



2023 Virtual Conservation District and PA Agency Ag Meeting

Project Descriptions

CONSERVATION DISTRICT
& PA AGENCY AG MEETING

April 3, 2023 – Ohio, Erie, Genesee, and Delaware Watersheds



Cover Crop Partnership with King's Agriseed

Pierce Willson, Agricultural Coordinator
Fayette County Conservation District

In the 2021 newsletter, the FCCD advertised for participation in a cover crop study trial. Through the request, we gained 7 participants with a variety of situations and cropping history. On September 1st, we hosted a meeting with the applicants and the regional representative from King's Agriseed, David Hunsberger, and local salesman, Ken Schrock. Dave gave an overview of products and the participants selected seeds to fit the various situations for their 5-acre trial field. The participants range from grain production and vegetable production, to grazing and dairy. This is a program we would like to see gain momentum as we work towards its success.



12 Mile Creek Restoration

Ryan Nageotte, VinES Field Technician
Erie County Conservation District

PA VinES (Vested in Environmental Sustainability) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes sustainable viticulture practices to reduce the environmental impacts of the approximately 10,000 acres of vineyards in Erie County by limiting the amount of sediments and excess nutrients that enter Lake Erie tributaries. In the summer of 2022, with the assistance of growing greener and great lake restoration initiative funds, the program designed, permitted, and constructed over 850' of natural stream channel/stream bank stabilization work on an unnamed tributary of 12-mile creek.



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April 6, 2023 – Chesapeake Bay Watershed



LUZERNE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conyngham Ag BMP Project

Jennifer Lauri, Ag Conservation Specialist
Luzerne County Conservation District

Horse farm located in Luzerne County in the East Fork Harvey's Creek watershed. East Fork Harvey's Creek is impaired due to nutrients. The farm consists of seven horses. The farm management is considered excellent as far as pasture management, animals, and conservation. The farm had a few environmental resource concerns that could cause pollution to surface waters. The largest concern was lack of manure storage. Manure was removed daily and stacked outside of barn on the ground until it could be hauled away, and land applied. Stormwater was also a concern on this farm. Rain runoff from the barn was not controlled and would flow past the manure pile, carrying nutrients off site. A road culvert also directed water to a pasture on the farm. The culvert caused a 5' wide and 2' deep gully through the paddock, eroding and transporting sediment off site. The gully was also a safety hazard to horses and equipment. Finally, the area outside the barn was highly trafficked by the horses entering and leaving, making it not possible to maintain vegetation. This area could get muddy and slippery and could be defined as an ACA. Project was awarded funding in 2014 through a DEP Growing Greener Grant. Due to lack of matching funds, multiple project shifts and inflation the project was ultimately funded through a 2015 Growing Greener Grant and CAP.



COLUMBIA COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Briar Creek Watershed Barnyard Improvement

Patrick McCarthy, Resource Conservationist I
Columbia County Conservation District

Rosie Zaginaylo operates an 80 head dairy farm in Briar Creek Township. She was housing calves in plastic hutches on an earthen lot in close proximity to a road culvert. This culvert drained directly into a tributary to East Branch Briar Creek. The decision was made to relocate the calf housing next to the milking barn at one of the operation's satellite farms. This new location is around 500 feet from the nearest stream. This removed a source of sediment and nutrient loading that was in close proximity to water and improved the operations efficiency by moving all livestock to a single location. Additionally, a new roofed manure storage facility was in the process of being built through an NRCS contract to store waste from the milking herds loafing area. Moving this calf facility removed the need to haul solid manure from the original calf housing to the new manure storage. A prefabricated structure from Cedar Crest Equipment was installed on a concrete pad. Using a prefab structure cut down the installation time to three days and decreased the overall cost of the project. Using this style structure was also preferred by the operator as the open front and back curtain allow for increased air flow. This will benefit both animal health and comfort.