

WINTER 2024

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CONSERVATION TIMES

Franklin County Conservation District

Full "Stream" Ahead

Stream Restoration Projects

In 2023, FCCD achieved stream restoration history in Franklin County. In total, there were *three* stream restoration projects constructed (the most in one year) including the *first* floodplain restoration in Franklin County! Tallying over 5,000 feet of stream restoration, these three projects will contribute to our Clean Water goals by reducing sediment and nutrient loading to our local waterways. (*Please see Pages 6&7 to learn more about the additional projects*).

Featured Project: West Branch Conococheague Creek Tributary at PA 75, Mercersburg The spark that started the Conococheague Creek Priority Projects Plans (CP3) effort was not only the first project implemented from the CP3, it was also the very first legacy sediment removal and floodplain restoration project in the County. Project construction began in May

2023 and was completed in August 2023 in partnership with LandStudies, Inc. and RiverLogic Solutions. In addition to the ecological and aesthetic value, the project also mitigates problematic sediment deposition and flooding which previously caused damage to the adjacent agricultural fields.

MEASURABLE PROJECT RESULTS:

- ⇒ 3,630 feet of floodplain restoration
- ⇒ Approx. 2 acres of wetland creation
- ⇒ Approx. 3 acres of native vegetation established

BEFORE





AFTER





Funded by the Countywide Action Plan Implementation (CAP) Grant

Clean Water for Franklin County

Forward Progress: Conococheague Creek Priority Projects Plan (CP3)

After a 2.5-year-long plan development process, the long-awaited Conococheague Creek Priority Projects Plan (CP3) was completed and released to the public in June 2023! The CP3 was developed by LandStudies, Inc. in partnership with FCCD and local municipalities using a highly focused prioritization approach to address existing resource concerns within the watershed's communities. The goal of the CP3 was to provide a tool for local partners and stakeholders to implement the multi-beneficial projects that are outlined in the plan.

Though the plan is complete, the work is just beginning! Progress has already been made by FCCD and local municipalities to move several projects that are outlined in the plan towards implementation.

Here are a few notable advances to-date:

- 1 project implemented
- ♦ 1 project in the feasibility assessment phase
- ♦ 2 projects in the design and permit phase
- Several projects in the scoping phase

As a result of the CP3 publication, two projects that were not outlined in the plan are currently in the scoping and feasibility assessment phases. The CP3 has already proven to be a valuable tool for FCCD and our local partners and stakeholders to implement multi-beneficial water quality improvement and resource protection projects.

Erosion & Sediment Control

Here at the FCCD, our main goal is to prevent negative impacts to neighboring properties and surface water during construction. We accomplish this by performing reviews of Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control Plans as well as Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) plans. Chapter 102 staff are also responsible for conducting inspections of construction sites to ensure that the approved plans are being followed in the field. Our E&S staff is kept very busy by the solar farm projects, warehouses, and extensive residential development throughout our county. Most of these projects require E&S and PCSM plans and are also inspected regularly by the Conservation District.

We receive many questions regarding Chapter 102 requirements ranging from backyard projects to large-scale development. Below is a table that should be helpful in determining what will be required for your specific activity. E&S plan requirements may vary from one township to the next, contact your local municipality for further guidance. Also, feel free to give us a call with any questions regarding earth-moving activities or Best Management Practices (BMPs) and we would be happy to point you in the right direction!

E&S PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR EARTH DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES					
Total Earth Disturbance	E&S Plan Requirement	E&S Plan Approval	NPDES Permit		
0 - 5,000 Sq. Ft.	Not required unless situated within a High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV) watershed	No	No		
5,000 Sq. Ft. – 1 Acre	Yes	Yes	No		
1 Acre+	Yes	Yes	Yes		

PERMITTING UPDATE

The District recently contacted all NPDES permit holders to notify them of their permit expiration dates. Many of the NPDES permits issued throughout the County will expire on the same date, December 7, 2024. DEP plans to issue a more streamlined renewal process for the permits expiring on this date, and the FCCD will be in touch with all permit holders when those documents are provided.

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2023 FCCD Farmer of the Year

FCCD received a state mini-grant to hold a Summer Conservation Farm Tour and Luncheon on August 9, 2023, at the Greene Township Park. The District took this opportunity to present the 2023 Conservation Farmer of the Year award to Burk-Lea Farms, Clinton and Kara Burkholder.

The grant funding enabled the Franklin County Conservation District to provide important education on the benefits of reducing nonpoint source pollution with Best Management Practices (BMPs) to approximately 90 attendees. Tour participants visited the Burkholder's dairy farm and saw firsthand various conservation-related systems including a solid manure stack pad, a silage leachate collection system, several animal waste storage facilities, a roofed animal heavy use area and a grassed waterway. These practices reduce potential pollutants from entering the waterways and help to prevent soil erosion. In addition, participants viewed dribble bar manure application equipment, learning about how it reduces soil disturbance and how it may decrease nitrogen volatilization, thereby decreasing odor.

Joining this year's event were PA Senator Doug Mastriano, PA Representative Rob Kauffman and PA Representative Rich Irvin. Senator Mastriano also presented a special citation to the Burkholders in recognition of their hard work and successful conservation efforts over the years.

The Burkholders were presented with a farm sign as well as a pen and clock set. They join a long list of honorees since the Franklin County Conservation Farmer of the Year program began in 1962.



L-R: PA Representative Rich Irvin, PA Senator Doug Mastriano, 2023 Franklin County Conservation Farmer of the Year Kara and Clinton Burkholder, Stanley and Janice Burkholder, PA Representative Rob Kauffman and FCCD Chairman Evan Burkholder.







Envirothon 2024

The 2024 Franklin County Envirothon will be held in-person on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024** at Cowans Gap State Park.

To learn more about the Envirothon and how your school or business can be involved, please contact FCCD's Envirothon Coordinator, Emily Young, at 717-264-5499 or eyoung@franklinccd.org

CEG / ACAP Projects

Over the last several months, 12 projects have been completed through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) or the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) grant programs. These projects include barnyard runoff jobs as well as several liquid and solid manure storages. The programs have combined to fund \$1.6 million in cost share projects this year and are expected to fund \$2.5 million dollars next year.



www.franklinccd.org

Applications are accepted at any time and can be found on our website at https://franklinccd.org/wp-content/uploads/CEG-ACAP-PRINTABLE-PACKET.pdf (*or scan the QR code here*). We will have one final round in 2024 for this funding, but no dates have been set yet. If you are interested in applying for funding, please call our office to schedule a site visit (717-264-5499).

Small Beef Barnyard **BEFORE and AFTER** ACAP Funded Project





BELOW: The purpose of the project shown below was twofold: to correct an issue of manure leaking out of the barnyard and to increase storage capacity. The FCCD Engineer designed a tank that would hold approximately six-months' capacity. The new tank is 12 feet deep and 100 feet in diameter. Manure will be pumped from the smaller existing tank to the new tank which will provided additional storage capacity.



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FCCD Engineer

The FCCD Engineer worked with several farmers this year to design Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address resource concerns on their farms. The projects were funded by either CEG or ACAP grant programs. Some of the BMPs designed and implemented are covered stack pads, liquid manure storage tanks, barnyard runoff systems, covered heavy use area (HUA) & stack pad, and covered bed pack & stack pad. The FCCD has the ability to help with all portions of the project from

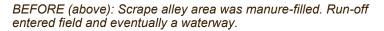
BEFORE

surveying and design, to quality assurance inspections and certification of the BMP. Below are a few *before and after* pictures of projects that have been implemented this year.



The above photo (left) is from the FCCD's initial site visit and shows part of the existing concrete barnyard where the manure was being stacked. The photo on the right shows the new Covered HUA and Manure Stack Pad. The new facility will provide a stabilized surface to feed the animals, a confined area to stack manure until it can be applied to the fields, and an area for the animals to be penned when conditions are unsuitable for them to be on pasture.





AFTER (right): FCCD installed a dry stack pad where manure can be pushed off directly from the barnyard. From there, all manure and runoff is graded and curbed to go directly into the manure tank.





The District Engineer also works with the Chapter 102 program. The Engineer will perform Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) reviews for NPDES submissions that are large scale projects, projects in "High Quality" or "Exceptional Value" watersheds, where wetland hydrology may be affected, and as determined by DEP or the FCCD Chapter 102 staff. The Engineer has reviewed 16 General Permits and 5 Individual Permit applications in 2023. In addition, the resubmissions and all amendments to the projects are reviewed by the Engineer as well. The Engineer is available for any PCSM questions.

Watershed

Conococheague Creek at Grant Shook Road, Greencastle

Small but mighty, this project came to fruition in August 2023, restoring approximately 450 feet of stream. In partnership with Flyway Excavating, Inc., eight fish habitat and bank stabilization structures were installed along the stream.

Specific fish habitat structures installed include:

- 3 modified mudsills
- ♦ 2 log frame stone deflectors
- ♦ 3 sections of random boulders

Funded by the Countywide Action Plan Implementation (CAP) Grant

This project will not only provide habitat and cover for fish to feed, reproduce, and hide from prey, but will also mitigate severe bank erosion and redirect the stream flow back towards the center of the stream.

ALL PHOTOS: Modified mudsills before installation (Nov. 2022) and after installation (Sept. 2023)









F&M Trust's Banktoberfest

In early October, FCCD partnered with the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership and F&M Trust for the annual "Banktoberfest" to plant over 500 trees on a farm in Shippensburg for a total of three acres of newly planted riparian buffer.



ALL PHOTOS: F&M Trust staff hard at work planting trees as part of their annual Banktoberfest.

Photos courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Foundation's BJ Small





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Watershed / Clean Water Coordinator

West Branch Antietam Creek at Marsh Road, Waynesboro

Planning for this project commenced following the implementation of the Owl's Club stream restoration project in August 2021. Working with the PA Council of Trout Unlimited and Resource Restoration Group, LLC, 13 fish habitat and bank stabilization structures were installed along a 1,050' segment of the West Branch Antietam Creek upstream from the Owl's Club.

Specific fish habitat structures installed include:

- 9 modified mudsills
- ♦ 1 rock deflector
- ♦ 2 log framed stone deflectors
- 1 section of random boulders

Funded by the 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants Program and CAP

In addition to the habitat value created as a result of this project, these structures will reduce stream bank erosion and redirect the stream flow back towards the center of the channel.



Sept. 2023 - Before installation of a modified mudsill



Oct. 2023 - After installation of a modified mudsill

Baker Farm Tree Planting

In November, FCCD partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, DCNR, Chambersburg Area Senior High School, and other local volunteers to plant over 230 new trees on a farm in Chambersburg, adding to an existing riparian buffer. In addition, partners replanted a handful of trees from a 3-acre planting done in 2020.



Ryan Davis, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, gave instructions to the volunteers before the planting began.



Volunteers worked to replant trees that died following the 2020 planting.

E&S Workshop

On December 20, 2023, FCCD hosted a municipal workshop. There were 12 participants representing 7 different municipalities throughout Franklin County. Many topics were discussed including earth disturbance and stormwater complaints, Common Plan of Development, and NPDES permit requirements. This workshop provided a great opportunity for our office and local municipalities to talk through issues that impact both parties and are dealt with on a regular basis. We believe that this workshop was very beneficial for all who attended and hope to host additional municipality workshops in the future.



DGLVR

The DGLVR program has four open projects under construction in Franklin County. Of those four, Lurgan Township is replacing a stream crossing on Ebenezer Road (pictured here). Heavy rains in 2022 caused flooding on the roadway which damaged the road edges and eroded the stream inlet and outlet areas. Temporary repair measures were installed until funding was secured and permits were issued so the properly-sized structure could be installed and the roadway repaired.



Ag E&S / Act 38 Nutrient Management

Stacking it up...Where should a temporary solid manure stockpile be located?

The use of solid manure on the farm is a great benefit for crops but sometimes where or how to store that manure can be a challenge. Manure is a great fertilizer source for crops since it has both macro and micro nutrients that can be utilized by growing crops and the organic matter in manure helps to improve soil health. Plants respond well to manure applications and manure applied in one year breaks down over time to provide nutrients for the growing crop the following year. Also, solid manure can be exported or imported more easily to or from greater distances than liquid manure.

Managing solid manure can be challenging especially if there are inadequate or no manure storage facilities on the farm. Some operations may have one or more stockpiling/ stacking areas around the barn or in the field to handle situations when direct manure application is impractical. These conditions could be due to severe weather limits or field conditions unsuitable for spreading equipment. However, there are guidelines that must be followed to prevent nutrients from reaching water resources.

If the manure being stockpiled <u>IS NOT</u> from an operation designated as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), whether it is produced on the farm or imported to use on a farm, the following guidelines must be followed for stockpiling manure:*

- Keeping all stockpiles/stacks at least 100 feet from sensitive areas such as streams, lakes and ponds, 100 feet from any open sinkhole, 100 feet from any drinking water well (public or private). These stacks cannot be placed within an area of concentrated water flow such as a swale, ditch or waterway.
- Stockpiling/stacking manure on properly constructed improved stacking pads whenever possible. When

stockpiling/stacking on unimproved areas in crop fields, the stockpiles/stacks should not be in the same location each year.

- ◆ Placing these areas at the top of a hill (including the area within 100 feet from the top of the slope), diverting upslope water away from stockpile/stacking areas.
- ◆ Placing stacks on areas with less than 8% slope.
- ♦ The manure must be dry enough to allow for stacking at least 4 feet in height. When stacked on the application field, the volume needs to be limited to the amount that can be spread on fields nearby to the stack.
- When stacked on the application field, cover stockpiled/ stacked manure with a plastic tarp or other similar water repellent cover if it will be in place for more than 120 days. Manure stacked on a properly managed improved stacking pad does not need to be covered.

If the manure being stockpiled <u>IS</u> from a CAFO operation, all of the above apply except the manure stockpile <u>MUST</u> be covered if not spread within 15 days.

The FCCD agricultural staff are available to provide assistance in determining a feasible location for stockpiling manure. Also, funding is available through FCCD to assist with installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) if there is inadequate manure storage available (from livestock on your operation) or if there are heavy use areas that should be stabilized. Please call us (717-264-5499) to schedule a site visit.

(*Information copied from DEP Land Application of Manure/ Manure Management Plan Guidance manual)

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2024 TREE SEEDLING SALE

Cash, Checks and Credit Card payments accepted. Online ordering option available: www.franklinccd.org



The Annual Franklin County Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale is now in progress. This excellent stock comes from state-certified nurseries.

- ⇒ TREE SEEDLINGS are available for purchase in **bundles of 25** per species.
- ⇒ FRUIT TREES are sold **individually** and are available on a first-come first-served basis. Our supply is limited so please **CALL BEFORE ordering by mail.** Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee your order if you do not contact us for the fruit trees. (Online ordering will indicate remaining supply.)

Deadline for orders: March 20, 2024

SALES TAX: Please add 6% sales tax on all orders for non-farm use. *If you are tax exempt, please submit your tax-exempt form or call 717-264-5499.*

Checks should be made payable to: FCCD

ORDERING OPTIONS:

- ♦ Order online at www.franklinccd.org *
- ◆ Complete the attached order form *OR* download the form from our website: www.franklinced.org
- Mail your order form and check to us
- Visit our office at 185 Franklin Farm Lane,
 Chambersburg and pay with check, cash or credit card*
- * All credit card payments subject to a 3% processing fee.

PICK UP DATE: Thursday, April 25, 2024

NO Shipping Available

Please call us if we can help direct you to our Ag Heritage Building on Franklin Farm Lane: 717-264-5499.

* ALL SALES FINAL *

2024 Tree Seedling Sale - Apples, Peaches, Cherries

Fruit trees are available on a first-come first-served basis. We have a fairly limited supply of these, so please **CALL BEFORE** using this order form: **717-264-5499**.

Trees are 2-year-old budded specimens.



TRIUMPH® APPLE

An offspring of the 'Honeycrisp' apple, Triumph® produces attractive fruit. It has demonstrated excellent scab tolerance, good fresh eating qualities and long storage life. Ready to harvest in late September, Triumph® is a pleasantly tart and well-balanced red apple with good storage life.



GOLDRUSH APPLE

Best known for its remarkable keeping qualities. Will keep in regular cold storage approximately 10 or 11 months. Fruit has a tart, tangy flavor that sweetens with age. GoldRush resists oxidation when cut, making a nice, yellow sauce, and the fruit also bakes very well. Resistant to scab and mildew. Late maturing variety. Well suited for both raw and cooked consumption.



MILORGANITE POUCHES - Hang them on your fruit and hardwood trees! Milorganite, an organic nitrogen fertilizer, is a useful product for preventing deer from grazing on fruit trees and ornamental plantings. Hang a small pouch (2x3") on each tree or spread around plantings to deter deer. Generally, it will retain its scent for a full growing season if hung from the tree because the product will not come in contact with the ground. (Milorganite is safe for children and pets.)



CONTENDER PEACH

Known for being cold-hardy and having excellent disease resistance. Medium-sized peaches taste very sweet with an acidic balance. Freestone. Self-pollinating. Needs 6-8 hrs of full sunlight per day. Mature tree height 10-15 ft. Requires well-drained soil. Fruit ripens mid-to-late August.



REDHAVEN PEACH

Considered by many as the standard for the Northeast peach industry. Tree is vigorous, very bud-hardy and productive. Heavy-bearing. Easy to grow and maintain. Drought tolerant. Fruit is medium to large and colors to a brilliant red. Freestone. Self-pollinating. Ripens around August 1.



MONTMORENCY CHERRY

Widely cultivated for its juicy, sour cherries. Makes up 80% of pie cherry trees grown in America. Incredibly reliable high production of firm, bright red, sweet and tangy cherries with yellow flesh and clear juice perfect for baking or dehydrating. Cold hardy and spreading to around 15'. Best planted in full sun in loamy well drained soil. Disease resistant and easier to grow than sweet cherries.

ALL FRUIT PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION FROM ADAMS COUNTY NURSERY, INC.

2024 Tree Seedling Sale - Hardwoods, Conifers/Evergreens



AMERICAN ARBORVITAE

Grows at a slow to medium rate to a height of 40-60 ft with a spread of 10-15 ft at maturity. Full sun is ideal. Grows well in nearly any soil. Leaves change from bright green in summer to rich yellow-brown-green hues in winter. Adapts well to shearing and shaping. Yields light brown oblong cones.



BLACK WALNUT

Best as an open grown tree. Grows 15-25 ft wide and 20-30 ft high. Tree will develop with an oval, moderately spreading crown. Adaptable but prefers moist, well-drained soils. Withstands heavy pruning and prefers full sun to partial shade. Showy white flowers in the spring. Fruit can be used for jams/wines.



CONCOLOR FIR

Soft needles vary from silvery-blue to silvery-green. Grows best in well-drained soil and full sun. Will not do well in heavy, clay soil. This narrow, pyramidal fir is one of the best for northern gardens, noted for withstanding heat and drought better than most firs. A good timber tree as well as an excellent choice for a Christmas tree.



NORWAY SPRUCE

Fastest growing of the spruces reaching a height of 40-60 ft with a spread of 25-30 ft. Develops strong graceful branches that are covered with dark green needles. Makes an ideal windbreaker. Grows at a medium to fast growth rate and does well in full sun. Also makes a wonderful wildlife habitat. Yields light brown 4-6 inch cones.



RED OAK

A common dominant forest tree growing to 100 ft or more in moist to dry soils. Deer, bear, and many other mammals and birds eat the acorns. Often planted as a shade tree. The "red oak group" includes all oaks with bristle-tipped leaves and acorns ripening over two seasons.



AMERICAN ELDERBERRY

A woody shrub or small tree. Reaches 5-12 ft tall, 6-10 ft wide. Tolerates a wide variety of wet to dry soils. Prolific spreading. Best used in naturalized areas as a hedge, in a woodland, or along streams and ponds. Good addition to butterfly and pollinator-friendly areas. Berries, inedible when raw, are used for making jelly, wine and pies.



COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

A handsome ornamental specimen in a single planting or as a dense, colorful screen or windbreak. Reaches height of 50-75'. Its stiff silvery-blue to bluishgreen needles are about 1" long. Prefers ordinary soil, average moisture, and full sun. Does not like wet soil. Deer-resistant with a strong, fresh, piney smell.



EASTERN WHITE PINE

Fast growing to 100 ft. A five-needled pine, with soft, light green-blue needles, 4 inches long. Grows in normal moisture conditions but can tolerate wet, swampy areas as well as dry, rocky soil. Excellent ornamental tree for specimens, naturalizing, windbreak or dense screen. Also widely used for Christmas trees and timber.



PERSIMMON

Grows up to 60 ft. Fragrant white flowers in the spring yield orange edible fruit in the fall. Sometimes used as an ornamental for its hardiness, adaptability to a wide range of soils and climates, and immunity from disease and insects. Moist, well-drained soils provide best conditions but will tolerate hot, dry, poor soils. Thick, dark green leaves turn a yellow fall color.



SCARLET MAPLE

Fast-growing trees 60-90 feet in height. The largest ones can grow more than 120 feet tall. Tolerant to a variety of soil conditions. A colorful addition to any garden. The red leaves this tree produces are bright and brilliant as the fall sun shines on them.

Pick Up: 04/25/2024 Pick Up ONLY (No Shipping)

2024 Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

See Page 9 for other ordering options

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID



NAME:				Pay with Credit Card*
STREET ADDRESS:				(in person or by phone)
CITY,STATE,ZIP:				OR Make Check Payable
EMAIL:				To: FCCD
				* Credit card payments subject to a
DAYTIME PHONE:				3% processing fee
RETURN THIS FORM			nty Conservation Farm Lane, Chan	District nbersburg, PA 17202
ORDER	DEADL	INE: K	EDNESDAY,	March 20
		PRICE	NUMBER OF	
TREE SPECIES	<u>SIZE</u>	PER 25	BUNDLES	AMOUNT DUE
American Elderberry	12-18"	\$42.00		
American Arborvitae	6-12"	\$36.00	- -	
Black Walnut	12-18"	\$42.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	5-10"	\$33.00		
Concolor Fir	5-10"	\$39.00		\$
Eastern White Pine	10-20"	\$38.00		
Norway Spruce	10-15"	\$33.00		
Persimmon	12-18"	\$42.00		
Red Oak	12-18"	\$40.00		
Scarlet Maple	12-18"	\$45.00		
		PRICE	NUMBER OF	
FRUIT TREE SPECIES	SIZE P	ER TREE	<u>TREES</u>	AMOUNT DUE
(Be sure to co	all us to ensu	re ample su	upply of fruit trees:	717-264-5499.)
Гriumph® Apple	4-5'	\$28.00		\$
Goldrush Apple	4-5'	\$28.00		
Contender Peach	4-5'	\$22.00		
Redhaven Peach	4-5'	\$22.00		
Montmorency Cherry	4-5'	\$30.00		
PLEASE PLACE ORDER	FOR TUBES	, STAKES,	& MILORGANITE V	WITH TREE ORDER:
Tubes (NOT for fruit trees)	4'	\$ 5.00		\$
Stakes	5'	\$ 1.50		\$
Milorganite	2x3" Pouch	\$ 1.00		\$
B. 1 V. B		2024	SUBTOTA	
Pick Up Date: THURSDAY , APRIL 25 , 2024 ** If tax exempt, please provide PA tax exemption form.		6% TAX	** 	
* ALL SALE	S FINAL *	cion form.	3% CC F TOTAL D	
			IUIAL D	UL D



185 Franklin Farm Lane, Suite 201 Chambersburg, PA 17202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 717-264-5499 Fax: 717-264-5482 Website: www.franklinccd.org E-mail: franklinccd@franklinccd.org

JANUARY 2024

We're on the Web www.franklinccd.org



Franklin County Conservation District Staff

Phone: 717-264-5499

Name	Position	Email
Dave Stoner	General Manager	davestoner@franklinccd.org
Scott Metzger	Asst Manager/ Ag Resource Specialist	baytech97@franklinccd.org
Jennifer Bratthauar	Ag Conservation Technician	jbratthauar@franklinccd.org
Brady Byers	E&S Technician	bbyers@franklinccd.org
Rhoda Crider	Administrative Asst Board Secretary/Treasurer	rcrider@franklinccd.org
John High	PE District Engineer	jhigh@franklinccd.org
Chris Swartz	Ag Conservation Technician	cswartz@franklinccd.org
Thomas Swartz	Ch 102 Program Manager	tswartz@franklinccd.org
Emily Young	Watershed Specialist	eyoung@franklinccd.org