

Soil Health Bucket Now Available

Are you curious about what is going on in your soil? Have you ever dug a hole in your fields and looked at your soil? Looking at your soil is one of the most valuable tools available to you and it's free!

We now have Soil Health Buckets to help you know what to look for in your soil. The easy to read manual takes you step by step through the different tests including infiltration, basic soil nutrients, physical observations, earthworm counts, and more! At the conclusion of the manual, there is a section on how to interpret your results. Those interested can contact Lauren Leinbach at 717-594-3003 to borrow the bucket today!

Grazing Group Opportunity

Calling all grazing operations! The Perry County Grazing Group is getting back together. Please contact the office to be added to the list to receive notifications about upcoming grazing related events. Small backyard operations are also welcome.



Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office Hours in Perry County

To schedule an appointment in Perry County with the USDA Farm Service Agency, please contact the Mifflintown Service Center by phone 717-436-8953 or send an email to BobbiJo.zimmerman@pa.usda.gov



**Penn State Extension Corn
& Crops Day: January 24
-Perry Mennonite
Center, Green Park**

Manure Hauler / Broker Meeting

February 26, 8am-11am

**To be held at the Penn State Extension
Building in New Bloomfield.
Call #717-594-3003 to RSVP.**

Manure Management Workshops

**To be held in the Penn State Extension
Building, New Bloomfield**
**Traditional Operations:
March 4, 9am-3pm**
**Backyard/Equine Operations:
May 12, 6pm-9pm**

No-till Group Winter Meeting

**Tentatively scheduled for late March. Stay
tuned for postcards and the official date
will be posted to the District website.**

**Annual Tree Seedling Sale
Order through March 27,
Pick up April 9, 10am-6pm**

**4H & FFA Livestock Project
Manure Management Workshop
June 10 from 6-8pm at the Penn State
Extension Building, New Bloomfield
Call 717-582-5138 or email
ksmith@perryco.org to sign up.**

Contact Us www.perrycd.org
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P.O. Box 36
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#717-582-8988 ext. 3002

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 **Perry County Conservation District
(New Bloomfield, Pa)**



Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Winter 2020 Newsletter

Manure Management Workshops

Current Pennsylvania regulations require that all operations that generate or import manure need to have a manure management plan (MMP). This includes traditional farming operations and residents that have a horse or two or who are raising a small flock of chickens in their backyard. Workbooks are available at the District. You can write an MMP on your own, hire a consultant, or come to a workshop and leave with a completed or nearly complete plan. **March 4th** from 9am to 3pm is for traditional farm operations with cropland. **May 12th** from 6pm to 9pm is for Backyard/Equine operations.

Please call Lauren Leinbach at 717-594-3003 to register.

Annual Tree Seedling Sale Coming Soon

We are offering a wide selection of native species and wildflower seed varieties during our sale this coming Spring. Look for our **advertisement** in the local newspapers starting in March or stop by the office to grab a brochure. Order forms will also be accessible on our website at www.perrycd.org.



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

The Future of Farmland Preservation



Currently, Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy and environment. It also assures a way of life Pennsylvanians' cherish will continue for generations to come. Perry County has successfully preserved 66 farms since 1995. Over 9,000 acres have been permanently preserved in Perry County for agricultural production.

Are you interested in preserving your farm or wish to learn more about the Perry County Farmland Preservation Program?

If so, please contact Neil Imes at (717)582-5119 or by email at nimes@perryco.org.

NRCS Update

The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for our Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program provides incentive payments and technical assistance to improve cropland, pastures, and farmstead operations. Forest landowners can also apply. Call the office at 717-594-3006 to learn more about the program. The Farm Service Agency has recently reopened the sign up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This program allows for cropland that may have high erodibility factors or close to a waterbody to be placed into permanent vegetation. Call for details.



Funding Opportunity for Small Grazing Operations

Capital RC&D recently finished offering awards for their Grassroots Grazing Program this December. This program provides cost share to small grazing operations to make improvements to their systems (watering systems, stream crossings, heavy use areas, etc.) However, Capital RC&D believes it might have some extra funds come available this Spring. If you want to know more about this opportunity call the NRCS office at 717-594-3006 and talk with Kevin.

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.



Odor Management

Odor Management Plans (OMPs) are a PA state wide requirement (25 Pa. Code 83.701) for all Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that initiate construction of new, or expand existing structures that house animals or store manure after February 27, 2009.

OMPs must be developed by a certified specialist and **approved** by the State Conservation Commission before construction begins and must be **implemented** before populating the new facility with livestock.

Please contact the Perry County Conservation District for more information.

You may also type in & follow the link below:
[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/OdorManagementProgram/Documents/Odor%20Management%20Fact%20Sheet%20\(August%202015\).pdf](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/OdorManagementProgram/Documents/Odor%20Management%20Fact%20Sheet%20(August%202015).pdf)

Organic Poultry on Pasture

For poultry farms that are enrolled in the Nutrient Management Program, and provide outdoor areas for their birds. The outdoor area must be written in the farm Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and managed by the farm operator as either a Pasture or an Animal Concentration Area (ACA).

If the operator decides to manage the outdoor area as a pasture, the following requirements must be met:

- Soil test from each pasture area must be collected and recorded every three years.
- The number of birds that have access to the pasture & how long they are in the pasture area each day must be documented in the NMP.
- Pasture vegetation requirements must be maintained throughout the growing season.

If the operator decides to manage the area as an ACA the following requirements must be met:

- No water may be allowed to flow through the ACA.
- Necessary BMPs must be installed around the ACA to prevent any fresh water from entering the ACA or any contaminated water from leaving the ACA, and potentially enter groundwater or surface waterbodies (Ponds, Streams, Sinkholes, and Wells)

Please contact the District for more information.

