

*Partnering with our community to
conserve soil and water resources*



Annual Impact Report



2025

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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A Message from the District Manager

Welcome to Franklin County Conservation District's (FCCD) Annual Report for 2025.

This year I want to focus on success in water quality. Recent reports are touting water quality improvements being realized in the Chesapeake Bay. Pennsylvania has been credited with its increased efforts over the last several years. Legislators have provided increased funding to Conservation Districts to be used for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs). Most of the FCCD staff's efforts are targeted towards improving local water quality and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay's water quality.

FCCD has been awarded
over \$20 million in
grant funds since 2020.

This success would not be possible without cooperation and buy-in from our county's citizens working with FCCD staff members...the *farmers* working with the *ag staff* on nutrient management and implementing BMPs on their farms, the *excavators, contractors* and *plan writers* working with the *E&S staff* to develop good E&S plans and to implement E&S control plans on construction sites, *landowners* and *municipalities* willingly working with our *Watershed Specialist* and *CAP Coordinator* to install streambank stabilization BMPs that address legacy sediment. The following pages highlight the staff's successful efforts and their part in improving our water. It's clear that it takes everyone working together to ensure success.

This year saw three FCCD employees move onto other places of employment. I want to thank Jennifer Brathauar for 11 years of service as one of our Ag Conservation Technicians, Thomas Swartz for 7 years of service as our E&S Program Manager and Grant Bohn for nearly 1 year of service as one of our Ag Conservation Technicians. Their contributions are much appreciated.

Please take a close look at the staff's list of accomplishments and highlights of 2025. I'm sure you will be impressed.

Enjoy the report,

Dave Stoner
District Manager

2025 Tree Seedling Sale Results

FCCD 2025 Tree Seedling Sale Statistics

2,925 Hardwoods/Evergreens
122 Fruit Trees
178 Tubes
216 Stakes



Erosion & Sediment Control

FCCD maintained its Level II delegation with the Department of Environmental Protection, administering the Erosion and Sediment Control and NPDES programs through plan reviews and permit oversight. Staff reviewed E&S, PCSM, and NPDES applications and conducted site inspections to ensure proper installation and function of BMPs and post-construction stormwater measures. The District also supported implementation of new NPDES requirements, including annual reporting and Qualified Visual Site Inspector (QVSI) training, by working closely with permittees and contractors.

102 Program in Review

- ♦ E&S Plan Reviews: 228
- ♦ Project Acres: 45,212
- ♦ Disturbed Acres: 2,571
- ♦ Inspections: 239
- ♦ Complaints: 54
- ♦ Educational Events: 3
- ♦ General NPDES Permits Issued: 89



LEFT: Erosion control blankets are required on steep slopes to help vegetation establish successfully. Proper trenching is essential to keep the blanket securely in place and ensure it functions effectively.

RIGHT: Proper installation of compost filter socks is crucial for controlling sediment-laden runoff at a job site, particularly when protecting a stream.

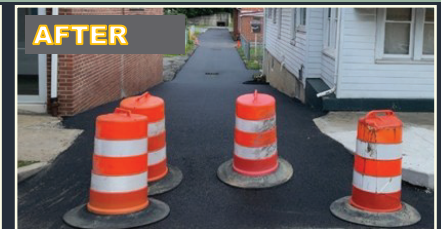


Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road

The Franklin County Conservation District continued to improve water quality through the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program by supporting projects that enhance drainage and reduce sedimentation.

In 2025, the Borough of Chambersburg completed a Low Volume Road project on Clippingier Alley, including installation of filtered drop boxes and upgrades to the road base and pavement. Stormwater from this area drains to the Conococheague Creek, illustrating the broader impact of local improvements. FCCD contributed \$78,000 in program funding.

Following significant erosion from a 2024 storm event, a Dirt and Gravel Road project on Robertson Road in Fannett Township included replacing one crossing, installing two additional crossings, raising sections of roadway, and applying Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). Additional measures redirected runoff away from the road. FCCD contributed \$40,000 toward the project.



Completed LVR project on Clippingier Alley



Installing buried drainage pipe to carry runoff water away from roadway



Completed DGR project on Robertson Road



Act 38 Nutrient Management

Chapter 91 Manure Management

Act 49 Commercial Manure Hauler & Broker Certification

Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans

In 2025, FCCD Nutrient Management staff met State Conservation Commission delegation requirements by reviewing 14 **Act 38 Nutrient Management** plans covering nearly 8,200 acres, including four export-only operations. Staff also developed two new plans totaling 440 acres, supporting final certification of an Agricultural Conservation Technician.

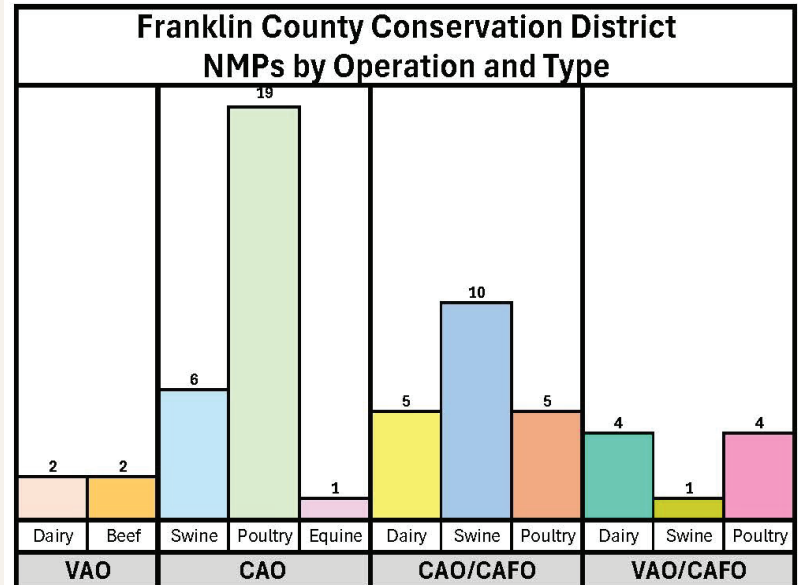
Act 49 Nutrient Balance Sheets: 4 new packets reviewed

Manure Hauler & Broker Certification:

- ◆ Administered four “Manure Hauler 2” tests
- ◆ Hosted a Winter Ag educational meeting with 87 attendees, focusing on manure hauling and safety and the use of food processing residuals on farm fields

Chapter 91: The team successfully authored 17 new Manure Management Plans (MMPs) during the year. This satisfied the Required Output Measures (ROMs) between the District and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of writing a minimum of ten MMPs.

REAP Credit Assistance: FCCD verified 11 operations had their Nutrient and/or Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans in place in order to be eligible for REAP tax credits.



Total number of plans shown are higher than actual number of plans (57) in Franklin County due to operations having more than one animal type.

In 2025, District staff developed 16 E&S plans encompassing 4,152 acres.

Since 2018, a total of 147 plans have been completed, covering 28,100 acres across Franklin County.

Farmers seeking voluntary compliance in obtaining **Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) Plans** continue to rely on FCCD for assistance. Over the past several years, the District has found that most fields and crop rotations currently used on farms throughout Franklin County already meet the Tolerable Soil Loss Limit (“T”), defined as the amount of soil that can be lost annually due to wind and water erosion while maintaining long-term productivity. The widespread adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs), including no-till planting and cover crops, has contributed significantly to this success.

CEG R.E.V. (Restore. Exclude. Vegetate.)

FCCD secured a Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Special Project to fully fund BMP implementation, including livestock exclusion fencing, crossings, waterers, and buffers, and partnered with the Antietam Watershed Association for upstream and downstream water quality monitoring. Project results included six crossings, 3,050 feet of fencing, one livestock waterer, and stream-bank restoration and armoring at a separate site.



FCCD Directors and Staff



2025 District Board of Directors

Chairman	Evan Burkholder
Vice-Chairman	Barry Best
Secretary/Treasurer	Rhoda Crider
Directors	Nelson Egolf
	Dennis Musser
	Mike Ross
	Paul Witter
County Commissioner	Dean Horst
Associate Directors	Sam Worley
	Jennifer Reed-Harry

Sam Worley, Associate Director

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2025 District Staff

District Manager	Dave Stoner
Asst Manager/Ag Resource Specialist	Scott Metzger
Administrative Assistant	Rhoda Crider
Engineer	John High
Watershed Specialist	Miranda Russell
Ch 102 Program Manager	Brady Byers
Ag Conservation Program Manager	Chris Swartz
Ag Conservation Technician	Brandt Wingert
CAP Coordinator	Jill Schooley



2025 Ernie Turner Memorial Scholarship Recipients & 2025 FCCD Golf Tournament



Morgan Nelling



Jason Blackett



Abigail Bricker



Alexandra Hoke



Drew Chamberlin



Kenzie Boyd

FCCD was pleased to award SIX Franklin County students with scholarships of \$1,000 each this year. A total of 91 Franklin County college students have now benefited from environmental scholarships funded by golf tournament proceeds. This year's tournament was held Friday, May 30, at the Whitetail Golf Resort, and FCCD is grateful for its many sponsors and participants.

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 \$72,500 to-date!

Approximately 80 golfers from 20 various businesses came together for this year's fundraiser. The overall winning team, Jim Kohler, Brandon Kohler, Ryan Coccagna and Jim Coccagna, shot a 59 (13 under par). MaryAnn Naugle was the proud winner of the Yeti cooler, sponsored by Coccia Ford. Her "closest to the pin" stroke at Hole #6 earned this year's grand takeaway (pictured at left). Longest drive winners were Ryan Coccagna (Men's) and Rose Ewan (Women's).

SPECIAL THANKS
to our six
"Diamond"
Sponsors (\$1,000).
FCCD is grateful for
all who donated!



New FCCD Staff



NEW AG CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN: Grant Bohn

Grant Bohn was hired March 3, 2025, as a new Ag Conservation Technician. Grant grew up in Franklin County and graduated from Chambersburg Area Career Magnet School.

He was awarded the Ernie Turner Memorial Scholarship for all four years while earning his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Soil and Water Sciences at West Virginia University. Throughout his time at WVU, Grant gained valuable experience through internships in soil, environmental, and marine sciences. In his spare time, he enjoys kayaking and fishing in local waterways.

Watershed Specialist / Clean Water Coordinator

Joint Five-Year Collaboration for Licking Creek Restoration, Montgomery Township

Construction Location: Along Shimpstown Road

Issue: Licking Creek had become a significant concern for the Punchbowl community. This isolated neighborhood is home to roughly 200 residents who rely on a single access road. In recent years, localized rain events have increased mountain runoff, sending fast-moving water into the creek. With limited

room for the water to lose energy, the original floodplain gradually filled with sediment, and powerful high-water events continued to erode the creek's steep banks.

Solution: Increase separation between the road and stream, and restore the floodplain to allow water to spread and dissipate more gently, reducing erosive impacts.

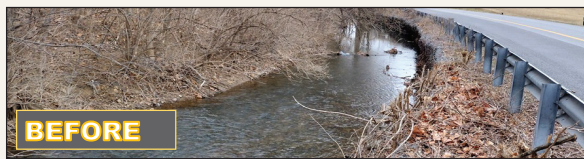


BEFORE



AFTER

Road moved approximately 65-70 feet from stream



BEFORE



AFTER

Wilson Run at Twin Bridge Road, Chambersburg

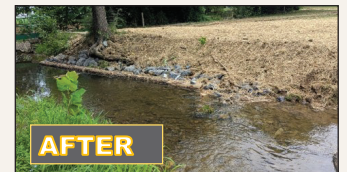
The following structures were installed in-stream to stabilize the heavily eroding banks, encourage consistent flow within the stream channel and create better fish habitat:

- ◆ 11 stone deflectors
- ◆ 22 single log vanes
- ◆ 4 log cross vanes
- ◆ 4 log framed deflectors
- ◆ 4 modified mudsills



BEFORE

Before: Heavily eroded streambank along a cow pasture



AFTER

After: Grading and placement of a modified mudsill to protect the bank

Funding Provided for Phillaman Run at Mountain Run Confluence, Greene Township

First Installation: A 1,700' section, as part of a three-phase approach

Funding Sources: \$313,000 from CAP Block Grant for stream improvements, from a Growing Greener Grant as well as a match contribution from Greene Township Board of Supervisors.



BEFORE

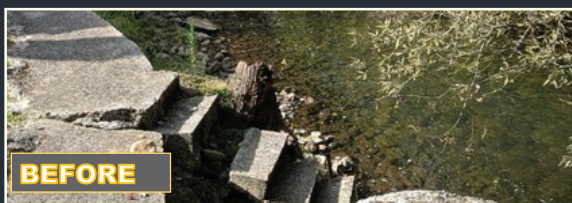
Before: Heavily-eroded dry stream channel



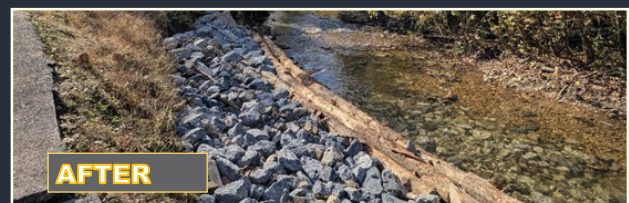
AFTER

After: Graded and stabilized streambank with rootwad deflector structures

Coordination Efforts for Conococheague Creek on Creekside Drive, Chambersburg



BEFORE



AFTER

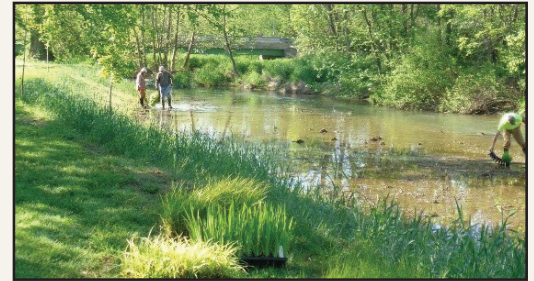
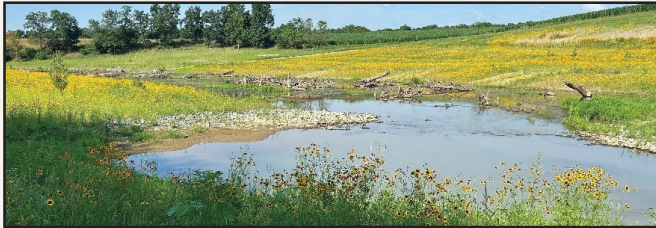
FCCD acted as project sponsor for DEP's Stream Improvement Program. The project included bank fortification consisting of a 250 ft modified mudsill with large rock fill. The mudsill forces the current to return to the middle of the channel while stabilizing the land under the buildings.

Watershed Specialist / Clean Water Coordinator

Back Creek at Edenville Road, Chambersburg

- ◆ 1,720 feet valley length restored
- ◆ Over 100 native trees and shrubs planted
- ◆ Nearly 2,200 herbaceous plugs planted on the floodplain benches
- ◆ 1.84 acres floodplain vegetation
- ◆ 2.53 acres floodplain restoration acreage (including channel)
- ◆ 8.10 acres upland meadow buffer planting

This newly created 2.53-acre floodplain boasts 1.84 acres of native vegetation comprised of live-stakes and a conservation seed mix which provides stability in high water events as well as colorful blooms that attract pollinators.



TOP: Herbaceous plug planting on the floodplain shelf near the downstream segment

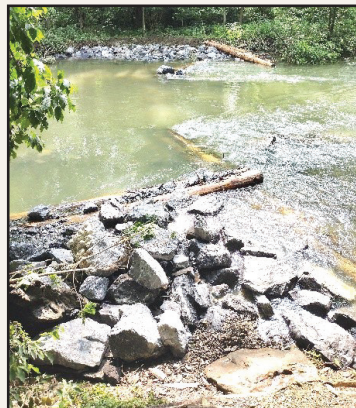
LEFT: Recently restored Back Creek and newly planted floodplain near upstream segment with tickseed in bloom

PROJECT OUTCOME: Sediment was reduced within the watershed, ultimately decreasing Franklin County's impact to the Chesapeake Bay.

West Branch Conococheague at Pidgeon Hill Road, Willow Hill

- ◆ 1,270 feet of the West Branch Conococheague Creek restored
- ◆ 20 structures constructed in an effort to fortify and improve the streambanks

These structures will decrease erosive land loss and redirect channel flow to the center as well as provide critical habitat for fish to feed, reproduce and escape predation.



LEFT: The nearly completed log-framed cross vane with rock throat directs flow to the center of the channel.

TOP: Completed modified mudsill with opposing log frame stone deflectors

Partner Assistance: Falling Spring Branch at Edwards Avenue, Chambersburg

- ◆ Funding Source: Franklin County IMPACT! grant
- ◆ A joint effort led by Trout Unlimited and including partner coordination by PA Fish and Boat Commission, Western PA Conservancy, Resource Restoration Group and two landowners to collaborate on this project with FCCD providing technical assistance
- ◆ A 535' stretch of stream carefully restored
- ◆ Over 60 fish habitat and bank stabilizing structures added

In-stream structures include:

- 2 log faced stone deflectors
- 1 brush deflector
- 5 stone deflectors with logs
- 1 - 5-section mudsill with 20' wing log and rootwad sills
- 1 - 2-section modified mudsill with 10' wings
- 4 rootwad deflectors
- 5 log framed deflectors with j-hooks
- 47 random boulders



2025 Franklin County Envirothon

Congratulations to James Buchanan Senior High School's "Forces of Nature" team who was awarded first place at the 2025 Franklin County Conservation District's annual Envirothon competition held April 15 at Cowans Gap State Park in Fort Loudon, PA. JBHS's Bad Birches earned second and Waynesboro Area Senior High School's Porcupine Power earned third. Leaders at the testing stations were field experts on the topics and included professionals from Department of Environmental Protection, Juniata College, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources -Bureau of Forestry, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, PSU Extension and the Franklin and Fulton County Conservation Districts. FCCD is grateful for all who helped!

2025 ENVIROTHON SPONSORS
Adams Electric Cooperative
The Butcher Shoppe Mercersburg Lions Club



FIRST PLACE - James Buchanan Forces of Nature Team

Back Row: Franklin County Commissioner Dean Horst, PA State Representative Chad Reichard, Illyria Parkolay, McKenna Rosenberry, Jason Blackett, PA State Representative Rich Irvin, Franklin County Conservation District Board Member Mike Ross.
Front Row: Haley Snyder, Madeline Book

2025 Franklin County Science Fair

The 2025 Franklin County Science Fair was held April 4 at the Waynesboro Area Middle School. There was a record high of 291 projects entered, displayed and judged. Franklin County Conservation District staff helped to judge the Junior and Senior environmental categories. For the first time, the District also sponsored a special award to be presented to the student with the first place pollution-related project.

Congratulations to Chloe Brown, a sophomore at James Buchanan High School, for her winning project titled *The Effect of Plastic Pollution on the Growth of Plants*. She was awarded a certificate and cash prize from the District.



FCCD Clean Water Coordinator Jill Schooley (left) and Ag Conservation Program Manager Chris Swartz (right) congratulate Chloe Brown from James Buchanan High School for winning the newly-created FCCD Science Fair award.

2025 First Grade Field Trip

The Conservation District held its annual field trip for first graders in early May. Due to variable weather, classes attended the first week of the field trip at Caledonia State Park while the second week was held indoors at two area elementary schools. Over 700 Chambersburg Area School District students, teachers and chaperones enjoyed a fun-filled day of agricultural and environmental education-themed stations including:

- Stream health and macroinvertebrates
- Water runoff
- Dairy
- Ticks and mosquitoes
- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Animal tracks
- A nature trail scavenger hunt

FCCD partnered with our local Penn State Extension Educators, Master Gardeners, and Franklin County Mosquito and Tick Specialist to make this a meaningful experience for local elementary school students.



Agricultural Resources Specialist

In 2025, the Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) partnered with agricultural producers to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) and Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). Staff conducted site visits for application review, contracting and construction inspection.

CEG (3 contracted landowners)

UTILIZED \$390,000 IN CEG FUNDS TO INSTALL:

- ◆ 1 roofed waste storage facility dry stack pad
- ◆ 2 liquid manure storage tanks
- ◆ 1 stack pad
- ◆ 2 manure transfer systems
- ◆ 1 silage leachate collection system
- ◆ 1 vegetated treatment area

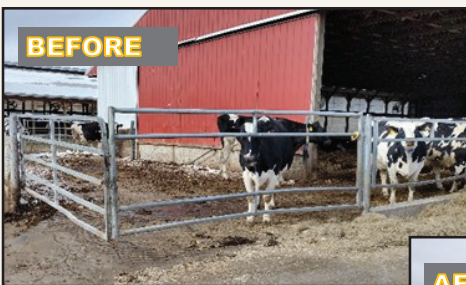
Additionally, 2 new CEG projects were contracted in 2025 for a total of \$167,032.80.



BEFORE

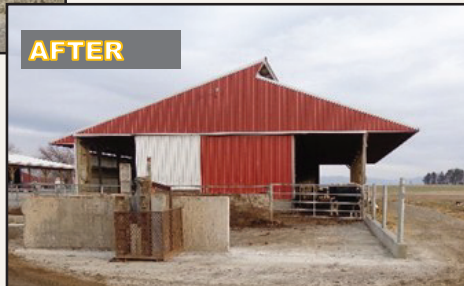


AFTER



BEFORE

A concrete heavy use area with a push-off and stack pad were completed using ACAP funding.



AFTER

2025 OVERALL STATS

- ◆ Worked with 19 agricultural producers
- ◆ Made over 300 site visits on 43 different operations

ACAP (16 contracted landowners)

UTILIZED \$2,438,795.66 IN ACAP FUNDS TO INSTALL:

- ◆ 5 liquid manure storages
- ◆ 7 manure transfer systems
- ◆ 5 roofed heavy use areas and ag waste storage facility dry stack pads
- ◆ 1 roofed stack pad
- ◆ 1 pasture fencing project with a total of 3,293 ft of fence installed including 1,000 ft of stream fence
- ◆ 1 pasture watering system with 1 well, 1,044 ft of pipeline, and 2 waterers
- ◆ 1 animal trail

Additionally, 11 new ACAP projects were contracted in 2025 for a total of \$2,699,554.30.



BEFORE



AFTER

ACAP funding was used for a roof and stack pad project which prevented further runoff.

District Engineer

Under Chapter 102, the Engineer conducts Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) technical reviews for applicable Individual (IP) and General (GP) NPDES permits, including all projects in High Quality or Exceptional Value watersheds and GP projects meeting specific impact thresholds or at District discretion. The Engineer also performs E&S technical reviews for large or complex projects, may assist with administrative reviews, and supports project coordination with consultants, applicants, and DEP. Additional responsibilities include responding to technical inquiries, assisting E&S staff, participating in meetings and presentations, and completing ongoing training to remain current with regulations.

Administrative Reviews		Initial Plan Reviews		Follow – up Plan Reviews		Meetings	Pre-Construction Meetings	Trainings Attended	Presentations
Incomplete	Complete	IP	GP	IP	GP				
9	8	8	23	14	32	69	3	13	3

On the agricultural side, the Engineer conducts Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) visits to identify resource concerns and recommend Best Management Practices (BMPs), followed by preliminary sizing, sketch plans, and summary letters to guide farmer decision-making. The District provides surveying, design, and QA inspection services for many projects, while larger or more complex efforts are completed by private consultants with District review for compliance. In 2025, BMP implementation was supported through CEG and ACAP, with additional technical assistance, training, and outreach provided by the Engineer.

I&E	Designs	Surveys	Meetings	Inspections	Trainings	Presentations
20	7	32	63	67	2	1



BEFORE



John High, District Engineer, inspects a mortality compost bin structure installed through the Conservation Excellence Grant Program.



AFTER

Above/Before: The existing tank was undersized and only provided about two months of storage.
Lower/After: A new tank was constructed with adequate storage.

2025 Conservation Farmer of the Year

Craig Alleman was honored as the 2025 Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Franklin County Conservation District at the annual Summer Conservation Farm Tour. Alleman had previously installed several conservation measures on his farm including a covered heavy use area bedded pack facility and a liquid manure tank. A second phase of the project included a tree planting on a steep slope in his pasture. This project utilized County Action Plan (CAP) grant funds geared towards reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in the Chesapeake Bay.

Right: 104-year-old FCCD Associate Director Sam Worley was in attendance to congratulate Craig Alleman and family on achieving this award.



Above: PA State Representative Chad Reichard, PA State Representative Rich Irvin, Farmer of the Year Craig Alleman, Franklin County Commissioner Dean Horst, FCCD Board Chairman Evan Burkholder

2025 Affiliate Memberships

Affordable Excavating & Hauling, Inc.*
Antrim Township*
Beidel Brothers, Wayne & Bradley*
Blue Ridge Landfill/Waste Connections*
Carl Pugh & Son, LLC
Coldsmith Construction
DHM Inc
Glenn D. Dice*
East Coast Green, Inc.*
Forrester Farms, LTD*
Frederick, Seibert & Associates, Inc.*
Clifford & Maggie Hawbaker*
Herbruck's of Pennsylvania LLC
Horstdale Farm Supply, LLC*
Lady Moon Farms, Inc.*

Letterkenny Township
Lurgan Township
Martin Custom Farming LLC*
Mercer Vu Farms Inc*
Metal Township
Montgomery Township Supervisors*
Myrlawn Farm, Curtis Meyers
Peters Township Supervisors
Quincy Township Supervisors*
Resource Restoration Group LLC*
Rosenberry's Septic Service*
Slate Ridge Dairy Farm Inc*
Snoke's Excavating & Paving, Inc.*
South Mountain Fish & Game*
Southampton Township

St Thomas Township*
Stoners Hijos Hill, Inc.*
Timmons Farms*
Washington Township Supervisors
William A Brindle Associates, Inc.
Donna Adams
Jeff & Phoebe Conner
Norman Cook
Harold S. Forrester
Betty Hessong*
Hamilton Township Supervisors*
SunnyHill Properties*
Swailes Farms LLC
Weaver Hauling & Excavating*

* Indicates gift of \$100 or more

Farewell to

- ♦ Jennifer Bratthauar
- ♦ Thomas Swartz
- ♦ Grant Bohn



Thomas Swartz



Jennifer Bratthauar



Grant Bohn