

CONSERVATION *Showcase*

Frantz Family Cleans up Antietam Creek Watershed in Franklin County

*By: Justin Atkins
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*Photo 1: Alan Frantz (left) receives 2015 Franklin County Conservation of the Year award from Conservation District Chairman Evan Burkholder (Right) on 10/29/2015.
Photo courtesy of Franklin County Conservation District*

White Hall Farm located in Waynesboro, PA and within the Antietam Creek watershed, received the Conservation Farmer of the Year award in the fall of 2015 from the Franklin County Conservation District. Alan, Lori, and their son Tim Frantz handle the management and operations of the farm. The farm has been in the family for many generations (established in 1838) and is recognized as a Pennsylvania Century Farm.



The family operates approximately 120 acres with roughly 90 acres of cropland and 30 acres of pasture land. The Frantz's milk 52 head of dairy cattle and have approximately 45 replacement heifers. Lori operates Frantz Produce, which is the family's fruit and vegetable stand that has been in business for 28 years. Tim assists with all management of the farm, but spends a large amount of his time utilizing the family's high tunnel, which was funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), to raise high-quality tomatoes that are sold at the produce stand. Alan received financial assistance through the Franklin County Conservation District to have a Nutrient Management Plan prepared for his farm. Alan worked with multiple NRCS conservation planners and agricultural engineer, Heather Smeltz, to identify resource concerns that were present on the farm and solutions to address the concerns.

The farm lacked adequate manure storage, therefore, had uncontrolled manure laden runoff, and did not have proper storm water controls. The pasture land also lacked adequate water which resulted in frequent water hauling for grazing. NRCS assisted Alan in obtaining all the proper elements of a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) to address soil and water resource concerns.

Alan obtained Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI) funding in the fall of 2013. Soon after the completion of engineering plans, Alan started implementation with the assistance of NRCS engineering technicians and conservation planners in the early fall of 2014 where he installed a 10-foot deep by 92-foot in diameter concrete manure storage, concrete barnyards, barnyard curbing, waste transfer system, and storm water best management practices (BMPs).



Photo 2: Inadequate manure storage. Photograph taken during site survey 3/7/2014.



Photo 3: Installation of Manure Storage, concrete barnyard, animal trail and walkway, above ground livestock pipeline. Photo taken 7/30/2015.

In the spring of 2015, Alan worked with NRCS grazing specialist, Titus Martin, to implement of his pasture land practices by installing an animal trail and walkway, below and above ground livestock pipeline, portable water troughs, and fencing. Alan and Tim are no longer hauling water and are now on a rotational grazing system that allow them to better utilize their pasture land forage. Alan has also indicated that the concrete barnyards and the animal trail system has allowed him to better control the timing of when his cows are grazing and when they are in the barn and out of the hot temperatures which has increased his milk production and overall bottom line.



Photo 4: Installation of animal trail and walkway with animal trail fencing to allow for rotational grazing. Photo taken 6/1/2015.



Photo 4: Frantz Produce Stand located along Route 16, Buchanan Trail East in Waynesboro, PA. Photo taken 7/19/2012.

The Frantz's are very proud of their accomplishments and exemplify that there is a place for sound agriculture and good conservation measures. These implemented BMPs by the Frantz family will help play a role in cleaning up the Antietam Watershed, Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay.