



1793 Cherrytree Road
Franklin, PA 16323
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www.venangocd.org



Mission Statement:

"The Venango Conservation District is a local agency, committed to serving the residents, businesses, and visitors of Venango County by providing educational, technical, and financial assistance for quality and sustainable natural resource management."

Board of Directors:

Mike Ohler, Chairman
Merlyn Burkhardt, Vice Chairman
Scott Seibert, Secretary
Grant Carner, Treasurer
Tim Brooks, Commissioner
Joe Pastor, Public Director
Dale Shaw, Farmer Director
Pete Lindey, Public Director
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District Staff:

Marc Rickard, District Manager
Lance Bowes, Watershed Specialist
Mark Muir, Agricultural Resource Technician
Mike Swatzler, West Nile Coordinator
Lisette Lane, Administrative Secretary

County Commissioners:

Timothy S. Brooks, Chairperson
Troy A. Wood, Vice Chair
Janet D. Beichner

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.



The Venango Conservationist

WINTER/SPRING 2009



Completed Rock Vane



Constructed Head Wall at Downstream End of Project that Protects Previous Stabilization Work



Heavy Duty Construction!

STREAMBANK GETS A FACE LIFT BY LANCE BOWES

If you've ever been to the village of Wyattville and have traveled north on Route 427 towards Cooperstown, you've probably seen a massive exposed bank on Sugar Creek. This 400' long, 25' high bank is made up of glacial till, a material composed primarily of silt, sand, and gravel with some cobble sized stone mixed in. When vegetation is lost along a stream bank, this loosely compacted material is very prone to erosion from high water events. This adds excess sediment to the stream that can harm fish and other aquatic life. The Venango Conservation District and our cooperators tackled the task of restoring the streambank to slow or stop the increased rate of erosion at this site by stabilizing the toe of the slope and establishing vegetation.

This stream bank was seriously eroding, causing several problems that needed to be addressed. First, the stream's flow was threatening stabilization work that had been done previously by PennDOT to protect Route 427 from erosion and collapsing into the stream. Second, the stream's bank was eroding next to a farm field, losing about 4 to 6 feet of field each year. Lastly, and most importantly, the stream bank was contributing about nine tons of sediment to the stream each year. This excess sediment was most certainly causing damage, impacting water quality, and adversely affecting aquatic life.

This project was larger than most stream bank stabilization projects and required some extra planning and development. To accomplish project goals, the plan utilized both traditional and modern stabilization methods.

Dave Putnam and George Fowler, of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service worked together to create the design for the project. Their project design called for three large rock vanes. Rock vanes protect the bank by diverting the flow of water back out into the center of the channel. The vanes tie into a bank full bench.

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Pre-Construction Project Site



Finished Project Construction Photo

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STREAMBANK GETS A FACELIFT CONTINUED

The bank full bench was built to a height that was at the same level as the water in a bank full storm event. Rip rap was installed along the entire length of the bench, keyed into the stream bed at its toe to a depth of approximately two feet, and extended to the top of the bench. Above the bench the slope would be re-shaped to a more gentle slope and vegetated with native plant material that holds the soil in place.



Construction of Bank Full Bench

The multi-log vanes were designed to divert water from the stream bank and back into the center of the channel much the same way the rock vanes do except on a much smaller scale. These structures are also designed to create habitat for fish and other aquatic life.



Multi-log Vane Construction

Funding for this project was made possible through two Pennsylvania Growing Greener grants, funded at \$75,000 each.

This project could not have been completed without the cooperation and contributions of Venango County Commissioners, The Department of Environmental Protection, The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, The United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Cooperstown Sand & Gravel, Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Venango PaSenior Environment Corps., and the landowners of the property.

This stabilization project on Sugar Creek in Venango County was an important step in reducing non-point source pollution to this watershed. It was a massive undertaking and the Venango Conservation District would like to extend its deepest thanks to all of the cooperating agencies and organizations and partners that were involved in this process.

MOSQUITO REPELLENT PRIMER BY MIKE SWATZLER

In my lifetime the primary reason to kill or repel mosquitoes in this country was their nuisance factor. The southern United States fought with St. Louis encephalitis but the rest of the country just wanted tourists to be happy or for outfielders at the ballgame to play ball without having to swat mosquitoes. Since 1999 when the West Nile Virus was discovered in crows and people in New York City, things have changed. Worldwide, 700 million people are infected with a mosquito borne disease each year. And now, some of these numbers are coming from inside our own country.

Male mosquitoes are plant feeders, as are females, until they need some protein to make eggs. Then they look for a blood meal. Birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals are on the menu. Some species of mosquito are anthropophilic (human loving). Others prefer birds or reptiles and some are just opportunistic. When looking for a blood meal, mosquitoes will use visual, thermal and olfactory cues. Humans emit all kinds of cues to attract them, mostly carbon dioxide and lactic acid. At close range the cues are heat and humidity. Sometimes we add to the problem by applying attractants like

perfume, soaps, lotions and hair care products.

A perfect repellent would keep away all bad bugs for at least 8 hours, it wouldn't irritate our skin or airway, it would be non-toxic, it wouldn't rub off and it would be greaseless and odorless. Well, we don't live in a perfect world.

More people have used Deet with more success than any other product. It was developed by the USDA and patented by the Army in 1947. It has been used worldwide for over 40 years and very few reports of ill effects have been recorded. 3M Corporation developed a slow release product that contains 35% Deet, now standard issue in the US Army. Amway Corporation offers this product under the brand name "Hour Guard". This product is intended for situations where the bite rate is high, or serious biting pressure, so to speak. For the local ballgame or outdoor concert, products containing 10 to 35% Deet would be more than adequate. Carefully apply Deet since it will damage plastics, rayon, spandex, and other synthetic fabric, leather, painted and varnished surfaces. Two more notes about Deet. One, effective protection of sunscreen is decreased by about 30% if used with

Deet. Two, the American Academy of Pediatricians recommends that repellents used on children should contain no more than 10% Deet.

Avon's Skin-so-Soft does in fact have some effect on bite rates but it is not nearly as effective as Deet. You wind up with frequent re-application and not near the protection. Citronella also lowers bite rates but once again you have to deal with frequent re-application for much less effective protection. There is a product with a brand name of "Bite Blocker" that does offer similar protection as Deet and also has similar staying power. Permethrin, while not a repellent does kill mosquitoes on contact. Some professionals use a combination of Deet on the skin and Permethrin on their clothing (permethrin should not be applied directly to the skin) for the maximum protection from mosquito bites. Permethrin can also be used effectively on tent walls and mosquito netting. A final note about electronic devices and bug zappers. There has never been a scientific study that shows that these electronic repellants work. Also, bug zappers kill far more friendly bugs than pests.

Some information for this article extracted from <http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/01jun98/mosquito.htm>

DIARY OF A STREAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BY MARC RICKARD

We often have the pleasure of working with other groups to achieve our conservation goals. In fact, we call upon our partners' expertise to assist us with projects whenever we can. One such opportunity came together last fall. We received a call from Oakland Township that a stream was threatening one of their roads. A site visit established that the road and stream paralleled each other for several hundred feet. The road bank was the stream bank, or was the stream bank the road bank? In any case, you get the picture.

The issue at hand was to address a problem that involved an eroding stream bank that if left alone, would soon take out the road. After seeing that the road was dirt, the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program (DGR) came to mind. The DGR Program aims to prevent sediment associated with dirt roads from entering the stream. It has been said that the DGR Program should keep the road from entering the stream *and* the stream from entering the road.

This site happened to be along a popular trout fishing stretch of the East Branch of Sugar Creek not far from a habitat improvement project which we had worked on with our local Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited a few years earlier.

After discussing the situation with our friends at TU and our local PA Fish and Boat Commission waterways conservation officer, the idea of working with the PAFBC's Adopt-A-Stream program came up. The Adopt-A-Stream program (now called Cooperative Habitat Improvement

Program) is one that works with landowners along streams to improve aquatic habitat by the installation of habitat improvement structures. An additional benefit to these devices is a dampening effect of stream flow on the bank to reduce velocities and resulting scour. We were on to something here. It happens that this project, while along the township right-of-way, was actually on PA Game Commission property. After discussing the project with the area land manager, the Game Commission was on



board. In addition, their food and cover crew donated time and materials felling nearby evergreen logs that would later be used for the structures.

With a design in-hand by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, it was time to work through the permitting process, and plan construction. The project would span nearly 400 feet, and included 6 structures – a bank cover crib, a multi-log deflector w/ J-hook, a root wad, a single log deflector, and two improved overhead cover deflectors. The names may be a bit confusing, but essentially involve the use of logs, stone, and boards assembled to provide cover for fish and other aquatic life. The structures, placed under direction of the Fish and Boat Commission will also help to redirect stream flow away from the eroded areas to help them become stabilized.

Assisting with project installation were 40 students from the Natural Resources class of the Venango Technology Center. The project is yet another successful example of folks working together with a common goal towards conservation of our natural resources. The very next day after one of the overhead cover structures was placed, baitfish and other stream life could be found investigating their new home. In fact, a swirl and flash was seen that left the beginnings of a fish tale yet to be finished...

Special thanks to the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, Trout Unlimited, Oakland Township, Venango Technology Center, Porterfield Excavating and Cooperstown Sand and Gravel.

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW... BY MIKE SWATZLER

One of the services the Venango Conservation District provides Two Mile Run County Park is technical assistance with the earthen dam that holds back Justus Lake. The dam is owned by the County, but the park is in charge of its operation and upkeep.

In that regard, the Conservation District monitors the dam's peizometers or observation wells monthly. The wells allow for the reading of water levels that indicate pressure on the structure. One of the observation wells at the bottom of the downstream slope is lower than the natural level of the water it was drilled to observe and has artesian flow. Another

way to put it is that water rises out of the pipe and flows down the side. In order to measure the water level, I take out the boat plug we use to seal the pipe when we are not measuring, then I attach a piece of clear plastic hose and mark it once the water has risen to its highest level. This measurement is valid and lets us keep track of how much pressure is in the well.

Last winter (2007-2008) during a cold spell, I took out the boat plug and was surprised to see the water in the pipe was frozen solid. No reading was recorded that month. This year was a little different. When I removed the plug from the pipe, a shaft of ice started to rise out of

the well. The shaft of ice continued to rise until 20 to 24 inches above the edge of the well. I grabbed the camera but the shaft of ice was already sinking back into the pipe. I managed to snap a quick shot as it descended. Not really a big deal, I suppose, but the sense of surprise I had when the shaft of ice began to rise out of the well was as surprised as I've been in quite a while.



SPECIAL SECTION

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

BY MARK MUIR



Welcome to winter in Venango County! It’s a great planning time of year. Sustainability of Agriculture while protecting the environment is part of my job description at Venango Conservation District. As the Agricultural Resource Technician, there are several key items that I look for while doing a site visit at your agricultural operation. The following four steps when followed may improve production, decrease fuel costs, and protect your farm’s resources:

- (1) Do you have a nutrient management plan; do you understand and follow it?
- (2) Do you plant cover crops and utilize them as green manure?
- (3) Do you have Established Streamside buffers?
- (4) Are you planting with No-Till or Low-till?

Nutrient Management: sounds simple, and when followed, it can really save you money. Yeah, you have heard that before. Just give me a moment to explain. There are several things that you grow on the farm that need nutrient inputs to grow – it doesn’t matter if it’s an animal or a field of corn, if you don’t allow it to get nutrients, it won’t survive. The years of just ordering several tons of 19-19-19 to spread on the fields, without soil testing to find out what the soil had available to supply the crop should have ended, especially when the cost of 19-19-19 went from \$400/ton in 2007 to over \$1,000/ton in 2008.

Here is where the sustainability comes in: What nutrients did last years crop leave in the field that this coming year’s crop could utilize? Is there residual nitrogen from past manure applications? Is there residual nitrogen from legumes? If you could double the available nitrogen of manure spread in the off season of late fall/winter by planting a cover crop, would you?

Wow, all this talk about manure makes it sound like the miracle cure – yes and no. There are restrictions to where the manure should be applied based upon the soil nutrients already there and the possibility of the manure entering the watershed in your area.

I understand one would not want to drive very far to a field when spreading

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Fill in the blanks with the following:

- A. 80 & 120#

B. 60 & 90#

C. 35#

D. 20% to 40%

E. 20%

F. 50%

G. 0%
1. If you grew a hay crop with 50% clover, the following year it would provide between _____#N/acre depending upon productivity of the soil, whereas 50% alfalfa would provide between _____#N/acre.
 2. If you spread manure 4 out of 5 years on the same filed, the residue N/acre would be _____/acre.
 3. If you spread manure on a cover crop in late fall/winter and used the cover crop as green manure in the spring, the summer utilization of the nitrogen in the manure would increase from _____%.
 4. If you spread manure in the spring and didn’t incorporate it at all, versus injecting the manure the same day, no incorporation would provide 20% of available nitrogen, whereas incorporating the same manure would provide _____% of available nitrogen.

Answers: B, A, C, D, F

manure with a tractor without a cab, especially when the wind chill is -15. But, think of that load of manure as being a load of fertilizer. You wouldn’t keep spreading that load of triple nineteen fertilizer on the closest field to the barn. Based upon fertilizer prices as of Sept 2008, a 2,500 gal manure spreader of dairy manure would be worth \$110 if incorporated the same day or \$87 if just left on the surface. The average analysis of liquid dairy manure averages 28-13-25 per 1,000 gal as listed in the 2007-8 PSU Agronomy Guide Table 1.2-13.

It is cheaper to feed (maintain) livestock on quality hay that has all the required nutrients rather than feed junk hay and have the cattle consume three times more mineral in a week than normal. What I mean by this: Cattle should have free access to minerals at all times; and when they are fed poor quality forages (either grazing or dry hay) they will consume more free choice minerals

then when fed high quality forages.

How do you know if the hay has all the nutrients it needs? Well if you’re growing the hay: soil test, plant analysis test and plant nutrient test, offer free choice minerals. A soil test is \$9 which is good for up to 20 acres, 4 ton/acre hay on good soil with good management; and a 1,100 # beef cow will consume approximately 30#/day. A plant analysis test will cost \$24 and provide you with fertilizer recommendations based upon the actual leaf element concentrations. A test for individual analysis will test nutrient values of the forage as a digested feed, the standard test is \$18 (un-ground).

Soil Test: \$9/ sample - need to test once every 3 years - good for up to 20 acres/test 4ton hay/acre or 200/40#bales. \$9 divided by 3years divided by 20 acres divided by 200 bales = \$0.00075/bale. \$9 divided by 3years divided by 20 acres = \$0.15/ acre. \$648.00 price of 19-19-19 @ Erie Crawford Coop 12/22/08. \$648.00 divided by 2000#/ton = \$0.324/#. So for less than the price of a half pound of triple nineteen fertilizer, you could soil test twenty acres of cropland.

Manure test: \$32/ sample - need to test each year - one sample per manure group. Example: 30 brood cow beef, cow/calf operation. Each cow/calf pair generates 60# manure per day. Thirty (30) cow/calf pairs X 60# (per day) X 365 days/year /2000#/ton = 32.85 tons manure for the cow/calf manure group. The average beef cow/calf manure analysis is 11-7-10/ton. So testing your manure on this operation would verify the manure’s nutrient value and possibly reduce the amount of fertilizer needed.

A good nutrient management plan gets deep into your operation: how many hours per day are those cows out eating grass on the fields? The answer will determine the amount of manure they are spreading on those fields, again reducing the fertilizer needed to maintain that grass.

A Grazier’s Notebook is a great reference book that can fit in your back pocket; it provides a place to record the daily activities of a field when all combined at the end of the year spells out how well that fields performed. These are available from the Venango Conservation District and Project Grass.

Cont’d on reverse

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

CONTINUED

Cover Crops: can increase the utilization of applied nitrogen, and reduce erosion from both wind and water. They improve the soil structure, moisture retention and reduce weed pressure.

Established Streamside Buffers: reduce the amount of nutrients, chemicals, animal waste and sediment that enter the streams by keeping stream banks surrounded by permanent vegetation. The streamside buffers can be grassed or forested and may help in reducing losses to property during a flood by absorbing the energy of floodwaters. Fencing livestock out of the waterways may be necessary to establish and maintain stream buffers as well as protect animal health.

Conventional versus No-Till: Let me paint you a picture about planting: You’re about dead center in a twenty five acre

field, 20 minutes away from the barn when a “gully washer” of a rain downpour lets loose. Would you rather be in the middle of a conventionally plowed field or a no-till field with cover crop?

One good example of the price differences showing the associated costs of both planting corn and planting forages is in the PSU Agronomy Guide pages 130 & 131. The first example shows planting corn and if your average yield was 100 bu./acre: with conventional tillage you need \$3.12/ bu. to break even where as with no-till you would need only \$2.74/ bu. So if you planted 100 acres the net profit with no-till would be approximately \$38. If you planted alfalfa the no-till difference per acre would be \$43.76 more in your pocket.

Do you have the time and weather for

those extra passes required for conventional tillage/planting. Instead of traveling two to three more times across the same field you could be planting two to three more fields while the weather window is open. So you would be available to start mowing when the first cutting of forage is ready, instead of still out planting.

You say that no-till equipment isn’t cheap to buy? What if there were a way to be compensated partially for the cost buying a no till drill/planter – would you consider it? The REAP Resource Enhancement and Protection Program is a way of receiving PA state tax credits (50% of purchase price) for the purchase of a new or used no-till drill. After the one year waiting period these tax credits can be sold to a broker (see below).

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION PROGRAM (REAP)

Act 55 of 2007 created the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). REAP allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for implementing “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) on Agricultural Operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. The State Conservation Commission administers the program, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue grants the tax credits. The amount of tax credit available to a recipient is dependent upon the type of BMP implemented. Eligible applicants may receive between 50% and 75% of project costs as state tax credits for up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation.

Who is Eligible?

- Any individual or business who is subject to taxation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the following taxes: Personal Income Tax, Corporate Net Income Tax, Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, Bank Shares Tax, Title Insurance Company Tax, Insurance Premiums Tax, and Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax.
- Agricultural Operations must have a current conservation plan, an agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan (Ag E&S plan), and a nutrient management plan, if one is required. The cost of developing and implementing these plans may be included as part of an application to qualify for the tax credit. All required plans must meet standards and criteria

as established by the Commission. An agricultural operation with an animal concentration area (ACA) must have implemented the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control storm water runoff, loss of sediment and nutrients and runoff of other pollutants from animal concentration area, or the implementation of these BMPs must be included in the application for a tax credit. Examples of animal concentration areas include barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, etc.

How to participate:

1. Implement eligible BMPs and receive tax credits directly to reduce your state tax bill. REAP credits will reduce, dollar for dollar, the amount of state tax you owe. You may carry forward your tax credit for up to fifteen years from the date the tax credit is awarded by the Department of Revenue, applying the credit on your annual taxes until you have depleted the credit.
2. You may sell your tax credits to another Pennsylvania taxpayer. Many taxpayers – individuals or corporations – seek to reduce their tax liability with the purchase of tax credits. You may work with a sponsor that will help finance the BMPs on an agricultural operation. The farmer will be compensated for making improvements and the sponsor will receive the tax credit.

The following BMPs are applicable for tax credits for **75% of eligible** costs:

- Agricultural E&S Plans
- Conservation Plans
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Animal Concentration Plans
- BMPs to restrict livestock from streams when implemented with a 50 foot riparian forest buffer
- Riparian Buffers of at least 50 feet in minimum width.

The following BMPs are applicable for tax credits for **50% of eligible** costs:

- BMPs to exclude livestock from streams when implemented with a 35 foot riparian forest or vegetated buffer.
- BMP design and implementation or equipment purchase and installation, as approved by the Commission, where the BMP is necessary to reduce existing sediment and nutrient pollution to surface waters; including:
 - Manure Storage Systems
 - Alternative uses of manure
 - Filter Strips
 - Grassed Waterways
 - Management intensive grazing systems
 - No-Till planting equipment

No tax credit will be provided for a publicly funded portion of a project: however; any portion of a project paid by a farmer for an eligible project may be included in a REAP application.

For more information stop in at Venango Conservation District or call 814-676-2832.

THE VENANGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS
HOLDING ITS ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING AND
GROUND COVER SALE

THROUGH MARCH 27TH 2009.

WHETHER IT'S FOR CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPING,
EROSION CONTROL, ATTRACTING WILDLIFE
OR WHAT EVER THE REASON YOU CAN ORDER
TREE SEEDLINGS USING THE ORDER FORM ON THE
REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FLIER, OR CALL US FOR
MORE INFORMATION.

814-676-2832

www.venangocd.org

2009 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

Please send order and payment to:

Seedling Sale

Venango Conservation District

1793 Cherrytree Road

Franklin PA 16323

Phone: 814-676-2832

EVERGREENS—25 TREES FOR \$15.00

SPECIES	SIZE	UNITS	TOTAL
Norway Spruce	4yr seedling	_____	_____
Colorado Blue Spruce	4yr seedling	_____	_____
Fraser Fir	4yr seedling	_____	_____
Douglas Fir	4yr seedling	_____	_____
Eastern White Pine	2yr transplant	_____	_____
Eastern Hemlock	3yr seedling	_____	_____

HARDWOODS & WILDLIFE TREES—3 TREES FOR \$5.00

SPECIES	SIZE	UNITS	TOTAL
Red Oak	12-18" seedling	_____	_____
White Oak	12-18" seedling	_____	_____
Sugar Maple	12-18" seedling	_____	_____
Silky Dogwood	12-18" seedling	_____	_____
Black Chokeberry	12-18" seedling	_____	_____

GROUND COVER—25 CLUMPS FOR \$15.00

SPECIES	UNITS	TOTAL
Myrtle	_____	_____

WILDFLOWERS—5oz for \$10.00

Northeastern Mix	_____	_____
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NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

The deadline for orders is **Wednesday March 27, 2009**. All orders must be accompanied by a check made payable to the **Venango Conservation District** for the total amount. Orders must be picked up at the Venango Conservation District office. You will be notified as to when your seedlings will be available for pickup (approx. May 1st.) **ALL SEEDLING ARE BARE ROOT. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUALITY OR SIZES OF THE SEEDLINGS RECEIVED FROM OUR SUPPLIER.**



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The Venango Conservationist EXTRA! EXTRA!

VENANGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The VCD is pleased to announce that we are currently accepting requests for the Venango Stream Stabilization Program. The program, funded by DEP Growing Greener with support from the County of Venango, is aimed at performing stabilization techniques along streams that exhibit signs of scour and erosion. Eroding streambanks and other unstable areas release tons of sediment into our waterways annually which can be harmful to our streams. It impacts the aquatic life, habitat and also results in unwanted deposition downstream. This grant program can provide cost-share funding to landowners, businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations interested in performing streambank stabilization. Please note that this program is to repair eroding streambanks, **it is not meant for flood control or protection.**

These projects must be located in Venango County and must have a Landowner/Grantee agreement in place before they will be reviewed for approval. The grantee must also provide a minimum 17.5% match of cash or in-kind contribution (labor, materials, and equipment). Projects submitted for consideration will be reviewed and ranked for priority. Project cost under this program should not exceed \$24,000. By submitting a request form in no way obligates the person/persons submitting the request to have a project completed, nor does it guarantee that the project will be funded. **Deadline for applications is March 31, 2009.**

A project request form can be obtained by contacting Lance Bowes at the Venango Conservation District, 814-676-2832 or lbowes@cescowildblue.com or by visiting our website at www.venangocd.org

VENANGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PRESENT RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The Venango Conservation District will offer a rain barrel workshop on Friday May 1st, 2009. The workshop will address non-point source pollution and how it can be reduced in the backyard. Participants will construct a rain barrel to take home that day. The workshop is free to the public. Supplies are limited so registration is required by April 15th to reserve a barrel. Registrations can be made by contacting the Venango Conservation District at 814-676-2832, or stop by the office located at 1793 Cherrytree Road, Franklin at Two Mile Run Park. Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.



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VENANGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The VCD is pleased to announce that we are currently accepting requests for the Venango Stream Stabilization Program. The program, funded by DEP Growing Greener with support from the County of Venango, is aimed at performing stabilization techniques along streams that exhibit signs of scour and erosion. Eroding streambanks and other unstable areas release tons of sediment into our waterways annually which can be harmful to our streams. It impacts the aquatic life, habitat and also results in unwanted deposition downstream. This grant program can provide cost-share funding to landowners, businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations interested in performing streambank stabilization. Please note that this program is to repair eroding streambanks, **it is not meant for flood control or protection.**

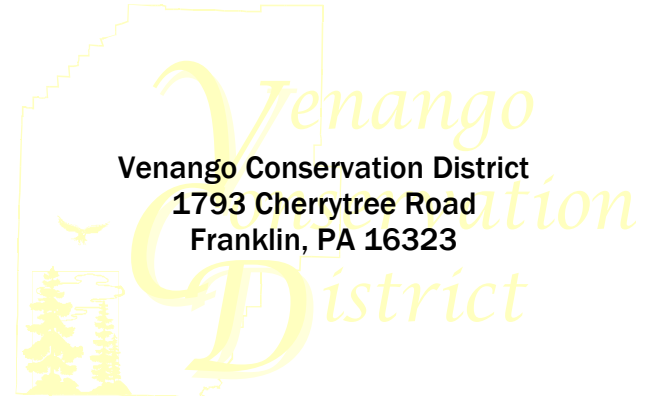
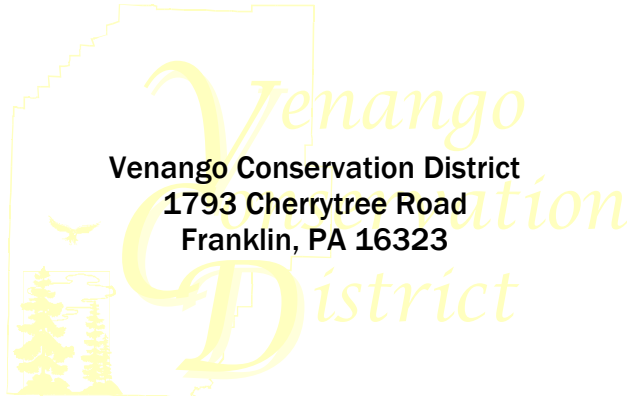
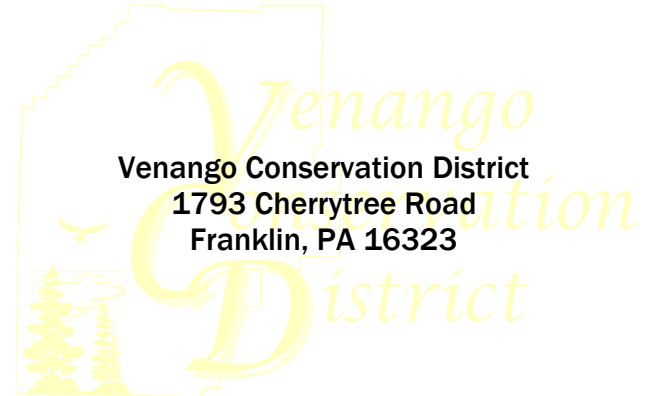
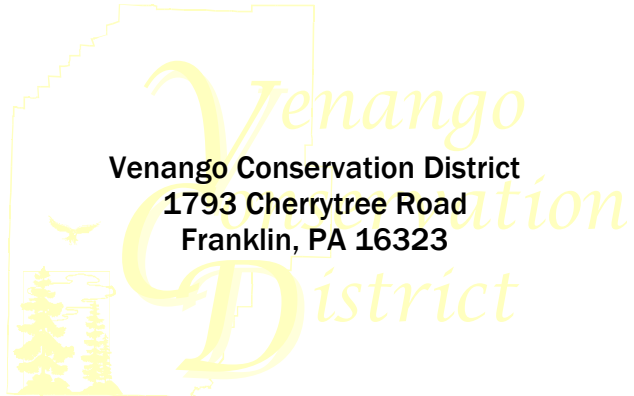
These projects must be located in Venango County and must have a Landowner/Grantee agreement in place before they will be reviewed for approval. The grantee must also provide a minimum 17.5% match of cash or in-kind contribution (labor, materials, and equipment). Projects submitted for consideration will be reviewed and ranked for priority. Project cost under this program should not exceed \$24,000. By submitting a request form in no way obligates the person/persons submitting the request to have a project completed, nor does it guarantee that the project will be funded. **Deadline for applications is March 31, 2009.**

A project request form can be obtained by contacting Lance Bowes at the Venango Conservation District, 814-676-2832 or lbowes@cescowildblue.com or by visiting our website at www.venangocd.org

VENANGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PRESENT RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The Venango Conservation District will offer a rain barrel workshop on Friday May 1st, 2009. The workshop will address non-point source pollution and how it can be reduced in the backyard. Participants will construct a rain barrel to take home that day. The workshop is free to the public. Supplies are limited so registration is required by April 15th to reserve a barrel. Registrations can be made by contacting the Venango Conservation District at 814-676-2832, or stop by the office located at 1793 Cherrytree Road, Franklin at Two Mile Run Park. Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency.







Newsletter Survey

Please take a few minutes and give us some feedback on our newsletter.
We greatly appreciate your time!

In order to better serve Venango County, we would like to know more about you:

- ☐ **Would you be interested in learning more about how the VCD can help you achieve Agricultural Sustainability?**
- ☐ **Would you prefer to receive this publication via email?**

Your contact info

After reading this newsletter, are you better informed about how streambank restorations can reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality?

- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Any additional comments?

Venango Conservation District ♣ 1793 Cherrytree Road ♣ Franklin, PA 16323



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