Pennsylvania State Office

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State Technical Committee (STC) Meeting

AGENDA
Thursday, April 24, 2025

This meeting will be conducted both in-person at the PA NRCS state office and remotely via Microsoft Teams internet conferencing. The office address, meeting link and a call-in telephone number are provided at the end of this document.

1:00 pm Welcome – Denise Coleman, NRCS State Conservationist

1:10 pm Program Highlight/Presentation

- PA Fish and Boat Commission- PA NRCS Partnership for Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP); Penny V. Ayers, Esq., Division Chief, Public Access and Property Services

1:45 pm Technical Updates

- Engineering – Tim Peters, State Engineer
- Ecological Sciences – Dan Ludwig, State Resource Conservationist
- Soils – Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist

2:00 pm Partnership and Easement Program Updates

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Melissa Hanner, Easement Program Manager

2:15 pm Financial Program Updates

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Ryan Cornelius, Program Manager
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Ashley Lenig, Program Manager
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Haley Dukes

2:35 pm Committee Input for Fiscal Year 2025

- Topic and/or Committee Suggestions?
- Open Forum for State Technical Committee members

***2025 Dates for State Technical Committee Meetings:**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025
Wednesday, October 2025
Thursday, January 22, 2026

April 24, 2025; Microsoft Teams meeting link:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 267 044 151 901
Passcode: 2J7TRH

Download Teams | **Join on the web**

Or call in (audio only)

+1 202-650-0123,657303009# United States, Washington DC
Phone Conference ID: 657 303 009#

State Office Address and STC Webpage Link:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/pennsylvania/technical-committee

STAC Handout Web Page Link:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-state-technical-committee-0

Pennsylvania State Technical Committee Meeting

April 24, 2025

Denise Coleman, PA State Conservationist, NRCS, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed all participants, both online and in person. The guest speaker from the Fish and Boat Commission was unable to attend, resulting in a shortened meeting. Coleman noted that 50 staff members had taken the deferred resignation program, leaving approximately 170 staff members remaining. Among many questions, a prominent one concerned the Inflation Reduction Act. Secretary Rollins authorized NRCS to continue producing obligated producer contracts. Thanks to the efforts of Jared, the programs team, and field staff, Pennsylvania was in a strong position, having obligated $33 million in EQIP funds under the Inflation Reduction Act by mid-January. Including Farm Bill funds, the total EQIP allocation was approximately $84 million. Many partners had questions regarding implications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). For agreements already signed, the Secretary authorized moving forward. Jared Shippey will provide further details later in the meeting.

Tim Peters, State Engineer, NRCS,

Tim Peters noted that it was the height of engineering training season and expressed enthusiasm about progress made. He announced a new NRCS hydrology tool, currently available only to users on government computers, though efforts are underway to make it publicly accessible. The tool, called the NETS program, builds on EFH 2 and uses GIS to estimate stream statistics and storm flows using soil data and a few input parameters. Engineering staff received training on the program.

Another recent training session was the composting bedded pack workshop for dairy facilities, held in Bloomsburg in February, aimed at improving engineering staff's confidence in planning, promoting, and designing these systems. An additional event involved touring a farm in Columbia County and supporting nutrient management orientation (ACT 38 training).

Boot Camp Conservation Training was a success. The basic training session held in March had 30 participants, including five from NRCS District 9, and featured 18 instructors from NRCS, the SEC, and Penn State Extension. A second-level Boot Camp was held two weeks prior, with 9 NRCS, 5 PACD, 13 conservation district staff, and 2 additional partners attending, supported by 27 instructors.

The ACA Minor Storage Training, part of the ACT 38 training, had also completed. This training involved evaluating animal concentration areas and minor storages.

Engineering staff have completed 85 EWP projects and have finalized agreements with local sponsors for Tropical Storm Debbie. Upcoming projects include development of a maple syrup energy assessment and design tool, and updates to Conservation Practice Standard 642, focusing on well implementation specifications.

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State Technical Committee Engineering Update 4/24/2025

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Trainings Completed in Quarter

- NRCS Engineering Tool Suite NETS
- Composting Bedded Pack Workshop
- Nutrient Management Orientation
- Boot Camp Level I (March Session)
- Boot Camp Level II

Upcoming Trainings

- Basic Session II:
  - May 5-8
  - Lewisburg
- PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS):
  - May 4-7
- ACA and Manure Storage (Act 38)
  - May 13-15

EWP

- DSRs and Designs are completed for Debby 2024 storms (85 sites)
- Working with Sponsors
  - Property Access
  - Permits
  - Bidding
- Construction – Through Summer
- Inspection Training (Bloomsburg) – Held 4/21/25

Maple Syrup Energy Assessment Tool

- Looking at a simplified energy assessment and design tool for maple syrup energy improvement projects
  - Reverse Osmosis Systems
  - Evaporator Pans

CPS 642 Well Specification

- Well yield testing – response to national policy changes
- Specification update will be coming
- Working with PA's shared geologist

Dan Ludwig, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS

Dan Ludwig announced that all conservation practice standards scheduled for revision in 2025 had been uploaded. These included:

- **Practice 805: Amending Soil Properties**
- **Practice 822: Non-Ruminant Livestock Outdoor Vegetation Management**
- **Practice 828: Wildlife Habitat Establishment**
- **Practice 827: Strategic Forest Forage Management**

He noted that interim practices focusing on site preparation would support better establishment of warm season grasses and other vegetation. Three new interim practices were expected for release in 2026, with practices 4384 (Woody Residue Treatment) and 422 (Hedgerow Planting) to be released within 30 days, before the July meeting.

Brian Campbell was leading a project on forage yields in rotationally grazed pastures, collecting dry matter data to substantiate NRCS yield estimates from the past decade.

Ludwig invited participants to join the nutrient management or forestry subcommittees, as discussed during the January meeting. He also encouraged attendance at several upcoming trainings:

- **"Working Organically with Effective Producers" led by Dayanna Barnes (virtual and field sessions in Berks County)**
- **Soil Health and Sustainability Training led by Yuri Plowden (Juniata County)**
- **"Working Effectively with Producers of Confined and Pasture Livestock" led by Brian Campbell (Chambersburg County)**

Tentative fall trainings included:

- **Certified Conservation Planner Training, September 15–19, in State College**
- **Introduction to Conservation Planning, October 28–30, in Lebanon County**

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Ecological Sciences Update- April 24, 2025

Dan Ludwig
State Resource Conservationist

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Practice Standards

- New CPD-DMS system is up and running

- Interim Practice Standards posted
  - 805, 822, 827, 828
  - IRs still remain to be an issue for posting

Practice Standards

- PA Practice Standards for public comment

- 327- Conservation Cover
- 340- Cover Crop
- 657- Wetland Restoration

Upcoming Eco-Sciences Projects

- Continuous-grazed Pasture Yields
  - Clipping Study led by Brian Campbell, State Grazing Specialist
- Pasture Yield Accuracy
  - Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans
  - Working with Nutrient Management Education Committee
- Pasture NRI
  - Annual data collection led by Brian Campbell

STAC Subcommittees

- Reactivation/Creation of 2 Subcommittees

- Nutrient Management
  - Review Cropland CEAP studies
  - Evaluate advanced nutrient management technologies

- Forestry
  - Invasive Species Treatment technology
  - Innovative practices (slash walls, etc.)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Working Effectively With Organic Producers
  - June 3-5, 2025- 2 virtual days, 1 field day (Berks Co.)
  - Contact Dayanna Barnes
- Soil Health and Sustainability
  - July 7-9 and 11- 3 virtual days, 1 field day (Juniata Co.)
  - Contact Yuri Plowden
- Working Effectively With Producers of Confined and Pastured Livestock
  - July 15-17- In Person (Chambersburg, PA)
  - Contact Brian Campbell

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Conservation Planning, Part 2
  - Tentatively- September 15-19 (State College, PA)
  - Contact Dayanna Barnes
- Introduction to Conservation Planning
  - Tentatively- October 28-30 (Lebanon, PA)
  - Contact Dayanna Barnes

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
WETLAND RESTORATION
CODE 657
(ac)

DEFINITION

The re-establishment of abiotic conditions (e.g., hydrology, topographic features, and substrate) on filled or partially, effectively, or fully drained wetlands to a close approximation of pre-disturbance conditions.

PURPOSE

To the extent practicable, address identified resource concerns (e.g., water quality degradation, inadequate habitat for wildlife, or degraded plant condition) by restoring the original wetland abiotic conditions (e.g., hydrology, soils, and elevational gradients).

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to any land use (i) where there was once a naturally occurring wetland, (ii) the wetland has been altered by onsite (e.g., construction of irrigation tailwater reservoirs or livestock ponds, ditches or tile drainage, placement of fill, excavation, sedimentation, leveling, deep ripping, and soil mixing) or offsite actions or disturbances (e.g., levees, reservoirs, diversions, and changes in the watershed) that changed the hydrology and other abiotic features, and (iii) where the conservation objective is to restore the area to a close approximation of the pre-disturbance wetland conditions.

Many disturbed wetlands historically contained a mosaic of landscape features, including some small non- wetlands (e.g., pimple mounds, mima mounds, gilgai uplifts, irregular sediment deposition in floodplains) making it impracticable to separate (delineate) these areas from the historic wetland areas. In such situations, wetland restoration will include intermingled non-wetlands, with the objective of replicating the historic wetland and non-wetland conditions within the project area.

- Supporting practices often include but are not limited to: Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Dike or Levee (Code 356) or Diversion (Code 362), used to construct a berm, dike, diversion, or ditch plug.
- CPS Structure for Water Control (Code 587), used to install a water control structure.

Common associated practices installed prior to or following installation of this practice include:

- CPS Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420) or Tree and Shrub Establishment (Code 612), used to restore the plant community.
- CPS Critical Area Planting (Code 342), used to plant vegetation on areas expected to have high erosion rates.
- CPS Wetland Wildlife Management (Code 644), used to manage the habitat.
- CPS Shallow Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646), used to manage shallow water to mimic natural floodwater pulses.

- CPS Brush Management (Code 314) or Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315), used to control undesirable brush or herbaceous species.
- CPS Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), used to manage the species composition or density of existing trees.
- CPS Prescribed Burning (Code 338), used to restore or manage the plant community, or for site preparation.
- CPS Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), used to manage the vegetation with livestock.
- CPS Structures for Wildlife (Code 649), used to provide abiotic structures for wildlife (e.g., elevated mounds to provide nesting sites and escape from periods of high water; course woody debris to provide shelter, basking, and foraging habitat; and nest boxes or platforms).

This practice does not apply to:

- Creating a wetland to treat point and non-point sources of water pollution. Use CPS Constructed Wetland (Code 656).
- Rehabilitating a degraded wetland, the reestablishment of a former wetland, or the modification of an existing wetland, where specific wetland functions are augmented beyond the original natural conditions, at the expense of other functions. Use CPS Wetland Enhancement (Code 659).
- Creating wetland functions on a site that was not historically a wetland. Use CPS Wetland Creation (Code 658).

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

The restored wetland will be in the same hydrogeomorphic class and same vegetative modifier as the historic wetland (USDA NRCS 2008).

Evaluate sites that are suspected of containing hazardous material. If confirmed, the practice shall not be installed.

Identify the project area's physical and legal constraints (e.g., property boundaries, flood prevention levees, public drainage systems, and changes in the watershed) to determine practice feasibility and scope.

Within the physical and legal constraints, and to the extent practicable, restore hydrology (frequency, duration, depth, and timing of inundation or saturation), source (e.g., groundwater discharge, overbank flooding, or tidal inundation), and hydrologic losses (e.g., evaporation, vegetative transpiration, groundwater recharge, and surface outflow) to the historic conditions. Examples include:

- Removing sediment or fill.
- Breaking, crushing, or removing drainage tile.
- Replacing perforated drainage tile with solid tile.
- Breaching or removing berms, dikes, terraces, and levees.
- Filling pits or ponds.
- Grading to re-establish macro- or micro-topography.
- Installing berms or dikes with the application of CPS Code 356.
- Installing diversions with the application of CPS Code 362.
- Installing structures for water control with the application of CPS Code 587.
- Managing frequency, duration, depth and timing of inundation with the application of CPS Code 646 to mimic natural and historic flood pulses.

CONSIDERATIONS

Restoring wetland hydrology to an area may increase or decrease the hydrology to adjacent and downgradient areas, including adjacent wetlands.

Some current streams and adjacent areas were historically low-gradient wetlands (Cluer and Thorne 2014). Soil investigations often provide strong evidence of the pre-disturbed conditions.

Excessive excavating and grading activities have the potential to significantly disrupt soil profiles (e.g., mixing of the A horizon, fracturing thin aquitards disruption of ground-water movement) and facilitate the establishment of noxious and invasive plant species.

Wetlands attract many species of wildlife. Some can create safety concerns with adjacent roads, airports and military installations, which may introduce liability concerns to the agency and landowner.

Restoring the occurrence of elevated areas with lighter textured soils (e.g., sand, sandy loams) removed during previous land-clearing, leveling, and plowing activities, will allow for the restoration of the historic plant species diversity. It will also provide surface and subsurface nesting, breeding, resting, and foraging sites for small mammals, reptiles, shorebirds, waterfowl, and invertebrates.

Assuring the soils stability in the upgradient non-wetland area will minimize sedimentation of the restored wetland. Sedimentation not only impacts the practice lifespan but creates a leveling effect that eliminates restored elevational mosaic patterns (e.g., microtopography).

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Where applicable, assure water rights support the restoration objectives. Describe the past actions that impacted the project area.

Describe and contrast the historic conditions and current conditions for soils (e.g., presence of aquitards, wetting and drying cycles), hydrology (e.g., source and hydroperiods) and vegetation (e.g., species composition, structure, and distribution) associated with the hydrology described. The historic conditions are extrapolated from a review of aerial photography or other remotely sensed data, soil maps, topographic maps, stream gage data, similar intact reference wetlands, and historical ecological records. Additionally, sites specific evidence obtained from in-situ soil profiles (when possible) can be used to document the historical condition and inform the restoration target conditions.

Groundwater-influenced wetlands are often significantly impacted from regional ground and surface water irrigation. The impacts have created conditions wetter than the historic conditions (e.g., southwest Idaho) and drier than the historic conditions (e.g., Southern High Plains region of Texas). Long-term monitoring data can inform reasonable expectations and challenges regarding wetland hydrology restoration.

Describe the target hydrological conditions and provide an analysis of alternatives that compares different restoration actions and associated water management actions over the project life. Document alternatives considered with clear support for the chosen alternative.

Include a plan view, quantities, and sufficient profiles and cross-sections to define the location, layout, and grade for stakeout and checkout.

Identify suitable water sources based on groundwater investigations, stream gage data, water budgeting, or other appropriate means.

Identify other practices needed to restore the pre-disturbance hydrology (e.g., CPS Dike or Levee (Code 356) and CPS Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646)).

Plans and specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site. Plans and specifications shall be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, or other documentation. The plans and specifications for structural features will include, at a minimum, a plan view, quantities, and sufficient profiles and cross-sections to define the location, line, and grade for stakeout and checkout. Plans and specifications shall be reviewed and approved by staff with appropriate job approval authority.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) activities may be needed to ensure the continued hydrologic function of the restored wetland. If needed, a monitoring schedule will be included in the O&M plan.

A separate Operation and Maintenance Plan will be prepared for sites that have structural features. The plan will include specific actions for the normal and repetitive operation of installed structural items, especially water control structures, if included in the project.

The plan will also include the maintenance actions necessary to ensure that constructed items are maintained for the life of the project. It will include the inspection schedule, a list of items to inspect, a checklist of potential damages to look for, recommended repairs, and procedures for documentation.

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Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist, NRCS

Yuri Plowden provided an update on the Soil Carbon Monitoring Network (SCMN), introduced in January. The initiative, intended to establish a baseline for soil carbon and promote sequestration practices, was on indefinite pause as the Soil Survey Division underwent restructuring.

In the meantime, a Pennsylvania Soils Conference was being planned, co-hosted by NRCS, the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPS), and Penn State University. Scheduled for June 17–18 in Bellefonte, near Penn State, registration information would be available on the PAPS website. Contact Dayanna Barnes for details on the Soil Health and Sustainability Training.

Additional upcoming trainings included:

• Interagency Hydric Soils Training, July 6–7, at Raystown Lake (for NRCSDEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other public partners)

• Advanced Wetland Training, August 9–11, at the Cumberland County Conservation District in Carlisle, PA

Details for these events were to be determined. Plowden thanked attendees for their support, noting her upcoming retirement on April 30 and that this would be her final STC meeting.

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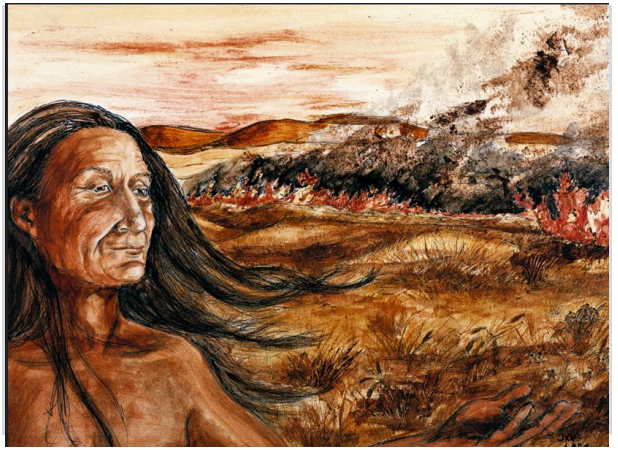

Updates from Soils

April 24, 2025

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Soil Carbon Monitoring Network

- Presented this at the January 2025 STC
- Pennsylvania NRCS had submitted approximately 50 sites for consideration for sampling
- This project is on indefinite pause as the Soils and Plant Sciences Division undergoes restructuring and determines what its new strategic priorities are.

PA Soils Conference

PA Soils Conference and

Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists 50th Anniversary Celebration

Building Resilient Pennsylvania Soil Systems

Lambert Hall, 303 Forge Rd, Bellefonte, PA 16823

- **June 17th, 2025 and June 18th, 2025**

- For more information contact Sue Miller with PAPSS
- Sue6951@aol.com

Changes to PA NRCS Soils Staff

- Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist, is retiring as of April 30th, 2025
- Kefeni Kejela, Urban Soil Scientist, is retiring as of April 30th, 2025
- Current staff who are still available for questions and soils information:
  - John Chibirka, Resource Soil Scientist for SE PA
  - Keith Shadle, Resource Soil Scientist for NE PA
  - Tyson Myers, Resource Soil Scientist for Western PA

Other staff on Soils/GIS/Compliance Team who are continuing to serve you:

- Marcie Dunn, GIS Specialist, Harrisburg, PA
- Tony Anastasi, Business Tools Specialist, Harrisburg, PA
- Susan Hult, State Compliance Specialist, Harrisburg, PA

REMEMBER!!

Conservation starts from the ground!

Preserve soil, preserve life!

Healthy soils, healthy planet!

Melissa Hanner, Easement Program Manager, NRCS

Melissa Hanner announced the finalization of five easement applications and receipt of 10 IRA applications, with eight submitted before the funding deadline. If funding allows, those may be processed as well. The RCPP program received seven new applications, and staff were working to obligate funds and complete the necessary legal documentation.

Approximately 400 acres were preserved in the Adams County Fruit Belt. Two RCPP easements were recently closed: one in the Art Buffalo Creek watershed and another, the Kittatinny easement, at Hawk Mountain with the Boy Scouts.

A Wetland Reserve Easement Program field day is scheduled for May 21 in Lebanon County, aimed at engaging interested landowners. With IRA funding, the easements team is progressing on easements in Blair and Lebanon Counties. Hanner acknowledged the creativity and coordination required to navigate USDA contracting challenges and complete necessary surveys to advance these applications.

NRCS Easement Programs Update

April 24, 2025
State Technical Advisory Committee

FY2025 Applications – ACEP ALE

Contract Year	Program	Status	Entity	County	Applica Acres	Est Federal Share
2025	ACEP ALE IRA	Obligated	LCAC	Adams	79.93	$135,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE IRA	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	76.62	$76,620.00
2025	ACEP ALE IRA	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	49.91	$49,910.00
2025	ACEP ALE IRA	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	55.3	$55,300.00
2025	ACEP ALE IRA	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	123.29	$123,290.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	47.11	77,260.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	79.25	115,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	107.64	187,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	55.57	100,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	74.24	120,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	101	155,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adam	140.08	$230,000.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	PDA	Schuylkill	18.18	18,180.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LFT	Lancaster	12.21	27,472.00
2025	ACEP ALE	Application	LCAC	Adams	95.42	150,000.00

ACEP ALE IRA	
385.05	$440,120.00

ACEP ALE	
623.07	1,002,440.00

FY2025 Applications - RCPP

Contract Year	Program	Status	Entity	County	Applica Acres	Est Fed Share
2025	2712-RCPP	Application	Clearwater	Centre	110.2	$360,000.00
2025	2035-RCPP	Application	Armstrong Co.	Armstrong	64.1	$64,000.00
2025	1847-RCPP	Application	TLVC	Lebanon Co	113.61	$427,140.00
2025	1847-RCPP	Application	TLVC	Lebanon Co	99.85	$377,433.00
2025	1847-RCPP	Application	Berks Nature	Schuylkill	335.17	$301,644.00
2025	1847-RCPP	Application	PDA	Cumberland	194	$385,455.00
2025	1847-RCPP	Application	PDA	Lebanon Co	43.36	$54,200.00

Active Enrollments

Active Contracts Preparing for Closing

Contract Year	ACEP ALE	Status	Entity	County	Applica Acres	Est Federal Share
2023	ACEP ALE	Obligated	PDA	Perry	140.00	$77,000.00
2023	ACEP ALE	Obligated	LFT	Lancaster	39.18	$68,565.00
2024	ACEP ALE	Obligated	LCAC	Adams	10.87	$18,479.00
2024	ACEP ALE	Obligated	LCAC	Adams	14.78	$25,636.00
2024	ACEP ALE	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	143.7	$143,700.00
2024	ACEP ALE	Obligated	PDA	Cumberland	599.98	$1,151,961.00
2024	ACEP ALE	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	81.1	$81,100.00

Contract Year	RCPP	Status	Entity	County	Applica Acres	Est Federal Share
2023	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA/CPC	Franklin	91.59	$35,492.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Lebanon Co	70.45	$89,788.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Lebanon Co	76.6	$95,750.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Lebanon Co	41.13	$52,802.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Lebanon Co	182.11	$232,099.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Lebanon Co	36.2	$46,137.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	PDA	Schuylkill	95.67	$95,670.00
2024	1847-RCPP	Obligated	Manada	Dauphin Co	263	$420,800.00

Easements Closed in FY2025

Contract Year	Program	Entity	County	Final Federal Share	Final Acres	Closed
2023	ACEP ALE	LCAC	Adams	$68,000.00	39.85	2025
2023	ACEP ALE	LCAC	Adams	$200,000.00	119.2	2025
2024	ACEP ALE	LCAC	Adams	$154,745.00	107.09	2025
2023	ACEP ALE	LCAC	Adams	$204,197.00	133.9	2025
				$626,942.00	**400.04**	

Contract Year	Program	Entity	County	Final Federal Share	Final Acres	Closed
2023	2035-RCPP	Armstrong Co.	Armstrong	**$123,220.00**	**123.22**	2025
2024	1847-RCPP	Berks Nature	Schuylkill	**$636,220.00**	**503.94**	2025

Pennsylvania NRCS Easements Points of Contact

Acting ASTC-Partnerships - beth.sassaman@usda.gov

New Enrollments - melissa.hanner@usda.gov

Stewardship – michael.albert@usda.gov

* Mick has taken a new position on the Programs Staff

Program Assistant - luke.marquart@usda.gov

Program Assistant -dane.lauver@usda.gov

Next application cycle:
October 1, 2025 – November 1, 2025

Jared Shippey, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, NRCS

Jared Shippey shared that Pennsylvania was on track for another record year in delivering financial assistance to farmers and landowners. The original IRA allocation for the year was $41 million, of which $34.8 million was spent in the first quarter. Farm Bill allocations totaled about $25 million, supporting initiatives like the National Water Quality Initiative and Golden-winged Warbler conservation, among others. Field offices had obligated $4 million thus far, with expectations to reach $15 million by May 1.

The state received a record number of CSP applications in 2025. As of now, $77.7 million of original IRA funding remains, although it is currently on pause. There is an optimism that it will resume soon.

Last year's RCPP contracts closed at $12 million, and the program continues to expand. As additional RCPP opportunities open, the programs team will move quickly to implement contracts.

END OF MEETING

United States Department of Agriculture

Program Updates (EQIP & AMA)

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Pennsylvania, April 24th, 2025

Ryan Cornelius
PA EQIP-Program Manager

FY25 EQIP/AMA Contracting Obligations as of 4/22/25:

-FY25 EQIP-IRA Allocation $41,637,291
-FY25 EQIP-General Allocation $23,526,719
-FY25 AMA Allocation $200,000

EQIP Obligations:

	# of Contracts	Obligation amount	Acres
EQIP-IRA	447	$33,576,425	127,583
EQIP-General	64	$3,308,590	5,810
Totals	511	$36,885,015	133,393

AMA Obligations:

	# of Contracts	Obligation amount	Acres
AMA	1	$21,374	15

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

PA NRCS Programs Team

Financial Assistance Programs Update
Conservation Stewardship Program

Pennsylvania State Technical Committee Meeting
Ashley Lenig, Conservation Program Manager

April 24, 2025

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP FY 2025 Allocation	Remaining Allocation
• CSP $7,070,000	CSP $5,022,988
• CSP IRA $9,318,000	CSP IRA $7,754,603 (paused)
• Total: $16,388,000	Total: $12,777,591

Less funds to allocate in CSP Classic at this time than anticipated.

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP Classic FY2025 application selections made in almost all pools!

Obligation Date: 6/30/2025.

CSP FY 2025

CSP Ranking Pools

Ranking Pool Name
NIPF-PA W Classic FY25
NIPF-PA NE Classic FY25
NIPF-PA SE Classic FY25
NIPF-PA BFR Classic FY25
NIPF-PA SDFR Classic FY25
Ag Lands-PA WEST Classic FY25
Ag Lands-PA NORTHEAST Classic FY25
Ag Lands-PA SOUTHEAST Classic FY25
Ag Lands-Statewide Organic Classic FY25
Ag Lands-Statewide BFR Classic FY25
Ag Lands-Statewide SDFR Classic FY25

Questions?

Comments?

Ashley Lenig
Conservation Program Manager (CSP, CIG, NWQI)
ashley.lenig@usda.gov

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE

31 ppl online – Denise will need to access Recording!

NAME	ORGANIZATION/ AGENCY/ COMPANY	E-MAIL ADDRESS (if different/changed since last meeting)	MAILING ADDRESS or PHONE # (if e-mail not available)	How did you hear about this meeting?		
				e-mail	newspaper	other (specify)
Susan Parry	NRCS (former)	sparry17@verizon.net	717-903-1509			X
Kamie Hughes	NRCS	kamie.hughes	717 237 2143			✓
Tim Peters	NRCS	"	717-237-2212			X
Tonya Diwoli	Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape	tonya@legacyworksgroup.com	717-991-3017			X
Cynthia Garland	FSA			✓		
Marel King	CBC	mking@chesbay.us	717-772-3451	✓		
Kelly O'Neill	CBF	Koneill@cbf.org	717-200-4532	✓		