Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspections

Are you in compliance?

Do you have a Conservation or Ag Erosion & Sedimentation Plan?
Is it up to date & available on your farm?
No? Call us!

Do you have a Manure Management Plan? Is it up to date & available on your farm?
No? Call us!

These are the plans we are looking for in our Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspections! If you have them, please call the office to complete a voluntary inspection today!

Events:
2021 Seedling Sale Cancelled
2021 Conservation Field Day Cancelled

Local Resources:
Bureau of Forestry: 570-945-7133
DEP: 570-826-2511
Game Commission: 570-675-1143
PA Fish & Boat Commission: 570-477-5717

Conservation Comments

Wyoming County Conservation District
21 Hollowcrest Rd.
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Phone: 570-836-2589
Fax: 570-836-6063
Email: info@wccdpa.org

District Staff
Doug Deutsch - District Manager
Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant
Bernie Scalzo - Watershed Specialist
Dave Taylor - Resource Conservation Specialist
Laura Anderson - Environmental Education Coord.
Kerrigan Buck - Ag. Conservation Prog. Coord.

NRCS Staff
David McCoy - District Conservationist

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

Associate Directors
Vacant

Meeting the second Monday of each month,
9:30am, District Office.
How well do you know your species?

A. Wolf Spider
B. Brown Recluse
C. Fishing Spider
D. Barn Funnel Weaver

A. SHRLEAVED HEPATICA
B. BLOODROOT
C. TRAILING ARBUTIS
D. LIMESTONE BITTERCRESS

A. Dog Tick
B. Deer Tick
C. Groundhog Tick
D. Lone Star Tick

A. Hawthorn
B. Pin Cherry
C. Juneberry
D. Wild Apple

Answers on the bottom of next page...
Spring has almost sprung and here at the District we are preparing for another year of the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) program. It’s been a while since we gave an overview of the program so I thought I would take this time to put one in the newsletter.

The program started over 20 years ago with some members from Trout Unlimited noticing how muddy their favorite trout fishing holes were getting every time it rained. Thinking the worst was happening and there was some large earthmoving operation happening somewhere, they went looking for the source to all this pollution. As they travelled up and down the dirt roads, where they were looking, they came to realize that the problem wasn’t coming from any one particular spot but was coming from the roads themselves. This spurred some action to identify some of the worst polluting roads throughout the state and then go to the capital to lobby for some money to address these concerns.

Out of this grew the DGLVR program that we see today. Originally the program was granted seven million dollars to disperse to the counties to address the polluting areas. Wyoming county was granted just shy of $60,000.00 to work on their part of the problem. This work continued until 2014 when the legislature saw how much of a positive impact this program was making and they decided to award 28 million dollars more to the DGLVR. With this increase in funds there was also the inclusion of low volume paved roads that may be causing problems too.

The increase in funding raised Wyoming county’s allocation to over $320,000.00 a year to work on roads. Where we were able to accomplish five maybe six projects yearly before the increase, we now look forward to doing 15 to 20 projects a year with the program.

We look forward to working with the DGLVR program every year because we can protect the environment and also help out our Municipalities maintain their roads in the best shape it can be. We encourage all our townships and boroughs to reach out to the District to take part in this extremely worthwhile program.

DEP Going Paperless

This past February DEP started the migration to a totally paperless NPDES permitting program. While, for the time being, a paper submission will still be accepted the state will be pushing for submission to come to the Districts and the regional office as electronic submissions. A new template has been designed to make the submission streamlined and easy to fill out by the consultants and engineers who will be preparing these plans.

DEP has been accepting Chapter105 permit this way for over a year now. DEP is reporting smooth operations on these permits even with the COVID restrictions. The processing time has been reduced with the use of the E-submissions versus the paper and the hopes are we will see this same trend in the NPDES permit program.

Here at the District we have been able to accept electronic submissions for over two years now with a dedicated computer system to receive and store these large files which the permit applications need to run smoothly. A large touchscreen monitor was purchased with dedicated funds to the program that details can still be viewed and normal markups that we would do to plans can still be accomplished even with the new electronic versions.

We are looking forward to this next chapter in our District reviews for these permits and getting away from using the bulky paper submissions from the past.

Answers: C, D, D, B
On December 30, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of $34 million in Growing Greener Grants to help fund 149 local water quality improvement projects across Pennsylvania. “Growing Greener awardees help keep Pennsylvania clean,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “It is imperative that communities in Pennsylvania receive the necessary funding to reduce pollutants in area waterways.”

Growing Greener is the largest single investment of state funds in Pennsylvania’s history to address Pennsylvania’s critical environmental concerns of the 21st century. Growing Greener has helped to slash the backlog of farmland-preservation projects statewide, protect open space, eliminate the maintenance backlog in state parks, clean up abandoned mines and restore watersheds, provide funds for recreational trails and local parks, help communities address land use, and provide new and upgraded water and sewer systems.

The Wyoming County Conservation District applied for 2 different Growing Greener grants to address resource concerns throughout the county. We are pleased to report that we were fortunate enough to receive the following grants.

**Project Title:** Nutrient/Sediment Pollution Reduction Initiative  
**Grant Amount:** $31,555

These funds will be used to implement agricultural best management practices at 4 different locations throughout the county. These projects will help stabilize impaired areas contributing to poor stream quality conditions.

**Project Title:** Controlling Nutrients within an HQ Watershed  
**Grant Amount:** $80,731

These funds will be used to construct a roofed concrete manure storage facility. Since the agricultural operation is located near a HQ stream (Bowmans Creek), this project will be beneficial to maintain the high quality conditions in this watershed.
As we welcome spring officially on March 20th, let’s look ahead at all the possibilities this brings. With Earth Day on April 22nd and Arbor Day on April 30th, we have much to celebrate and enjoy! Take a moment or as much time as possible to spend outside with your family. Go outside and explore nature. This is a great opportunity to share a lasting experience with your children. Play in your backyard, plant a tree, start a family garden, there are so many options such as vegetables, a butterfly garden or a rain garden. Build a bird feeder or bird house. Collect leaves and bark or catch, study and release butterflies and other interesting insects. Take photos of nature. Make nature journals and have the kids draw what they see. Go fishing, kayaking or camping if it’s warm enough. You can even setup a tent and chairs in the backyard during the day for the kids to enjoy. Paint rocks the children collect or have a small rock stacking contest. Have a picnic, go on a walk or hike, whatever you enjoy most and don’t forget to take this opportunity to engage with your kids, ask questions, get them excited to learn about the environment, let them feel a part of it. Reminisce and tell them what you remember about your childhood experiences. When we make the connection that nature is important, that we can all benefit from it, then we deeply care and want to protect it!

Happy Spring!

Trout Season 2021

As spring approaches, we begin thinking about many different things. For many people, spring brings one of their favorite recreational activities. As we wait for the first day of trout season to arrive, check out some information on fishing in PA.

**DATE:** April 3, 2021  
**TIME:** 8 a.m.  
**MINIMUM SIZE:** Seven (7) inches  
**FISHING HOURS:** 24 hours a day, after the 8 a.m. opener  
**CREEL LIMITS:**  
Regular season (opening day thru Labor Day)  
5 (combined species)  
Extended season (Jan. 1-Feb. 15) & (day after Labor Day-Dec. 31)  
3 (combined species)  

With free time being at a premium, seasoned anglers, anglers new to the sport and non-resident anglers have less time to weed out the less productive waters and search for ways to increase their success and enjoyment out of their time spent fishing. “Pennsylvania’s Best Fishing Waters” is a program established by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to serve as a valued resource to address these anglers’ needs and to increase the accessibility of proven waters with the result of a more successful fishing trip.

Visit the following link to learn more: [https://www.fishandboat.com/Locate/BestFishingWaters/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.fishandboat.com/Locate/BestFishingWaters/Pages/default.aspx)