Radel of Greenwood took 1st place, Landon Hall of Greenwood took 2nd place, and Nevaeh Kitner of West Perry took 3rd place. Special thanks to Kevin Morgan and Don Graybill of NRCS for their support!



Pictured above: Director Michael Clark and Winnie Campbell making their rounds during Land Judging.



Pictured left to right: Winnie Campbell, Sarah Keller of Senator DiSanto’s Office, Representative Mark Keller, Nevaeh Kitner, Landon Hall, Caleb Radel, Commissioner Stephen Naylor, and District Board Chairman Oscar Campbell.

Watershed Initiatives

Watershed Highlights

"It is an honor to serve along side such a wonderful group of volunteers each year, and it's always exciting to meet those who join in for the first time and keep coming back for more as the seasons change.

One of our student volunteers, Rachael Filip of Newport, deserves to be recognized for her outstanding effort to our community at large and for the difference she has made to our Keep Perry County Beautiful affiliate by helping at every event for the past two years without fail.

Rachael is also a very active member of the Newport Environmental Club where she serves as Vice President.

She was awarded the title of 2019 Volunteer of the Year at our annual District Banquet held on December 9th."

- Kristie Smith



'Tired' - Rachael Filip sits on top of 702 tires at the close of Tire War on Sept. 14 in Loysville.

Keep Perry County Beautiful

The District serves as the coordinator for the local Keep Perry County Beautiful (KPCB) affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Programs such as the Great American Clean-up, the International Coastal Clean-up, and America Recycles Day are shared events by all of the local affiliates throughout the state. Under this affiliate, the District serves our community with several special collections throughout the year, one being a county-wide electronics recycling drop-off day hosted at the Perry County Fairgrounds in Newport with the contracted services of E-end Recycling of Fredrick, Maryland. Townships within the county also pledge funding towards this much needed outlet for proper disposal.

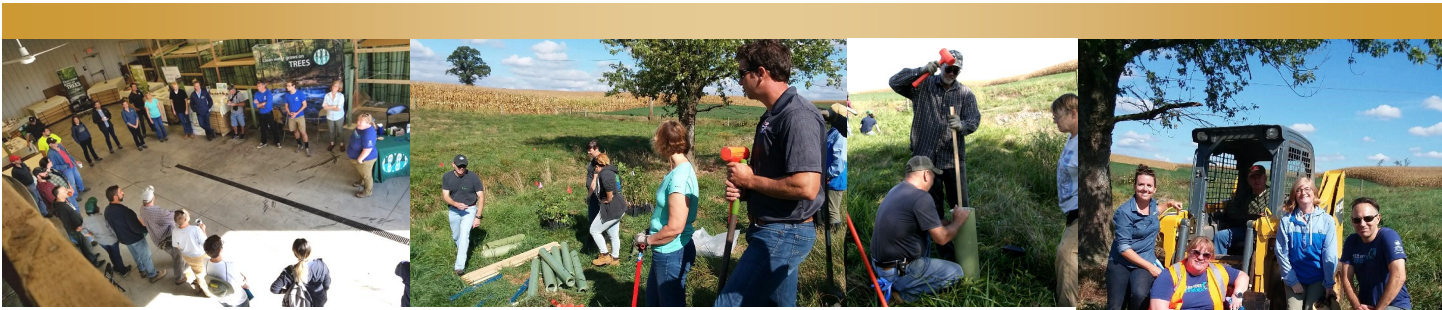


On June 1, a total of 22,487 pounds of electronics were dropped off by Perry County residents. Twenty volunteers were present to assist drivers by unloading their vehicles in a timely fashion. The day was a huge success!

On August 24, twenty volunteers removed 70 bags of trash, 70 tires, and 2,000 pounds of junk from the Juniata River between the Newport River Bridge and the Howe Township Fish & Boat Access. Grant funding for the river clean-ups each year are awarded by the Foundations of PA Watersheds. This is also a multi-county effort among Perry, Mifflin, Juniata, and Huntingdon affiliates.



Keep Perry County Beautiful took 3rd place in the annual Tire War in conjunction with Mifflin, Juniata, and Huntingdon counties. This collection was hosted in partnership with the Loysville Community Club on Sept. 14 where twelve volunteers loaded 702 tires, destined to be recycled properly, into a Mahantango truck to be delivered to their facility in Liverpool, PA. The job is a dirty one, but it's totally worth it!



Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation officially announced the opening of their Tree House (Tree & Shrub Distribution Center) along Route 849 just outside of Duncannon on September 19 after approximately two years of planning. The District became an official partner of the program in the spring of this year. '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 that result in meeting the challenges of reducing pollution, which supplies cleaner water for Pennsylvania.

The District organized three large tree plantings within the county between April and October in addition to distributing 170 trees to twenty-five interested landowners with streamside property. A grand total of 650 trees were added to our local landscape.

The future is looking very 'green' as the popularity of this program has already expanded among volunteers and landowners who see the value in this effort and want to keep coming back to get their hands dirty in the spirit of conservation!



The SCOPE Project

Over the course of four years, the SCOPE Project has served several different purposes. These have included data collection, volunteer recruitment & land owner buy in, and finding sites suitable for buffer projects. However, this year's focus was mainly on education and outreach including classroom visits.

During the annual Watershed Specialists Conference held in State College, Kristie was asked to teach a workshop and share her techniques with fellow coworkers in the conservation field on how to preserve aquatic insect specimens for educational use.



Preserved aquatic insects made with affordable craft supplies.

County Assistance

"The Gift of Good Land"

"You might recognize that title, as it is in reference to a collection of essays written by Wendell Berry in 1981. Berry has been considered a modern Thoreau as his point of view, style of poetry, and journalism is masterful and crafted as he speaks *from* the Earth where he describes farming as a communion with place and nature, not just a social construct. He has also been accused of radical conservationism, but his teachings and ideals have withstood the test of time as they provide an intimate look into the husbandry of caring for precious farmland and how important stewardship really is.

I bring this to your attention as a way of celebrating an approaching milestone we will surely treasure here in Perry County in years to come, as the quantity of preserved farmland advances to an impressive 10,000 acres. At the close of 2019, the total number of acres preserved had reached its peak at 9,369.39, many of which were through donation since the program was established within the County in 1989. The State program began in 1981."

- Kristie Smith

Farmland Preservation

In 2019, Perry County began working on purchasing Ag Easements on the Doug & Piper Sarver Farm and the Lorena Rice Farm. Combined, these two proposed easements will add approximately 283 acres to the Perry County Farmland Preservation Program. In addition to the current easement purchases, Perry County is also working on two easement donations. The Raub Family and the Robert and Carol Stahl Family graciously intend to contribute approximately 250 acres to the Farmland Preservation Program. In December 2019, the Perry County Conservation District and the Perry County Ag Land Preservation Board recognized Mr. Jonas Stoltzfus for his 30 years of service in the Farmland Preservation Program. Mr. Stoltzfus is currently Perry County's Ag Land Preservation Board Chairman and has a passion for seeing farmland being preserved and forever kept in agricultural production.



(Pictured left) Jonas Stoltzfus was recognized with a service award for his continued dedication and leadership to the program since 1989 at the Annual District Banquet on December 9th. The sign was presented by Bill Lyons, along with an original poem he had written for the occasion.

Recycling

The District serves as the Recycling Coordinator for the county. Grants are processed to obtain state support for educational outreach and program assistance. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is the cooperating agency. The county recycling options rely heavily on the township sites and their supporting groups. The municipalities, dedicated volunteers, the County of Perry, KPCB, and local businesses all work together to provide convenient recycling opportunities to our residents.

In 2018, a total of 735.12 tons of materials (glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, aluminum, mixed metals, electronics, and leaf/yard waste) from both residential and commercial operations were collected and reported within the county.

Municipal Solid Waste

The District provides Solid Waste Planning and oversight for the county as we promote the implementation of the 2015 Solid Waste Plan.

Administrative support is offered on an as needed basis to municipalities who create and implement their own ordinances. In 2019, the reported Perry County municipal waste tonnage collected was 13,739.5 tons.

Awards & Recognition

Years of Service

Each year, we like to take the time to recognize members of the District Board of Directors who have provided outstanding leadership and dedication during their service with us during our Annual Banquet held in the month of December. Awards were presented by Board Chairman Oscar Campbell and District Manager Sally Tengeres. Ken Martz (pictured top center) was recognized for his five years of service to the Board of Directors. Ken has assisted with several District led programs that involve our Perry County community, such as graciously hosting the winter No-till Group meetings and Land Judging competitions on his farm throughout the years. His support and involvement with these programs are very much appreciated!

Elected in 2007, Stephen Naylor was appointed to the District Board of Directors as the Commissioner representative where he shared his enthusiasm for agriculture and the farming community until departing from office at the conclusion of 2019. Commissioner Stephen Naylor (pictured bottom center) was recognized for his twelve years of public service, support, and leadership to the Board. Board Chairman Oscar Campbell presented him with a hand crafted wooden plaque in the shape of Perry County as a token of gratitude.



Volunteer of the Year

At our annual District Banquet, held at the Highland Presbyterian Church on December 9th, a very deserving individual was recognized for her dedication and contribution to our Keep Perry County Beautiful affiliate.

Rachael Filip (pictured right), daughter of Jeannie and Thomas Filip of Newport, received the Keep Perry County Beautiful Volunteer of the Year Award for her outstanding service to our annual events such as the Electronics Recycling Collection, Juniata Clean Up, and Tire War. Rachael always comes prepared and isn't afraid to dig into the job and get dirty! She is a very hard worker, always lending a hand where it is needed, and is usually smiling the entire time even when completely covered in river mud! She has a noticeable commitment and compassion for the environment and succeeds in showing her enthusiasm for volunteer work with our Perry County community at large. The award was given by Kristie Smith, KPCB Coordinator.



2020 District Staff Contact Information



District Manager

Sally Tengeres

#717-582-5139

stengeres@perryco.org



Administrative Assistant

Mary Lou Moyer

#717-582-8988 ext. 3002

mlmoyer@perryco.org



Resource Specialist

Neil Imes

#717-582-5119

nimes@perryco.org



Watershed Specialist

Kristie Smith

#717-582-5138

ksmith@perryco.org

Perry County
Conservation District

Mailing Address:
31 West Main Street
P.O. Box 36
New Bloomfield, PA
17068

Phone Number:
#717-582-8988
(Main)

Website:
www.perrycd.org

Social Media /
Facebook:
Perry County
Conservation District
(New Bloomfield, Pa)



Ag Resource Specialist

Lauren Leinbach

#717-582-8988 ext.3003

lleinbach@perryco.org



Ag Resource Specialist

Ben Smith

#717-582-8988 ext.3007

bsmith@perryco.org

2020 NRCS Contact Information



Kevin Morgan

#717-594-3006

Kevin.Morgan@pa.usda.gov