



**State Technical Committee
AGENDA
Thursday, April 18, 2019**

- 1:00 Welcome – Denise Coleman, State Conservationist
- 1:10 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Update on two Projects in Bradford County – Nate Dewing, Bradford County Conservation District and Mike Hanawalt, NRCS District Conservationist
- 1:40 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project Update for Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, and Producer Profitability – Bill Chain, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Scott Heckman, NRCS District Conservationist
- 2:10 NRCS Technical Guide Report:
- Dan Dostie, State Resource Conservationist
 - Pete Vanderstappen, State Engineer
 - Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist
- 2:20 Soil Health State Office Priorities – Yuri Plowden
- 2:30 Cultural Resources Programmatic Prototype Agreement – Heather Smeltz
- 2:45 Financial Programs Reports:
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Ed Sanders
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – Noel Soto
 - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) – Ashley Lenig
- 3:00 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Report – Hathaway Jones
- 3:15 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Report – Susan Marquart
- 3:30 Committee Input: Do the State Technical Committee members have any suggestions for topics or agenda items for future meetings?
- 4:00 Next State Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Dates for 2019 State Technical Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Listen in/participate by calling:

Toll free 888-844-9904

Access Code: 6941559



Mike Hanawalt (NRCS), assisted by Nate Dewing, (Ag Leader with the Bradford County Conservation District) provided a very informative presentation concerning Conservation Innovation Grants in Bradford County. (Hand-out attached.) Mike explained the background information on the on-going projects in Bradford County. He quoted Hugh Hammond Bennett, (who was known as "Father of Soil Conservation"), relative to the goals of Conservation Innovation, "If we are Bold in our thinking, Courageous in accepting new ideas, and Willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known." The current projects are a product of a series of soil health local meetings that were held about 5 years ago, to bring in new problem solving ideas to producers in the area. National renowned speakers were brought in to provide new ideas for solving local soil health problems. As a result, several innovative ideas were introduced. The two projects that will be covered today by Nate Dewing are planting of cover crops and Wood Chip barnyards or Animal heavy use concentration areas. (See attached Project Description directive) Nate explained the use of a Cover Crop Inter-seeder that has recently been acquired by the Conservation District and made available to local producers on a rental basis. When the machine is rented, an operator from the District is provided. It is a "broadcast" seeder, and the seeding is done in growing crop fields. The cover crop planted is a mix of rye grain, clover and radish. There is a small amount of crop loss, estimated to be approximately two percent. Some producers consider the crop loss to be excessive, but the overall result in the practice application is favorable. The second project in Bradford County was the creation of a Wood Chip Surface Heavy Use Area Pad (HUAP). It is an alternative to concrete. This is composed of the Wood Chips over drainage area (100 ft x 100 ft), an adjacent concrete scrape lane (12 ft x 100 ft) and a manure stacking area (Three months). Also there is a 2,000 gallon effluent collection tank for the wood chip area. Nate went into a detailed explanation of the construction steps, maintenance of the pad/area, and the overall costs and the benefits of the project to the producer. He also indicated that other future projects being strongly considered are a Dairy exercise lot and an area for horses.



Conservation Innovation Bradford County, PA

Bold, Courageous, and Willing...



Conservation Innovation...

- ▶ “If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known.”

▶ -Hugh Hammond Bennett

- ▶ Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig>

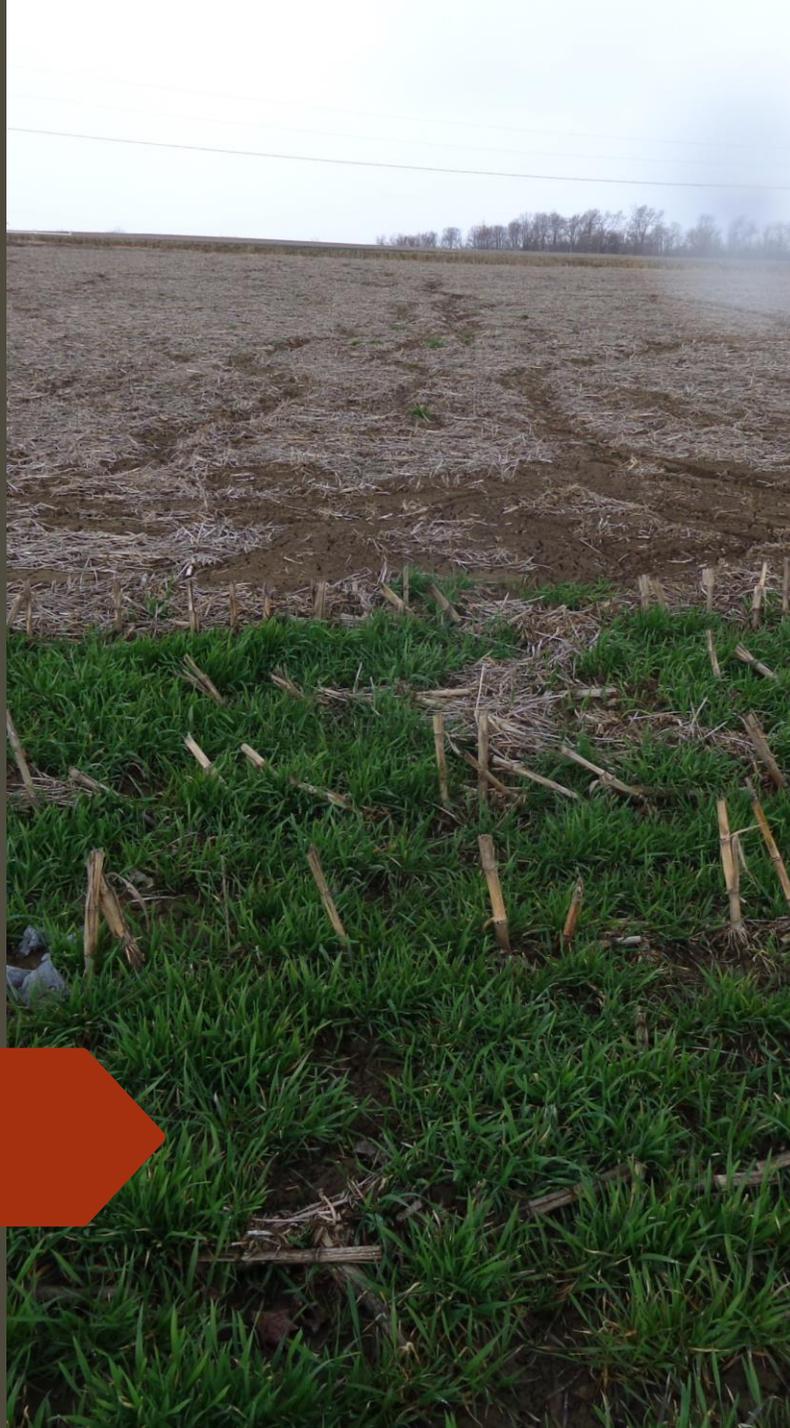
Problem Solving...





Conservation Innovation

Bold, Courageous, and Willing...





Bold, Courageous, and Willing...

Cover Crop Inter-seeder

1,570 acres in 2018







2018 Kickoff Season

25% Good...



50 % Average...



And 25% Ugly



**WOOD CHIP SURFACE HUAP
BRADFORD COUNTY, PA**

**Alternative to Concrete
Wood chips over drainage
100' x 100'
Sized for 50 AUs @ 200 ft² ea**

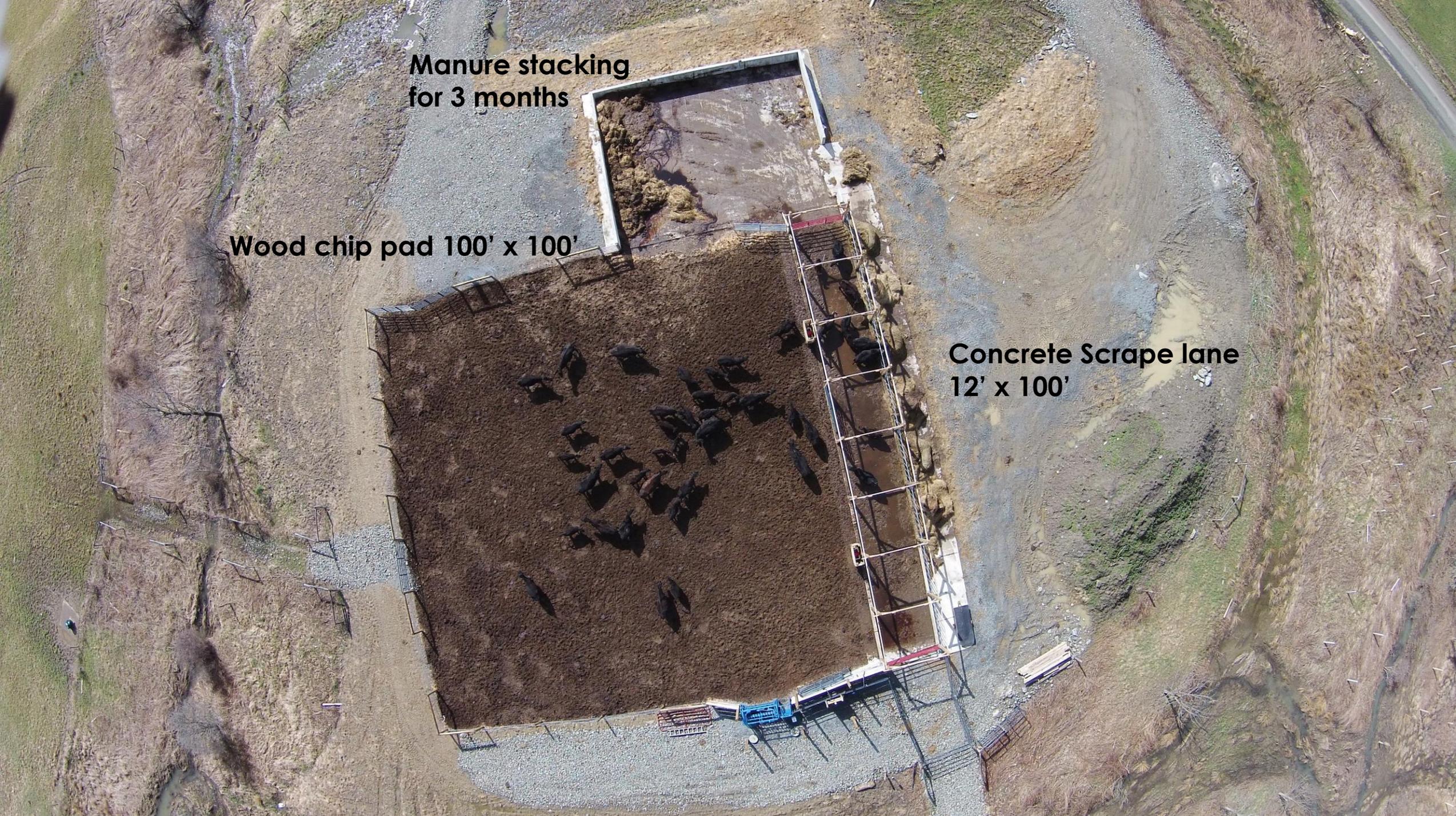
**Adjacent Concrete Scrape Lane
Adjacent Manure Stacking Area**





BCCCD

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

An aerial photograph of a farm facility. A large rectangular area is covered in dark brown manure. To the right of this area is a long, narrow concrete structure. Above the manure area is a square area covered in wood chips. A blue tractor is parked on a gravel area at the bottom of the manure pad. The surrounding area is a mix of dirt, gravel, and sparse vegetation.

**Manure stacking
for 3 months**

Wood chip pad 100' x 100'

**Concrete Scrape lane
12' x 100'**

- Compacted clay berm
- Undulating sub-grade



- Geotextile above clay sub-grade
- Pipes slope 1% - 2%
- 18" AASHTO #57 over pipes



- Hardwood chips, screened
- Chips placed 12" thick over stone



- 2,000 gal effluent collection tank
- Irrigation on 0.35 ac



Cost of Construction

Wood chip barnyard is sized for 50 AUs @ 200 ft² each = 10,000 ft². Actual Project Cost = \$645/head.

Comparable concrete barnyard sized for 50 AUs @ 75 ft² each = 3,750 ft². Roughly 50' x 75' surrounded with 2 ft curb including subsurface drain and underground outlet. Cost est for comparable concrete barnyard = \$37,245 (\$745/head).

Wood Chip Area Cost Breakd

Item	
Excavation	Lump S
Wood Chip Area	2 rolls
Pipe	1,100 f
Funding Sources	
Landowner	
Conservation Innovation Grant	
PA Small Business Advantage Grant (DEP)	\$ 1,857.00 406.75
PA REAP tax credits	\$ 32,227.54 954.70

April 18 (Day 110)



April 14 (Day 106)



April 18 (Day 110)



April 17



Manure is in top 4"



Stone is clean

April 18



**Runoff From Manure
Stacking Area**

April 17



Monitoring



Logging Precip.



Logging effluent flow



Questions:

Cleaning the surface chips?

Runoff volumes?

Runoff nutrient content?

Livestock performance?

Longevity of drainage?

Strong consideration for:

Dairy exercise lot

Horses?





Thank you NRCS for investing in Innovation!

Nate Dewing, Agricultural Team Leader

Bradford County Conservation District

200 Lake Rd, Towanda, PA 18848

570-485-3130 - nate.dewing@pa.nacdnet.net - bccdpa.com

Scott Heckman, (NRCS) was introduced by Denise. He in turn introduced Bill Chain, of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Bill and Scott together presented a program concerning the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). (See Attached Hand-out.) Bill emphasized the importance of location to establish the RCPP to improve land, water and producer profitability. It was determined that implementation of the practices would be best suited for Centre, Clinton and Lycoming Counties. Scott proceeded to explain why the area was selected. He went on to describe the purpose and establishment of RCPP the goal is to Improve Land, Water using Producer Profitability Partners. He identified the partners and their contributions to the program. He explained the role that the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) play in RCPP. He noted that Outreach programs have included Soil Health Events thru 2018 and 2019. Such events encourage: building partnerships/relationships; furthers the conservation on a Field Team or possibly regional scale; encourages partners to cooperate with producers; provides assistance through Partnership agreements and program contracts or other agreements; utilizes new and existing programs. He also noted that RCPP requires significant contributions from the partners and is not a grant. The "significant contributions" that partners bring to selected projects can include in-kind contributions, such as outreach, monitoring, conservation planning, and producer assistance. Partners may also include administrative services that they provide in the calculation of their contribution to the project. Partners should consider the total benefit they expect to bring to the project. Priority is given to those applications that significantly leverage non-federal financial and technical resources. He noted the accomplishments of RCPP since it was established in 2017. He was asked to fully explain the RCPP contracts which he and Scott accomplish. He explained that RCPP is for producers that are "on the way". They already have established a mind-set on elevating their agronomic practices in the conservation world. CSP gives the capacity to take a producer from where they are in conservation practices using a bundle of other practices to operate at a much higher conservation level. He went on to cite different examples.



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Project Update for Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, and
Producer Profitability

(NE5 –Centre, Clinton & Lycoming...**Location, Location, Location**)

Bill Chain, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Scott Heckman, NRCS District Conservationist



PENNSYLVANIA FIELD TEAM GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS





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“When it comes to improving Soil Health, for me it’s like the Hair Club for Men, I’m not only a president, I’m also an active participating member as well....”





RCPP Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, and Producer Profitability Partners

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Clinton County Conservation District
- Centre County Conservation District
- Lycoming County Conservation District
- Penn State University
- PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)
- PA No-Till Alliance
- AGVue Technologies (Drone Company)
- NRCS
- TSPs (as needed/contracted)



What is RCPP?

- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was a new program from the 2014 Farm Bill and still included with the recent 2018 Farm Bill.
- Offers new opportunities for the NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.



RCPP Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, and Producer Profitability Partnership Agreement & Funding

- agreement effective September 2017 and concludes prior to September 30, 2022.
- was approved to include two programs; Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – 4,200 acres and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - \$210,000.



CSP

CSP encourages producers to address resource concerns:

- 1) Undertaking additional conservation activities/enhancements; and
- 2) Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.



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EQIP

- Provides financial and technical assistance to address resource concerns through planning and implementing conservation practices on eligible land.



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Outreach: Soil Health Events (2018 & 2019)



Please join us for casual conversation and breakfast! Dates are listed below, and each will have a featured speaker in attendance. Topics of focus will include integrated pest management, compaction, infiltration, and cover crops.

Where: Porter Township Community Building (216 Spring Run Road, Lamar)

Costs: \$8.00 per adult, breakfast provided by the Porter Township Community Center

When: 8:00 am each breakfast event

Saturday, January 5th (Breakfast)

Guest Speaker: John Tooker, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Penn State

Saturday, February 2nd (Breakfast)

Guest Speaker: Giovanni Stefani Faé, Ph.D. Candidate, Penn State

Friday, March 1st*** (Breakfast/Local Work Group)

Guest Speaker: Sjoerd Duiker, Ph.D., Professor, Penn State (*tentative*)

Tuesday, March 12th (Soil Health Event)

Soil Health Workshop: "Connecting Soils to Profits" @ Good Shepherd Church, State College; RSVP required to the Centre County Conservation District(814-355-6817) by March 5th (\$20.00 for registration, light morning refreshments, and lunch)

***The Friday Farmer Breakfast in March will also be our USDA-NRCS/Conservation District Local Work Group Meeting for fiscal year 2020 USDA-NRCS programs. Breakfast for this event will be free. We highly encourage attendance to this event, as everyone's input is important!



USDA NRCS program information will also be available for RCPP CSP enrollments in Centre, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties.

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Outreach: Soil Health Meetings





What can it do?

- Builds partnerships/relationships.
- Furthers the conservation on a Field Team or possibly regional scale.
- Encourages partners to cooperate with producers.
- Provides assistance through
 - Partnership agreements
 - Program contracts or other agreements
- Utilizes new and existing programs.



RCPP Vision

RCPP offers new opportunities for NRCS to work with partners to encourage:

- locally driven innovation
- create high-performing solutions
- accelerate the conservation mission
- launch bold ideas
- demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation



Leveraging Funds

- RCPP requires significant contributions from the partners....not a grant.
- The "significant contribution" that partners bring to selected projects can include in-kind contributions, such as outreach, monitoring, conservation planning, and producer assistance. Partners may also include administrative services that they provide in the calculation of their contribution to the project. Partners should consider the total benefit they expect to bring to the project.
- Priority will be given to those applications that significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources.



Accomplishments:

- September 2017 – total of 6 RCPP-CSP contracts were obligated. 4 in Centre County for 802.3 acres, and 2 in Clinton County for 1,665 acres, totaling 2,467.3 acres.
- September 2018 – total of 5 RCPP-CSP and 1 RCPP-EQIP contracts obligated. 3 RCPP-CSP and 1 RCPP-EQIP in Centre for 930.3 acres and 2 in Clinton for 331.7 acres. totaling 1,262 acres.
- To present 2019 – 1 RCPP-EQIP recently obligated and 1 additional RCPP-EQIP (Plain Sect participant) to be obligated soon.

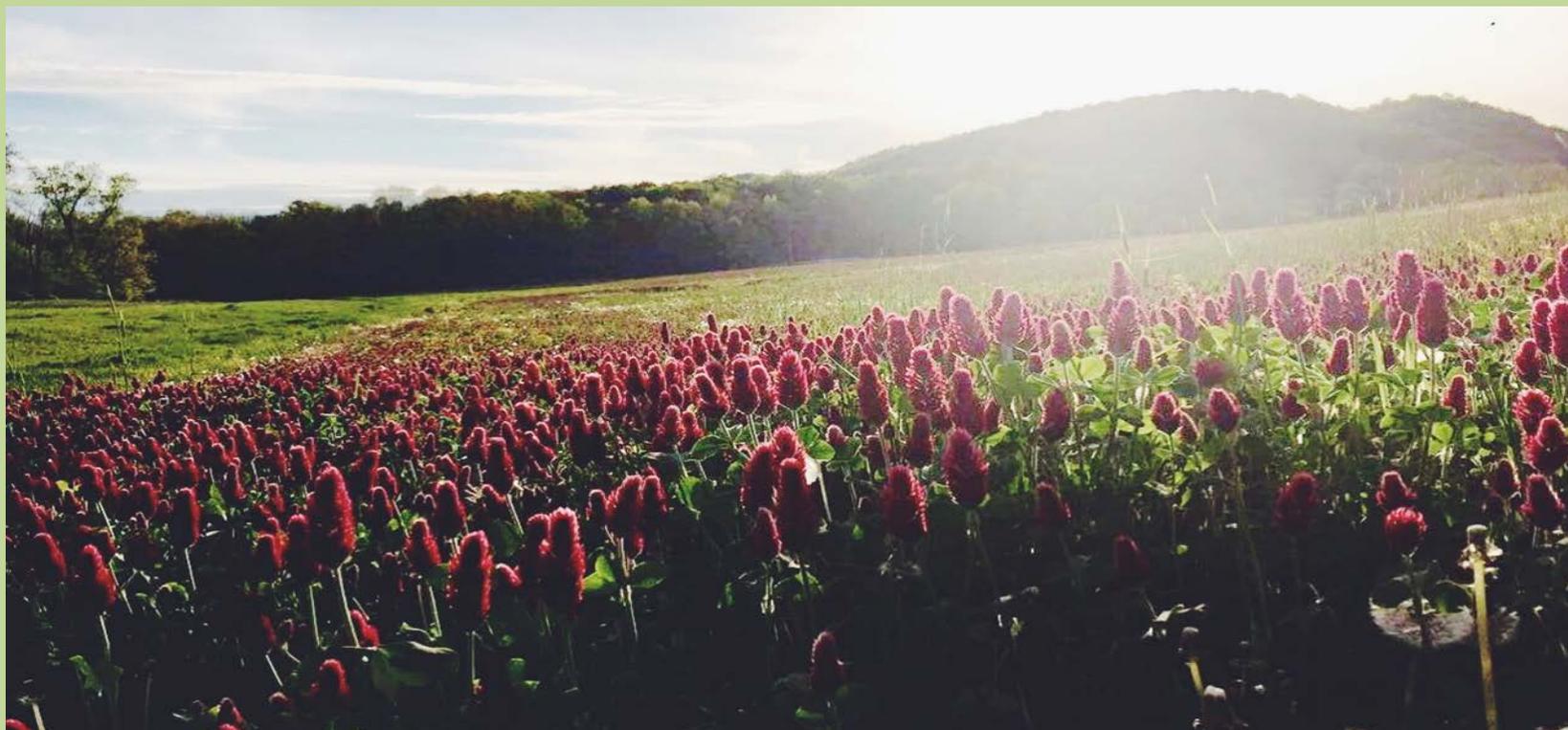


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Questions



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Ashley Lenig (NRCS) was introduced by Denise. Ashley will be working with Ed Sanders (NRCS), and Noel Soto (NRCS) specializing as a National Water Quality Specialist. Ashley explained the purpose of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). (See attached Hand outs) In a nutshell, our job is to identify areas that really contribute to pollution in the watershed and fix them. Primary and secondary resource concerns, approved land use types, conservation practices, screening criteria and ranking questions were explained. Implementation phases for 2019 and 2020 were discussed. NWQI accomplishments in Pennsylvania were noted and explained, as well as watershed assessments and goals.



NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (NWQI)

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4-17-19

ASHLEY LENIG, USDA-NRCS, PROGRAM MANAGER

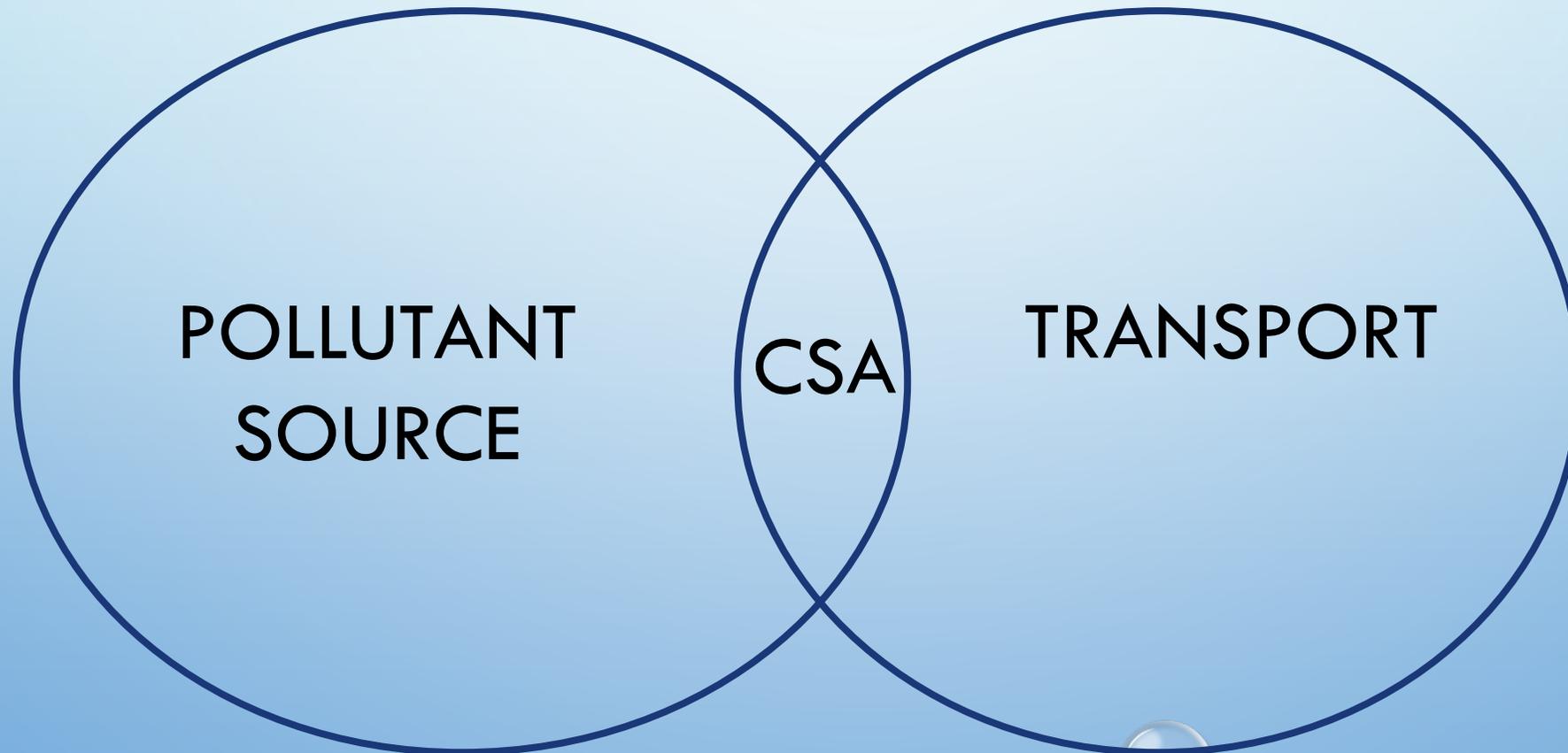
NWQI PURPOSE

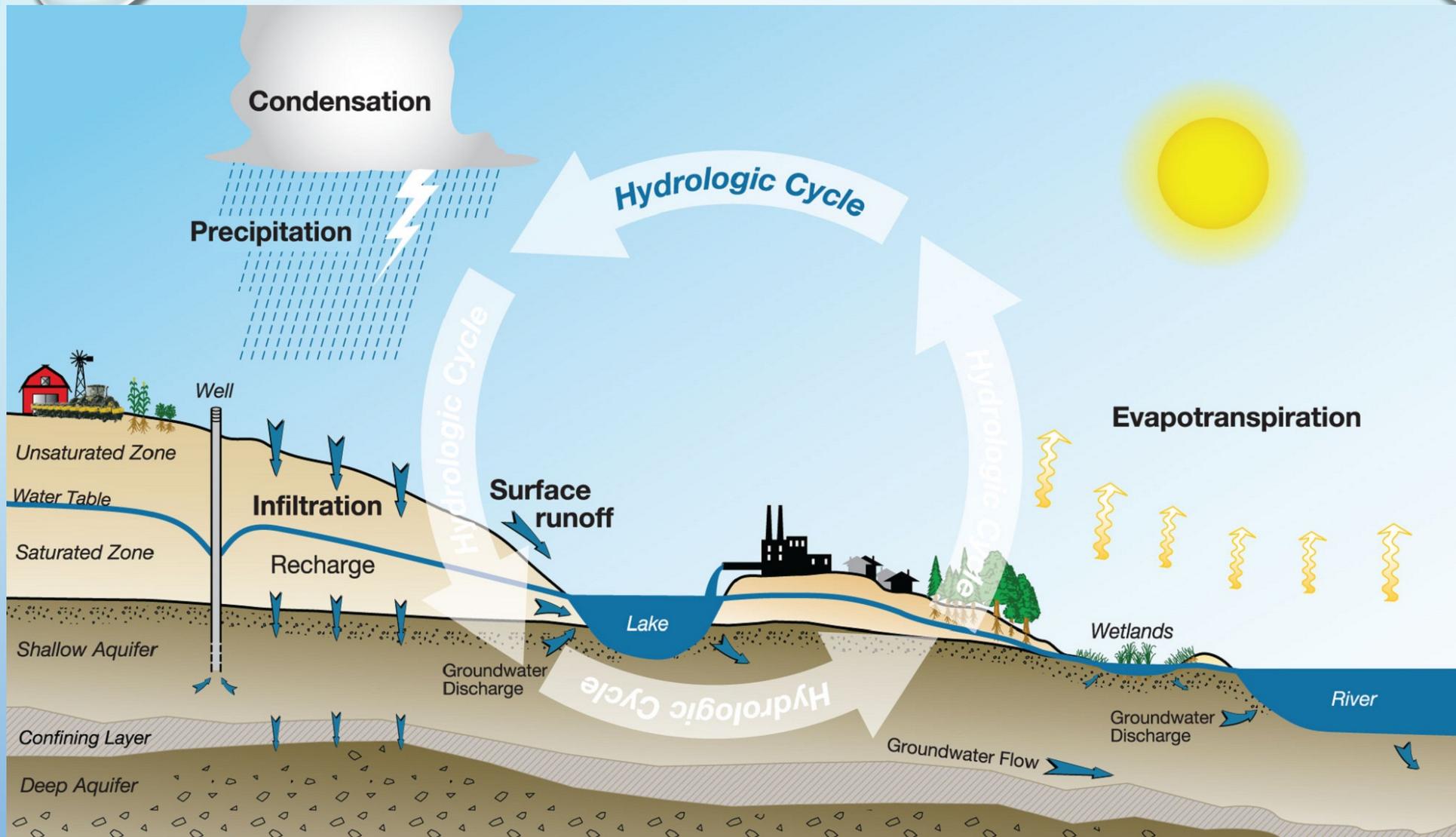
- IMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL RELATED CONSERVATION
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY – SEDIMENT, NUTRIENTS, PATHOGENS
- FOCUSED ON A WATERSHED
- GOAL: AGRICULTURE NO LONGER CONTRIBUTES TO IMPAIRMENT

REQUIREMENTS

- AT LEAST ONE QUANTIFIABLE METRIC
- ABLE TO REPORT ON A REGULAR BASIS
- WATER QUALITY MEASURED AGAINST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED
- ALIGNED WITH OTHER EFFORTS

CONCEPT OF CRITICAL SOURCE AREAS





HYDROLOGIC TRANSPORT

[HTTPS://WWW.PRINTABLEDIAGRAM.COM](https://www.printablediagram.com)

RESOURCE CONCERNS

- PRIMARY RESOURCE CONCERNS:
 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION
 - NUTRIENTS IN SURFACE WATER
 - EXCESSIVE SEDIMENT IN SURFACE WATER
 - EXCESS PATHOGENS AND CHEMICALS FROM MANURE, BIOSOLIDS OR COMPOST APPLICATIONS IN SURFACE WATER

RESOURCE CONCERNS

- SECONDARY RESOURCE CONCERNS:
 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION
 - NUTRIENTS, SALTS, PATHOGENS, AND PESTICIDES IN GROUNDWATER
 - SALTS AND PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER
 - ELEVATED TEMPERATURE
 - FISH AND WILDLIFE – INADEQUATE HABITAT
 - INADEQUATE HABITAT - WATER

APPROVED LAND USE TYPES

- CROPLAND
- PASTURE
- FARMSTEAD
- FOREST

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

- CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLANS
- CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES
 - E.G.: WASTE STORAGE, HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION, NO-TILL, COVER CROP, GRASSED WATERWAY, RIPARIAN BUFFERS, PRESCRIBED GRAZING
- SUPPORTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES
 - E.G.: ROOFS, DIVERSION, FENCE, LIVESTOCK PIPELINE & WATERING FACILITY, STREAM CROSSING, WETLAND CREATION

SCREENING CRITERIA

- ALL/PART OF THE LAND MUST BE IN THE WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES THAT WILL ADDRESS POLLUTANT IDENTIFIED

RANKING QUESTIONS

- STATE QUESTIONS:
 - PROXIMITY TO STREAM OR WATER BODY THAT IS THREATENED, LISTED (303(D) OR TMDL), OR SPECIFIED
 - USE OF CONSERVATION SYSTEMS
 - SOIL HYDROLOGIC GROUP
- LOCAL QUESTIONS:
 - SPECIFIC POLLUTANTS/IMPACTS
 - SOIL FACTORS
 - STREAM ISSUES
 - SYSTEMS APPROACH

FISCAL YEAR 2019 & 2020

- FY 2019, READINESS PHASE
 - WATERSHED-LEVEL ASSESSMENT
 - MULTI-YEAR PLAN WITH IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING TARGETS
 - ON-FARM PLANNING
 - OUTREACH
- FY 2020, IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

NWQI IN PENNSYLVANIA

- SINCE 2012
- UPPER KISHACOQUILLAS (2012-2018) → \$1.6M
- MAIDEN CREEK (2012-2014)
- SAUCONY CREEK (2012-2014)
- MAIDEN CREEK AND SAUCONY CREEK (2015) → \$2.1M
- BEAVER CREEK AND UPPER YELLOW CREEK (2016-2018) → \$785K

NWQI IN PENNSYLVANIA

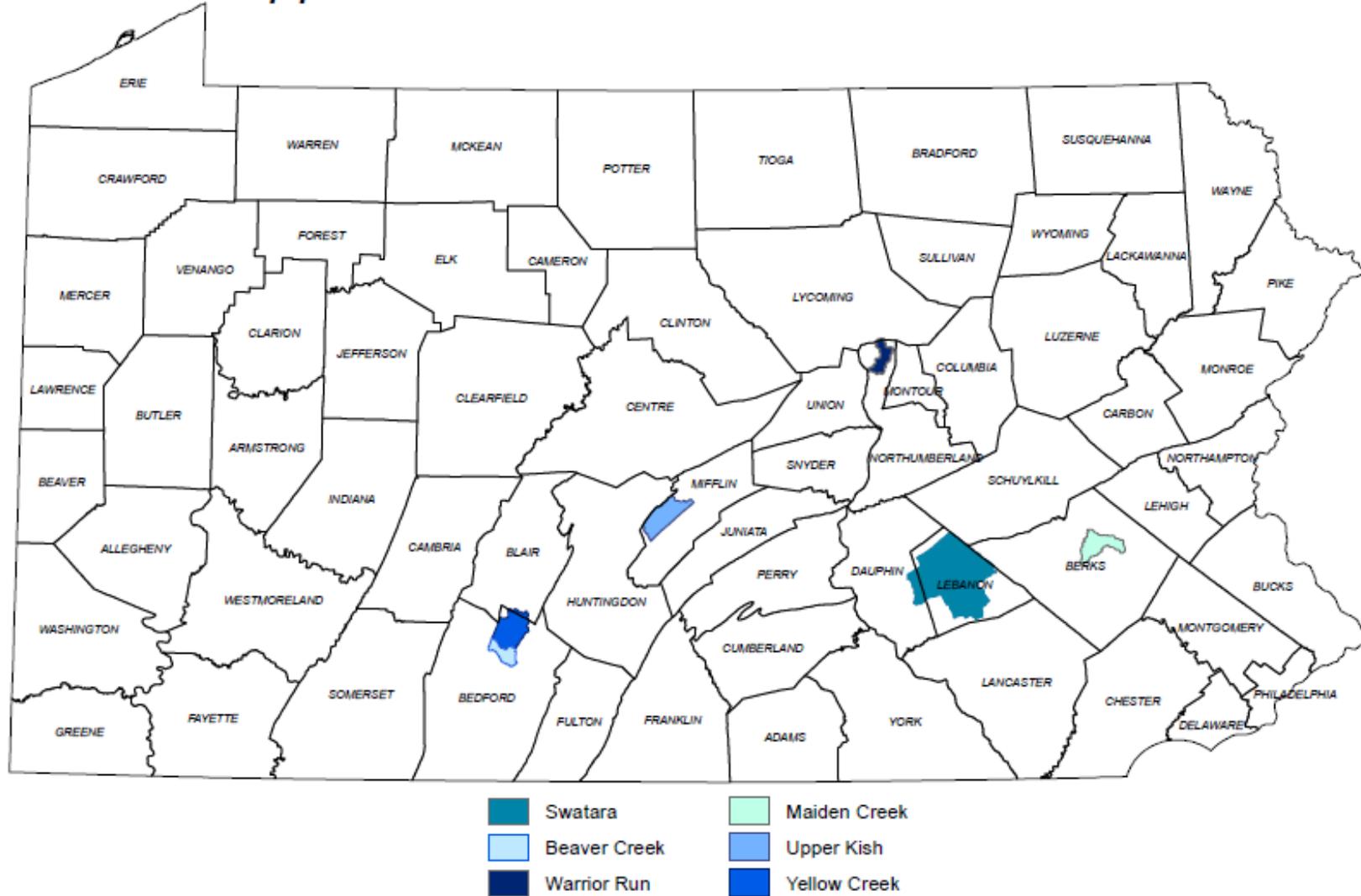
CURRENTLY APPROVED WATERSHEDS:

- UPPER KISHACOQUILLAS
- BEAVER CREEK AND UPPER YELLOW CREEKS

NEW WATERSHED SELECTIONS:

- WARRIOR RUN
- SWATARA CREEK – SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PILOT
- MAIDEN CREEK – SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PILOT

Approved for Readiness Phase of NWQI



WATERSHED ASSESSMENT

- ATTACHMENT C: AREAWIDE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT
- PARTNER COLLABORATION
- VULNERABLE AREAS
- PRACTICES NEEDED
- MULTI-YEAR PLAN

AREAWIDE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

- IDENTIFY WQ CONCERN/OBJECTIVE, AND EXTENT PROBLEM CAN BE ADDRESSED
 - WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS – WHERE DO POLLUTANTS COME FROM?
 - HYDROLOGY, TRANSPORT MECHANISMS, AND SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHARACTER OF TRANSPORT
- ANALYSIS – CAN WE SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?
- SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 - ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WKST (NRCS-CPA-52) ON A LANDSCAPE SCALE
- OUTREACH PLAN
- HOW PROGRESS WILL BE MEASURED - MONITORING

WHAT MAKES A PROJECT SUCCESSFUL

- MANY PARTICIPANTS WORKING IN CONCERT
- WORK ON A SMALLER SCALE – TIME BETWEEN TREATMENT AND RESPONSE SHORTER
- DEFINE THE PROBLEM CLEARLY – IMPAIRMENT AND SOURCE
- TIE TREATMENT TO PROBLEM – MECHANISMS, PRACTICE(S), EXPECTED RESULT → RANKING
- CONSIDER HUMAN FACTORS
- SET REALISTIC GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION, OUTCOME
- FORGE PARTNERSHIPS
- ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO REVIEW PROGRESS, ADAPT, AND CELEBRATE SUCCESSES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

- NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE
 - OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATION IMPROVEMENTS EDUCATE ASSISTANCE
- NRCS ROLE
 - COORDINATING, PLANNING, CONTRACTING, IMPLEMENTING
- QUESTIONS
 - ????

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Dan Dostie (NRCS) was introduced and addressed updates in the Field Office Technical Guide (EFOTG) since the last State Technical Committee Meeting that was held in January of this year. (See attached Hand-out.) He commented on the Federal Register Notice 2019-04290, also he reviewed Conservation Practice Standards, "What is and is not a Conservation Standard". He noted that there were no FOTG notices released since January 2019. Further, he indicated that there have been no changes to Section II of the FOTG since the meeting in January.

Pete Vanderstappen (NRCS) gave an update on Conservation Engineering. This update included changes in "Waste Storage Facility Standard". He noted that tank specifications are more stringent on Sensitive Environment sites. NRCS locate tanks to avoid sensitive sites and the type of tank historically built in Pennsylvania will continue to be constructed. The steel schedule in the tank floor has been increased, thus adding an average cost increase of one to two percent. Design Guide 11 for concrete structures was developed to assist in floor steel selection. Existing "NRCS Concurred Tanks" are still valid with the exception of the floor steel change. The new "Pennsylvania Irrigation Guide" of 1972 has been updated for 2018. He went on to give a summary of the changes that were announced in the update.



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Pennsylvania
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NRCS Technical Guide Report

Dan Dostie, SRC, Pete Vanderstappen, SCE ; Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist

April 18, 2019

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Changes since STC meeting 01.29.2019

Field Office Guide Technical Guide NOTICES

Documents (5)

Document Title	Type	Pub Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract	Size (kB)	Actions
Technical Guide Notice 272		2019-3-13	Waste Management	Waste Storage Facility	This notice release the following updated Waste Storage Facility Practice (313) documents: Standard, SOW, Construction Specs for Ponds and Structures, Design & Check Data Requirements, and Instructions for Use for WS Ponds or Structures.	139	



FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE



Welcome to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Select a state for documents.

State:

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>



USDA Seeks Public Comments on Conservation Practice Standards



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today it is seeking public input on its existing national conservation practice standards as part of implementing the 2018 Farm Bill. NRCS offers 150-plus conservation practices to America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to help them meet their business and natural resource needs on their working lands. NRCS is requesting public comments on how to improve conservation practice standards that support programs. The comment period ends April 25, 2019.

Federal Register Notice

[2019-04290](#)

Published on March 11, 2019
announcing that NRCS will review all
Conservation Practice Standards and
invited the public to comment
by April 25, 2019. See handout.

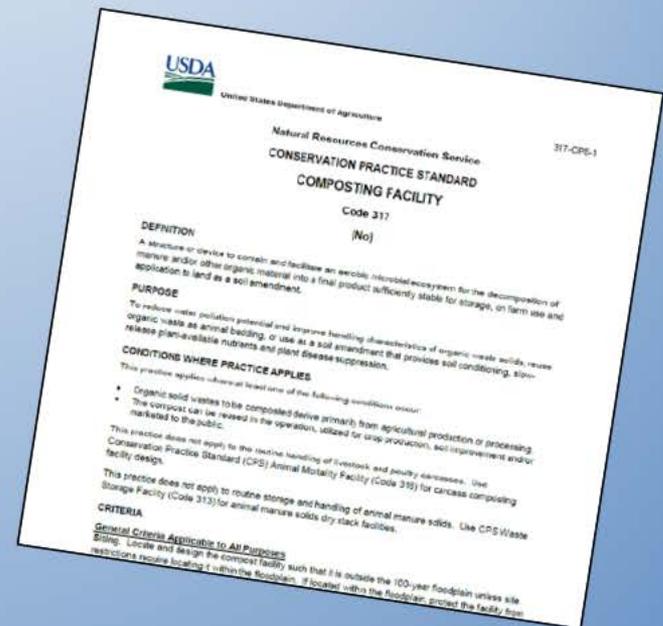
- Standards are based in Science!
- Currently updated every 5 years . . .
- To provide consistency of services and meet societal needs
- Adapted to comply with state laws and fit local conditions
- Stakeholder engagement through you, local workgroups, and FR notices
- 2018 Farm Bill requires expedited review

What is a Conservation Practice Standard?

Conservation practice standards establish the minimum acceptable level of quality in planning, designing, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices (Section IV).

Criteria are established for the general conditions where the practice applies. Additional criteria may be established for each purpose.

Planning considerations and operation and maintenance requirements are also identified.





What is NOT a Conservation Practice Standard?

Concrete:

- a material specification often used to install a structural conservation practice

Barn:

- a production facility whereas a conservation practice improves soil, water, air, plant, or animal resources

Soil Testing:

- an industry methodology standard required as part of the nutrient management conservation practice for managing the source and the amount, placement, and timing of application of plant nutrients and soil amendments

An Interim Conservation Practice Standard:

- A field test of a new science based technology
- Based on input from you, requests from employees, industry, researchers . . .
- Usually a three year project often funded by CIG
- Forwarded to national technology leaders for approval



Conservation Planning/Ecological Sciences Update

No FOTG Notices released since the last meeting 01/29/2019.

Delivered a CNMP Workshop on March 21, 2019

- TSP Program Administration
- Conservation Planning Guidance Updates
- Financial Assistance for Putting CNMPs Into Action
- Top Five Spot Check Findings
- 35 attendees about half from NRCS, half from private sector

Delivered TSP Orientation Workshop for Foresters March 22, 2019

Waste Storage Facility Standard Changes

- Tank specifications are more stringent on Sensitive Environment sites.
- NRCS locate tanks to avoid sensitive sites and the type of tank historically built in PA will continue to be constructed.
- The steel schedule in the tank floor has been increased resulting in an average cost increase of 1-2 percent.
- “Design Guide 11- Floors (Slabs-on-Ground) for Concrete Structures” was developed to assist in floor steel selection.
- Existing “NRCS Concurred Tanks” are still valid with the exception of the floor steel change.

New “Pennsylvania Irrigation Guide”

- Replaces the 1972 guide with the new “2018 Pennsylvania Irrigation guide”.
- The Pennsylvania Irrigation Guide was updated to provide a guidance document to assist Pennsylvania NRCS field personnel and others working with Pennsylvania irrigators to provide general planning, design and management guidance on various methods of irrigation commonly used in the State. The guide includes updated soils information, crop needs, water requirements, various irrigation methods, and additional information to support developing a complete design.
- A PDF version is available on the PA NRCS Website under Topics, Technical Resources, Engineering Tools and Resources, NRCS Manuals and Handbooks with Pennsylvania Addendums page or use this link to get to the listing:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pa/technical/?cid=stelprd1167587>



Soil Science Update

No changes to Section II of the FOTG since the last meeting



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Questions?



NRCS Pennsylvania **Technical** Guide



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Yuri Plowden (NRCS), gave an update on different public events concerning Soil Health priorities. (See attached Hand-out) She noted that the NRCS Field Teams and partners sponsored approximately 50 Soil Health Events statewide during 2018, with nearly 3000 participants. She went on to outline the 2019 Soil Health Priorities. Approximately 147 conservationists will need to have completed NRCS's 3-day Soil Health and Sustainability Training by January of 2021 to satisfy the new national conservation planner prerequisites, released in 2017. This requirement is for both individuals pursuing their initial Certified Conservation Planner designation, as well as individuals with a current Certified Conservation Planner designation.

This includes staff from NRCS and our partners: Conservation Districts, RC&D, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pheasants Forever, land preservation organizations, and others who develop NRCS Conservation Plans.

Pennsylvania NRCS will host three trainings each year for the next two years: We have invested time and training into a corps cadre of employees from within state who will deliver the trainings in conjunction with NRCS's National Soil Health Division instructor, Jim Hoorman, and our Pennsylvania State Agronomist Mark Goodson. Local soil health farmers will host the field components.

2019 Training Schedule

June 4-6 - Lebanon, PA

June 18-20 - Butler, PA

July 30-August 1 - Bloomsburg, PA

NRCS National Soil Health Curriculum to be presented:

Intro to Soil Health

Resource Concerns and Soil Health Indicators

Social and Economic Considerations

Soil Health Principles and Soil Biology

Cover Crop Management and Case Studies

Ecological Management and Grazing



Update on Pennsylvania State Soil Health Priorities 2019

Yuri Plowden, State Soil Scientist - yuri.plowden@pa.usda.gov

2018

NRCS Field Teams and partners sponsored approx.. 50 soil health events statewide with nearly 3000 participants

2019

NRCS Field Teams and our partners continue to organize events at the local level.

A few Highlights so far:

- Three Soil Health Days in Northeast (Danville, Towanda, State College)
- Farmers Breakfasts, Clinton County
- Soil Health Grazing and Cover Crop Field Day, Lancaster
- Western PA Regional Soil Health Workshop, Allegheny County
- Soil Health Conference, Westmoreland County
- Lebanon County Grazing Network Soil Pit Field Day, Lebanon, County

Other Activities - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:

- Participation in Soil Health Forum and upcoming Soil Health Consortium Meeting.
- Participation in two projects focused on transition to rotational grazing and grazing cover crops for soil health improvements

2019 Priority

Approximately 147 conservationists will need to have completed NRCS's 3-day Soil Health and Sustainability Training by January of 2021 to satisfy the new national conservation planner prerequisites, released in 2017. This requirement is for both individuals pursuing their initial Certified Conservation Planner designation, as well as individuals with a current Certified Conservation Planner designation.

This includes staff from NRCS and our partners: Conservation Districts, RC&D, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pheasants Forever, land preservation organizations, and others who develop NRCS Conservation Plans.

Pennsylvania NRCS will host three trainings each year for the next two years:

We have invested time and training into a corps cadre of employees from within state who will deliver the trainings in conjunction with NRCS's National Soil Health Division instructor, Jim Hoorman, and our Pennsylvania State Agronomist Mark Goodson. Local soil health farmers will host the field components.

2019 Training Schedule

June 4-6 – Lebanon, PA

June 18-20 – Butler, PA

July 30-August 1 – Bloomsburg, PA

NRCS National Soil Health Curriculum to be presented:

Intro to Soil Health

Resource Concerns and Soil Health Indicators

Social and Economic Considerations

Soil Health Principles

Cover Crop Management

Ecological Management

Soil Biology

Case Studies

Grazing

Heather Smeltz (NRCS), spoke about Cultural Resources in Pennsylvania. A project she is working with the State Historic Preservation Office currently in establishing a prototype "Cultural Resources Programmatic Prototype Agreement". The purpose of which is to streamline and document the streamline system that we have with them, and what we are doing with Resource Compliance. All NRCS states are required to have an agreement of this type. We used to do it using a "hand-shake" type agreement, but that is no longer acceptable. There is a Public Outreach section in this document that outlines how we are to let everyone know just what we are doing. The NRCS Cultural Resources Requirements are listed in the attached Hand-out, and she went on to explain them. NRCS (and those partners assisting with NRCS activities) must: Comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Federal agencies must take into account the effects of their undertakings on cultural resources. NRCS (and those partners assisting with NRCS activities) must:

- ▶ Comply with agency policy
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 - ▶ Must avoid or minimize impacts
- ▶ Section 106 of the NHPA
 - ▶ Must complete the process BEFORE approval of federal funding
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Section 106 NHPA NRCS-PA Procedures

- ▶ NRCS has standardized Section 106 compliance through the National Programmatic Agreement
 - ▶ NRCS
 - ▶ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
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National PPA allows NRCS-PA to enter into a State Level Agreement with SHPO to streamline Section 106 process

State Level Agreement - PA SHPO

- ▶ Documents PA NRCS Section 106 Compliance process and when consultation with SHPO is needed.
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- ▶ Establishes agreed-to procedures for NRCS as to:
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 - ▶ Cultural Resource review procedures;
 - ▶ Emergency management;
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Conservation Practice Effects on Cultural Resources

- ▶ **E practices - Effect/Ground (or Resource) Disturbing**
- ▶ **PE practices - Potential Effects/Potentially Ground (Resource) Disturbing**
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PPA - Cultural Resource Review Procedures

- ▶ **NE and PE Non-Intrusive Practices**
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- ▶ **Draft is going out for Tribal Review**
- ▶ **Completing Public Participation**
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Edward Hicks (American, 1780-1848), *Penn's Treaty*, c.1830, Photo courtesy of The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Cultural Resources – Programmatic Prototype Agreement with PA-SHPO

HEATHER SMELTZ, PE
CULTURAL RESOURCES
COORDINATOR
NRCS, HARRISBURG, PA

NRCS Cultural Resources Requirements

NRCS (and those partners assisting with NRCS activities) must:

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 - ▶ Federal agencies must take into account the effects of their undertakings on cultural resources

Undertakings - defined

All agency programs, activities, projects under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of NRCS

- ▶ NRI
- ▶ Public Information/Education
- ▶ Farm Bill Programs
- ▶ Watershed Projects
- ▶ Office relocations



Conservation Planning



Implementation Assistance



Soil Surveys

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Conservation Planning

Office re

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Conservation Practice Effects on Cultural Resources

Classification of Conservation Practice Effects on Cultural Resources

Practice Name & Units	Unit	Practice Code	Rating
Access Control	Ac.	472	NE
Access Road	Ft.	560	PE
Agrichemical Handling Facility	No.	309	E ¹
Air Filtration and Scrubbing	No.	371	PE
Alley Cropping	Ac.	311	NE
Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	Ac.	333	NE
Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	AU	591	NE
Anaerobic Digester	No.	366	E ¹
Animal Mortality Facility	No.	316	PE
Aquaculture Ponds	Ac.	397	E
Aquatic Organism Passage	Mi.	396	E
Brush Management	Ac.	314	PE
Building Envelope Improvement	No.	672	E
Channel Bed Stabilization	Ft.	584	NE
Clearing & Snagging	Ft.	326	NE
Combustion System Improvement	No.	372	NE
Composting Facility	No.	317	PE
Conservation Cover	Ac.	327	NE
Conservation Crop Rotation	Ac.	328	NE
Constructed Wetland	Ac.	656	E
Contour Buffer Strip	Ac.	332	NE
Contour Farming	Ac.	330	NE
Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	Ac.	331	PE
Cover Crop	Ac.	340	NE
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	342	NE
Dam	No./Ac.-Ft.	402	E
Deep Tillage	Ac.	324	E ¹
Denitrifying Bioreactor	No.	605	E
Dike	Ft.	356	E

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Waste Storage Facility – E





Stripcropping, Contour – NE

Grassed Waterway – PE



Residue & Tillage Management – NE



Heavy Use Area Protection – PE





Tree/Shrub Establishment – NE

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PPA – Duration – 10 years

- ▶ Questions?
- ▶ Why did the archaeologist go bankrupt?
 - ▶ Because his career was in ruins...

Noel Soto (NRCS), was introduced and provided an update on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). He announced the cut-off date for CSP applications is May 10, 2019. This date is necessary so as to start the ranking process. CIG has two components, one is National and one is State. National has not been released as yet due to changes occurring in the new Farm Bill. The State component CIG announcement has been sent out to teams for posting to "Grants.gov", where it will remain for two months for people to send in proposals. The categories are Soil Health, Urban Farming and Forestry.

Ed Sanders (NRCS), did not speak, due to him having to participate in another meeting. However, Denise covered his notes. (See attached hand-out.) The 2018 Act provides the authority to administer EQIP using the existing regulations, with the following exceptions:

- Organic payment limitation changes:
- Payments under the Organic Initiative to a person restrictions, but did provide a Hand-out outlining EQIP updates as of this meeting date. (See attached Hand-out). EQIP Updates as of 04/18/2019 or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed \$140,000 for Organic Initiative contracts entered into during the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023
- Removes the \$20,000 annual payment limit
- These changes have been incorporated in the revised NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix
- New Veteran Farmer/ Rancher (VFR) Definition:
- "has not operated a farm or ranch: or ... has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years" or who first obtained status as a veteran "during the most recent 10-year period"
- Change has been incorporated in the revised NRCS-CPA-1200
- Required notification of a participant's eligibility for Advance Payment and agency documentation of the participant's decision.
- For FY 2019: This requirement has been incorporated in new Preapproval letter which is available in ProTracts
- Ensure all pre-approved applicants receive the letter
- For FY2019, planners will document the decision in the conservation 6-notes. A participant may change their decision.
- Revised NRCS-CPA-1200 dated January 2019
- NRCS-CPA-1202 EQIP appendix dated January 2019.

Hathaway Jones (NRCS), was introduced and provided an Easement update. (See attached Hand-out) She announced the following: PA NRCS has received a total of \$1,519,553.00 for ALE and \$732,152.00 for WRE in FY 2019. PA NRCS accepts applications for both of these programs year-round, and funds eligible acceptable applications prior to September 30th each year. We are having a training for WRE next week, April 24-25th. This training will cover WRE basics on enrollment, eligibility, acquisition, and restoration. PA NRCS received a total of \$1,519,553.00 for ALE and \$732,152.00 for WRE in FY 2019. PA NRCS accepts applications for both of these programs year-round, and funds eligible acceptable applications prior to September 30th each year. We are having a training for WRE next week, April 24-25th. This training will cover WRE basics on enrollment, eligibility, acquisition, and restoration.

EASEMENTS REPORT – Hathaway Jones

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Susan Marquart (NRCS), was introduced and provided an update on RCPP. (See attached Hand-Out) She explained the existing RCPP projects and their levels of completion, as well as the amounts of funds available/existing in each project.

Pennsylvania Projects
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

1. Fiscal Year: FY 2014 and FY 2015
Name: Productive Farms and Clean Streams for Berks and Chester Counties
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner: Stroud Water Research Center
Area: Selected Watersheds in Berks and Chester Counties
NRCS Funding: \$1,500,000

2. Fiscal Year: FY 2014 and FY 2015
Name: Delaware River Watershed Working Lands Conservation and Protection Partnership
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
PA Area: Selected Watersheds in Berks, Chester, Lehigh, and Schuylkill Counties
NRCS Funding (PA): \$7,213,750

3. Fiscal Year: FY 2014 and FY 2015
Name: Comprehensive Watershed Conservation in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
PA Area: Selected Watersheds in Bradford, Lancaster, and Juniata Counties
NRCS Funding (PA): \$4,520,000

4. Fiscal Year: FY 2014 and FY 2015
Name: Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership
Lead State: Maryland
Lead Partner: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
PA Area: Franklin County
NRCS Funding (PA): \$750,000

5. Fiscal Year: FY 2014 and FY 2015
Name: Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement
Lead State: West Virginia
Lead Partner: American Bird Conservancy
PA Area: Identified Habitat Area
NRCS Funding (PA): \$4,013,334 + \$400,000 = \$4,413,334

6. Fiscal Year: FY 2017
Name: Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, and Producer Profitability
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner: Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Area: Center, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties
NRCS Funding: \$420,847

7. Fiscal Year: FY 2018
Name: CCCD Partnership for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner Chester County Conservation District
Area: Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Chester County
NRCS Funding: \$3,600,000

8. Fiscal Year: FY 2018
Name: Implementing Conservation Practices and CNMPs on Pennsylvania Preserved Farms
Lead State: Pennsylvania
Lead Partner: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Area: Franklin, Adams, York, Cumberland, Perry, and Dauphin Counties
NRCS Funding: \$6,370,000

Name of RCPP Project	Total EQIP Allocation	EQIP Obligated	2019 EQIP Funds Available
Productive Farms and Clean Streams for Berks and Chester Counties	\$1,189,502	\$1,113,447	\$76,055
Delaware River Watershed (DRW) Working Lands Conservation and Protection Partnership	\$4,022,000	\$4,016,583	\$5,417
Comprehensive Watershed Conservation in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay	\$2,976,000	\$2,958,057	\$17,943
Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership	\$516,125	\$499,526	\$16,599
Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement	\$2,946,734	\$2,896,346	\$50,388
Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement - 2	\$361,063	\$216,725	\$144,338
Soil Health: Improving Land, Water, Profitability	\$210,000	\$187,477	\$22,523
CCCD Partnership for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
Implementing BMP's & CNMP's on PA Preserved Farms	\$4,005,000	\$0	\$4,005,000
Total	\$18,726,424	\$11,888,161	\$6,838,263

As of 4/17/19

Denise announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting would be held at 1pm, Tuesday, July 16th, 2019. Attendance today was 24 members present and 7 members participated by Call-In using the Toll-Free Number.

Note: A recording of this meeting is available upon request. An index of that recording is attached.

Also attached is a copy of the "Sign-in" sheet showing attendance at this meeting.

State Technical Committee

April 18, 2019

Meeting Notes

Denise Coleman (NRCS), welcomed all in attendance. She welcomed those who were participating by phone using the Toll-Free Number and asked that they introduce themselves. Seven persons introduced themselves and counting those physically present numbered 31 participants. She noted that all hand-outs that were supporting the featured speakers had been forwarded to all members by email. She introduced Elliott Kellner who was recently appointed as the Chesapeake Bay Science Advisor (a newly position). Elliott's roles will be to provide Technical Capacity to NRCS for Chesapeake Bay and related activities. Also, he will serve as a point of contact coordinator for inter-agency collaboration during his five-year tenure. She then introduced Mike Hanawalt, NRCS - District Conservationist in Bradford County and Nate Dewing of the Bradford County Conservation District.

00/04/33 - Mike Hanawalt (NRCS), assisted by Nate Dewing, (Ag Leader with the Bradford County Conservation District) provided a very informative presentation concerning Conservation Innovation Grants in Bradford County. (Hand-out attached.) Mike explained the background information on the on-going projects in Bradford County. He quoted Hugh Hammond Bennett, (who was known as "Father of Soil Conservation"), relative to the goals of Conservation Innovation, "If we are Bold in our thinking, Courageous in accepting new ideas, and Willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known." The current projects are a product of a series of soil health local meetings that were held about 5 years ago, to bring in new problem solving ideas to producers in the area. National renowned speakers were brought in to provide new ideas for solving local soil health problems. As a result, several innovative ideas were introduced. The two projects that will be covered today by Nate Dewing are planting of cover crops and Wood Chip

barnyards or Animal heavy use concentration areas. (See attached Project Description directive) Nate explained the use of a Cover Crop Inter-seeder that has recently been acquired by the Conservation District and made available to local producers on a rental basis. When the machine is rented, an operator from the District is provided. It is a "broadcast" seeder, and the seeding is done in growing crop fields. The cover crop planted is a mix of rye grain, clover and radish. There is a small amount of crop loss, estimated to be approximately two percent. Some producers consider the crop loss to be excessive, but the overall result in the practice application is favorable. The second project in Bradford County was the creation of a Wood Chip Surface Heavy Use Area Pad (HUAP). It is an alternative to concrete. This is composed of the Wood Chips over drainage area (100 ft x 100 ft), an adjacent concrete scrape lane (12 ft x 100 ft) and a manure stacking area (Three months). Also there is a 2,000 gallon effluent collection tank for the wood chip area. Nate went into a detailed explanation of the construction steps, maintenance of the pad/area, and the overall costs and the benefits of the project to the producer. He also indicated that other future projects being strongly considered are a Dairy exercise lot and an area for horses.

00/39/27 - Scott Heckman, (NRCS) was introduced by Denise. He in turn introduced Bill Chain, of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Bill and Scott together presented a program concerning the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). (See Attached Hand-out.) Bill emphasized the importance of location to establish the RCPP to improve land, water and producer profitability. It was determined that implementation of the practices would be best suited for Centre, Clinton and Lycoming Counties. Scott proceeded to explain why the area was selected. He went on to describe the purpose and establishment of RCPP the goal is to Improve Land, Water using Producer Profitability Partners. He identified the partners and their contributions to the program. He explained the role that the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) play in RCPP. He noted that Outreach programs have included

Soil Health Events thru 2018 and 2019. Such events encourage: building partnerships/relationships; furthers the conservation on a Field Team or possibly regional scale; encourages partners to cooperate with producers; provides assistance through Partnership agreements and program contracts or other agreements; utilizes new and existing programs. He also noted that RCPP requires significant contributions from the partners and is not a grant. The "significant contributions" that partners bring to selected projects can include in-kind contributions, such as outreach, monitoring, conservation planning, and producer assistance. Partners may also include administrative services that they provide in the calculation of their contribution to the project. Partners should consider the total benefit they expect to bring to the project. Priority is given to those applications that significantly leverage non-federal financial and technical resources. He noted the accomplishments of RCPP since it was established in 2017. He was asked to fully explain the RCPP contracts which he and Scott accomplish. He explained that RCPP is for producers that are "on the way". They already have established a mind-set on elevating their agri-nomic practices in the conservation world. RCPP gives the capacity to take a producer from where they are in conservation practices using a bundle of other practices to operate at a much higher conservation level. He went on to cite different examples.

01/15/21 - Ashley Lenig (NRCS) was introduced by Denise. Ashley will be working with Ed Sanders (NRCS), and Noel Soto (NRCS) specializing as a National Water Quality Specialist. Ashley explained the purpose of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). (See attached Hand outs) In a nutshell, our job is to identify areas that really contribute to pollution in the watershed and fix them. Primary and secondary resource concerns, approved land use types, conservation practices, screening criteria and ranking questions were explained. Implementation phases for 2019 and 2020 were discussed. NWQI accomplishments in Pennsylvania were noted and explained, as well as watershed assessments and goals.

01/35/27 - Dan Dostie (NRCS) was introduced and addressed updates in the Field Office Technical Guide (EFOTG) since the last State Technical Committee Meeting that was held in January of this year. (See attached Hand-out.) He commented on the Federal Register Notice 2019-04290, also he reviewed Conservation Practice Standards, "What is and is not a Conservation Standard". He noted that there were no FOTG notices released since January 2019. Further, he indicated that there have been no changes to Section II of the FOTG since the meeting in January.

01/44/29 - Pete Vanderstappen (NRCS) gave an update on Conservation Engineering. This update included changes in "Waste Storage Facility Standard". He noted that tank specifications are more stringent on Sensitive Environment sites. NRCS locate tanks to avoid sensitive sites and the type of tank historically built in Pennsylvania will continue to be constructed. The steel schedule in the tank floor has been increased, thus adding an average cost increase of one to two percent. Design Guide 11 for concrete structures was developed to assist in floor steel selection. Existing "NRCS Concurred Tanks" are still valid with the exception of the floor steel change. The new "Pennsylvania Irrigation Guide" of 1972 has been updated for 2018. He went on to give a summary of the changes that were announced in the update.

01/49/28 - Yuri Plowden (NRCS), gave an update on different public events concerning Soil Health priorities. (See attached Hand-out) She noted that the NRCS Field Teams and partners sponsored approximately 50 Soil Health Events statewide during 2018, with nearly 3000 participants. She went on to outline the 2019 Soil Health Priorities. Approximately 147 conservationists will need to have completed NRCS's 3-day Soil Health and Sustainability Training by January of 2021 to satisfy the new national conservation planner prerequisites, released in 2017. This requirement is for both individuals pursuing their initial Certified Conservation Planner designation, as well as individuals with a current Certified Conservation Planner designation.

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 - ▶ Undertakings that have the potential to effect cultural resources

- ▶ Planners complete and submit a Cultural Resources Review Worksheet (CRRW)
- ▶ The CRC reviews the CRRW and will:
 - ▶ Sign the CRRW once is properly completed OR
 - ▶ Begin consultation process with SHPO, when needed.
 - ▶ Coordinate any additional field work required.

PPA - Where are we now?

- ▶ Draft has been reviewed by ACHP and FPAC Federal Preservation Officer
- ▶ Draft is going out for Tribal Review
- ▶ Completing Public Participation
 - ▶ If you would like to see or review a copy, please let me know.

02/10/28 - Noel Soto (NRCS), was introduced and provided an update on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). He announced the cut-off date for CSP applications is May 10, 2019. This date is necessary so as to start the ranking process. CIG has two components, one is National and one is State. National has not been released as yet due to changes occurring in the new Farm Bill. The State component CIG announcement has been sent out to teams for posting to "Grants.gov", where it will remain for two months for people to send in proposals. The categories are Soil Health, Urban Farming and Forestry.

02/12/23 - Ed Sanders (NRCS), did not speak, due to him having to participate in another meeting. However, Denise covered his notes. (See attached hand-out.) The 2018 Act provides the authority to administer EQIP using the existing regulations, with the following exceptions:

- Organic payment limitation changes:
- Payments under the Organic Initiative to a person restrictions, but did provide a Hand-out outlining EQIP updates as of this meeting date. (See attached Hand-out). EQIP Updates as of 04/18/2019

or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed \$140,000 for Organic Initiative contracts entered into during the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023

- Removes the \$20,000 annual payment limit
- These changes have been incorporated in the revised NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix
- New Veteran Farmer/ Rancher (VFR) Definition:
- "has not operated a farm or ranch: or ... has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years" or who first obtained status as a veteran "during the most recent 10-year period"
- Change has been incorporated in the revised NRCS-CPA-1200
- Required notification of a participant's eligibility for Advance Payment and agency documentation of the participant's decision.
- For FY 2019: This requirement has been incorporated in new Preapproval letter which is available in ProTracts
- Ensure all pre-approved applicants receive the letter
- For FY2019, planners will document the decision in the conservation 6-notes. A participant may change their decision.
- Revised NRCS-CPA-1200 dated January 2019
- NRCS-CPA-1202 EQIP appendix dated January 2019.

02/16/26 - Hathaway Jones (NRCS), was introduced and provided an Easement update.

(See attached Hand-out) She announced the following: PA NRCS has received a total of \$1,519,553.00 for ALE and \$732,152.00 for WRE in FY 2019. PA NRCS accepts applications for both of these programs year-round, and funds eligible acceptable applications prior to September 30th each year. We are having a training for WRE next week, April 24-25th. This training will cover WRE basics on enrollment, eligibility, acquisition, and restoration. PA NRCS received a total of \$1,519,553.00 for ALE and \$732,152.00 for WRE in FY 2019. PA NRCS accepts applications for both

of these programs year-round, and funds eligible acceptable applications prior to September 30th each year. We are having a training for WRE next week, April 24-25th. This training will cover WRE basics on enrollment, eligibility, acquisition, and restoration.

02/18/08 - Susan Marquart (NRCS), was introduced and provided an update on RCPP. (See attached Hand-Out) She explained the existing RCPP projects and their levels of completion, as well as the amounts of funds available/existing in each project.

Denise announced that the next Technical Committee Meeting would be held at 1pm, Tuesday, July 16th, 2019. Attendance today was 24 members present and 7 members participated by Call-In using the Toll-Free Number.

Note: A recording of this meeting is available upon request. An index of that recording is attached.

Also attached is a copy of the "Sign-in" sheet showing attendance at this meeting.

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE

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)
MIKE HANAWALT	NRCS					
Amy Brown	PAED					
Nate Dewing	Bradford Co. Cons. Dist.					
John Tancher	PGC	jotancher@pa.gov				
Diana Day	PFBC	d.day@pa.gov				
Ken Brown	PA SCC	kbrown@pa.gov				
SCOTT HECKMAN	NRCS					
Beth Garcia	EPA Region 3	garcia.beth@epa.gov				
PATRICK BOWLING	PA DEP - BSDW			✓		
Kate Ombalsti	woods and waters cons	kate@woodswaters.com		✓		
Yuri Plowden	NRCS					
Susan Marquart	NRCS					
EDWARD SANDERS	NRCS					
RON RAMSEY	TNC			✓		
Tessi Stark	DCNR	c-stark@pa.gov		✓		
Bill Choin	CDF	bchoin@cdf.org		✓		
Elliott Kellner	WVU					
Marel King	CBC	mking@chabay.us		✓		
Jennifer Kosovich	PA Rural Water					
Suzanne	The Nature Conservancy	sfanoh@tnc.org		✓		
Katie Turner	TNC	Katie.turner@tnc.org		✓		
Grant Lubion	PA Farm Bureau	grglubion@pfb.com				