

**County-Wide Action Planning  
Currently In The Process**

An integral part of Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan is the development of individual County Action Plans (CAPs). The Tri County Regional Planning Commission is working with a consultant to develop both Dauphin and Perry County Action Plans. The Conservation District is supporting this effort and as the CAP is developed over the next 8 months, we will be in need of volunteers willing to review elements of the CAP and provide feedback. We need volunteers representing all that Perry County has to offer, including but not limited to agriculture, business, construction, landowners, municipalities, and education. The planning process will assess the scope of water quality issues in Perry County, consider current initiatives and practices, and develop a plan to meet the pollution reduction goals for Perry County set by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please join us in this effort to reduce water pollution in Perry County! *Would you like to be involved?* If so, please contact Kristie



Smith at 717-582-5138 or [ksmith@perryco.org](mailto:ksmith@perryco.org)  
There are 1,065 miles of streams within our beautiful County!

**STAY TUNED...**

Grazing Group, No-Till Group, District Field Day

As we look forward to the summer months, we are planning to offer several outdoor meetings and a field day in a responsible manner. If you are interested in joining the Grazing Group or the No-till Group, please contact the District so we can add you to our contact list. Thank you!

**A Brand New Connection**



**‘Carefully Cultivated’ the  
Perry County  
Conservation District  
Podcast**

Have you heard? Carefully Cultivated is the District’s new podcast featuring environmental stories from local Perry County farmers and residents. Listen in to hear how county agriculture has changed over the years and to find out what was the lightbulb moment for farmers to understand the role soil health has on their farms. Also enjoy other environmental stories from local residents who live and work in our county. The podcast can be found on Spotify and Apple Podcasts as well as Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/pccd>.

If you would be interested in receiving an email with a downloadable MP3 file when new podcast episodes are released, please email Lauren Leinbach at [lleinbach@perryco.org](mailto:lleinbach@perryco.org).



**Contact Us** [www.perrycd.org](http://www.perrycd.org)

**Perry Conservation District**  
31 West Main Street,  
P.O. Box 36  
New Bloomfield, PA 17068  
#717-582-8988 ext. 3002

**Also Like Us on Facebook for News and Updates! Perry County Conservation District (New Bloomfield, Pa)**




*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

**Winter 2021 Newsletter**

**A Brand New Connection**



**The Perry County  
Conservation District PA  
YouTube Channel**



Viewers can enjoy scenes from around the county from bald eagles nesting along Buffalo Creek, stream investigations on Montour and Shermans Creek, to soil science on a local farm. Please join us online for more environmental education activities! Just put ‘Perry County Conservation District PA’ into the YouTube search bar~

**Annual Tree Seedling Sale  
Coming Soon**



*A Great Family Activity!*

We are offering a wide selection of native tree species and wildflower seed varieties during our sale this coming Spring. Look for our **advertisement** in the local newspapers. Orders need to be returned March 24th. Those who are on our customer list will receive a brochure. Order forms will also be accessible on our website at [www.perrycd.org](http://www.perrycd.org).

CONIFERS:	Eastern White Pine	Colorado Blue Spruce	Norway Spruce	American Arborvitae
DECIDUOUS:	Sugar Maple	Red Oak	Sawtooth Oak	American Hazelnut
SHRUBS & SEEDS:	Pink Lady Winterberry	Showy Mix	Wildflower Mix	Pollinator Mix

**~Proceeds go towards District Environmental Education Programs~**

## No-Till Drill Rental Updates



The county rents three 10ft wide John Deere 1590 no-till drills and one 6ft wide Land Pride 606NT drill. The John Deere drills are suitable for planting small grains, soybeans, forages, cover crops, and large pastures. A minimum 85hp tractor is required along with 1 remote hydraulic valve. The Land Pride 606NT is commonly used for native grasses and smaller pastures as well as small grains, soybeans, and cover crops. The 606NT requires a minimum 40hp tractor and 1 remote hydraulic valve. The county drills are for use in no-till systems, not in vertical tillage or conventional tillage systems. In 2020, the John Deere drills were used to plant a total of 1,939.4 acres and the Land Pride was used to plant a total of 220.9 acres.

### New for 2021, our fees have changed:

\* Rental rates for both the John Deere drills and Land Pride drill will now be a flat rate of \$10/acre for ANY seed type planted.



\* A drop fee of \$25 will be applied to renters that plant 5 acres or less.

\* Seed rate calibration is available as an additional service for a fee of \$30.

Please contact Ben Smith at #717-275-5111 for drill availability.

### **A Friendly Reminder About Winter Spreading...**

Under DEP's Nutrient Management Act 38 & Manure Management programs, winter is defined as December 15 through February 28 **OR** anytime the ground is frozen at least 4 inches **OR** anytime the ground is covered in snow. Act 38 operations should follow their plan for winter spreading, and have their plan updated before spreading if changes are necessary. Operations with Manure Management Plans will follow MMP guidelines for winter spreading in the Land Application of Manure manual. Criteria include: The maximum application rate of 5,000 gallons of liquid manure or 20 tons of dry non-poultry manure or 3 tons of dry poultry manure per acre. A setback of 100ft from an above ground inlet to an agricultural drainage system where surface water flow is toward the above ground inlet. All fields must have at least 25% crop residue at the time of application or an established cover crop. No application on fields with slopes greater than 15%. An application setback of 100ft from surface water along with all of the other application setbacks as outlined.

### **NRCS Updates**

With the signing of the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress established a new EQIP funding category, Terrestrial Wildlife. Congress believed that at least 10% of public funds should be allotted for improvements on private landowners' properties dedicated to addressing and improving wildlife concerns. The same rules apply to this category as other funding categories in EQIP. The funding category requires that you need to be a private landowner that has farm records with FSA and produce an agricultural commodity. Currently improving pollinator habitat is the focus of the funding program, but any species listed in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's State Wildlife Plan 2015-2025 can be addressed. If this sounds like something you would be interested in pursuing please contact Sam or Kevin in the New Bloomfield NRCS field office at 717-594-3010.

## What You Need To Know About Chapter 102

**WHAT IS SOIL EROSION?** Erosion is a natural process by which topsoil is worn away by water, wind, or chemical action. Accelerated erosion is the removal of the surface of the land through the combined action of human activities and natural processes at a rate greater than would occur from natural processes alone.

### **IS SEDIMENT POLLUTION HARMFUL?**

Fish have gills which extract oxygen from the water and can become clogged



Raindrops falling on exposed soil can break off soil particles to be lost in run-off water.

when the water transports excessive amounts of sediment. Sediment can also cover fish eggs and the gravel nests they rest in, destroy food supplies for many species of fish by covering aquatic insect habitat on the stream bottom, and cloud the water and deprive plants of light needed for photosynthesis. Other pollutants such as heavy metals, pesticides, and excess nutrients can spread along with sediment by water action and cause problems not only at the source but also downstream. Sediment increases public drinking water treatment costs and excess sediment deposits in streams and rivers may necessitate the dredging of a reservoir or other body of water.

### **HOW IS EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REGULATED?**

The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board (EQB) approved statewide regulations for Erosion and Sediment Control, 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102 in September 1972 and amended them on November 19, 2010. These regulations are authorized by the PA Clean Streams Law, 35 P.S. §691.1 et seq., and prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to Pennsylvania's

waters. Under the Chapter 102 regulations, anyone conducting earth disturbance activities must use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the amount of sediment. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 102 regulations and the Clean Streams Law.

Conservation districts with trained staff are delegated the responsibility to review Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (E&S Plans), conduct training, perform site inspections, and in some cases, conduct compliance and enforcement actions.

### **WHAT IS REQUIRED?**

25 Pa. Code § 102.4(a): A written agricultural E&S Plan that meets the requirements found in Section 102.4(a) of the regulation is required for any plowing, tilling or animal heavy use areas that disturb 5,000 square feet or more.

25 Pa. Code § 102.4(b): For all other non-ag earth disturbance activities, the implementation and maintenance of E&S BMPs are required to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation including those activities which disturb less than 5,000 square feet.

In addition: An E&S Plan shall be written and implemented if one **or** more of the following criteria apply:

- The earth disturbance activity will result in a total earth disturbance of 5,000 square feet or more.
- An E&S Plan is required under other Department regulations.
- The earth disturbance activity, because of its proximity to existing drainage features or patterns, has the potential to discharge to waters classified as a High Quality or Exceptional Value water under Chapter 93 regulations.