

Perry County Conservation District 2023 Annual Report



2023 Board of Directors

- *Mike Clark – Chairman, Public Director, Newport*
- *Melvin Weaver – Vice Chairman, Farmer Director, Ickesburg*
- *Larry Gildner – Treasurer, Public Director, Duncannon*
- *Brenda Watson – Commissioner Director, New Bloomfield*
- *Dave McLaughlin – Public Director, Elliottsburg*
- *Marsha Snyder – Farmer Director, Blain*
- *Ken Martz – Farmer Director, Duncannon*
- *Lloyd Byers – Associate Director, Liverpool*
- *William Shilling – Associate Director, Liverpool*
- *Shawna Swartz – Associate Director, Elliottsburg*
- *Grant Finkenbinder – Associate Director, Duncannon*
- *Scott Flanders – Associate Director, Liverpool*

2023 District Staff & Programs

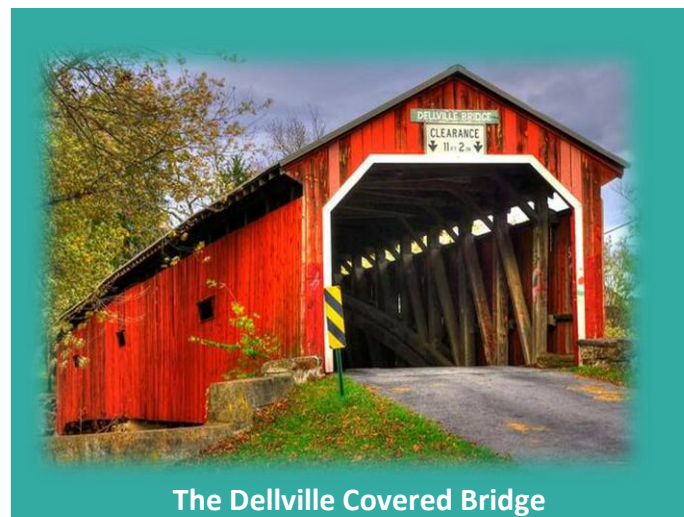
- *Gabe Guthrie – District Manager*
- *April Skethway – Office Manager*
- *Tara Collier – Resource Specialist (Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road Program, Erosion & Sediment Control Program)*
- *Bailey Miller – Watershed Specialist (Environmental Education, Recycling Coordinator, Keep Perry County Beautiful Coordinator)*
- *Lauren Leinbach – Ag Program Lead (ACAP, Nutrient Management Program, Farmland Preservation, and Chesapeake Bay Program)*
- *Rebecca Radel – Ag Resource Specialist (Nutrient Management Program and No-Till Drill Program)*

2023 NRCS Staff

- *Kevin Morgan – District Conservationist*
- *Samantha DiLorenzo – Soil Conservationist*
- *Don Graybill – Engineering Technician*

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The Dellville Covered Bridge

District Board of Directors

Greetings on behalf of the Perry County Conservation District. We are privileged to serve you as a community of commissioners, staff and board of directors. Our commissioners serve in many capacities within the boundaries of Perry County to include our Conservation District. We appreciate their willingness to speak into and support our staff and programs. Our staff is top notch! Each staff member brings knowledge, experience and leadership to the position they have and the programs they organize, develop and implement for Perry County citizens. Maybe you had the opportunity to participate in one of our field days, experience an educational opportunity for high school students through land judging or the Envirothon, benefitted from one of our assistance programs, purchase trees through our tree sale or were able to tap into experience or advise; if so, thank you; if not, please understand you will find staff that are willing and able to assist, educate and or provide support in a variety of areas. Please allow the Perry County Conservation District to support and assist you in managing the resources of Perry County and beyond.

Sincerely,

Michael Clark, Board Chairman



(From Left to Right) Board Chairman & Public Director Michael Clark, Board Treasurer and Director Larry Gildner, Farmer Director Marsha Snyder, Associate Member William Shilling, Board Vice Chairman Director Mel Weaver, Associate Member Lloyd Byers, Associate Member Scott Flanders, and Public Director Dave McLaughlin.

(Not Pictured) Farmer Director Ken Martz, and Associate Members Shawna Swartz and Grant Finkenbinder.

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, District Conservationist; Samantha DiLorenzo, Soil Conservationist and Don Graybill, Engineering Technician
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

A Message from the District Manager

Greetings,

This has been a year of change at the District and I'm excited to share with you what we have accomplished through it all. First, I would like to recognize our retired District Manager, Sally Tengeres. She worked for the District as Watershed Specialist and then District Manager for 20 years and played a huge role in the continued success of the District. Her kindness and professionalism are apparent and had a lasting impact on the staff and many students and other members of the public that she interacted with. The staff and I would like to congratulate her on her retirement and wish her well in all her future activities.

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 working with Joe Comp on the installation of a grassed waterway and improvement of an access road.

Another exciting opportunity for the District is the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). In this first round of funding, Perry County will receive \$3.1 million to implement Agricultural Best Management Practices. Much time in 2023 was spent on administration and developing program policy which led to the successful start of our first ACAP project, a roofed compost facility for Cliff and Mary Jane Lindgren. We hope to maintain that momentum and are looking forward to a busy construction season in 2024.

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 and Trout Unlimited, we completed a project to resurface a gravel road with DSA and stabilize the adjacent streambank providing improved habitat for native cold-water fish species. We have also approved several exciting contracts for construction in 2024.

The Chapter 102 Program continues to provide important services to the county. With many new structures, both agricultural and commercial coming to the county, the 102 program ensures that construction is performed in a way that will maintain the quality of the natural resources that make Perry County such an attractive place to live.

Additional county programs, such as the Tire War, Envirothon, and 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 2024 as we continue to work as a District and community for the conservation of our county's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Gabe Guthrie, District Manager



Winning Spaghetti Structure from the staff team building activity (there were engineers in other groups!)

State Programs

Nutrient Management

The Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) has been in effect since October of 2006. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) 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 (AEUs) or more where animal density of all livestock on the farm exceeds 2 animal equivalent units per spreadable acre.

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 concrete manure storage tank, a roofed solid manure stacking area, a composting facility, reinforced animal stream crossings, concrete barnyard areas, a vegetated or riparian buffer, rain gutters to divert clean water around barnyard areas, fence to improve pasture management, but there are so many more!



Example of a roofed solid manure stacking area

The District is delegated to administer the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program in Perry County. Currently, there are 16 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and 17 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs). 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 2023, the District received 12 NMPs for triennial review and approval: 5 CAFOs and 7 CAOs. The Perry County Conservation District also conducted 4 separate annual status reviews on 4 CAFOs that were not due for renewal at the end of crop year 2023.

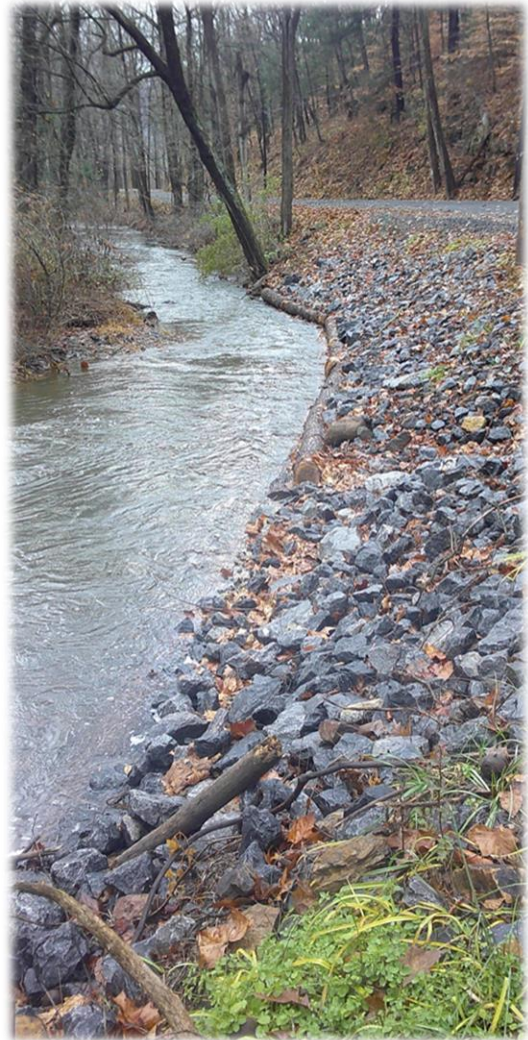
This year, our new Ag Resource Specialist, Rebecca Radel, started her Nutrient Management Certification process. She attended multiple trainings, such as Managing Manure Nutrients, Storm Water and Soil Loss, and a Plan Writing Workshop. In December, she took her Nutrient Management Exam and passed, making her provisionally certified!

Dirt and 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 \$1,994,745.79 on Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) projects and \$767,748.00 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.

In 2023, the CDGRS was able to hold its 3-day Annual Maintenance Workshop in Scranton after a few years hiatus. During 2023, two Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road projects were completed. Juniata Township completed a stream crossing replacement project on Homestead Road where a 8' x 5'6" aluminum plate arch culvert was installed. Jackson Township placed 2,473 tons of driving surface aggregate on Mt. Pleasant Road. They added and replaced existing drainage pipes with head and end walls, and worked with Trout Unlimited on a streambank stabilization project. These projects reduced the sediment and dust entering Perry County's streams while leaving each road more drivable and easier to maintain.



Mt. Pleasant Road streambank stabilization project

Erosion and 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



Temporary stabilization with straw

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. In 2023, 15 Erosion and Sediment Control Plans were reviewed and approved. On an average year, Perry County typically processes 10-15 NPDES Permits. In 2023, 13 NPDES Permits were processed, 24 construction site inspections were conducted with a total of 49 technical assistance contacts, and 21 complaints were investigated.

County Assistance

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program

In 2022, Pennsylvania created the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) through the Clean Streams Fund legislation. This State program is administered through the State Conservation Commission (SCC) via delegations to the County Conservation Districts. In December of 2022, the Board of Directors voted to accept the delegation which gives the District until 2025 to allocate and spend \$3,046,968.14 on implementing farm Best Management Practices (BMPs). Through 2023, the District created an application, policy and the landowner agreement. The first contract was signed in June to install a mortality composting facility. By the end of 2023, there were 2 signed contracts and 10 applications that were all willing to partner with NRCS-EQIP.

County-Wide Action Plan

In 2023, three agricultural projects were accomplished with funding received from the County-wide Action Plan; 1) the construction of a grassed waterway and access road, 2) the continuation of the District's Cover Crop Incentive Program (CCIP), and 3) the construction of a liquid manure storage. The grassed waterway and access road was installed on a rented farm of the Laurel Grove Farm run by Joe and Cindy Comp. The original call was actually for access road help and while on the site visit, it was realized that there needed to be a waterway to convey the water down the slope as well as an access road. The District reimbursed 90% of the project cost at \$24,804. The CCIP had \$129,680.00 applied for, which is 3,040 acres between the 3 different tiers offered. The District had 29 operators enroll in the program; with Tier 1 (5-way species) having 675 acres, Tier 2 (3-way species) having 574 acres, and Tier 3 (single species) having 1791 acres. Field verification will occur in late March of 2024 by Capital Area RC&D. The construction of the liquid manure storage was pushed until spring due to unfit weather conditions. The District has continued to work with HRG on regularly scheduled meetings and planning strategies.



This field was covered with a small grain cover-crop

Farmland Preservation

In 2023, Perry County Ag Land Preservation Board preserved 160.32 acres on the Darryl and Wanda Brookhart farm. The Brookhart's farm is a crop and livestock operation located in Liverpool, PA. The Brookhart Agricultural Conservation Easement was fully executed on May 18, 2023. The Jason and Rhonda Saylor farm is a 128 acre crop farm that is expected to close in 2024. The Shawn and Carmen Good farm in Millerstown is a 72 acre crop farm that is also planned to be closed on by the end of 2024. 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 2024.



The Brookhart's preserved farm

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. In the winter/spring of 2023, the District completed 14 initial inspections for the Chesapeake Bay Program's fiscal year of 2022-2023.



Beautiful view during a farm inspection

During the second half of 2023, the District scaled back the Bay Program to a quarter of a full time equivalent which means that 12 inspections need to be completed. 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 District provides free technical assistance to farmers who request help. Issues can range from soil erosion, compaction, poor pastures, to animal heavy use area concerns. Assistance typically starts with a farm visit and proceeds with either practice recommendations being made or connecting the farmer to the person with the expertise level needed. We received 7 technical assistance requests as well as multiple calls where aid was provided over the phone.

Technical Assistance Efforts

The Pennsylvania Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (PA REAP) is a State Tax Credit program administered by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission (SCC). 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, \$100 for four or more REAP BMPs per application, and a \$150 fee per plan reviewed for completeness. In 2023, 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.

Recycling and 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 is assembling a new Solid Waste Advisory Committee that will start 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 2022, the Perry County tonnage collected was reported as 1,550 tons. In 2023, the total tonnage collected was reported as 1,524 tons.



District staff getting their hands dirty during a recycling event

No-Till Drill Program

The District has four No-Till Drills that are available to be rented out to residents in Perry County who actively practice no-till. Two are 10ft wide John Deere 1590 No-Till grain drills, and one is a 12ft wide Esch 5612 No-Till Drill. Both drill types 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. Large pastures and hay fields may also be planted or reseeded with these drills. The fourth No-Till Drill is a smaller Land Pride 606 with a 6ft wide planting width 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 and Esch No-Till Drills, the LP606 has an additional seed bin for planting a wide variety of light and fluffy native grasses such as Brome or Kentucky Bluegrass. No-till helps to keep the soil intact, improve soil water infiltration and water retention, retain nutrients for the next crop to be planted, keeps the soil biology active between primary crop harvests, and reduces the presence of weeds. In 2023, the No-Till Drill Rental Program planted a total of 1,782.6 acres in no-till throughout Perry County of which 545 acres were cover crops.

NRCS Partnership

During fiscal year 2023-24 (October 1st through September 31st), the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in Perry County was comprised of two full time staff members, 1 part time employee, and a volunteer.

Conservation planning highlights included writing 35 conservation plans on over 3000 acres and documenting conservation practices applied on over 80 plans for a total of over 3700 implemented acres. Installation highlights consisted of the following cropland practices and enhancements; 6 waterway and diversions totaling 1.5 acres to prevent gully erosion, 3,700 acres of conservation crop rotation/ no-till farming/ cover cropping, and over 400 acres of nutrient management. On farmsteads and livestock operations the following conservation practices were completed; 5 waste storage facilities, multiple waste transfer systems, over 3000 square feet of heavy use protection, several hundred feet of underground outlet, and one Animal Mortality Composting Facility.



Kevin Morgan and Samantha DiLorenzo with the 2023 Envirothon Winners

On pastures the following grazing practices were completed; installation of 1000 feet of fence to improve grazing operations, 400 feet of stabilized animal trails, and 10 acres of prescribed grazing. On forest land, multiple contracts were completed with nearly over 300 acres treated either through planning or practice implementation (shelterwood cut or herbicidal spraying).

We wrote out 21 contracts (CSP Classic, CSP Renewal, and EQIP) this year that will provide Perry County producers/landowners with over \$743,000 to treat resource concerns and improve water quality in Perry County. We are expecting another banner year in contracting with over 40 applications that have been accepted and a busy construction season with all these new contracts. 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 landowners, and the public right here in Perry County.

Annual 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 graciously thank the community for their continued support of this program and we look forward to organizing it every year!

In 2023, we offered three types of conifers: Eastern White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, and Norway Spruce. The deciduous varieties that we offered were Sugar Maple, Sawtooth Oak, and American Plum. We also sold American Hazelnut and Witch-Hazel 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.



Lauren is preparing tree orders for pick-up



Birdboxes were provided by West Perry FFA

Presentations and Education

Livestaking Workshop

On March 18, 2023, locals gathered for a Livestaking Workshop at Baken Creek Farm in Landisburg. Ten folks attended and learned about the benefits of livestaking and how it improves stream erosion. We were able to accomplish this workshop through CAP funding that helped provide us with the tools we needed to give a step-by-step demonstration on how to successfully use this Best Management Practice.

Presentations and 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, posting to social media, and uploading videos to our YouTube Channel. During 2023, we were able to provide 15 trainings with a total of 500 participants and conducted 24 mass outreach activities with the potential of reaching over 73,000 individuals. Every year, we attend the Perry County Fair to make more connections and share new information with the community. This year we highlighted the two new funding sources we have to offer; the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the County-Wide Action Plan (CAP). We also targeted the benefits of agricultural Best Management Practices in our display. It was a great opportunity for the public to meet our new hires as well!



2023 Perry County Fair Display

New Instagram Page

In July of 2023, we created a new Instagram page! We are excited to use this platform to reach new members of the public and to share pictures and information on District events, services we provide, recycling tips and more. Follow our Instagram @perrycountycd to learn more about how you can become more eco-friendly. Check out our biography for direct links to our web page, Facebook, and our District Board Meeting and ACAP Committee Meeting agendas.



Instagram post on new Lawn Conversion program



Instagram post on how to be green for Halloween

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.”



2023 Perry County Envirothon Winners
The Greenwood Snow Weasels

In 2023, the traditional activities within the Envirothon program were back in full swing. Our county competition was graciously hosted by Duncannon Sportsmen’s Association on May 3rd. 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 121 participants back in action! Greenwood High School had 10 teams, Newport had 2 teams, West Perry had 8 teams, and Susquenita had 4 teams.

When the results were in, the Greenwood Snow Weasels Team were the overall County winner with members Gavin Fegley, Nathan Lesh, Trey Hess, Hunter Flickinger, and Bryce Danko. Gavin Fegley was also chosen as the winner of the T-shirt design contest and received a \$25 prize and a framed copy of his wearable artwork. Team Greenwood went on to compete in the State Envirothon at Camp Mt. Luther on May 24th. They placed 44th in the Oral Component, 38th in Aquatics, 14th in Current Issue, 42nd in Forestry, 35th in Wildlife, and an impressive 20th in Soils!



Gavin Fegley with his winning t-shirt design

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 of soil and determine the 'best use' for the land and select the appropriate Best Management Practices. After completing a short test, the student with the highest score is named the Perry County Land Judging Winner.



Students at Soil Pit #1

On November 8, 2023, students from all four school districts joined together at Clee McMillen's Farm in Loysville for the Land judging event. In total, we had 45 students compete from West Perry, Greenwood, Susquenita, and Newport High Schools. The event is divided into 5 stations which provide students with different topics related to agricultural practices and environmental education. The Demo and Test Pits allow students to identify different components of soil such as surface texture, land slope, depth to mottling, and surface stoniness. Michael



Students from all four school districts come together for Land Judging

Morris, the Water Program Specialist of the DEP, gave a presentation on Streambank Stabilization and how agricultural practices can have an impact on stream health. Test Pit #1 was run by District Board Treasurer and volunteer Larry Gildner, Test Pit #2 was run by our District Ag Program Lead Lauren Leinbach, and the Farm Talk and No-till Drill demo was presented by Chloe Skethway, the farm owner's daughter, and Ag Resource Specialist, Rebecca Radel. They spoke about the history of the farm and gave tips on cover cropping.

At the conclusion of the event, the winners were Lexie Dudley (3rd Place from Greenwood High School), Jonathan Bradshaw (2nd Place from Greenwood High School), and Emmaly Plank (1st Place from Newport High School). We want to thank Clee McMillen and his daughter Chloe Skethway for graciously hosting this event on their beautiful farm. An excellent lunch was also prepared by Sue and her fellow Perry Valley Grange members.

District Newsletters

We use the Nutrient Management, Summer and Winter Newsletters to promote our events and programs and also provide information on current issues and topics where multiple inquiries have been received by the District and NRCS.

Our Nutrient Management 2023 Newsletter provided some tips on maintaining healthy farmland. The newsletter consisted of articles regarding Nutrient Management Plans and when to submit them for review. The newsletter also discussed the importance of implementing Best Management Practices on your farm and described their individual environmental benefits.

The Summer 2023 Newsletter provided general district updates on new hires and the status on our offered programs. Our District staff continued to provide assistance to locals through the Erosion and Sediment, No-Till Drill, and the Cover Crop Incentive programs. This newsletter also highlighted Sally's retirement and the presentation of the PA FFA Golden Owl Award to our District Board Chairman, Mike Clark.

The Winter 2023 Newsletter provided updates on the No-Till Drill Rental program and a reminder for Act 38 operations to follow their plans when winter spreading. NRCS also announced new funding for gully erosion projects through EQIP.

Watershed Initiatives

Keep Perry County Beautiful

Our annual Tire War event was held on September 23rd and it was a big success! With the help from several volunteers, Mahantango Enterprises, and the Loysville Community Center, we were able to collect 737 tires! Even though it was pouring rain throughout the day, everyone pushed through to get the job done. Perry County ended up coming in 2nd place in the Tire War competition, 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.



The 2023 Tire War Volunteers

Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership

'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 2023, we hosted two landowner tree seedling giveaways. We gave away roughly 1,000 trees this year thanks to our partners over at Keystone 10 Million Trees. Trees distributed included Black Willow, River Birch, and Sweet Gum. We also gave away shrubs such as Black Chokeberry, Black Elderberry, Buttonbush, Silky Dogwood, Spicebush and more. We enjoyed meeting new landowners with interest in helping K10 reach their goal of planting 10 million trees by 2025. This year, K10 has reached their halfway mark!



Fall Seedling Distribution

Staff Updates

Sally's Farewell

Our District Manager, Sally Tengeres, retired this past summer in August. Sally has been with the District since April of 2003. During her time at the District she served as the Watershed Specialist and as the District Manager. She looks forward to spending more time with family, traveling, and pursuing other interesting endeavors that may come along. Sally will be sorely missed by each of us, but we wish her and her husband Frank all the best as they embark on this new adventure!

New Hires

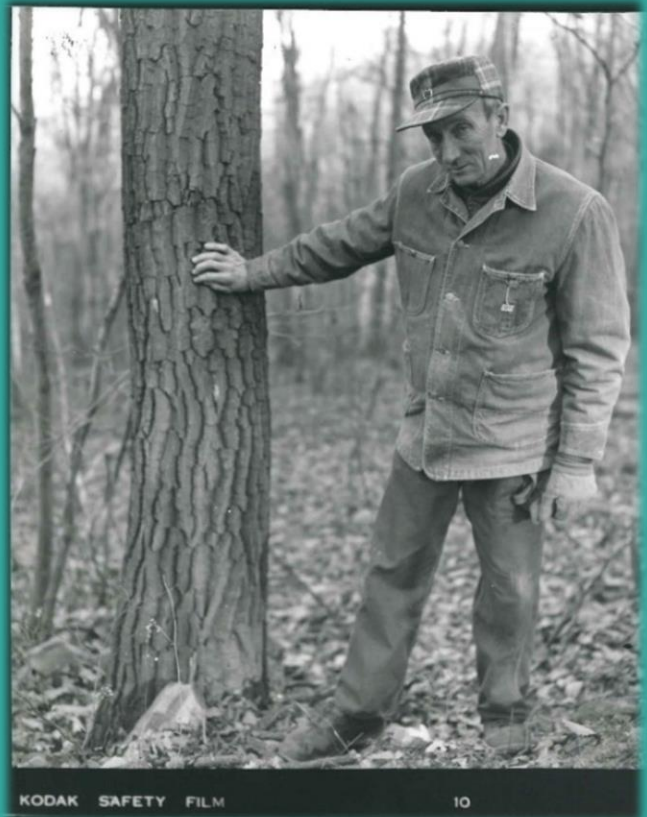
This was a big year for new faces at the District. In January, Tara Collier was hired as the new Resource Specialist. She has taken over the Erosion and Sediment Control and Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road programs. In July, Bailey Miller was hired as the new Watershed Specialist. She is the new Recycling Coordinator, Keep Perry County Beautiful Coordinator, and organizes educational outreach for the District. Lastly, our newest hire is Rebecca Radel. She is the new Ag Resources Specialist as of July. She has taken over for Nutrient Management and the No-Till Drill program.

Board Members

In December of 2023, 2 Board members decided it was time to step down. Melvin Weaver, a director from Ickesburg, stepped down after 35 years of service to the board. David McLaughlin, a director from Elliottsburg, stepped down from a voting board member of 8 years to an associate director. Dave served as an associate director for 5 years before becoming a voting director. We appreciate the years of service both gave and that Dave continues in his new role as an associate director. We thank you for your commitment to the District and the Community!

District Archives: Flashback to 1969

Russell Raub points out Gypsy Moth eggs on his tree in Duncannon.



Marlin Geesaman with his new concrete watering trough fed by springs.

District Contact Information

Address: 31 West Main Street P.O. Box 36

New Bloomfield, PA 17068

Main Phone: (717) 582-8988

Website: www.perrycd.org

Facebook: Perry County Conservation
District (New Bloomfield, PA)

Instagram: @perrycountycd

YouTube: Perry County Conservation
District PA



District Manager

Gabe Guthrie

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gguthrie@perryco.org



Office Manager

April Skethway

Office: 717-582-8988 ext. 3002

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Resource Specialist

Tara Collier

Work Cell: 717-636-2282

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Watershed Specialist

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