



## Achieving Compliance on Your Cropland and Pastures

Pennsylvania's latest revisions to Chapter 102, Erosion and sedimentation Control, add additional requirements that all land users must take into consideration. Since 1972, farmers have been required to control and utilize best management practices to keep soil from entering waterways. In 2010, additions and changes to the regulations now require that all farms are required to develop and implement a written plan to reduce erosion when plowing and tilling (including no-till).

When soil is allowed to run off a crop field, it is not just the soil that runs off. Manure and commercial nutrients that are attached to the soil particles also make it to the stream.

A significant addition to the regulations is that any cropland areas within 100 feet

of a stream must maintain a minimum of 25% plant cover/crop residue or implement additional best management practices. For example, if you have a corn crop planted within 100 feet of a stream and you plan to chop the field for corn silage, a cover crop must be applied to the 100 foot section immediately following harvest. If the corn crop is being harvested as grain, the amount of residue left after harvest would meet the requirements. Another alternative is to avoid crop production in the 100 foot buffer area and possibly enroll it in USDA's CREP program or simply seed the area for continuous hay production.

Farm operators must also be mindful of ac-

cess lanes, culvert crossings, and other areas for potential erosion from the crop land. In fields where crop residue will be minimal or non-existent, farmers are encouraged to make use of cover crops to keep soil in its place.

A written erosion and sedimentation control plan needs to include all of the cropland and areas of concern to soil erosion. The plan must also address what practices will be used to prevent soil erosion from occurring in areas of concern.

For more information or assistance in developing an erosion and sedimentation control plan for your agricultural operation, contact the conservation district at 570-928-7057.

## Conservation District Offers Cover Crop Incentive Program

The Sullivan County Conservation District's Chesapeake Bay Cover Crops Incentive Program is now taking sign ups for the upcoming season.

The program encourages local agricultural operations to use cover crops on cropland throughout the Loyalsock Creek watershed. Cover crops enhance soil health and reduce soil erosion when planted following harvest of crops or similar soil disturbing activities.

Farmers interested in establishing cover crops and taking part in this program are encouraged to contact the Conservation District immediately. The District's funding is limited and follows a priority ranking scale.

Operators enrolled in the program will be eligible for incentive payments of \$25 per acre for the first year of establishment and would then be responsible to continue the practice for one additional year on the same field or equivalent acreage. A funding priority will be used to encourage operations that have previously not used cover crops. This priority does not prohibit existing cover crops users to participate; it merely encourages new users to change their management practices. Priority will also be given to fields with slopes greater than 8%, fields with less than 25% residue, fields located near streams or waterways, fields

receiving manure over the fall or winter, and fields planned for no-till the following spring.

The cover crop should have visible growth by December 1<sup>st</sup> and at least 50% cover must be achieved prior to removal or burn down. Grazing or harvesting of the cover crop for hay, haylage, or silage is permitted. Prior to removal in the spring, operators must make arrangement for inspection of fields to receive payment.

To sign up for this program or for more information, contact Corey Richmond at 570-928-7057.

Come celebrate 50 Years of Conservation at the 2011 Ag Agency Annual Banquet on November 4, 2011 at the Ag Resource Center, Dushore. Please call 928-7057 for reservations by October 28.

## Area Students Participate in Green Career Day Event

Students from Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties gathered at Mount Pisgah State Park on September 28<sup>th</sup> to participate in a hands-on approach to green career opportunities in the outdoors. The annual event named “Green Career Day” is coordinated through DCNR’s Loysock State Forest Service Forester, Chad Gadsby. A committee led by Mr. Gadsby and comprised of representatives of the county conservation districts, and the Bradford Sullivan Forest Landowners Association coordinated the day’s activities, secured funding, and assisted with various tasks on the day of the event.

A total of 139 eighth grade students took part in the event where they were given opportunities to interact with individuals in arboriculture, farm management, floriculture, forest health, forest ranger, forest roads and maintenance, forestry, GPS/GIS, green house, horticulture, landscaping, natural gas exploration, naturalist, stream ecology/

biology, surveying, wildfire suppression, and wildlife biology.

Sullivan County High School’s Debra Geist chaperoned nine students to participate in the activities. Students had the opportunity to run heavy equipment, make floral arrangements, use harnesses for climbing and trimming trees, identify and classify macroinvertebrates, operate GPS units, and more.

Program sponsors for the event were Chesapeake Energy, Sullivan County Commissioners, and the Bradford Sullivan Forest Landowners Association (BSFLA). Volunteers assisting with the event included members of the BSFLA, Northern Tier Hardwood Association, PA Forest Stewards, and students from the Canton FFA program.

The day’s activities ended with a program provided by retired Wildlife Conservation Officer Bill Bower. Mr. Bower spoke about the history of the “Game Warden” and the changing role of an officer since the beginning of the PA Game



Corey Richmond, Watershed Specialist at the Stream Ecologist and Biologist station at Green Career Day.

Commission. He also stressed the importance of a good education and clean record in becoming a wildlife conservation officer.

For more information on Green Career Day contact your local conservation district or Chad Gadsby at 570-946-4049.

## Preservation Board Protects Additional 1,788 Acres of Prime Farmland

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Lands Preservation Board met on October 13, 2011 at the PA Department of Agriculture Building in Harrisburg to preserve an additional 1,788 acres on 19 farms in 12 counties for future generations through the state’s nationally recognized farmland preservation program.

The preserved farms are located in Berks, Blair, Cambria, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Monroe, Somerset, Sullivan, Union, Washington, Westmoreland and York counties.

During the program’s 23-year history, 455,208 acres on 4,208 farms have been safeguarded for future agricultural production.

The state’s farmland preservation efforts work through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program, which was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called

development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

Since the program began, state, county and local governments have invested more than \$1 billion to preserve farms across Pennsylvania.

Following the board’s Oct. 13 meeting, Susan Bucknum from the Attorney General’s office led a roundtable discussion about Act 38 of 2005, known as ACRE (Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment). The law allows farmers to operate with fewer limitations from local ordinances.

For more information about Pennsylvania’s nation-leading farmland preservation program, visit [www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us) and search “farmland preservation.” You may also contact Jacquelyn Rouse, ACT Technician and Farmland Preservation Coordinator for Sullivan County at 570-928-7057 who presented Sullivan County’s farm for approval.

The Sullivan County Agland Preservation Board has been working to-

wards getting the William and Tammy Bahl Farm preserved in Sullivan County for well over a year. The crop and livestock operation of 123.85 acres ranked one out of three in the 2010 application round. Over 78.52% of the soils available for agricultural production on this farm are in Capability Classes I-IV. A minimum of 50 percent is required for land quality. For land use, over 86.92% of the property is used for cropland, pasture, or grazing land. A minimum of 50 percent is required.

The approval of this farm’s easement gave Sullivan County a total of 605.85 preserved acres, with 505.85 preserved acres in Forks Township and a total of 6 easements. County Solicitor Ken Levitzky, the County Agland Preservation Board, and the County Commissioners will need to finalize the deed for recording and other necessary paperwork for a closing in the next few months. The Bahl’s accepted 48.24% of the easement value and will be paid in two installments from the county and state.

## Calendar of Events

November 4 - Ag Agency Annual Banquet

November 24-25 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

November 8 –Board Meeting and Election Day

December 23 & 26 Office Closed for Christmas

## Conservation District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Part 4

In June 2002 the district moved into the new office, with Extension moving in later. This was a positive move. It allowed for more room for staff of the two agencies. The West Nile Virus Intern was Courtney Obert. Tree seedlings were distributed to nearly 500 elementary students in observance of Arbor Day. The District and Bureau of Forestry sponsored the "Birth of a Tree" program for elementary students. "The Gift of Trees" was the theme for Soil Stewardship 2002. The District provided local restaurants with placemats, booklets for clergy, bookmarks for elementary school libraries, and educational programs and booklets for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The same theme was used for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Poster Contest for elementary students in grades four through six. Woodlands Resources Adventure Camp had 3 students from Sullivan County. Most of the watersheds in the county benefited from "Growing Greener" funding for various projects. Dave Hess, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, made two trips to the Muncy Creek Watershed projects in 2002. The projects were estimated at over \$600,000. The District held its July Outdoor Meeting at the new Ag Resource Center with Terri Torluccio and April Sones presenting information on the Master Gardener and PA Gardener Selects Programs. The Combined Agency Banquet was held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the new Ag Resource Center. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was County Commissioner Betty Reibson. 4-H celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with singing and other renditions of 4-H activities. Former County Agent Bill Gregory was missed at the banquet. Cooperative Extension provided their Board Member Service Awards and the Extension Cooperator Award to Harvey and Mary Vough. The Bradford/Sullivan Bankers Association (Robert Snyder) and Bruno Najaka, representing the district, presented plaques to representatives of the Muncy Creek Watershed Association, Conservationist of the Year.

In 2003, Hunter's Lake was again placed on the Select Trout Stocked Lake Program. Betty's efforts to get the regional Bureau of Forestry office to relocate to Sullivan County will become a reality in the future. Coal Mine Road area was toured for a possible AMD project, but not enough acidity was found. A pile

of old culvert pipes was found and was disposed. Demonstrations on destroying Japanese Knotweed have begun by Loyalsock Creek Watershed members and Cooperative Extension. "Food for the Future" was the theme for Soil Stewardship and Poster Contest. Chelsea Myers was the overall poster winner. Woodland Resources Adventure Camp didn't take place due to low enrollment. Jeff Fin joined the NRCS staff in Lycoming County as a biologist for the CREP Program. He covered Sullivan County. Jeff left in 2006. Bradford and Sullivan Districts partnered for a Nutrient Management Workshop at Rob Insinger's Farm. The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program provided \$63,817.75 to the district. EPCAMR provided the district with a \$5,000 acid mine drainage grant on White Ash Land Association property. Wilson Ferguson was the speaker at the banquet held at the Ag Resource Center. Jackie Rouse was the M.C. Betty Reibson was the Conservationist of the Year. Jen Clark assisted Jay Bagley with the West Nile Virus Program.

The district funded \$80,050 in Dirt & Gravel Roads projects in 2004. Colley, Forks, and Elkland Townships completed projects. Darla Treaster served as West Nile Virus Intern. Saxe Crest Farm utilized the remaining LISA funds for an improved barn lot project. Our bi-monthly newsletters continue to reach over 250 individuals. 96 orders were taken for over 5,000 items in the district's seedling sale. Profits received from the sale are used to fund a variety of conservation and educational programs and activities. Pennsylvanians produce an estimated 2.2 million tons of wastewater solids or sewage sludge and residential septage each year, nearly a quarter of a ton per household. The district received funding for developing a plan for working with Biosolids. The Biosolids Program is designed to educate the public about regulation and safe use of Biosolids for its recycling value. This funding for the district was only available for 2004 and 2005. On June 1, 2004, the Farmland Preservation Board preserved 104 acres of farmland. The 104 acres completed the preservation of the Harvey and Mary Vough Farm located in Forks Township. Since the program began, the Board has preserved over 275 acres in Sullivan County. In Sullivan and Lycoming Coun-

ties there are currently eight active watershed associations. The conservation district financially and physically supports the Envirothon program each year at both local and state levels. The 2004 theme was "Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation and Conservation." The conservation district aided cooperating agencies in implementing programs such as CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), Chesapeake Bay Program, and PDIP (Nutrient Management Plan Development Incentive Program). The district was actively involved with Nutrient Management, and grazing. Rob Insinger was Conservationist of the Year at the Ag Agency Banquet. James Nelson was the guest speaker on logging in Pennsylvania.

D&D Hottenstein's Farm received the 2005 Conservationist of the Year. They had completed a revamped feedlot through the Chesapeake Bay Program and several CREP projects. Bill Williams was the speaker. Farm Service Agency took care of the responsibilities of the banquet held at St. Francis of Assisi Hall in Mildred. Elmer Jenkins received Chesapeake Bay funding to restrict rainwater in a driveway from getting to the animal production area. The heavy use area protection project did not take place with the passing of Mr. Jenkins. Jay Bagley became a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture. Workshops were held for pruning and planting fruit trees. District staff worked with D3 Web Design to develop an easier accessible website at [www.sullcon.com](http://www.sullcon.com). Rod Morehart became the Chesapeake Bay Technician for both Lycoming and Sullivan Counties in August, replacing Matt Nuss, who became an E&S Technician for Lycoming County. Matt will be the Chesapeake Bay Field Representative in 2006 who covers Sullivan County. The district supported the NE Regional Contractors Workshop at Keystone College in LaPlume. The district implemented a new Erosion & Sedimentation Control Review Fee. Robin Heard, State Conservationist was promoted to Washington, D.C. with NRCS. She would be replaced by Craig Derickson in May 2006. \$68,500 was received from the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program; however applications received totaled \$331,618.20. Five projects were funded including projects in Fox and Forks Townships. The Legislative Budget

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& Finance Committee developed a study of districts and the authority and capacity of district staff. This stressed the work of the conservation districts and that more funding was needed. The Envirothon Theme was "Water Stewardship in a Changing Environment." "Celebrate Conservation" was the theme for Soil Stewardship and Poster Contest. There were no positive West Nile Virus cases found in the county during 2005 and 2006. Mike Cole was the intern for West Nile in 2005. Directors Robert Woodhead and Emerson Horn resigned as directors after serving 40 years and 20 years respectively.

Rick Ryan and Mike McMahon are the newest farmer and public directors on the district board. Rick is the Secretary and serves on the Endless Mts. RC&D Board. Three former directors passed away (Ray Laurenson, Bernard Walsh, and Maynard Reibson). We also lost Mary Vough, wife of Harvey Vough and Rick Ryan's mother, Catherine Ryan. CREP Contracts continue to be acknowledged by the district. A Sharp 237M Copier was purchased. ACT 38 replaced ACT 6 on 7/1/06. A new Conservation District sign was installed at the county line. This was in partnership with the Bradford Conservation District. Nutrient Management Regulations changed in October 2006. Commercial manure haulers need to be certified. District staff members went through background checks since they utilized USDA's internet server. The district hosted a 2-day Dirt & Gravel Roads Workshop in June 2006. The Conservation District Law – ACT 217 was reopened by the legislators. This now allows funding directly from the State Conservation Commission and other donations. The district toured the Muncy Creek Watershed's streambank restoration project near the Christian Camp as part of the district's outdoor meeting on July 11, 2006. The picnic was held at the Sonestown Park. The Kramer Farm will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> farm to be preserved through Farmland Preservation in 2007. Lynn Ottaviani served as the West Nile Virus Intern. The district worked with DEP on how to best address agricultural compliance with soil erosion and nutrient management. The district also worked with the County Commissioners to get county projects funded with the \$1 Million Growing Greener II Initiative. Eighth

Class Counties were eligible to receive up to \$1 Million for approved projects. Projects included stream restoration north of the Sonestown Covered Bridge to protect the historic bridge, streambank restoration in Forksville Borough, and restoration for Sullivan County Recreation. Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Special Grants for Sullivan County included cover crops, no-till practices, and obtaining a Chlorophyll Meter for nitrogen testing in corn. The Bay program will now only allow smaller special projects. Corey Richmond is now only serving Sullivan and Eastern Lycoming Counties. Lycoming County needs a Watershed Specialist to cover Western Lycoming County. The district, after five years, developed a new Strategic Plan. Several agencies participated in this venture. The Birch Creek AMD Mine Project went out for bids. Work is continuing to clean up the mine scars in the county. Extension's new program "Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow" was presented in the Northern Tier. Betty Reibson and Jackie Rouse participated in the leadership program. Three successful mini-grants were approved by PACD (district brochures, Municipal Awareness Workshop, and Best Management Practices Workshop). Receipt of these grants helps to provide more educational services to the county. Carrie Bedford was hired as a part-time county employee for the district and NRCS. Sullivan County's Farmland Preservation Board is now an approved Nominating Organization for the district. The State Conservation Commission also approved the Muncy Creek Watershed Association and White Ash Land Association as nominating organizations. These are important for obtaining and retaining qualified directors for the district board. The banquet on November 2, 2006 honored the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sullivan County Conservation District. William Kahler, Conservation Program Specialist for DEP served as Master of Ceremonies. Representative Tina Pickett, Senator Roger Madigan, and Russell Gunton of Congressman Don Sherwood's Office presented citations to the district and directors. Our Conservationist of the Year was George Kramer. He was honored for the preservation of farm land through various programs.

In 2007 District staff from Sullivan and Lycoming Counties provided a series of habitat programs to 6<sup>th</sup> graders as part of the North Mountain Sportsmen's Association Outdoor Day. Jay Bagley left the district to pursue a career with PDA. Lynn Ottaviani was hired as the ACT Technician. The district completed stream bank stabilization work along the Loyalsock Creek and established 870 feet of riparian buffer protection through the Chesapeake Bay Program's Special Projects funding. Through the combined effort of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Sullivan County's Growing Greener II Initiative, 700 feet of stream bank along Loyalsock Creek was stabilized from severe erosion. It held up until the September 2011 Tropical Storm Lee took out more streambank and a home near the Sullivan/Lycoming County Line. Some of the rip rap remained. Two "back yard conservation" workshops were provided to educate homeowners in dealing with stormwater runoff. Guy McCarty served as the 2007 West Nile Virus intern collecting and monitoring mosquito population throughout the county. The county's third acid mine drainage treatment system went into operation in the summer of 2007. The system treats mine polluted waters before being released into Birch Creek. Devin Strickland was selected as the overall winner in the 2007 poster contest. 158 posters were submitted by 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The theme of the contest was "Conservation Power" and focused on alternative and renewable energy use. Stabilization efforts of the stream bank immediately below the Memorial Bridge in Sonestown were funded through county liquid fuels funds. Construction coordination and oversight was provided by the county planning office and conservation district staff.

Repair work was made to Muncy Creek just upstream of the Sonestown Covered Bridge. Funding for the project was provided through FEMA with construction coordination and oversight being provided by conservation district and county planning office. A tour of mining related issues was provided. Tour participants visited acid mine drainage treatment systems, abandoned mine land scheduled for reclamation, and completed mine land reclamation. District staff continued their education outreach by partici-

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pating in the annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Day. A program on agricultural assistance programs was presented to attendees of the Cooperative Extension/Conservation District annual Legislative Luncheon. The conservation district held its first Municipal Officials Workshop to provide information and updates to the municipal leaders of the county. The district also provided an agricultural best management practices workshop detailing the services available to county farmers. Both workshops were funded by the PA Association of Conservation Districts and the PA Chesapeake Bay Program. The district presented the 2007 Conservationist of the Year award to Dwight Lewis Lumber Company for their dedication to sustainable forestry practices and support of local environmental protection and conservation efforts. The Extension Cooperator of the Year Award was presented to Jackie Rouse. M.C. was Rick Smith. Glass display cases were installed in the conference room at the Ag Resource Center.

The overall winner for the 2008 annual Poster Contest was Jordan Beilich. A total of 129 entries were received. Dushore Borough assisted in sponsoring the annual contest. The district once again sponsored and supported the Endless Mountains RC&D Woodland Resource Adventure Camp. The camp is a week long event that focuses on environmental issues and careers. The 2008 current issue topic for the PA Envirothon was *Recreational Impacts on the Natural Environment*. Through the County Growing Greener II Funding Initiative, two stream stabilization projects were completed – one in Dushore Borough and one in Sonestown. Members of the Sullivan County High School Envirothon Team presented their 2008 Envirothon Oral Component presentation to participants in the Legislative Day event hosted by Bradford and Sullivan Counties Cooperative Extension and Conservation Districts. District staff provided a hands-on macro invertebrate program to home-schooled students. The program allowed students to identify and make determinations as to water quality from which the aquatic life was sampled. The SCCD provided retiring Senator Roger Madigan with an oil painting created by local artist, Doris Hatch. The painting depicts a successful fishing adventure made by Senator Madigan on Elk

Creek in Sullivan County. District staff provided a mine land educational tour to Montoursville High School Seniors in 2008. The educational tour highlighted acid mine drainage treatment, mine reclamation, and also included sampling of water chemistry and aquatic life of a mine drainage treatment receiving stream. Muncy Creek Watershed Association utilized PA Fish & Boat Commission stream habitat enhancement structures in the Muncy Creek. Staff and others helped with this project. The district provided another series of stormwater management programs that allowed participants to construct their own rain barrels for use in collecting and using roof run-off. The district teamed up with Dushore Borough in promoting source water protection programs in the county schools and for the general public. WNV Technician was Carrie Bedford. This year Sullivan County had the first WNV positive mosquito sample since 2003. Ed Zinser is a new Associate Director.

The Conservation District held its annual picnic meeting in 2009 at the new DCNR Forestry Building near Laporte. As part of the meeting, District Forester, Richard Glinski, provided a tour of the new facility and highlighted the energy saving features of the building. The district and Dushore Borough worked together to make use of County Environmental Incentive funds to stabilize this section of stream bank along Little Loyalsock Creek in the borough. Engineering was completed through the PA Association of Conservation District's Technical Assistance Program and Construction was completed by Insinger Excavation, Inc. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) John George, who served the district many years as the NRCS District Conservationist, retired and the district joined others in recognizing his value to the area. Sullivan County is now under Bradford County's NRCS for services provided to the county including Kevin Rohe, Michelle Hennip Hanley, and Mike Hanawalt. We remain with Wyoming County for FSA services to the farming community. Jason Pontillo is the FSA Executive Director. District technicians worked with the school district to provide an outdoor learning experience for eighth grade students. The project was funded through a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience grant and was coordinated with SCHS teacher, Debbie

Geist. District Associate Director, Edward Zinser, a certified arborist, provided two workshops on the basics of pruning for residents of the county. DCNR Service Forester, Gerald Hoy assisted Mr. Zinser with the program. District staff members distributed seedlings for Arbor Day to the local elementary schools. The district worked with the Endless Mountains RC&D and Bradford Conservation District to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> Flood Summit for the counties' municipal officials. The summit included field studies that addressed floodplain issues and development. Through the District's ARRA grant, one of seven projects in the county was completed. Hayden Baumunk was recognized as the overall winner in the 2009 Conservation District/Dushore Borough Poster Contest. The theme for the contest was "Dig It – The Science of Soil". The conservation district participated in the annual Environmental Day for fifth grade students. Students from Sullivan County again participated in the Envirothon Program provided by the conservation district. Classroom programs to students were presented on soil structure and erosion prevention. The conservation district worked with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association and White Ash Land Association to install covers on two of the acid mine drainage treatment systems located on White Ash land Association property. The covers serve to keep leaf debris out of the system and block sunlight that enables algae to grow. Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and PA Bureau of Forestry's Loyalsock State Forest installed habitat improvement/stream stabilization structures in a portion of Wallis Run. The Conservation District continues to provide maintenance needs for two of the acid mine drainage treatment systems on the Loyalsock Creek. District employees attended a No-Till meeting held by Penn State Extension. The Conservation District encourages No-Till farming by offering cost-share

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to farmers willing to switch to the practice. Carrie Bedford continued as the WNV technician. The Conservation District works with state agencies to ensure agricultural compliance and help local farmers understand their obligations under current regulations. Conservationist of the Year Award went to Duane Reibson. One plaque was given from the Conservation District, while another was from the Bradford Sullivan Bankers Association. That practice has been ongoing for over thirty years. Sullivan County Conservation District's 2009 Clean Water Farm Award was presented to Saxe Farms. Our legislators recognized directors Harvey Vough and Bruno Najaka for having served 45 years and 40 years respectively at the Ag Agency Banquet. Bob Getz served as M.C. Guest speaker was Dennis Buffington speaking on Alternative Energy. Rod Morehart no longer serves Sullivan County with the Chesapeake Bay Program. Corey Richmond now is the Bay Technician and Watershed Specialist.

Sullivan County's Chesapeake Bay Program provided funding for best management practices on the Hembury LLC Farm that included subsurface drainage, roof runoff controls, and heavy use area protection in the manure handling area of the operation. The 2010 Annual Outdoor Meeting included tours of a completed Dirt and Gravel Roads Project, viewing the results of the Biosolids application to abandoned mine lands; both providing educational awareness to our directors, staff, and agency representatives. The District joined forces with the Bradford County Conservation District to provide a Nutrient Management Field Day at the D&D Hottenstein Farm near Overton focusing on benefits of no-till and cover crops. The district provides sponsorship to the Envirothon teams to compete at local and state levels of competition. Sullivan County's Chesapeake Bay Program funded improvements to the barnyard and cattle walkways at the Francis Moll Farm near Dushore, promoting decreased water pollution and runoff from the area. The project included rebuilding an existing diversion, installing high tensile fencing, and a reinforced gravel cattle walkway. Our Annual Seedling Sale generates funds for various educational programs. The Conservation District/Dushore Borough Annual Poster Contest was conducted in

2010. The overall winning poster was submitted by Carli King. The theme for the contest was "Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats". The theme stressed that good stewardship of natural resources will allow for healthier habitats for humans and animals. The district worked with the county's planning office to secure community development block grant funding for the rehabilitation to the lower parking lot at the Agricultural Resources Center. The new lot provides for a stable surface and water penetration for groundwater recharge. The 2010 Conservationist of the Year was awarded to William B. Saxe. Bill was recognized for his use of no-till planting, cover crops, and his involvement in the USDA Programs. John Eastlake was the guest speaker on CCC Camps. Mike Hanawalt, the new DC for NRCS for Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties was M.C. This was the first time the banquet was held on a Friday evening – November 5. District Technicians provided a program on macroinvertebrates as part of the Endless Mountains R.C. & D. Woodland Resources Adventure Camp in 2010 at "The Haft" near Dushore. The program provided campers with an understanding of assessing water quality by knowing what aquatic creatures live and survive in the water. In 2010, five projects were completed through the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program. In 2009, the District applied for and received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant to complete seven Dirt and Gravel Road Projects in five municipalities. All ARRA Projects were completed in 2010 at a final cost of \$845,528.00. One of the projects was Shaffer Road in Laporte Township. As a result of winning the photo contest at the annual Dirt and Gravel Workshop in Erie, the photo was on the cover of the 2011 Dirt & Gravel Roads Environmentally Sensitive and Maintenance Manual for use by the participants. The Conservation District is delegated with DEP to perform Chapter 102 Program duties and inspecting earth disturbance projects. General Permits under Chapter 105 now are issued by DEP, no longer by the district. Lynn Ottaviani left the district in March. The vacant office is utilized by the district, FSA, NRCS, and other agency representatives. FSA uses the office during crop signups in June and July. Tammy no longer comes to Sullivan County once per week to the satellite of-

office. Jackie Rouse now serves in the ACT Technician capacity in addition to being the manager. She is now a full-time county employee. Her plans are to attend the Ag Boot Camps in 2011 & 2012. Other changes in staff duties for other staff took place. Carrie Bedford and Corey Richmond were married. Congratulations to the new couple. The last big deep mined hole was filled. Bruno's goals are almost complete. RC&D hired a new part time Program Assistant - Laura Hewitt. Diane White left after 9-1/2 years of service. PA CleanWays survey of illegal dump sites is complete. Six sites were found. The district no longer receives funding for the West Nile Virus Program. Denise Coleman is the State Conservationist replacing Craig Derickson. As an intern for the Wyoming Conservation District, Denise wrote the information on Mehoopany Creek Watershed so that we could be involved with the Chesapeake Bay Program back in 1993.

The District approved a policy book for the Conservation District. This is in addition to the county's policy book for employees. Plans are for the MARC 1 Pipeline to come through Bradford, Sullivan, and Lycoming Counties for transporting the Marcellus Shale Gas to market. Chesapeake will be offering free sampling of water supplies. Water testing is to be 2,000 feet from a gas well but they are going out 4,000 feet. The remote monitor on the Loyalsock Creek has shown that the treatment cells are working in raising the pH. RC&D's across the nation no longer are staffed by coordinators. Stacy Koch had served as the Endless Mts. RC&D Coordinator for seven years, following Wayne Ray. Jeannine Richlin, Extension Educator was furloughed because of financial cuts to Penn State's Ag Science Departments. Rick Smith, Extension Agent plans on retiring in June, 2012. We aren't sure of the status of the Extension Office and other staff members. The PA Secretary of Agriculture is George Greig who owns and operates a 650-acre dairy farm in Crawford County. The PA Secretary of DEP is Michael L. Krancer. He is both a judge and a lawyer. Terry Deibler retired from the Fish and Boat Commission; Gerald Hoy, moved to the Bald Eagle State Forest; and Mary Baker also left DCNR. Jeremy Yohe is the new WCO for the

## Conservation District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Part 4 continued

F&B Commission. Chad Gadsby is the new Service Forester. The 2011 State Envirothon was held at Susquehanna University with the testing stations held at Shikellamy State Park. The 2012 Canon Envirothon will also be held at Susquehanna University. Staff members serve on the PA Envirothon State Board and committees for the 2012 Canon Envirothon. Other volunteers are needed. Directors and staff serve on EPCAMR, PACD, NTHA, LCWA, MCWA, and BSFLA boards and report back to the district board. Chesapeake Bay Projects include Cover Crops and No-Till. Remaining "old" Chesapeake Bay funds are planned for a concreted cattle walkway in 2012. Chesapeake Bay Special Project Funds are planned for a beef operation's heavy use protection area, also in 2012. The district hosted the two day Environmentally Sensitive and Maintenance training for Dirt & Gravel Roads in June. Floodplain maps for the counties are being revised. The Annual Report continues to be published in The Sullivan Review. The over all winner was Hayden Baumunk in the 2011 Poster Contest. The participation level of the students was disappointing. The commissioners will be giving a \$1,000 per year for Envirothon and other educational programs. The \$1,000 will be coming each year from the county commissioners through the NTSWA Stewardship Fund Grant from gas drilling cuttings -\$3/ton. It won't be coming from the taxpayers. Northern Tier Hardwoods provided the district with a grant for \$450 towards the cost of the school seedlings. The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Sullivan County. DEP found funding to continue the rip rap for the wall project in the Little Loyalsock at

the Whistle Stop following the late April high water event. DEP worked with the district on a streambank restoration project in Nordmont at the Nordmont Acid Factory on Muncy Creek. The work held up even after the August and September Tropical Storms of Irene and Lee. The county took a beating from the two storms. Homes, roads, bridges, and cabins were washed away. The district assisted DEP with taking information for Emergency Permits so that repair work could begin sooner. The final payment was made by PennVEST for the Stimulus Project. The William & Tammy Bahl Farm in Forks Township was approved as the 6<sup>th</sup> parcel for Farmland to be preserved. Betty Reibson will not be running for County Commissioner. Bruno Najaka does not want to seek another four year term as Public Director. We'll have a new County Commissioner Member and Public Director for 2012. We're hoping Betty and Bruno will continue to assist the district in associate director roles. Bruno was honored by the State Conservation Commission for his distinguished service to the district and county with his mine reclamation efforts. He was also honored at the EPCAMR 15<sup>th</sup> year banquet. Robert Maiden, Executive Director for PACD visited the district at the June 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The August 2011 Outdoor Meeting was held at World's End State Park with Jane Swift giving a presentation of the CCC Camp. Green Career Day was held on September 28 at the Mt. Pisgah State Park in Bradford County. The two-day statewide workshop for Dirt & Gravel Roads was held in September at The Woodlands in

Wilkes-Barre. The impact on dirt & gravel roads caused by the oil and gas industry was the main topic. It's uncertain at this time whether an "impact fee" will be initiated by the legislature that would provide financial assistance to the district, county, townships, state, etc. A 3-year evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay Program in the county took place. The district will be visiting all of the county's farms within the next two years with 100 visits the first year. This is in conjunction with EPA's mandates with DEP to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The district now has access to GIS data layer information through the county. Our Conservationist of the Year will honor a watershed association for the work that's been done for water quality on a prevalent watershed in the two counties of Sullivan and Lycoming. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will take place on Friday evening, November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Ag Resource Center. M.C. will be Commissioner Reibson. Come join us for the celebration!

*As you can see, the Conservation District has taken on more responsibility and programs as the years continue to come and go. As we continue with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary you'll see that the District Team has done its best to provide people with information and assistance for making decisions in the conservation management of natural resources by providing quality services, as is our mission for the Sullivan County Conservation District.*

## Envirothon Program Updates

Plans are well underway for the Pennsylvania Envirothon in 2012. The state event will be held at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown on May 22 and 23, 2012. The current issue topic for the 2012 Envirothon year is Non Point Source Pollution and Low Impact Development.

The Envirothon Board of Directors has made plans to again work with Hoss's Steak and Seafood in fundraising efforts. Stay tuned for more information and participating locations. The board will

also be encouraging additional support through the *Friends of the Envirothon* program.

2012 will be a very busy year for those that work with and volunteer for the Envirothon competitions. Pennsylvania will also be the hosting state for Canon Envirothon, July 22-27, 2012. For its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Canon event will return to where it all began and Pennsylvania is looking to shine in being the birthplace of the Envirothon. To make

the Canon Envirothon a success, it will require many district employees and directors to volunteer through the week long competition. The board is working with the State Conservation Commission and PACD in ensuring that all aspects of the event will be top notch.

If you are interested in volunteering for either the local, state, or Canon Envirothon events, contact Corey Richmond at the conservation district for more information.



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Harvey Vough - V. Chairman  
Richard Ryan- Secretary  
Bruno Najaka - Treasurer  
Duane Reibson  
Michael McMahon  
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Jacquelyn Rouse - Manager/ACT Technician  
Carrie Richmond - Administrative Assistant  
Corey Richmond - Watershed Specialist/CBP  
Randy Reibson - E&S Technician

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**USDA Staff**

Mike Hanawalt- Supervisory District Conservationist  
Michelle Hanley - Soil Conservationist  
Tammy Finan - Farm Service Agency  
Jason Pontillo, CED - Farm Service Agency

**DEP Field Staff**

William Kahler - Conservation Program Specialist  
Robert Hollenbach- Chesapeake Bay Program Field Rep  
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