



CONSERVATION TIMES

Franklin County Conservation District

SUMMER 2022

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Envirothon

Live and “in person” at Cowans Gap, the Franklin and Fulton Counties 2022 Envirothon was held April 26 with 118 students representing eight schools from the two counties. Despite a drizzly day, students and presenters enthusiastically persevered through the five testing stations: Aquatics, Soils & Land Use, Forestry, Wildlife and Current Issues.

Presenters included experts from the PA Game Commission, NRCS, DCNR Bureau of Forestry,

Franklin County Conservation and Fulton County Conservation District.

Franklin County Placings:

- 1st** - Mourning Doves, James Buchanan High School
- 2nd** - Mountain Maniacs, Waynesboro High School
- 3rd** - Team 4est, Chambersburg High School

2022 SPONSORS

Adams Electric Cooperative
The Butcher Shoppe
Donald Spickler Insurance
Mercersburg Lions Club
HRG, Inc



1st Place Team: Mourning Doves, James Buchanan High School



2nd Place: Mountain Maniacs, Waynesboro High School



3rd Place: Team 4est, Chambersburg Area Senior High School

First Grade Field Trip



Top: FCCD 102 Program Manager Thomas Swartz
Bottom: Franklin County Mosquito & Tick Borne Disease Control Specialist Jason Goetz

After two years of cancellations due to the pandemic, the first graders in the Chambersburg Area School District were able to take part in the annual First Grade Field Trip at Caledonia State Park. Approximately 580 first graders attended the field trip over the course of four days in May. The full-day event featured eight stations including water quality/macroinvertebrates, ticks and mosquitoes, forestry, wildlife, water quality/runoff, agriculture, a nature walk scavenger hunt and the playground.

The presenters were tasked with meeting the field trip’s main goal: interactive education. At the water quality/runoff station, students created “watersheds” and “rainstorms” to

demonstrate runoff. Students also learned how to be safe from ticks and mosquitoes, and they discovered that some of the things they use every day would not be possible without trees. This year was also the introduction of the District’s new stream table and stream table media, which gave students an idea of how stream erosion occurs.

The presenters for the First Grade Field Trip included our Penn State Extension Renewable Resources Educator, the Franklin County Mosquito & Tick Borne Disease Control Specialist, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Foresters, and Conservation District employees.

E&S Design Professional Workshop

On April 8, 2022, FCCD held an educational workshop targeting local design professionals. The goal was to cover the changes accompanying the new PAG-01 General NPDES permit, discuss off-site discharge analyses and provide an in-depth open discussion on the 102/NPDES program. A total of 25 local design professionals attended the workshop.



FCCD presenters included: Thomas Swartz, 102 Program Manager, John High, District Engineer, and Brady Byers, E&S Technician

Ernie Tarner Memorial Golf Tournament & Scholarships

The Whitetail Golf Resort recently hosted the annual Franklin County Conservation District Golf Tournament on Friday, June 3, 2022. First held in 2007 and recently renamed the Ernie Tarner Memorial Golf Tournament, the proceeds from this tournament have funded 71 environmental scholarships awarded to Franklin County college students. Students majoring in fields such as Ag Business, Ag Extension, Animal Science, Dairy Science, Earth Science, Environmental Law, Environmental Science, Forestry, Geo-environmental Studies, Horticulture, Marine Biology, Turf Management and Veterinarian Science have been the recipients of over \$51,000 to-date. **The funds from the 2022 tournament funded \$750 scholarships to 12 local students!**

Approximately 80 golfers from 23 various businesses came together for this year's fundraiser. Sue Bender was the proud winner of the Yeti cooler, sponsored by Keystone Ford. Her closest-to-the-pin" stroke at Hole #6 earned her this takeaway. Many additional sponsors and donors provided funding for door prizes and a delicious meal, and FCCD wishes to thank each one for their generosity and support.



Left: Sue Bender wins a Yeti cooler for "closest to the pin".
Right: FCCD Engineer John High presents Marty Zimmerman with a door prize.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Top Row: Cade Martin, Liam Coulter, Faith Sheldon
 2nd Row: Kenzie Boyd, Brayden Boyd, Trevor Wisner
 3rd Row: Kya Lester, Grant Bohn, Laci Hoover
 4th Row: Hunter Timmons, Cameron Kimple
 (Not pictured: Elizabeth Hoffeditz)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF OUR WINNERS!**

New Employee Emily Hartley

The Franklin County Conservation District is pleased to announce the hiring of Emily Hartley as the new Watershed Specialist. Emily is a recent graduate of Juniata College with a degree in Environmental Chemistry. While at Juniata, Emily completed an undergraduate research thesis titled "Nutrient Sequestration in Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania" where she examined the patterns of total phosphorus removal

in and around Raystown Lake. She also interned with the Huntingdon County Conservation District as an Agricultural Planning Intern where she learned about agricultural BMPs and worked closely with HCCD's Ag Conservation Technician and Watershed Specialist. A lifelong resident of Adams County, Emily enjoys spending time outdoors engaging in activities such as kayaking, hiking, hammocking, and boating.



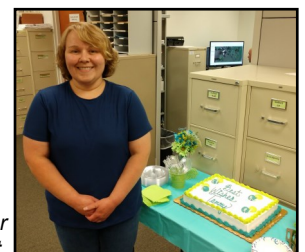
Emily Hartley, New FCCD Watershed Specialist

Farewell to Tammy Piper

For the past 18 years, Tammy Piper has served the Franklin County Conservation District's efforts to coordinate and fund various conservation projects. Listed below are a few facets of her job she particularly enjoyed:

- Being able to get into our local streams and check out their macroinvertebrate life
- Seeing landowners get excited about their stream restoration projects
- Working with numerous partnerships that have developed over the years
- Educating community members of all ages and background about various environmental topics
- Networking/interacting/partnering with coworkers on various projects

FCCD Watershed Specialist Tammy Piper was honored for her years of service before departing for other employment.



Franklin County Conservation District
**2022 SUMMER CONSERVATION
FARM TOUR & LUNCHEON**

Tuesday, August 9, 2022
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
LUNCH PROVIDED



Featuring . . .
Bryan & Tina Kyle farm
and Lurgan Lions Club

LURGAN LIONS CLUB
13978 Cumberland Highway
Roxbury, PA 17251

- Registration: 9:30 - 10:00 AM (Lions Club)
- Load bus at the Lions Club and travel to and from the Bryan Kyle farm
- Return to Lurgan Lions Club to see stream projects and eat lunch



Can you name the
Stream BMPs
pictured here?



YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

On the Farm . . .

- ♦ Installing agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)...with and without cost-share programs
- ♦ No-tilling—Benefits of; Transitioning tips
- ♦ Pros and cons of maintaining BMPs

In the Stream . . .

- ♦ Installing and maintaining in-stream Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- ♦ What determines viable in-stream BMP implementation
- ♦ Deciding if Conservation District stream implementation is right for you

COST: FREE! (But Pre-Registration is Required)

TO REGISTER: Call Rhoda Crider - 717-264-5499

Email: rcrider@franklinccd.org

Franklin County Conservation District

**RSVP DEADLINE
August 2, 2022**



FRANKLIN COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

185 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202
717-264-5499 www.franklinccd.org

Clean Water Coordinator Effort

Boots-on-the-Ground

The term “Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification” has become a frequent topic among Conservation Districts. We appreciate all that Franklin County farmers already do for conservation, soil health, and water quality which benefit both their operation and our community. However, for their good work to count toward Franklin County’s state-assigned conservation goals and to resist stricter regulations upon Franklin County farmers, we need to prove these best practices exist. Without verification, the regulators will continue to ask farmers to do more!

We have hired two individuals who have spent their careers working in ag-related fields and tasked them with piloting a new BMP verification program within our agricultural community. Their goal is to increase our inventory of existing BMPs in Franklin County.

The tri-county region of Franklin, Adams, and Cumberland Counties have teamed up on a grant application that aims to “beef up” our BMP verification efforts and even result in additional cost-shared farm improvements.

Lets do it our way before we have to do it their way!

If Franklin County succeeds, the results could be:

- **More funding opportunities for on-farm improvements**
- **Further nitrogen reduction from boots-on-the-ground efforts represented within the model**
- **Fair and accurate representation of Franklin County’s agricultural stewardship**

If Franklin County fails, we could experience:

- **Increased regulation/government oversight on all farms**
- **Increased costs for compliance**
- **Decreased funding opportunities**

We Need Your Help!

Call us to:

- Ask if your effort is currently counting toward our goals
- Work with our verification specialists to add your BMPs to the collective progress
- Get information on how to obtain a Manure Management or Nutrient Management Plan
- Learn about types of BMPs and which ones could improve your operation
- Discover resources that can assist with installing new BMPs on your land



Call our office at 717-264-5499 if we can assist in identifying and recording BMPs already in place on your land/farm.

Streamside Grass Buffer Program

Two years ago FCCD staff began developing a grass buffer program through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) that would allow for credit toward decreasing nutrients and sediment from entering streams, and also benefit farmers as they manage those fields with streams adjacent to them. While forested stream buffers are better at maintaining streambank integrity, trees along field borders create financial and time burdens for farmers as they must continually maintain branch pruning and gather debris that would otherwise damage expensive farm equipment. On the other hand, grass buffers are better able to capture sediment and nutrients with minimal burden to farmers.

A notable benefit to the grass buffer program is the ability for farmers to harvest the grass. Not only does this allow cropland to stay in production, but removing plant material helps to reduce

nutrient build-up along the stream. While program requirements stipulate a minimum buffer width based on erosion data, several participants have opted to increase the width of their buffer to accommodate equipment needs or field dynamics, thereby increasing nutrient and sediment reduction potential.

The Streamside Grass Buffer Program was officially released in the spring of 2021. To date, almost ten acres have been enrolled in the program resulting in over 8,300 pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus reduction credits for Franklin County. While there are specific installation and maintenance guidelines for the buffer that must be followed, Penn State University just released the article *Planting a Grass Riparian Buffer With Hay Production Potential*, that provides more detailed information on species selection and weed control that are not listed in the guidelines. That article can

be found here: <https://extension.psu.edu/planting-a-grass-riparian-buffer-with-hay-production-potential>.

Please contact the District if you are interested in learning more about the Streamside Grass Buffer Program. There is no deadline to apply; however, monies are generally allocated to projects in July.



New seeding of grass/legume for grass buffer

Erosion & Sediment Control

The District strives to prevent negative impact to downstream property owners during construction activities. FCCD Chapter 102 staff complete both Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control and Post Construction Management plan reviews in an effort to promote conservative and sustainable construction methods and stormwater management. These plan reviews make certain that the volume, rate, and other pollutant reductions are met from pre-construction to post-construction conditions. Following plan approval, 102 staff perform site inspections to ensure that the approved plans are being implemented in the field.



ABOVE: E&S controls in place during construction

BELOW: Post construction results of proper E&S controls



Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program

Lurgan Township recently completed their Brethren Church Road project by placing Driving Surface Aggregate to cap the road. The township initially applied in 2017 for road base repairs and drainage improvements on this road and received a dirt and gravel road grant to make the repairs.

These improvements greatly helped the road by removing the concentrated runoff areas and providing a crowned surface to shed the water into side ditches before it had a chance to cause erosion channels within the roadway. Other improvements included the replacement of two existing culvert pipes and the installation of headwalls and end walls on the new pipes as well as a stone-lined road ditch to prevent further ditch erosion.

All of these improvements were made in 2018 and in 2020. The township applied for a second grant to install driving surface aggregate to complete the road by providing a durable driving surface. The road surface was completed in April of 2022 by a local paving company using a paver and smooth drum roller.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The program will be receiving new applications for low volume and dirt and gravel road projects on an ongoing basis and not setting any deadlines as has been done in the past. We have received another full allocation of funding that is available for both low volume and dirt and gravel roads. If you are a local government, you are eligible for these grants if you are certified through the Low Volume, Dirt and Gravel Road program.

This funding is only available to be used on publicly owned roads. If you are not certified, you can visit the dirt and gravel road website to sign up for the certification training at: <https://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-and-training/esm-course/remote-online-esm-trainings>. You *do* have to be certified to apply for a grant. Grant applications are available on our website under the dirt and gravel road program or can be picked up at the district office.



Brethren Church Road, Lurgan Township - With Driving Surface Aggregate being installed

FCCD Engineer

The FCCD Engineer has been working with producers designing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address resource concerns on their farms. Some of the BMPs designed for farmers this year include roofed animal heavy use area, roofed stack pads, liquid manure storage tank, concrete barnyard work, roof runoff structures, and animal walkways.

The FCCD works with various grant programs to help farmers with their projects, including CAP and CEG. So far this year the FCCD has completed four designs that total 20 BMPs for the CAP program. All will need to be completed by November 30, 2022. One is under construction and the others are receiving bids. One design with four BMPs has been

completed for the CEG program. This program allows two years for completion. There are also several projects from prior years that are under construction or nearly completed.

The Engineer performs inspections during construction to ensure the work is completed per the design specifications and can be certified. He also performs the checkout survey when the work is completed.

FCCD will work with producers from the initial visit to help address any or all of their resource concerns they have on their farm all the way through project completion. The producer is not required to use one of the grant programs to receive con-

servation district technical assistance. Our office will work with all producers regardless of grant eligibility to help address resource concerns on their farms. We can have a site meeting to help identify concerns, perform surveys for the BMPs, help with designs, perform construction inspection and issue final surveys of completion.

The FCCD Engineer also works with the Chapter 102 program and provides technical assistance for Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM). The Engineer will attend meetings, help address consultant's questions regarding PCSM BMPs and help perform reviews for projects that require a PCSM Technical Review.

Watershed

Billy Timmons Tree Planting

Education and Conservation came together on Billy Timmons' farm in early May of this year. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Senior Forests Projects Manager Ryan Davis led students from the Cumberland Valley Christian School as they assisted with planting Phase 2 of the riparian buffer at Billy Timmons' farm near Roxbury. Many of the students had never been on a farm before or planted a tree. Ryan was able to teach students the basics of tree planting, explain the value and uses of tree shelters, and discuss live staking and its advantages when planting tree seedlings.

This phase of the project involved planting 120 tree seedlings and live stakes on 1.12 acres along a tributary of the Conodoguinet Creek. This buffer provides many benefits such as filtering sediment and nutrients before they reach the stream and shading the stream to enhance the biology and aquatic life. Phase One of the project was completed last fall along a different section of the same tributary.

On the walk to and from the planting site, Billy talked to the students about the history of his farm, the conservation improvements he's made on the farm and why he installed them, and the reasons

why he decided to plant the riparian buffer. Billy enjoys the opportunity to interact with students and teach them about agriculture.



Nutrient Management

Just how valuable is manure?

If you have dealt with the high costs of commercial fertilizer, you may have a different answer to this question today than you did a couple of years ago.

Over the years, the Franklin County Conservation District Ag Staff have assisted over 200 livestock producers with the development of their Manure Management Plans (MMPs). If producers have not yet developed a MMP for their operation, now might be a good time to complete it.

With the high cost of fertilizer, producers without a MMP or an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan may be at a disadvantage when it comes to getting the most out of their manure! Many producers have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of useful production information they obtain from their MMP.

Here is a partial list of information producers can obtain by working with the FCCD Ag Staff to develop a MMP:

- Set realistic yield goals (based on previous records and soil types)
- Know the nutrient content of your manure (different livestock manures contain varying levels of nutrients)
- Determine the amount of manure nutrients that are available to your crops (manure nitrogen is different than commercial nitrogen)
- Identify soil types for your farm
- Understand the environmentally sensitive areas on your farm that require manure application setbacks

While providing assistance with the development of MMPs, FCCD Ag Staff can help producers identify potential nutrient runoff

concerns on their operation. If a concern is identified, the FCCD Ag Staff are available to work with producers to implement the most cost-effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will address the runoff concerns. There are also cost-share programs available through the FCCD to help with the installation costs of BMPs.

Developing a MMP for your livestock operation is a win-win situation, especially due to the fact that all animal operations are required to have either a MMP or an Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan. A MMP can provide you with the information you need to make sound decisions regarding manure and fertilization application rates for all the crops you grow.

Ag E&S Control

- What is "T" when describing soil erosion and productivity?
- How do the terms 'splash, sheet, rill, & gully' erosion compare to each other?
- How much is one ton of soil erosion across an acre comparable to?

Having this knowledge is important for every farm and every field. Knowing which rotations work well at limiting erosion is important for soil health and productivity. PA State regulations require any operation with field activities on 5,000 square feet or more to have an Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control

(Ag E&S) plan. The only exceptions are fields with permanent grass hay or well-vegetated pastures. (No-till methods are still required to be listed in Ag E&S plans since the action of coulters cutting through the soil counts as tillage.) Having an accurate plan is also required for operations to be eligible for certain grants and loans.

The FCCD Ag Staff continue to provide assistance to farmers in developing Ag E&S Plans for their operation. To date, we have written Ag E&S plans covering just over 17,500 acres. The complexity of the plan depends on how many crop rotation options a farmer has on their opera-

tion and what the Tolerable Soil Loss Limit (T) is for each field.

If you have accelerated erosion on your farm and would like to talk to someone from FCCD about control options, please give us a call. Although we currently have a waiting list for writing Ag E&S plans, Ag Staff are always available to answer questions and provide assistance to address erosion concerns. Farmers also have the option to write their own plans or hire a private plan writer. Please contact the District for more information.

Affiliate Membership

Our annual Affiliate Membership drive is currently taking place. We rely on funds from the County and State governments as well as assistance from local individuals and businesses to provide vital educational programs about our environment.

If you wish to participate, please call our office at 717-264-5499 or email Rhoda Crider at rcrider@franklinccd.org.

Contributions of \$25 or more will be listed on our website as Honorary Supporters. Thank you for your support!

Donations may be sent to:

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
185 FRANKLIN FARM LANE, STE 102
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202

2022 Tree Seedling Sale

American Red Bud	500
Canaan Fir	850
Colorado Blue Spruce	300
Eastern White Pine	625
Norway Spruce	925
Persimmon	425
Red Oak	475
River Birch	250
Scarlet Maple	300
Crimsoncrisp Apple	31
Galarina Apple	31
Redhaven Peach	25
White Lady Peach	14
TOTALS	4751



Left to Right:
Board President Evan Burkholder
Associate Director Sam Worley
(101 years old)
District Manager Dave Stoner



FCCD STAFF

Back Row: John High, Thomas Swartz, Brady Byers
Front Row: Dave Stoner, Scott Metzger, Rhoda Crider, Emily Hartley, Tammy Piper, Chris Swartz, Caitlin Lucas, Jennifer Bratthauar

2022 Manure Expo - July 13 & 14

The North American Manure Expo is coming to Chambersburg!

July 13 - AM: Farm Tours (Herbrucks Poultry & Oakleigh Dairy)
AM: Stream BMP Tour

Pre-Registration & Payment Required for Tours Only

July 13 - PM: Open trade show & manure agitation demonstration
July 14 - ALL DAY: Education sessions & live demonstrations

MORE INFO: manureexpo.ca OR Call us: 717-264-5499



Franklin County Comprehensive Plan

(Article provided by the Franklin County Planning Commission)

A comprehensive plan provides the guiding framework for a community's growth and change over a ten-year period. It's a living plan, meaning that instead of sitting on a shelf somewhere collecting dust, this comprehensive plan will lay out a realistic action plan to achieve the goals and visions of local residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code of 1968 mandates that counties update their comprehensive plans every ten years. Franklin County last updated its comprehensive plan in June 2012. Since that update, Franklin County has experienced tremendous

growth and change. As we continue to grow and evolve, it's important to look to the future and to have thoughtful, strategic plans in place to accommodate the needs of our communities and residents not just in the near future but over the next ten years and even beyond.

There are several opportunities for the public to provide their feedback on the comprehensive plan and to get involved. Franklin County Planning Commission staff will be attending various community events and will be "popping up" at different locations across the County throughout the next few months to

engage with the public to gather feedback and to encourage public participation. We will be asking for public feedback through an online survey later this fall. The project team will also be facilitating focus groups to gather public input on key issues and concerns facing Franklin County. These focus groups will include diverse audiences, including families, businesses, youth, the plain sect community, and members of our Latinix and Haitian communities. In that way, Franklin County's comprehensive plan will truly be a collaborative effort with input from all corners of our County.



185 Franklin Farm Lane, Suite 201
Chambersburg, PA 17202

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JULY 2022



 <https://facebook.com/FranklinCCD>



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