



2009 Ag Agencies Banquet

Good food, fellowship, education, and awards were on hand for our 2009 Sullivan County Ag Agencies Banquet on November 16th at the St. Francis of Assisi Hall in Mildred. The buffet dinner was provided by the Whistle Stop Restaurant in Dushore. Robert Getz, County Commissioner, served as Master of Ceremonies. Dennis Buffington of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Penn State University spoke on Evaluating Alternative Energy. What was really interesting and educational was the demonstration he had with two table lamps. One had a regular incandescent 100 watt bulb and the other had a 100 watt CFL (compact florescent lobe). The difference was that during the two plus hours, the incandescent bulb used 70 KW and the CFL used only 17 KW. This demonstration was only one suggestion for us to save on our energy costs.

Cooperative Extension honored Peggy Molyneux for having served 15 years as the 4-H Secretary. Mark Madden, Water Quality Specialist, was unable to attend, but has served for 20 years. Jeannine Richlin, Home Economist, was not present last year, but was recognized at that time for having been with Extension for 25 years.

The Conservation District provided information to Representative Tina Pickett, Curtis Fay of Senator Gene Yaw's office, and Ed Zygmunt of Congressman Chris Carney's office to provide citations to Harvey Vough and Bruno Najaka. Harvey has served as a farm director for 45 years and Bruno has served as the public director for 40 years. The following were recognized for 100% attendance at district meetings during the calendar year 2008: Directors - Francis Moll, Harvey Vough, and Duane Reibson; Staff - Jacquelyn Rouse, Carrie Bedford, Rod Morehart, and Lynn Ottaviani; Agency Representative John George, NRCS.

This year the Conservationist of the Year went to Duane Reibson, one of our directors. He and Betsy implemented numerous conservation practices on their farm including food plots for wildlife, minimally invasive logging by utilizing his team of horses, and grassland farming. In 2007 they entered into a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract in order to enhance wildlife habitat on their farm. 73.1 acres of introduced grasses and legumes were implemented which provide soil erosion protection and habitat for a variety of wildlife, and 32.1 acres of Riparian Forest Buffer were implemented which included planting 360 feet width of tree/shrub buffer, fencing livestock from streams, installing water pipelines, and watering facilities. In 2009 an Environmental Qualities Incentive Program Forestry contract was signed. The plan is to implement warm season grass planting, tree/shrub establishment including crabapple trees and conifers for cover; and to establish an area of early successional habitat within the forest to improve forest and forest edge bird habitat. Director Bruno Najaka presented the award, in addition to also presenting the Bradford-Sullivan Bankers Award.



District Director, Bruno Najaka, presents the Conservationist of the Year Award to Duane and Betsy Reibson.

Our group photograph was taken by Mark Roinick of The Sullivan Review. This photo will be included in our Annual Report in March 2010.

Next year's program will be the responsibility of the Conservation District. If you missed this year's event, you missed a good time. Let us know what you would be interested in hearing about as we plan next year's banquet.

Joseph T. Rothrock Award presented to Nancy Baker

Nancy G.W. Baker of Sugar Run was the recipient of the 2009 Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock Conservationist of the Year Award at the banquet of the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association in Essington, PA on October 3. The award, a tribute and affirmation of Rothrock's life and contributions, recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions to the conservation of Pennsylvania's forest resource. Dr. Rothrock, often referred to as the "Father of Forestry in Pennsylvania," was the first president of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association - the nation's oldest state organization devoted to forest conservation. A Civil War veteran, surgeon, botanist, explorer and professor, Rothrock became the first Commissioner of Forestry in Pennsylvania and was responsible for the establishment of Mt Alto School of Forestry and for initiating the acquisition and development of today's 2.1 million acres of State Forests and 117 State Parks.

In presenting the honor, PFA Awards Committee Chairman Joseph Barnard noted that Dr. Rothrock obtained recognition and political support for forest conservation in Pennsylvania by combining his knowledge of the state of the forest with communication skills, perseverance and sound information. Nancy Baker is also a "forest activist" demonstrating similar abilities in championing forest stewardship in northeast Pennsylvania. Her stewardship forest, the Panther Lick in Bradford County, is used to demonstrate a professionally developed and implemented Forest Stewardship Plan; it was the first Pennsylvania property accepted into the Chesapeake Bay watershed's Forestry for the Bay program.

Ms. Baker serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners' Association, the oldest regional forest landowners' association in the state. This association was recognized with the 2007 Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partnership Award. The organization has received a number of grants to promote its forest stewardship mission; most recently a grant from the US Forest Service, Chesapeake Bay Program to organize the Endless Mountains Forestry Best Management Practices Tour. Through Nancy's and the organization's persistence the Bradford County Commissioners adopted a Forest Stewardship Plan for their 651 acre Mt. Pisgah County Park. Ms. Baker is the Landowner Committee Chairperson for the PFA Board of Directors, representing members of the 28 local and regional woodland owner associations across the state.

A graduate of Bucknell University and a Master of Science Degree in Forest Ecology from the University of Georgia, Nancy is a skilled writer and communicator. She is a contributor to *Forest Leaves* and to *Pennsylvania Forests* magazine and she serves on the education/communications committee of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. As a volunteer for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Program she is an advocate for Women and Their Woods education, helping women learn the skills needed to make informed decisions about their woodlands. In addition, her influence extends to membership on numerous boards and organizations at the county, state and regional level where her knowledge and enthusiasm make a positive impact.

The Conservation District supported Ms. Baker's nomination for this award and congratulates her on her accomplishments.



District Announces 2010 Meeting Dates

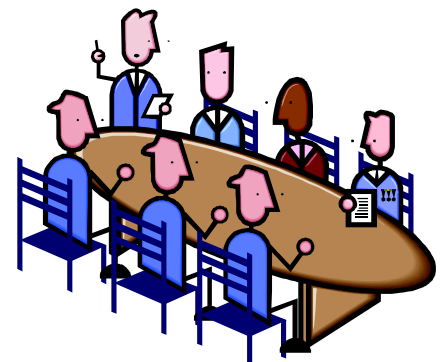
The Sullivan County Conservation District will hold its monthly meetings on the dates listed below. All meetings will be held during the day.

January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, and November 9. No board meeting is held in December.

Meetings will start at 10:00 AM and run to approximately Noon.

Any pertinent committee meetings will be held one-half hour before the board meetings.

Questions may be directed to the conservation district office at 570-928-7057 or by visiting our website at www.sullcon.com.



NTRPDC Offers Farm Loans

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission will be providing assistance for farm loans. The loans are being provided through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), First Industries Fund (FIF).

The purpose of the loans are to provide low interest loans to for-profit businesses undertaking activities related to the promotion and development of agriculture or agriculture-related activities in Pennsylvania. Loan limits are \$200,000 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is less. Rates are fixed at 4% per annum, 3% with Ag Security Resolution from Township. Private sector or equity match is required for private financing.

Payoff terms for a loan are based on the following:

- Land and Buildings – 15 years
- Machinery and Equipment – 10 years
- Working Capital – 3 years



Eligible uses include production agriculture, which includes farming and farm commodities. Farm commodities include: horticulture, aquaculture, vegetable, fruit and floricultural products, livestock and meats, wools, furs, poultry and eggs, dairy products, nuts, mushrooms, honey products, and forestry products. Activities include: agribusiness, sale of wholesale farm commodities, sale of farm commodities at retail by urban and rural supermarkets (not convenience stores) located in underserved areas, farmers markets, energy-related activities impacting production agriculture or agribusiness or activities which implement best management practices related to agricultural waste, waste products and byproducts.

Eligible applicants are for-profit businesses including corporations; limited to liability corporations, sole proprietors, cooperatives and partnerships engaged in production agriculture, agribusiness or eligible agriculture-related are eligible loan applicants. Both for-profit and non-profits entities engaged in similar practices are eligible for the loan guarantee program. Both for-profit and non-profit organizations along with institutions of higher education are eligible for planning grants.

Loans are to be secured by lien positions on collateral at the highest level of priority that can accommodate the borrower's ability to raise debt and equity capital. Generally, personal and corporate guarantees are required. CFA requires no more than an 80% Loan to Value Ratio.

Other requirements include 3 years personal and farm related tax returns, personal financial statement, a commitment from private lender(s) to provide matching funds, along with information to complete the application process throughout the term of loan. Start up farms must provide a comprehensive business plan.

For more information or to make application, contact Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager, at the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission at 312 Main Street Towanda or by calling toll free: 888-868-8800. You can also email her at potter@northertier.org



From the Directors and Staff of
the Sullivan County Conservation
District.

Dirt & Gravel Road's Stimulus Project

The conservation district received two bids for the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant project. The contract was awarded to Insinger Excavating, Inc...

They started working on Parker Road in Elkland Township, the first of seven sites associated with the project, on October 29th, 2009 and finished the first week of November. This part of the project included subsurface drainage, cross pipes, road profile adjustment and driving surface aggregate.

They are now currently working on Brown's Road in Elkland Township and will continue to work until the weather shuts them down. All projects must be completed by June of 2010.



Parker Road D&G Project during construction.

District No Longer Handling Chapter 105 Regs.

The conservation District has suspended activities relating to the Chapter 105 regulations effective October 16th. This decision was made due to financial reasons by the district board of directors.

Those needing assistance with requirements and compliance of Chapter 105 regulations should contact the North Central Office of the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 570-327-3636.

The district apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. It is hoped and anticipated that at some point in the future the district will again resume responsibility for this program.

Keep an eye out in the Sullivan Review and your mailbox for upcoming meetings.

CBP Update

The Chesapeake Bay Program has two projects underway in the county.

The first project is on the Hembury farm, the former Silverstrim Farm, where work will address the manure loading area, heavy use area protection, and milk house waste water.

Work will also take place on the Francis Moll farm. A diversion is to be

rehabilitated and fenced for livestock exclusion. Work will also take place in 2010 to stabilize the barnyard and concentrated walkways to the pastures.

In other bay news, the President's Executive Order issued for cleanup efforts in the Chesapeake Bay are sure to impose additional needs of our local farms. The district encourages agricultural operations to review their conserva-

tion plans and request farm visits with the district staff to identify needs. Every operation should strive for increased management of manure and commercial fertilizers, as well as, soil runoff as these will be key issues in pending stricter regulations to meet cleanup goals.

As more information is available in regards to the order, we will do our part to inform and assist the farming community.

Dushore Borough Project

The conservation district worked with Dushore Borough and PACD Technical Assistance Grant Program staff to complete work on the Little Loyalsock in Dushore Borough.

The project, adjacent to the Whistle Stop Restaurant, included removal of a collapsing stone wall, stabilization using "ready rock" concrete blocks, and rip rap stone to further stabi-

lize the site.

Construction was done by Insinger Excavating of Dushore. The project was funded through the County Environmental Incentive Program of Growing Greener. Affected landowners, and the borough provided the required matching funds. Total project cost was \$76,680.00.



District Completes MWEE Project

District technicians Corey Richmond and Randy Reibson recently completed work through a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) grant. The grant provided funds to obtain equipment and cover expenses in working with the school to providing a hands-on experience dealing with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Sullivan County MWEE focused on mining scars and acid mine drainage treatment in a watershed. The project was coordinated through science teacher Debbie Geist, of Sullivan County High School. A history of coal mining in the area, field work in reclaimed mine lands, water quality testing of an acid mine drainage treatment system, and stream water quality and macro-

invertebrate testing was provided to the eighth grade class. Students had to do field work, collect samples, interpret data, and write reports based on the project.

Students also got to see the impact of land applied biosolids and then draw their own conclusions on whether or not the use of biosolids on abandoned mine lands is a worthy one.

The MWEE funding is made possible through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's B-Wet program. The grant funding was coordinated through the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

A special thanks is ex-

tended to the Sullivan County School District for allowing the conservation district to work with the students on this project.



Spring Seedling Sale is Being Planned

The Conservation District's 2010 Annual Spring Seedling Sale is being planned at this time. It is anticipated that order forms will be available in mid January.

The district will be providing a large variety of popular tree species and as usual will be offering unique species based on customer requests from the previous year.

The annual seedling sale generates funds for various district educational events including Envirothon and the annual Poster Contest.

Seedling Sale fliers will be available at various businesses throughout the county, at the district office, courthouse and on our website, www.sullcon.com



Calendar of Events

Dec. 24 OFFICE CLOSED

Christmas Holiday

Dec. 25 OFFICE CLOSED

Christmas Holiday

Jan. 1 OFFICE CLOSED

New Year's Day

Jan. 12 Chesapeake Bay Committee Mtg, 9:30 AM

Jan. 12 District Board Meeting, 10 AM
Ag Resources Bldg. Dushore

Jan. 18 OFFICE CLOSED

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb 9 District Board Meeting, 10 AM
Ag Resources Bldg. Dushore

Feb. 15 OFFICE CLOSED

Presidents' Day

Mar. 9 District Board Meeting, 10 AM
Ag Resources Bldg. Dushore



President's Executive Order Demands Cleanup of Bay

President Obama's release of an executive order for efforts to decrease nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay puts more pressure on states to show progress.

At a recent meeting, EPA officials outlined proposed steps to meeting the goals of a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.

The first step the EPA will undertake is the development of a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) plan for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. A TMDL will set loading limits for nutrients Nitrogen and Phosphorus, and soil sediment. Once the TMDL plan is in place, individual states will be charged with identifying where and how reductions will occur to meet the goals.

States draining to the Chesapeake Bay will be required to report progress on a two year basis and adjust their plans as necessary to continue showing improved conditions.

If improvement is not shown, EPA can impose penalties including financial withholding and refusal of NPDES permits.

This latest effort is not just targeting agriculture. It will also focus on commercial fertilizer use by the non-ag community including golf courses, sports field managers, and homeowners.

The Bay cleanup is not just an agricultural problem, nor a sewage treatment problem. It is a problem of the state and all residents of the Bay portion of the

state. Therefore, the responsibility of this increased cleanup effort will be focusing on the whole rather than just portions of the watershed users.

Much of the planning for this latest effort is in its infancy and more is sure to come with requirements. The conservation district will continue to work with the agricultural community to meet these needs and expand its focus to the non-agricultural land users to educate and assist with their needs as well.

For more information on the Executive Order and EPA's planning, contact the conservation district at 570-928-7057.

District Photos



The photo to the left is of preliminary work completed on the lower parking lot at the county Agricultural Resources Center. Subsurface drainage has been installed from the Head Start playground to the lower edge of the parking lot. The project will be completed in 2010 and include resurfacing of the parking lot. Funding for the project is being provided through Sullivan County CDBG funds.



Photos of the Parker Road Project funded through the ARRA Grant.

On the left is a section of the road prior to construction.

On the right is the completed project which includes subsurface drainage, cross pipes, stream bank protection, road profile adjustment, and driving surface aggregate.



District Photos



District Directors Harvey Vough , 45 year director, and Bruno Najaka, 40 year director were recognized for their dedication by State Representative Tina Pickett, Curtis Fay of Senator Gene Yaw's office, and Ed Zygmunt of US Congressman Chris Carney's office at the 2009 Combined Ag Agencies Banquet.

Bill Saxe received a special acknowledgement from US Congressman Chris Carney for his achievements in agricultural best management practices. Presenting the award is Ed Zygmunt, representing Congressman's Carney's office.



8th Grade students who took part in the MWEE project pose for a group photo in front of a large bulldozer used in mine land reclamation during the projects field day.



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COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM

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Harvey Vough - V. Chairman
Richard Ryan- Secretary
Bruno Najaka - Treasurer
Duane Reibson
Michael McMahon
Betty Reibson - Commissioner

Staff

Jacquelyn Rouse - Manager
Carrie Bedford - Administrative Assistant
Corey Richmond - Watershed Specialist/CBP
Randy Reibson - E&S Technician
Lynn Ottaviani - Ag Conservation Tech./CBP

Associate Directors

Jo Ann Dunn
Lois Richmond
Jay Bagley
Edward Zinser

USDA Staff

Mike Hanawalt - Supervisory District Conservationist
Michelle Hanley - Soil Conservationist
Tammy Finan - Farm Service Agency

DEP Field Staff

William Kahler - Conservation Program Specialist
Robert Hollenbach- Chesapeake Bay Program Field Rep
Jason Fellon- Watershed Manager

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