Annual Banquet

The District held their 70th Annual Awards Banquet on November 8, 2019. The event took place at Stonehedge Golf Course. We started the evening with a Welcoming, Remembrance of Director Jim, & Invocation performed by Board Chairman, Dorne White. The staff presented a “What We’ve Been Up To, segment, as well.

The 40 people in attendance were able to enjoy a buffet style dinner that included “Celebrating 70 Years Pictorial”. Following this was guest speaker, Jennifer Kozlansky, who presented “Pollinators At Home”.

The banquet ended with an Esteemed Service Award being presented to Director, Bob Robinson, on his years of service on the board.

Events:

Contractor’s Workshop
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Contact the Katie at the District for more info.
570-836-2589 Ext. 406 or kmclain@wycopa.org
Yearly Soil Sampling

Though it is winter, it’s the perfect time of year to start thinking about testing the fertility of the soil on your farm or in your garden. Soil fertility testing helps determine the amount of fertilizer or lime required to have an optimum crop harvest. For farmers, soil testing can help save money by giving a recommendation for every tested field to most effectively use fertilizers. Fields that have enough nutrients to grow the selected crop can get less fertilizer while fields that need more nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium can get the right amount for an optimum yield. This can reduce the loss of money from over applying and potentially increase profits with a better yield. For home gardeners, these tests can determine if more nutrients are needed to have healthy plants as well as a good harvest.

The good thing about soil testing is that these tests are relatively inexpensive. For standard analysis on one sample, the cost is $9.00 plus shipping for a Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Lab (AASL) test. They can be picked up at a Penn State Extension Office or sometimes at your local Extension office.

One of the most important things to remember when collecting a sample is to be sure to get soil from several points in your garden or field to get the most representative sample and thus the most accurate results possible. A trowel, shovel, or soil auger can be used for sampling. The best way to get a representative sample is to take at least 13 random samples per field or garden as shown in the picture below. Then mix the samples together in a bucket to obtain one, well-mixed, sample to submit. More specific instructions for contour strips and other situations can be found on the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Lab website. The next step is to spread your soil sample out on newspaper to dry overnight. Finally, take one cup of the dried sample and mail it to the Penn State AASL. They will analyze the sample(s) and usually have the results in 2 or 3 weeks.
DGLVR Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training Dates

The Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program has announced its locations and dates for the coming year’s ESM classes. To register for these classes please visit the Center’s website for registration and further information at www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu

Included in this mailing is a copy of the training announcement put forth from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads for the ESM training for the coming year. These trainings will be the only trainings held this year for the mandatory Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance classes. A representative from your township or municipality must attend one of these trainings to be eligible for any DGLVR funding. Municipalities without any dirt roads should seriously consider this training also.

DON’T LET YOU MUNICIPALITY MISS OUT ON THESE FUNDS!!!

There has already been over $1,500,000 spent on projects so far in the county. These have been spread out to the eligible townships throughout our area. We would love to see as many townships receive funding for their projects, improve our roadways and protect the environment all at the same time.

The Wyoming County Conservation District has received the working capital for the spring 2020 Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads projects. Our application period is open to those Municipalities wanting to receive funding for projects.

If you have any questions or concerns and to check eligibility, please contact me at 570-836-2589, ext. 405 and/or visit the Dirt and Gravel Program website at www.dirtandgravelroads.org.
How Well Do You Know Your Species?

A. Harrier
B. Sharp-shinned Hawk
C. Copper’s Hawk
D. Kestrel

A. Serviceberry
B. Bittersweet
C. Chokeberry
D. Winterberry

A. Concolor Fir
B. Norway Spruce
C. Fraser Fir
D. Douglas Fir

A. Gray Catbird
B. White-breasted Nuthatch
C. Carolina Wren
D. Tufted Titmouse

Find the answers on last page...
Environmental Education

Keystone College Children’s Center: A “Bat” Program was provided for the children. The students enjoyed learning all about this mysterious creature, especially the “Bat-Moth” activity which helped them understand the concept of echolocation. After dispelling the myths surrounding bats, they had a better understanding and appreciation for Bats!

“Trout in the Classroom” Program: Third and Sixth Grade students in the Tunkhannock Area School District are participating this school year. Our Environmental Educator and Fish & Boat Officer provided information and education on the day the eggs arrived. Helping the students have a better understanding of the program and their role in raising and releasing the Trout.
Conservation Stewardship Program for Forestland Managers

Have you ever looked across your land and thought about some operational management goals you would like to take to the next level? Maybe we can help.

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your operation and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity for forestland managers to enhance their agricultural operations while adopting conservation activities that can improve crop quality, improve soil health, and improve water quality. CSP can help you plan and implement conservation practices and enhancements that address natural resource concerns on your operation.

What’s New?

Forestland managers continue to benefit from all the CSP has to offer. There are a number of enhancements for forest production. Examples of enhancement options available to forestland managers include prescribed burning, precision pesticide application and wildlife habitat management.

The new CSP provides adaptive management options to better respond to market and weather conditions, allowing participants to choose enhancements, or bundles of enhancements, that best fit their unique circumstances.

Is CSP for You?

CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve tree stands, suppress weeds, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of pollinator plants, implement grazing management to improve wildlife or develop forest riparian areas. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals. CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew for another five years.

Types of Assistance

NRCS provides free technical assistance to agricultural producers. To participate in CSP and receive financial assistance, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

The Next Step

To learn more about CSP opportunities, producers should contact their local USDA service center and set up an appointment with NRCS staff. A Local Service Center Directory is available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov, then click “Contact Us.” You can also visit our CSP page online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/CSP.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrcre.usda.gov
Conservation Stewardship Program for Soil Health

Have you ever looked across your land and thought about some operational management goals you would like to take to the next level? Maybe we can help.

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your operation and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers an opportunity for agriculture producers to enhance their agricultural operations while adopting conservation activities that can reduce energy use, improve soil health, and improve water quality. CSP can help you plan and implement conservation practices and enhancements that address natural resource concerns on your operation.

What’s New?
Ag producers continue to benefit from all that CSP has to offer. There are a number of enhancements for ag producers to improve soil health. Examples of enhancement options available to ag growers include cover crops to improve soil health and productivity, buffers to enhance water quality and water management activities to improve water efficiency.

The new CSP provides adaptive management options to better respond to market and weather conditions, allowing participants to choose enhancements that best fit their unique circumstances.

Is CSP for You?
CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve water efficiency, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a residue management plan to improve soil health, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage riparian areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals. CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew for another five.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrcs.usda.gov
Watershed Organization
Meeting Dates:

Mehoopany Creek WA: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00pm, Forkston Township Municipal Building.

South Branch Coalition: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm, Keystone College Willary Water Discovery Center.

Board Of Directors
Dorne White - Chairman
Neil Tague - Vice Chairman
Butch Sands - Secretary/ Treasurer
Commissioner Director
Bob Robinson
Walt Dana
Ken Harvey

Associate Directors
Vacant

Meeting the second Monday of each month, 9:30am, District Office.

District Staff
Doug Deutsch - District Manager
Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant
Bernie Scaleo - Watershed Specialist
Dave Taylor - Resource Conservation Specialist
Laura Anderson - Environmental Education Coord.

NRCS Staff
Scott Travis - District Conservationist

Watershed Organization
Answers for Species Identification:
C - Copper’s Hawk
B - Bittersweet
C - Fraser Fir
D - Tufted Titmouse

Wyoming County Conservation District
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