

Farmers Winter Meeting Held outside Selinsgrove

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD, Conservation District) held its annual Farmers Winter Meeting on February 17, 2023, at Christ Community United Methodist Church, 3939 Park Road, outside of Selinsgrove. Eighty-one (81) attended the meeting. Consultants and insurance representatives, federal and conservation district staff members, and Penn State Extension and University staff gave the following presentations:



- Barry Spangler, SCCD Ag. Conservation Technician (*Above Photo, Standing*), gave an update on current and upcoming SCCD programs and events, including relaying information about potential financial assistance for planning and conservation practices and a “Soil Health Bucket Program” offered for farmers. He was later assisted by SCCD Nutrient Management Technician Chip Spatz where they explained various topics such as soil testing, manure testing, manure spreader calibration, manure “no-spread zones,” manure safe handling and responding to manure spills. Spangler also had handouts detailing much of the information he and Spatz presented within a packet of materials.
- Brian Wiggins, Director of Alternative Farm Revenue with ADM (*Right Photo, Standing*), explained how crop insurance can help with crop forward contracting with assistance from local insurance agent Mike Kahl and Andy Shoemaker of Crop Risk Services.
- Andrew Hibbs, Project Engineer with Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., and Philp Dunn of Lancaster Farmland Trust gave an update on the Snyder County Action Plan and encouraged farmers to consider installing conservation practices to decrease nutrient and sediment pollution from their operations.



- PA woodland and USDA program updates were from Jaek Bausinger, Service Forester, and John Portzline, Assistant District Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry's Bald Eagle State Forest District; Brandon Ford, District Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Middleburg Field Office; and Jessi Reichenbach, County Extension Director, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Snyder/Union Counties Office.
- Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences is developing a web tool based on recent research to assess corn nitrogen tools based on factors such as soil type, soil organic matter, soil texture, cover crop species and growth before termination. Dr. Kathleen Arrington (*Below Left Photo, Standing Right*) and graduate student Andrew Lefever (*Below Left Photo, Standing Left*) gave the presentation.



- Penn State Extension Educator Del Voight (Field & Forage Crops, Lebanon, *Above Right Photo, Standing*) reminded attendees about pesticide handling safety, corn tar spot and updated weed control methods. He also offers pesticide record books to interested farmers and announces that the newest [Penn State Agronomy Guide](#) is available.

Attendees paid \$5.00 to attend the event. Participants were able to receive pesticide and nutrient management credits through the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA). Local businesses advertised their services in a printed program given to attendees.



For more information about the following, please contact these SCCD staff members at 570-837-3000:

- Funding for Agricultural Conservation Practices: [Lauren Cheran](#), Program Administrator, ext. 2 or programadmin@snydercd.org.
- Soil Health Bucket Program, Learn to Write Manure Management Plans, Funding for Plan Development: [Barry Spangler](#), ext. 5 or agtech@snydercd.org.

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SCCD Staffing: Some of the staffing promoting agricultural environmental compliance during this meeting and throughout this program, including planning for this meeting, was financed by in part by an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of EPA, DEP, or any of its subagencies.

All Conservation District, USDA and Penn State programs and services are offered on a non-discrimination basis. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Penn State is an affirmative action equal opportunity university.

Public agencies participating in the meeting do not indicate any endorsement of any business, advice or products mentioned during the meeting.

Questions or comments about this meeting may be forwarded to [Barry Spangler](#), Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, extension 5 or agtech@snydercd.org.

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