

CONSERVATION NOTES

FEBRUARY 2022

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

REGULATIONS AND PERMITS REFRESHER

Pennsylvania State regulations require anyone performing earthmoving activities to install and maintain Best Management Practices (BMP), such as using a silt sock or a silt fence down slope of the disturbance in order



to minimize erosion and decrease the chance for waters to become polluted with sediment.

Earthmoving activities include the following: land clearing; storing of soil, rock, or earth materials; clearing and grubbing; grading; excavations; embankments; land development; agricultural plowing or tilling; operation of animal heavy-use areas; timber-harvesting; pond maintenance activities; oil and gas activities; well drilling; mineral extraction and the moving, depositing, and stockpiling of the minerals.

Regulations require all earthmoving projects that propose 5,000 square feet or more of earth disturbance to have an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan on site. All earth disturbances that are one acre or greater require a Federal NPDES Permit prior to commencing work. Any work located within 50 feet of a stream would require a DEP permit.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bedford County Conservation District at 814-623-7900.

COUNTY-WIDE ACTION PLAN

SHOBERS RUN SEDIMENT REDUCTION AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Shobers Run, a HQ/CWF trout stream near Bedford Borough, flows between a residential area on the east bank and Bedford Middle School to the west in the project area. Significant bank erosion occurring on the east bank, accelerated by mowing and clearing to the bank edge, resulted in property loss and threatened



structures. District staff and local TU members surveyed the area and created a plan for about 1800 feet of stream improvements to reduce erosion and improve habitat. With permit approval, a portion of the project area with the most severe erosion became the focus for the initial phase and construction was planned for early August.

Funding was secured with an Embrace-A-Stream grant of \$8,500 from Trout Unlimited and \$4,000 from Bedford County CAP funds. Over three days, a

large modified mudsill (pictured below), a second smaller modified mudsill, two log-framed stone deflectors and two root wads were installed. The height of the large mudsill was intended to exceed the bankfull height and the floodwaters of Ida a few weeks after completion confirmed the design. Additional work on this project includes addressing the bare bank above the large mudsill, planting native trees and shrubs, reaching out to landowners to encourage practices to reduce or eliminate erosion, and secure funding to continue installing additional BMPs along the project stream reach.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Rain Barrels for sale
- Scholarships
- 2022 Envirothon/Sponsors
- Recycling Program Updates
- Winter Manure Spreading
- Bay Farm Inspections
- Winter Manure Spreading
- Conservation Excellence Grant
- No-Till Equipment Rental

DIRT, GRAVEL AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM

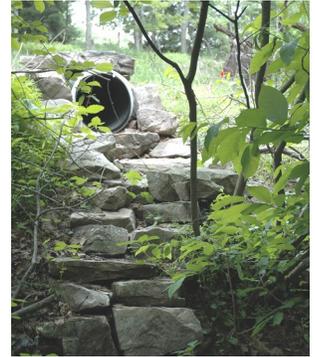
The Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Road (DGLVR) Program is a state funded effort to reduce sediment pollution to streams by funding improvements to local roads. County conservation districts are allocated funds for distribution to qualified municipalities and other public road owners for approved work plans that incorporate best management practices primarily related to drainage issues with both unpaved and low-volume (less than 500

vehicles /day) paved roads. For 2021-2022, Bedford County was allocated \$255,794 for unpaved roads and \$178,561 for low-volume paved roads. Since the program began in 1998, Bedford County has completed unpaved road projects on 95 sites totaling 49 miles on improvements at a cost of \$2,871,909. For low-volume paved roads, which were added to the program in 2014, the county has seen improvements at 15 sites en-

compassing 6 miles at a cost of \$1,377,772.

During 2021, townships participating in the DGLVR Program completed projects on 3 unpaved roads: Sideling Hill Creek Road in Mann Township, Mock Ridge Road in Lincoln Township, and Manassas Gap Road in Cumberland Valley Township. There are 3 unpaved road projects in progress that are anticipated to be completed in 2022: Clark Hill Road in West Provi-

dence Township, Ream and Jimmy's Road in West St. Clair Township, and Buckeye Road in Napier Township.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FARM INSPECTIONS

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to protecting local water quality and meeting Chesapeake Bay restoration goals. The agriculture sector can improve water quality both locally and in the Chesapeake Bay by following existing state regulations relating to erosion control and manure management. All ag operations in PA are required to develop and implement Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plans since 1972, and where applicable,

Manure Management Plans since 1985.

Implementing these plans will improve and protect local water quality, soil and animal health, and overall farm sustainability. These plans will maximize farm productivity through efficient use of soil and nutrient resources.

The Conservation District, tasked by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, is assessing Bedford County farms to verify compliance with planning regulations.

During a farm visit, district staff will ensure regulatory compliance and review plans:

Manure Management Plan (MMP) - documents the proper storage and land application of animal manure and agricultural process wastewater.

Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Ag E&S Plan) - documents current and planned best management practices to reduce the erosion and runoff from plowing/tilling activities and ani-

mal barnyard/high traffic areas

If you do not have plans; the Conservation District will assist with completing plans or direct you to other sources of assistance.

Any questions regarding plans or farm inspections, please contact Cody Waltemire at 814-310-3282. You may schedule an assistance appointment in the office or at your farm for an evaluation -inspection visit.

RAIN BARRELS FOR SALE

The Conservation District is offering 55-gallon rain barrels at a discounted cost. The rain barrels include a spigot and downspout diverter and are enclosed to help prevent mosquitoes and debris. Rain



barrels are excellent for watering plants, bathing pets, and more...all while conserving water. If you are interested in a rain barrel, please contact the Conservation District.

TREE SEEDLING SALE



The Conservation District will not have a tree seedling sale in 2022. Our suppliers are encountering complications fulfilling orders. We look forward to again conducting a seedling sale in 2023.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Conservation District offers a \$1,000 scholarship, funded through the No-Till Rental Equipment Program, to honor the late Glen Beach and his contributions in conservation tillage. The 2021 Glen Beach scholarship was awarded to Molly Cessna a student of Potomac State Col-

lege. The district also administers the William Plank Memorial Scholarship fund that awards an annual \$500 scholarship. The scholarships are available to undergraduate college students in the field of agriculture, environmental studies, soils, or natural resources. Scholarships

will be awarded on the basis of academic merit, curriculum of study, quality of the written essay and career goals. The 2021 William Plank scholarship was also awarded to Molly Cessna. For details and applications please contact Bedford County Conservation District at

814-623-7900 extension 4 or visit our site at www.bedfordcountyconservation.com

2022 ENVIROTHON EVENTS/SPONSORS

The County Envirothon events are interactive, hands-on environmental education experiences which test students' knowledge of specific environmental topics. The events consist of three outdoor competitions held at Shawnee State Park. This year the senior high and junior high event will occur on May 3rd and the elementary event will be on May 4th. For further information contact Regina Miller at the Conserva-

tion District office. 814-623-7900 extension 4.



The Conservation District is seeking sponsorship for the local Envirothon events.

The environmental education event reaches over 200 Bed-

ford County students. The Sr. High event winners are given the opportunity to attend the State Envirothon event and possibly move onto the national event. If you are interested in sponsoring our event please contact the office at 814-623-7900 for our contributor sponsorship form. All forms must be returned to the office by early March 2022 to receive full recognition for your contributions.

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

TRI-COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Tri-County Solid Waste Recycling Drop-off Program offers five commingled (materials mixed) drop-off bin locations within Bedford County. Drop-off bins are located at: Bedford Township, Broad Top Township, Everett Church of the Brethren, Napier Township, and the Sandy Run Landfill. Residents may recycle their newspapers, office paper, magazines, shredded paper, junk mail, paper bags, cardboard boxes, food boxes,

paper towel rolls, paperboard packaging, aluminum/steel cans, and plastic #1 & #2 bottles. Activities at the recycling drop-off bins are coordinated between the county coordinator, municipalities and the site sponsors. Over 300 tons of recyclables were collected from the drop-off bins in 2021. All site locations are operated on a volunteer basis. Residents utilizing the bins must remember to keep the site clean and free from non-recyclable materials. Please help to keep our sites maintained!

CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Bedford County Conservation District also offers recycling to Bedford County residents at the Clearville Recycling drop-off center located at 8917 Clear Ridge Road, Everett. The drop-off site is open six days a week, Monday thru Friday, from dawn to dusk. Items collected must be source separated (materials sorted individually) newspaper, office paper, junk mail, magazines, cardboard,

plastic bottles/ jugs, aluminum cans, bi-metal cans, oil, antifreeze and electronic computer materials. Over 200 tons of recyclables were collected at the site in 2021. For questions or concerns please contact the Conservation District office at 814-623-7900 ext. 4.



Accepting
scholarship
applications
through May
31, 2022

Your company name will be placed on the t-shirts which are distributed to all teachers, students, station advisors, volunteers and sponsors.

WINTER MANURE SPREADING

Spreading manure in the winter is discouraged because it is a high-risk time period for nutrient losses and contamination of surface water. If wintertime manure spreading is absolutely unavoidable on your farm, following the regulations for winter spreading in Pennsylvania will help to reduce the risk of nutrient losses. Winter is defined as any of the following three conditions:

Between December 15 and February 28; or any time the ground is snow covered; or any time the soil is frozen 4 inches or deeper

Below are guidelines that must be followed when spreading manure during winter periods.

Do—maintain a setback of 100' from streams, lakes, ponds, sinkholes, drinking water wells, and above-ground inlets to agricultural drainage systems. The reductions in manure spreading setbacks around streams, lakes, and ponds that are allowed in other seasons by implementing best management practices do not apply during the winter.

Do—limit winter application rates to **less than or equal**

to the following: 5,000 gallons/acre of liquid manure; 20 tons/acre of solid non-poultry manure; 3 tons/acre of solid poultry manure.

Do—prioritize winter spreading on fields with living plant cover, such as cover crops, hay fields, or pastures. The living plants in these fields will do a better job preventing nutrient losses during winter by taking up nitrogen into plant biomass and more effectively preventing erosion.

Do—list the fields that will receive winter manure applications in the “Winter Application Worksheet” of your

Manure Management Plan. Also make a note of the fields that will receive winter spreading on your farm map and indicate the slopes in those fields.

Don't—spread on slopes greater than 15%. These would be soils listed with “D” or “E” codes on a soil survey map.

Don't—spread on fields with less than 25% crop residue cover unless a cover crop has been planted there. Corn silage and low yielding soybean fields typically have less than 25% residue cover during the winter.

CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM

FUNDS AVAILAIBLE FOR BEDFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

The Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Program is a state funded program providing financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers the program with assistance from county conservation districts. The districts assist in reviewing, ranking and approving applications for eligible projects and monitoring project completion. Financial assistance is provided to program applicants through grants, loans and tax credits, or a combination of all three. Priority will be given to appli-

cants who propose utilizing all three methods of funding. Tax credits will be facilitated through the REAP Program administered by the SCC. A single grant awarded by the district to an eligible applicant may not exceed \$250,000. Projects with total costs exceeding \$25,000 are subject to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Grant funding is available for small projects with costs totaling less than \$25,000.

The CEG program funds are for proposed projects that implement planned BMPs from an Ag E&S Plan, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Man-

agement Plan or a Manure Management Plan that has been developed for an agricultural operation. Priority will be given to proposed projects that already have planning, engineering, and design work completed. Priority practices include livestock exclusion fencing, off-stream livestock watering facilities, stream crossings, riparian buffers, barnyard and feedlot runoff abatement, waste storage facilities, streambank protection, cover crops, and planning BMPs (Ag E&S Plan, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, Manure Management Plan). Combining multiple priority practices improves application scoring.

Other non-priority practices that are eligible for funding can be found in the REAP Program BMP list.

CEG Program applications are available from the Conservation District. Applicants can also find more details on eligibility, priority projects, and program guidelines and requirements for program participants on the Conservation District website at www.bedfordcountyconservation.com. For more information or for help completing an application, feel free to contact Dan Over dover@bedfordcountyconservation.com by email or call the Conservation District at (814) 623-7900.

CROP PLANTING

For the 2021 crop season Bedford County Conservation District equipment was utilized to plant over 8,200 acres of crops. This includes; over 3,800 acres on the dis-

trict's drills, over 2,600 of which were fall seeded cover crops; and over 1,700 acres of corn and soy beans using the district's corn planters. Additionally, the district's

lime spreaders were used to spread 3,500 tons of ag lime. We look forward to working with all interested producers in 2022!

NO-TILL EQUIPMENT RENTAL

NO- TILL DRILLS

Used to plant various hay crops such as alfalfa, timothy, orchard grass, brome grass, clovers, birds foot trefoil, reed canary grass, ryegrass, etc. Other common uses include: small grains, cover crops, pasture renovations, soybeans, warm season grasses, and other narrow row crops.

Available Equipment:

2— Land Pride 1006NT82 drills 10 foot planting width, 7.5 inch row spacing, and 12 foot 6 inch total width.

3—Great Plains Drills (Model 1006 NT) - 10 foot planting width, 7.5 inch row spacing, and 12 foot 6 inch total width.

4—Haybuster Drills (Model 107) - 10 foot planting width, 7 inch row spacing.

Rates: Less than 12 acres is \$16.00 per acre, 12-25 acres is \$14.00 per acre and over 25 acres is \$13.00 per acre.

Fall Cover Crop—\$12.00 per acre



NO- TILL CORN PLANTERS

There are seven John Deere four row corn planters set up to plant 30 inch or 36 inch rows. No tillage is required to plant with these machines. Sorghum and soybean seed cup attachments are available as well as row cleaners, dry and liquid fertilizer bins, and insecticide boxes.

Available Equipment:

1—John Deere (Model 1750) planters equipped to plant 36 inch rows with dry fertilizer; equipped with row cleaners.

2—John Deere (Model 1750) planters equipped to plant 30 inch rows with liquid fertilizer; both have row cleaners.

3—John Deere (Model 1750) planters equipped to plant 30 inch rows with dry fertilizer; all have row cleaners.

Green Planter—John Deere (Model 1750) planter equipped to plant 30 inch rows with liquid starter fertilizer in row and liquid nitrogen side dress. This planter has been modified to roll and crimp cover crops while planting.

Rates: less than 15 acres is \$16.00 per acre and over 15 acres is \$13.00 per acre

NEW CORN PLANTER

1—Pequea Plant Master 612 six row corn planter.

The planter is equipped with both liquid in-row (pop-up) fertilizer, liquid side dress nitrogen tanks, row cleaners and foam markers. Marker solution will be provided by the Conservation District.

Requirements: A minimum 80 horsepower tractor will be necessary to use the planter. All renters will be asked to sign a user agreement when the planter is delivered.

Rates: \$15.00 per acre - \$30.00 delivery and set-up—Minimum charge of \$400



Equipment Rentals:
Corn Planters
No-Till Drills
and Lime Spreaders

LIME SPREADERS

Used to spread damp lime and poultry litter. All spreaders are PTO driven with calibrations set to apply damp lime from one ton per acre to two tons per acre.

Available Equipment:

2—Five ton spreaders

2—Eight ton spreaders

Rates:

\$3.50 per ton of lime

\$5.00 per ton of poultry manure

Proof of a manure management plan is required if spreading poultry manure with spreader.

A \$150 clean-up fee will be charged for spreaders returned with poultry manure residue.





**BEDFORD COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
702 WEST PITT STREET
BEDFORD, PA 15522

Non-Profit
Organization
Permit Number 3
Bedford, PA

Current Resident or

**POINTS OF CONTACT
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

702 West Pitt Street Phone: (814) 623-7900 ext. 4
Bedford, PA 15522 Fax: (814) 690-1682

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WHO WE ARE:

Since its inception in 1956, the Bedford County Conservation District has served as the primary local source of information and assistance for natural resource related issues. From its beginnings as an agricultural agency providing soil and water conservation planning on farmland, the District has expanded its services and staff providing additional land use services: watershed management and education in both regulatory and non-regulatory issues in both the farm and non-farm communities.

**BEDFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ON THE WEB**

www.bedfordcountyconservation.com

New Enterprise Ag Services, LLC

Jim Eshelman 814.934.3561
jimneasllc@gmail.com

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