



Centre County Conservation District Completes Little Fishing Creek Project, Phase 1



Before



After

The Centre County Conservation District (CCCD) has completed a Growing Greener funded agriculture project in the Little Fishing Creek watershed. The District collaborated with other organizations to leverage funds and services to address nonpoint source pollution on four farms.

With the help of several partners*, CCCD met the following deliverables, reducing the nutrient and sediment load to Little Fishing Creek.

- Paid to develop two Nutrient Management Plans covering 586 acres.
- Developed a Rotational Grazing Plan for 90 beef cows on 55 acres.
- Paid to install 9,000 feet of stream bank fencing.
- Excluded 155 cows from 6,570 linear feet of stream.
- Established seven acres of forested riparian buffers.
- Paid to install four stabilized stream crossings.
- Developed one spring.
- Installed 3,815 feet of water supply pipeline.
- Installed seven watering facilities.
- Treated or eliminated over 8 acres of animal concentration areas.
- Installed 23,280 square feet of heavy use area protection.
- Stabilized 1,150 feet of access lanes.
- Stabilized 1,100 feet of cattle walkways.
- Installed 860 feet of roof runoff controls.

- Installed 1,100 feet of underground outlets.
- Installed 80' of subsurface drains.
- Created 310 feet of stabilized waterways.
- Installed a 120-foot mudsill and three log veins in the stream.

However, in spite of these successes, CCCD is not finished! The District has secured an additional **\$312,432** of Growing Greener funds to continue their work in this watershed.

**DEP Stream Bank Fencing Program, North Central PA Conservancy, Clearwater Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, PACD engineers, Chesapeake Bay Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*



State College Young Farmer and Little Lions FFA Manure Management Meeting/Workshop Program



Daina Beckstrand, Centre County Conservation District Chesapeake Bay Technician, is working with Paul Heasley, State College High School Ag Teacher and Advisor for the State College Area Young Farmer Group and Little Lions FFA Chapter, in providing a Manure Management Plan Development Program at the monthly Young Farmer Group meetings and FFA and High School agricultural student programs.

The Program kicked off in October 2012 and is open to the public, not just Young Farmer Group Members. Ms. Beckstrand teaches a new topic/section of the Manure Management Manual at each meeting, with the goal of having each member write their own Manure Management Plan by April 2013. Mr. Heasley has obtained a National FFA grant to assist with the costs of the program, such as soil and manure tests, student/farmer workbooks, and testing supplies. We are hoping this can be a pilot program for other Pennsylvania FFA chapters and Young Farmer Groups to adopt, as well as other states with similar regulations and groups.

Each participant received binders that contained the Manure Management Manual, handouts, worksheets, homework topics, and more. We also offered soil and manure test kits to each participant. Everyone is given homework at each meeting, to complete one section of the manual and to collect samples for their soil/manure tests. Session topics include: Overview of E&S and Manure Management Regulations, Tools/Resources available to complete the Plans, PA One Stop Mapping, Manure Application, Crop & Fertilizer Needs, Soil & Manure Testing, Pasture Management, Animal Concentration Areas, BMPs for the Barnyard, Pasture, Cropland & Near Stream Areas, and finally implementation of the completed MMP and Record Keeping.

Each member of the Young Farmer Group is paired with a FFA member and/or State College High School agricultural student. The students are assisting with the development of the Manure Management Plans for the farmers, such as developing the farm maps using the PA One Stop program, while also learning aspects of the agricultural career field and community assistance. There are unlimited career and educational opportunities for the students in this project as well as outreach into our county and state that would showcase the viability of our industry and the needed youth to help sustain it.

We are hoping that the members may be interested in developing an Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Plan after April 2013, as many of the necessary components (i.e. maps, ACA identification and appropriate BMPS) will have been developed with the Manure Management Plan. The collection, storage, and access of farm data will make decision making easier, more accurate and less stressful in meeting regulations, environmental stewardship, and profitability. We are using a 'soft approach,' offering technical assistance and support to make Plan development easier and understandable for local farmers.

As of February 2013, the program has been a **huge success** !! The Young Farmers Group has seen the highest participation in many years. Farmers, students, advisors, and the Conservation District are learning so much with the development of the program and the successful delivery of environmental education. If you would like more information about the program, please contact Daina Beckstrand, Centre County Conservation District, by email ddbeckstrand@co.centre.pa.us or phone (814) 355-6817 **OR** Paul Heasley, State College High School / Young Farmer Advisor at plh11@scasd.org or (814) 231-1161.

