

**CENTRE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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CENTRE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report Edition

Volume 28, No. 1

Conservation Conversation

2014 Annual Report

Centre County Conservation District
Celebrates 60 Years!



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The Centre County Conservation District celebrated 60 years of service to Centre County residents in 2014. The Centre County Conservation District was formed at the request of farmers and others in the county who were interested in conservation of soil and water resources, and land use planning. The District was declared a Conservation District by the Centre County Board of Commissioner in October 1954. The District was initially organized to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources, assist in watershed protection and flood prevention, preserve woodland and wildlife, protect public lands, and to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people within the community. The District is a subdivision of State government and is administered by a volunteer based Board of Directors. The District board is currently composed of four farmer directors, two urban-public directors and one county commissioner, along with four associate directors. In 2014, there were eight full-time employees. Some of the programs that the District staff administer include: The Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); Chapter 105 Stream Encroachment; Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Roads; Chesapeake Bay Program; Nutrient Management; Ag Conservation technical assistance; as well as sponsor the County Envirothon. Monthly board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month in Room 146 of the Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, at 7:30 p.m., and are open to the public.

Mission Statement

The Centre County Conservation District is a committed, professional agency functioning as the primary local source of assistance to all individuals and organizations who benefit from the county's natural resources that we collectively strive to sustain and improve.



Centre County Conservation District Website...

The Conservation District has a new website, along with Centre County Government, with the same look. On our website, one can access forms and documents helpful to earthmoving activities such as: construction sites, timber harvests, stream permits, etc. Our newsletter, watershed and ag programs, upcoming events, and contact information for district staff can also be found. The site is often updated to include the latest and current forms, and new pages are being added as time permits—so check back often. Our website is a good place to start when looking for guidance or answers to common issues we regulate or manage.

District website: www.centrecountypa.gov/conservation

Centre County website: <http://centrecountypa.gov>

Agriculture/Grant Updates

Nutrient Management-- ACT 38

In 2014, Centre County Conservation District staff reviewed 4 new Nutrient Management Plans and 3 plan amendments. Five of the 7 plans were from Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), one was from a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) and one was a volunteer plan. All seven plans were approved by the District Board.

Manure Sampling Frequency

The Act 38 regulations state that “manure tests are required to be taken annually for each manure group generated on the operation”. Most outdoor manure storages that are not under building receive rainwater. Common examples are swine, veal, and dairy outdoor storages. If these storages are emptied more than one time a year, there are multiple manure groups in the nutrient management plan for that crop year. An example of this is, if an outdoor storage is emptied in both the spring and fall, there are two separate manure groups for this storage. Each of the two manure groups must be sampled every year. One sample cannot represent both groups.

GRANT UPDATE

Growing Greener

The Centre County Conservation District was awarded a Growing Greener Grant through the Department of Environmental Protection. The \$500,732 grant will be used to install Agricultural Best Management Practices on 4 farms located in the Spruce Creek Watershed. The District will be partnering with Clear Water Conservancy and NRCS to complete the 4 projects.

PENNVEST

In 2012, the Centre County Conservation District was awarded over \$2 million from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Non-Point Source Program to install agricultural best management practices on four farms located in Centre County. In 2014 construction was completed on the last remaining project, a Dairy operation located in Curtin Township.

Curtin Township Dairy Farm



Before Construction: Winter sacrifice lot before construction of Best Management practices. Manure is not collected. Runoff from lot was directly impacting Ramola Branch.

After Construction: Heavy Use Area Protection with adjacent Manure Stacking Facility. Cows are kept underroof during the non-grazing season. Manure is collected and stored. Runoff is eliminated.



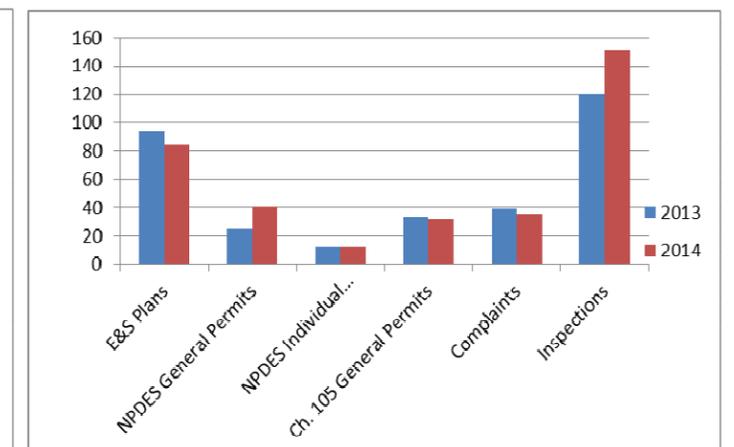
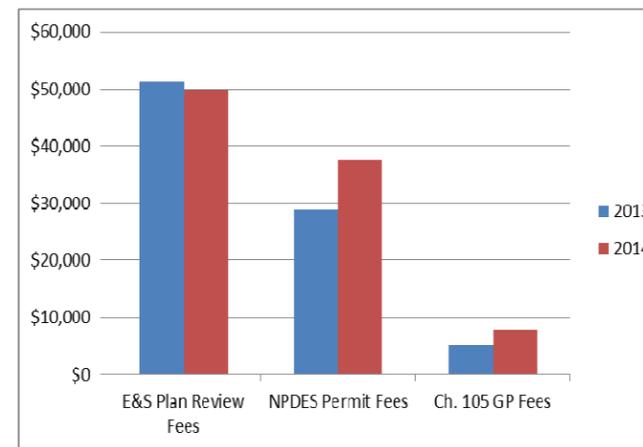
Before Construction: Gully erosion caused by a diversion outlet. Sediment was directly impacting Ramola Branch.

After Construction: Clean runoff from a diversion outlet is conveyed through a pipe to a stabilized outlet. Sediment delivery to Ramola Branch is greatly reduced.



Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program

The Conservation District continues to administer the Chapter 102, Soil Erosion Control, NPDES permitting for storm-water discharges from construction activities, and Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management Programs through delegation agreements with the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The number of E&S plans and 105 general permits is down slightly from last year, but the number of NPDES permits has increased from 2013. Accordingly, E&S plan review fees are down slightly, but the NPDES permit fees and Ch. 105 permit fees have increased from 2013.



Did you know?



Sediment is the #1 pollutant, by volume, in Commonwealth waters.

PA is second only to Alaska in number of stream miles. *Source: PA-DCNR*

Accelerated erosion from human use of land accounts for 70% of the total sediment load in U.S. waters. *Source: Mid-America Regional Council*



Dates to Remember:

- March 21—Manure Management Workshop; State College, Pa
- March 28—Manure Management Workshop, Howard, Pa
- March 31—Seedling Sale Order Deadline
- April 22—Earth Day!
- April 24 & 25—Seedling Sale Pick-up, Grange Fairgrounds
- May 13—Centre Co. Envirothon, Bald Eagle State Park

Environmental Education & Watershed News

In 2014, the Centre County Conservation District participated with partners to host three day long workshops—*The Woods in your Backyard*, *Clean Water/Healthy Lands*, and *Innovations in Stormwater Management*. Partners included the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Spring Creek Watershed Association, Cooperative Extension, PSU and UAJA. CCCD also presented at the DEP 319 meeting in April.

The Centre County Envirothon was held at Bald Eagle State Park on May 14. Staff members participated in the State Envirothon at Susquehanna University on May 20.

This past year CCCD interacted with over 1,000 children in county schools, visiting classrooms and attending field days to teach watershed education.

CCCD participated in various PSU Career Days and served as guest lecturers in classrooms and at the November 3 Watershed Summit held at the Nittany Lion Inn.

Education training included attendance at the WBSRC symposium in April, the Coldwater Heritage Conference in February, the WREN conference in June, UAJA and ERPA tours and the AG Progress Day luncheon. We exhibited the District's display at Grange Fair.

The District's stream restoration projects included projects on Penns Creek, Spring Creek, Bald Eagle Creek and Little Fishing Creek. Partners included USFWS, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Talleyrand Park Committee, Bellefonte Borough, the Penns Valley Conservation Association, the Centre County Correctional Facility, North Central PA Conservancy and the DEP Growing Greener program. We installed three mudsills, totaling 380 feet, 11 log vanes and three crossings in order to stabilize these streams.

The District received Trout Unlimited TAG assistance to assess the AMD Treatment systems in lower Cold Stream. Skelly and Loy conducted the assessment which included recommendations for remediation.

As an outgrowth of our *Innovations in Stormwater Management* workshop, CCCD provided PACD funds to implement 5 stormwater best management projects at 50% cost share. Practices included the planting of riparian buffers, rain gardens, roof top planters and the purchase of rain barrels.

The Chesapeake Bay Forestry Program awarded funding to the District to plant trees and shrubs in riparian buffers and rain gardens. We will be implementing that project this year.

2015 CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

Your class/group/child is invited to participate in the annual conservation poster contest. This is your chance to help every student become active in today's pursuit for a sustainable environment – while being creative and having fun. Please visit www.centrecountypa.gov/conservation for more information. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' (PACD) Education and Youth Committee has chosen the following theme:



Forward entries to:
Centre Co Conservation District
414 Holmes Street, Suite 4
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant

Back in 2012, the Centre County Conservation District was awarded a \$75,000.00 Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Grant through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). To date the grant funds have been matched by over \$100,000 in non-federal funds. In 2014, on a dairy farm in Gregg Township, a waste pond over 40 years old that was used to collect milkhouse wastewater and silage leachate was decommissioned, and replaced with a concrete storage.



Old Waste Pond

Gregg Township Dairy Farm



New storage which collects milkhouse wastewater, silage leachate, runoff from the barnyard and manure.

Department of Community and Economic Development--Watershed Restoration and Protection Grant

In 2013, the Centre County Conservation District was awarded a \$289,226 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development Watershed Restoration and Protection Program. In 2014, construction was completed on a dairy farm in Spring Township addressing leachate runoff from a silage bunker and runoff from reclaimed sand bedding.



Silage Leachate runoff is captured in a collection box and gravity fed into the circular storage. Runoff is pumped into the manure storage.

Spring Township Dairy Farm



A concrete apron and curbing directs runoff into the collection box. The surface area of the silage bunker is over 52,000 sq. ft.



Sand is removed from liquid manure as it travels down a sand lane. A loader is used to remove the settled sand. Wet sand is piled on the pad, where rainfall flushes organics from the sand.



Runoff from the sand stacking pad is collected in the manure storage shown (background). Runoff goes through a sand trap to remove any sand that may be captured in the runoff.

Dirt Gravel Low Volume Roads Program

Three Dirt and Gravel Road projects were funded by the Centre County Conservation District last year. They were:

Curtin Township: Approx. 1700' of Orviston Mountain Road

This project included stabilizing this length of road with DSA (driving surface aggregate) and adding cross pipes for better offsite and road surface drainage. The District funded a \$19,954 grant request for this project. In addition, Curtin Township provided nearly \$17,000 (“in-kind” contribution) of their own for materials, equipment and labor to do this project.

Potter Township: Approx. 2200' of Boal Gap Road

Replaced road crosspipes, a stream crossing culvert, tree trimming and removal for better sunlight access to road (minimize icing and freeze-thaw effects in winter), and DSA placement. \$18,000 grant funded; in addition Potter Township provided over \$11,000 in-kind for materials, equipment and labor to complete the project.

The District also funded a \$20,000 grant to extend a section of **Tunnel Road** (adding to a section of this road completed in 2013) in **Penn Township** last spring, with supplemental funding we had available for a one time grant. Penn Township provided nearly \$4,300 in-kind funds for surface preparation and DSA placement.

New for 2015: Low Volume Roads (LVR) grant opportunities for paved or sealed roads with 500 or less vehicles per average day.

The Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program wishes to promote a better public road system with a reduced environmental impact—with a focus on utilizing recognized “Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance (ESM) Practices”. Funding is limited to roads open for public use. Municipalities or other road owners that wish to participate must have personnel to design and oversee their proposed project that have been recently (within 5 years) trained in *Environmental Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads*.

Often, an effort to better manage drainage (both from the road surface and keeping offsite runoff from draining onto or across) is key to proper maintenance and will help to minimize impacts to our waterways- resulting in a longer lasting smooth road and nearby streams being less impacted!

Contact the Centre County Conservation District for more information regarding the Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads or visit <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu>.



Manure Management Plan Writers

Conservation District Writes Farm Plans for Landowners in Centre County

The Centre County Conservation District currently has 2 contracted Plan Writers available to write Manure Management Plans (MMPs) and Ag Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) Plans for landowners in Centre County. This is a very unique opportunity across the State, as the District pays the Plan Writer for each Plan written with a Growing Greener Grant. The landowner only has to pay \$50 (total for both plans). In 2014, 17 MMPs and 11 Ag E&S Plans were written by our Plan Writers in various watersheds across the County. Landowners who need either Plan are encouraged to contact the District to get on the waiting list, as funds are limited. Landowners do not need to submit the MMP or Ag E&S Plans to any regulatory agency, unless formerly requested. Plans just need to be kept on the farm. Although many landowners are conservation minded with manure and soil on their operation, a **written** plan is needed to satisfy PA law. Contact the Conservation District at (814) 355-6817 to sign up.



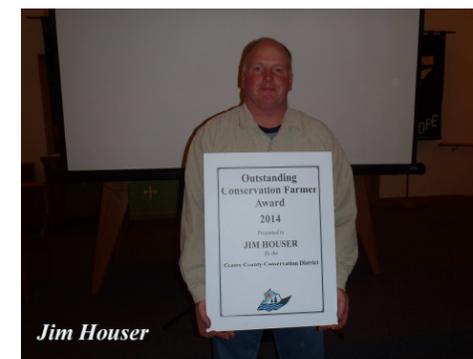
Farm/City Banquet

The Annual Farm/City Banquet was held on November 13, 2014, at the New Hope Lutheran Church in Spring Mills. This annual banquet is held each fall to bring the rural & urban communities together. There were approximately 150 people in attendance. A milk and cheese reception was hosted by the Centre Co. Dairy Princess, and a home-cooked meal was provided by the church. The keynote speaker was Dan Kniffen, PhD. Dan spoke on the importance of beef production. Door prizes were given away in addition to 3 awards presented by the District:

Watershed Stewardship Award—David Martinec

Outstanding Conservation Farmer—Jim Houser

Clean Streams Award—Benjamin Gilberti (not pictured)



Jim Houser



David Martinec