



**LACKAWANNA
COUNTY
CHESAPEAKE
BAY PROGRAM:
*COUNTY WATERSHED
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN***



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science, Restoration, and Partnership

LACKAWANNA COUNTY OVERVIEW

Lackawanna County consists of 465 square miles. It was created in August 1878 from a portion of Luzerne County. It was named for the Lackawanna River, an Algonquin Indian word meaning where the streams meet. Lackawanna County was in the heart of the northern anthracite coal field. Lackawanna County is a third class county with a population of 215,000.

Anthracite coal and manufacturing dominated the economy from 1880 through 1930. The depression and alternative fuels forced most of these companies out of business. Subsurface coal mining ended in 1959. Today tourism, recreation, and service industries have replaced mining as basis of the economy.

During these periods agriculture played a vital role in the economy. In northern and central Lackawanna County, land use was almost completely devoted to agriculture. The City of Scranton was home to several large wholesale markets for vegetables grown in the Susquehanna River Watershed as well as several dairy processing plants that received milk from hundreds of dairy farms throughout the County.

Today vegetable and dairy are still a big part of agriculture production as well as a big shift to beef and horse facilities. Dairy is shifting to larger more modern facilities; smaller 40-50 cow herds are giving way to 100-300 cow dairies. Large vegetable farms and more recently Christmas tree farms are also finding success in the region.

Beef production is on the increase due to education in grazing, advancement in fencing as well as management and marketing techniques. Agricultural recreation has grown the fastest due to our proximity to New York City, and horse boarding and training are filling the pastures where dairy cows once grazed.

Lackawanna County has 303 active farms according to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. To date, we have no identified CAO's or CAFO's and have an Agricultural Security Area of over 22,000 acres in eight townships. Also, there are 4,500+ acres with easements to protect viable farmland through the Lackawanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

WATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY

Three main watersheds in Lackawanna County contribute to the Chesapeake Bay: Tunkhannock Creek Watershed, Lackawanna River Watershed, and Gardner's Creek Watershed. PA Code Title 25 Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards classifies the Tunkhannock Creek and its tributaries as CWF (cold water fisheries) or TSF (stocked trout). Gardner's Creek is included on the PA Fish and Boat Commission Wild Trout List. The Lackawanna River and its tributaries have classifications that range from EV – CW (Exceptional Value – cold water fisheries) to WWF (warm water fisheries) due to the diverse land use ranging from past mining activities, urban centers to large areas of forested land.

Various streams within the Lackawanna River Watershed are identified on the states 303(d) list of impaired streams requiring TMDL's. The Lackawanna River and its tributaries impacts have been listed as impaired due to abandoned mine drainage/siltation thermal modifications, road runoff, and urban runoff/storm sewers/siltation. The Tunkhannock Creek and its tributaries have impairments listed as municipal point source, organic enrichment, suspended solids, and mercury.

The Lackawanna County Conservation District completed a biological assessment of the Lackawanna River in 2011. In 2012, section 7 of the Lackawanna River was upgraded from High Quality to Exceptional Value by PA DEP and from Approved Trout Stream to Class "A" Wild Trout Stream by PA Fish and Boat Commission. In 2013-2014 the District completed stream studies on six tributaries to the Lackawanna River and has determined, from that study that Leggett's Creek contributes greatly to the degradation of the river. With the upgrades to the South Abington Wastewater treatment facility and the wastewater infrastructure (located on and along Leggett's Creek) over the past 2 years, improvements in water quality are expected. Additional follow-up water monitoring is planned for 2015. The District is also planning to meet with Fish and Boat Commission's Stream Habitat Section Chief to discuss possible habitat and stream bank improvement projects. A plan will be developed from there.

These efforts to monitor, maintain and improve water quality continue with additionally planned stream assessments and improvement projects, working toward the goal of continually improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

CHESAPEAKE BAY/NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Since the inception of the Chesapeake Bay Program in Lackawanna County many things have changed including number of farms, type of farms, engineering support on the area level (NRCS), funding from Chesapeake Bay Program for BMP's, as well as emphasis on different management practices.

Lackawanna County Conservation District traditionally focused on treating all water quality problems on Chesapeake Bay contract farms. However, as funding has been limited in the Bay program, we have utilized BMP money from many other programs in the Bay watershed and have narrowed our focus to cost efficient practices such as no-till, composting, prescribed grazing, soil/manure testing, cover crops, and small projects. The district created several programs to facilitate this emphasis: Grazing Program, No-till/Soil Health Program, AG BMP Program, etc. For larger BMP's funding is generally obtained from more than one program including farmer contribution, Bay Special Project Grants, NRCS EQIP funds, REAP tax credit program, and District and University in kind contribution. Since 1990, the Chesapeake Bay Program has contributed over \$650,000 to projects in Lackawanna County in addition to funds leveraged from other funding sources. In addition, the district remains committed to education on all matters of agricultural production and how to better utilize resources and practices to protect water quality. Lastly, the District provides any volunteer operations assistance with the development of Act 38 Nutrient Management, Chapter 91 Manure Management, and Chapter 102 Ag Erosion & Sedimentation Control plans to assist with the reduction of nutrient and sediment runoff.

As part of the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Bay Technician will perform Education Outreach visits to inform the farming community of any and all requirements for Chapter 91 Manure Management, Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control, Act 38 Nutrient Management Law, etc. to ensure compliance. The goal of the District is to visit ≥ 250 farms in Lackawanna County by June 30, 2015. After that time, the District will evaluate its progress and, if necessary, develop a new strategy for outreach to county landowners or change focus from outreach to assistance with planning, BMP installation, etc. The District is committed to helping Lackawanna County farmers maintain compliance with regulations applicable to their operation, and help them meet the goals set forth by the Chesapeake Bay Program. More detailed information can be found in the Lackawanna County Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Outreach Plan.

Lastly, assisting farmers implement and maintain BMP's needed to control soil erosion and nutrient runoff will be crucial to meet Chesapeake Bay Program goals. Addressing heavy use/brown areas, barnyard runoff, manure collection and storage, diversion ditches, farm lane runoff, riparian area protection, overgrazed pastures, etc. will be essential to keep clean water clean. We will assist with obtaining funding assistance for cost sharing BMP's through the Bay Program Special Projects funding program and other sources.

GRAZING PROGRAM

The soils, climate, and topography of Northeast Pennsylvania favor grass production and grazing. Since the 1990's grazing programs were incorporated into many of the Chesapeake Bay landowner contracts of Lackawanna County. However, today more than ever as agriculture in the region shifts towards operations such as beef cattle production, horse farms, and "hobby farms", we must be willing to dedicate our focus towards improving management on these types of operations. With systems such as portable watering systems, rotational grazing, stream fencing, and conversion of unfavorable lands from sparse crop production to beneficial grazing land, we can continue our efforts to reduce Lackawanna County's effect on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed's water quality. To assist with this, educational pamphlets from DEP related to horse and other pasture-based operations were created to introduce topics of manure management, composting, pasture management, etc. and provide some education to our program landowners.

NO-TILL/SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Lackawanna County No-Till/Soil Health Program provides an opportunity for farmers to experience no-till and its environmental benefit on their own farming operation. The program has always been a high priority; administered by the Bay Technician. No-till forage, cover crops, summer annuals, fall/winter grains and lately a surge of wildlife food plots keep the no-till seeder busy for the better part of 6 months a year in Lackawanna County as well as three neighboring counties. In recent years, thanks to grants and tax benefits along with the great success of the no-till program, farmers have been encouraged to purchase their own no-till seeders and planters. Due to a reduced demand for rental equipment from the District, a no-till corn planter and seeder were sold to local producers for their continued use in production. Despite this, the district is dedicated to providing continued education and technical advice on no-till, soil health, and cover crop use. The District still has one no-till seeder for hay and cover crop seeding as well as a no-till vegetable transplanter for our farming community to utilize.

We have found that the no-till program is one of the best ways introduce Nutrient Management or to help farmers understand, review, and follow their Nutrient Plan. It is an opportunity to check on starter fertilizer rates, soil tests and real yield potential on given soils. As a result of this program there has been many tons of fertilizer saved from possible runoff into local waterways. In addition, as water quality is directly related to soil health, education on the topic is essential to the continued effort to reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. Upon request, landowners can receive a soil health analysis at minimal cost to determine what management needs may be necessary to improve soil health and decrease runoff into the bay. Along with this, educational workshops and meetings will continue our efforts to increase awareness and help improve soil health in Lackawanna County.

In order to continue paving the way in the soil health field, the District will look to provide incentives for no-till/cover crops such as free drill use or cover crop seed,

discounted seeder rental rates, etc. The District is committed to providing farmers with a cost effective way to impact change on their operation. In addition to these incentives, the District will also host several workshops at limited or no cost to the farmer to learn about the benefits of cover crops and no-till planting. This program will be administered by the Bay Technician and will serve as just one prong in the overall plan to help improve water quality both in Lackawanna County and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The goal of the Lackawanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Program is to protect viable agricultural lands in Lackawanna County by acquiring Agricultural Conservation Easements on these lands. Since its inception in 1994, the Lackawanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has purchased the development rights for over 50 parcels of farmland, ensuring that more than 4,000 acres will remain undeveloped and continue to be used for agriculture. Day to day operation of the Farmland Preservation Program is the responsibility of the Farmland Preservation Program administrator. The program and administrator are overseen by the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. This board is made up of 5 voting members: Elected Official, Building Contractor, 2 Farm Representatives and an At Large Representative.

Preserved farm properties are managed by private landowners using soil and water conservation practices that protect soil from erosion and also protect local surface waters from contamination. Farm and forest lands are important for the recharge of ground water in our communities. Farms also provide critical habitat for local wildlife populations. This program continues to be tremendously important to preserving agriculture in Lackawanna County and is a crucial part of the toolbox to promote sound agricultural practices as it relates to water quality and overall watershed health.

The minimum criteria for application into the Farmland Preservation Program includes being in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA), containing at least 50% quality soils available for agriculture, and being at least 50 acres in size, or at least 10 acres and contiguous to a property which has a perpetual conservation easement. The State and the County contribute funding to the program. Given the amount of state and federal funding, this program can protect 200+ acres per year. Currently in Lackawanna County, ASA's exist in Covington, Benton, Scott, North Abington, Jefferson, Madison, Greenfield, and Newton townships. Applications are accepted for the Lackawanna County program until March 1 of each year. The farms are then evaluated and ranked based on various site factors and the viability of the farming operation. After acceptance into the program, an appraisal is done and an offer is made to the landowner for purchase of an easement.

In addition to easement purchases, another important aspect of the program is bi-annual inspections of eased properties. This allows the opportunity to meet with easement holders to observe property progression, maintain compliance with deed restrictions, and perform any necessary updates on conservation plans. In addition, it allows us to continue relationships with farmers and landowners that can prove valuable for other programs such as Chesapeake Bay, Nutrient Management, No-Till/Soil Health, etc.

DIRT & GRAVEL ROADS PROGRAM

The Lackawanna Conservation District has been involved with the State Conservation Commission Dirt & Gravel Roads Program since 1998. The program's primary goal is to reduce the potential of sediment pollution generated on dirt & gravel roads from adversely effecting nearby water courses and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, while also improving the structure and drivability of the road. During our involvement with the program, the District has allocated nearly \$500,000 dollars on thirty (30) projects completed at sites through partnerships with nine (9) municipalities throughout the county. The projects involved the stabilization of road surfaces, drainage swales and stream bank restoration. The installation of cross pipes & stream crossings are also eligible expenses. Among the major milestones for Lackawanna County's program has been the stabilization of over 300,000 square feet of previously eroded roadway and ditches in our Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Since the State Conservation Commission has pledged the program will be non-lapsing, we expect to continue our involvement with the program in years to come. One major limiting factor in previous in regards to the amount of work that can be accomplished is the District's allotment from the State Conservation Commission. However, recently program funding has increased, so the District should see many more projects completed in the coming years. In addition, beginning in 2015 there will be a low volume road component added to the program. For the first time funds will be made available to address problems on paved roads. This will allow for a broader scope of projects and hopefully present new opportunities for improvement within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM – CHAPTER 102 – NPDES

Construction, land development and earthmoving projects continue to impact the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Lackawanna County. In the past two (2) years Conservation District activities focused on reviewing an average of 180 Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) plans per year for Best Management Practices (BMP's) intended to minimize erosion and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 300 acres of new earth disturbance are planned annually. Technical assistance and training on E&S issues is provided to approximately 1200 individuals annually. Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program, 30 post construction storm water management (PCSWM) water quality plans are being developed annually which will provide added water quality benefits to the Chesapeake Bay.

To assist in meeting the goals of the Chapter 102 and Chesapeake Bay Programs, the District added a staff position to complete E&S site inspections and assist with proper installation and maintenance of BMP's. Historically, 60 inspections per year of earth disturbance sites were performed by the District. With the addition of this staff member,

approximately 150 site inspections per year will be completed by District personnel to insure BMP's are installed to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

In the next two (2) years the Conservation District strategy is to continue implementing a Chapter 102-NPDES Program in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We anticipate E&S plan reviews to remain constant at 360 plans in the next 2 years with projects shifting to infrastructure improvements and small business improvement. Annual compliance inspection target goal of 150 sites is anticipated each of the next 2 years. 60 new PCSWM plans and associated BMP's are anticipated in the next 2 years.

WATERSHED SPECIALIST PROGRAM

The top priority of the Watershed Specialist is to help improve impaired and threatened streams and preserve healthy streams in Lackawanna County. In addition, another of the priorities of the District's Watershed Specialist has been to educate the public on the importance of preventing Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution. Runoff that occurs during rain events and snow melt carry with them such things as excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production, sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks, just to name a few. Educating the public on ways they can actively reduce their impact will help in reducing water pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. In the past several years the district has used the EnviroScape®, documentary films and presentations on BMPs such as Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels to educate both children and adults on this important subject. In addition, to build on a biological survey completed in 2011 on the Lackawanna River, the District completed stream assessments on six tributaries to the river. This would enable us to understand how and where the river has been negatively impacted and so that we can develop a plan for improvement. Currently we are working with the Fish and Boat Commission to develop that plan.

The Watershed Specialist has been working and will continue to work with local watershed and conservation groups to support their programs. Our local chapter of Trout Unlimited offers a Teen Explorers Program and the District has been actively involved with their activities such as stream health, including water quality and macro-invertebrate, streamside, educational activities. In addition, the District has provided non-point source pollution educational instruction. The WS has added some stream ecology education tools such as a stream ecology mural and additional lab equipment to aid in these educational activities. We have installed a habitat garden and a rain garden as demonstration sites, at the District office and will be installing another rain garden along the Lackawanna River at Sweeney Beach Environmental Learning Center. The Watershed Specialist continues to support the DCNR Community Connections to Your Watershed Program for environmentally minded high school students.

The District offers extern positions throughout the year for students currently studying environmental science, biology or other related fields. Externs will be able to hone their skills in water sampling/testing, environmental education/outreach, grant

writing, program development and other related interests. The District also offers volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in helping to protect our natural resources.

The District will continue to support these activities along with some new ones such as community gardening and pollinator gardening. We will continue to make NPS Pollution a priority and will work toward educating the public on these and other important environmental issues.

ACT 13 PROGRAMS

Several new programs were created through the receipt ACT 13 Natural Gas Impact Fee money to assist in improving water quality within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Programs are run independently by the District and award grants for watershed clean up, educational activities, rain/habitat gardens, Agricultural BMP's, etc. These programs will be a new tool to provide funding for projects that are often overlooked or don't meet the criteria of larger grant programs but can do a lot of good with respect to water quality improvement.

AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE PROGRAM

The Agricultural Best Management Practice (Ag BMP) program is designed to fund small project BMP's that often don't rank high enough to get funded through other programs. Eligible practices include barnyard stabilization, stream bank fencing, manure storage/stacking, portable watering stations, etc. and can include any project that has a positive water quality impact. Administration of the program is completed by the Chesapeake Bay Technician with all design work and project oversight from the Chesapeake Bay Engineering Assistant. In addition, rankings, program priorities, project approvals, etc. are tasked to a five (5) member special committee made up of farmers, District staff and District board members.

In 2015, the District is scheduled to complete four (4) projects and allocate nearly \$15,000 through the AG BMP Program thanks to two (2) years of funding for the program. Moving forward, the hope is that funding will continue at a rate of \$7,500 per year or more to complete 2-4 projects each year for the foreseeable future. This will prove to be an effective supplement to other grant programs.

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) is designed to fund a variety of watershed work within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Monies distributed through this program are allocated in three (3) program pools:

- 1. Clean-Up Program**
 - a. Streamside clean-ups

2. Volunteer Monitoring Program

- a. Equipment for volunteer monitoring of county streams

3. Conservation District Grants Program

- a. Funding provided to schools, local municipalities and 501-3c organizations for conservation projects

In 2014, the District awarded grants through the Grants pool to install rain gardens, habitat gardens, plant riparian buffers, and map wetland areas. In addition, the District funded and sponsored a streamside clean-up of Leggett's Creek and purchased equipment for the volunteer monitoring program. In total, \$8,000 was allocated to these pools thanks to two (2) years' worth of program funding. In 2015 and beyond, the District plans to allocated \$4,500 per year to complete additional clean-up projects as well as work with volunteers and school districts to monitor local water quality and complete projects that will positively impact water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

REMAINING AND FUTURE NEEDS

Lackawanna County needs to maintain every program that is in our toolbox including Chesapeake Bay/Nutrient Management, No-Till, Farmland Preservation, E&S, Dirt & Gravel Roads, Watershed Specialist, Act 13, etc. as well as expand using new programs, funding sources and staff positions. Most of all, we need to be flexible to the changes of these programs due to funding, priorities, etc.

Moving forward, the District will emphasize no-till/cover crops, stream bank protection, nutrient management/manure storage, storm water management, erosion control, barnyard improvement and stabilization, and pasture management/rotational grazing as crucial BMP's systems as these practices are not only cost effective, but have a high environmental impact as they focus directly on water quality in the region whether it is keeping cattle out of ponds and streams, decreasing runoff from barnyards or crop fields, or managing erosion on construction sites. In addition, the District will continue to work towards the introduction of new, cutting edge systems and technologies in the County. Programs such as Growing Greener, Bay Special Project Funds, REAP, PACD, Trout Unlimited, ACT 13 programs, etc. will all provide BMP project money to the Bay Watershed in Lackawanna County. We need to provide quality assurance, education and assistance to landowners on how to best utilize their nutrient plans, conservation plans, erosion plans, and those BMP's that have been installed are being maintained.

The Chesapeake Bay Technician needs to be continually updated on all aspects of Ag Production and in addition, basic design and project oversight in order to be able to communicate and maintain a productive relationship with the farming community and provide oversight on construction BMP's. Historically, NRCS has had to give bay projects a low priority for engineering I&E and quality assurance time. As long as Bay

Technicians are in the field there is going to be need for Nutrient and Ag Waste Management Plans which will include BMP's requiring engineering. Fortunately, for Lackawanna County we have a Bay Engineering Assistant on our staff. His door has been open to any and all programs in the bay watershed. He has served as educator, surveyor, designer, and quality assurance monitor. This position is essential if we expect to meet our goals. In this county the Chesapeake Bay technician and engineering assistant have played a key role in inventory & evaluation, survey & design, quality assurance, and follow up on all Ag projects in the bay watershed and will need to continue in the future.

Fortunately the programs previously discussed in this strategy, which are already in place and managed by District staff require very little outside resources. These programs are very sustainable on their own and compatible with all other programs in our tool box. Because of these personal contact involved with landowners we expect they will understand our goals and provide the cooperation needed to meet them.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

In order to meet the goals of the program, the Chesapeake Bay Technician will maintain the highest level of training possible in all aspects of production agriculture including seed varieties, weed control, plant and animal health issues, latest cultural practices, etc. Knowledge of the agricultural business is essential to gaining trust and respect in the farming community. This will allow us to gain a better acceptance of ourselves and our programs. We should be better equipped to understand and address the client's issues which should lead to more cooperation in addressing water quality issues with the landowner.

In addition, it is essential that the Lackawanna County Conservation District continue to provide educational field days, meetings, and programs, as well as meetings for contractors who provide work on bay and other projects related to water quality. These meetings have been and will continue to be on a multi-county basis in cooperation with and not exclusive to the District, NRCS and PA State Extension Service. Funding for these programs have become self sustaining. Registration fees have been covering most of the costs. Bay administrative funds have been used at times to cover educational materials. Motivational speakers with cutting edge knowledge on the topics are key to farmer participation and willingness to attend. We expect our following on these topics to continue to grow as it has over the years and improve water quality through education.

Also, assisting farmers implement and maintain BMP's needed to control soil erosion and nutrient runoff will be crucial to meet Chesapeake Bay Program goals. Addressing heavy use/brown areas, barnyard runoff, manure collection and storage, diversion ditches, farm lane runoff, riparian area protection, overgrazed pastures, etc. will be essential to keep clean water clean. We will assist with obtaining funding assistance for cost sharing BMP's through the Bay Program Special Projects funding program and other sources.

Lastly, the Chesapeake Bay Technician and Engineering Assistant will need to maintain the highest level of training possible with regards to survey, design, quality

assurance, etc. to ensure that BMP's installed through the program are done properly and that program participants have the knowledge and ability to maintain installed practices.

NO-TILL/SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM

The No-till/Soil Health Program in Lackawanna County is another self sustaining program which is coordinated and managed by the Chesapeake Bay Technician. Profits from this program are small, but the benefits to water quality are huge. We will continue on with our no-till, cover crop and wildlife seeding as well as provide education to producers on the benefits of these practices. This program will continue to link the farmer to an annual review of his nutrient/conservation plan and soil tests, while improving water quality, soil quality, and the farmer's overall bottom line.

With the introduction of the new programs and an increase interest in no-till and cover crop planting, additional tech support will be required as more farmers will look to the District for advice on cover crop use. Both one-on-one advice and workshops will help accomplish this task. Also, financial support will be required, to cover the costs of seed provision, equipment maintenance, transport costs and loss of rental fees for the District planter to make no-till and cover crops economical for farmers and landowners.

GRAZING PROGRAM

Our emphasis in the future will be more on beef and horse owners, breeders, and trainers. They are a new and fast growing industry hungry for knowledge on forage production, grazing, etc. There is to some extent a lack of understanding on topics such as soil erosion, stocking rates, and nutrient management due to the part-time nature of their operations or lack of an agricultural background. We are going to introduce them to our grazing program through education and meetings in the hope they will follow along with grazing, soil health, and water quality recommendations. To complete this task, an understanding of all aspects of grazing and an understanding of the business from the ground up is vital so we can incorporate our program in a way that is acceptable to the day to day operation. Through this, we expect to expand our grazing acres on beef and dairy operations, improve grazing practices on all farms, and initiate a special program for pasture-based operations over the next two (2) years.

ACT 13 PROGRAMS

As these programs are relatively new and untested, much time and effort will need to be spent in order to effectively manage each individual program. With allocations expected to continue in years to come, it is essential to have the knowledge and experience to complete designs and construction projects, provide oversight, complete paperwork and educate program participants of the local and regional benefits of installed BMP's and habitat/rain gardens as well as the importance of water quality monitoring, streamside clean-ups, etc. The District is excited to see the positive benefits of these programs come to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES

The CBP Technician, Engineering Assistant and Watershed specialist will continue to provide technical assistance on a future projects thru the NRCS Programs such as EQIP, AMA, CREP, CSP, or special watershed grant money in the Bay Watershed. With the installation of BMP's through these programs comes the need for additional engineering assistance. Primary design is completed by NRCS staff but project oversight and quality assurance will be completed by Bay Engineering staff in conjunction with additional NRCS and District staff. The District is committed to assisting in any way possible with the implementation of these programs as they can provide substantial water quality improvements throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.