

## **PACD Opportunities for Conservation Districts Currently Participating in Revolving Fund or Strawman Nutrient Trading Activities**

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) has received a \$200,000 Nutrient Trading Project Growing Greener grant from the DEP. Grant funds will be used to support those conservation districts that have received revolving fund grants to implement nutrient trading programs. Recently, the DEP has requested that PACD expand its scope of work to include providing services to the conservation districts that have received Strawman grants. PACD Nutrient Trading Project activities will include:

- Creating a system to provide information for baseline and threshold to participating districts;
- Acting as an aggregator of credits for county conservation districts to sell credits and market the program to potential credit buyers;
- Hosting educational seminars in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) to assist conservation districts with calculating credit generation including working with the nitrogen and phosphorus calculation spreadsheets, and demonstrating the marketplace computer model for those districts who wish to sell credits themselves;
- Providing model contracts between conservation districts and landowners;
- Providing contracts between districts and PACD for districts that want PACD to act as an aggregator;
- Creating a conservation district Nutrient Trading "Portfolio." The portfolio provides Nutrient Trading updates to conservation districts using various means including the PACD listserves, website, newsletter, and weekly electronic updates. PACD will share information on various methods used to implement nutrient trading including model programs, success stories, and failures.
- Collecting funds from trades and dispersing those funds to the appropriate local districts; and
- Providing general project updates and other information from DEP and other state trading activities to participating districts.

As the program evolves, PACD will be developing a nutrient trading database and expanding our portfolio of trading information. We recently submitted another grant proposal to expand the PACD nutrient trading program beyond the conservation districts with revolving fund and strawman nutrient trading grants.