



Our Mission

To advance our global knowledge and stewardship of fresh water systems through research, education, and restoration



Stroud Farm Stewardship Program

Helping farmers implement whole farm conservation



Why forested buffers?

To restore streams' natural functions, increase streams' ability to process/remove pollutants, and help impaired streams recover faster.

Stroud's Farm Stewardship Program

Partners

Farmers

Conservation Districts

Ag consultants

NRCS and Farm Service Agency

Conservancies and Watershed Groups

Many others!

Stroud's Farm Stewardship Program

Cooperating Farms Get:

- Conservation plan
- Nutrient/manure mgmt plan
- Implement BMPs
- CREP forested buffer on all streams
 - 35' minimum per side
 - Stream bank fencing typically not enough!

Stroud Farm Stewardship Program's Incentives:

- for CREP forested buffers
- \$4000 per acre of buffer as “voucher”
 - Vouchers help pay for ag BMPs
 - BMP funding typically needed (EQIP, etc)
- double vouchers for permanent buffers

Example of voucher use:

- Barnyard near stream w/ runoff issues
- BMPs to fix = \$80,000
- USDA's EQIP covers \$70,000
- Farmer enrolls 2.5 acres in CREP buffers
 - earns \$4k/ac = \$10k voucher from Stroud

Farmers Will Consider Buffers Instead of Simply Stream Fencing!

- CBF: 40+ Amish Dairy Farmers in Lancaster Co enrolled in CREP
- Provide Attractive \$ Incentives
- Explain Value of Trees and Wider Buffer













Herbicide!





Herbicide!

Four years, 2x/year, w/shelters

~16%

Survival,
no herb.

~90%

Survival w/
herbicide

2x+

Growth
w/ herb.

Sweeney et al 2002 in Restor. Ecol.

Contact Info:

Stephanie Eisenbise

Lamonte Garber

Stroud Water

Research Center

610-268-2153

www.stroudcenter.org





Farmers Achieving Resource Management Program



Prepared by: Jeff Overstreet
Agricultural Resource Conservationist



Background



- ∞ Many farmers receive assistance from the Berks County Conservation District
 - ∞ Conserve and protect **Water** and **Natural Resources**
 - ∞ Conservation Planning
 - ∞ Nutrient Management
 - ∞ General Technical Assistance

What happens after assistance was given?



Participants



- ❧ Berks County Conservation District
- ❧ Farmer Cooperators
- ❧ Partnering Agencies
 - ❧ FSA
 - ❧ NRCS
 - ❧ Penn State Extension
 - ❧ Berks Conservancy
 - ❧ BCCD is always looking for more!!!



Mission



- ❧ Continuing correspondence with all past and present cooperators
 - ❧ Changes in regulations
 - ❧ Offer technical assistance
 - ❧ Feedback on conservation practices that work well
 - ❧ Promote other programs
 - ❧ Network with other cooperators



Methods



- ❧ Join FARM by being a cooperator through the following programs:
 - ❧ Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Planning
 - ❧ Conservation Planning
 - ❧ Manure Management
 - ❧ Act 38 Nutrient Management Planning
- ❧ Farms that have had educational outreach will not automatically be put into the program



Goals for better production

- ☞ Encourage the return of cooperators
 - ☞ Exclusive cooperator (farmers/partners) mailings:
 - ☞ New programs, new regulations
 - ☞ Workshops
 - ☞ Financing options
 - ☞ Agriculture is always coming up with new technologies



Benefits



- ❧ If there are new financing options we want our cooperators to be the first to be able to apply for the funding sources.
- ❧ If there are new programs we want the farmers to be aware of the benefits of that program and avenues on how to join.



Mailings



☞ Newsletters

☞ Spring and Fall

☞ Invitation to Banquet

☞ Literature to conduct farm self- assessment

☞ The mailings will provide you with up to date information of new programs and workshops

☞ The district wants to get these educational materials to our cooperators quicker



Annual Trainings



- ❧ Summer trainings
- ❧ Farmers can showcase their farms and any improvements made
 - ❧ Crop walks
 - ❧ Best Management Practice Walks
- ❧ Winter trainings
 - ❧ Innovative Agriculture
 - ❧ Date for 2015: February 26th, 2015



Benefits of Trainings



- ☞ Look at what different farmers do across the county to increase ease of management
- ☞ We want feedback on which Best Management Practices work or what we could do differently to make changes to increase production
- ☞ Innovative ideas on what you would want to see at our winter workshops



Connect Farmers to Farmers

☞ Mentor Program

- ☞ Cooperators can discuss challenges and successes with new cooperators
- ☞ Example: Different tilling practices used on shale soils, to increase yields



Yearly Check-in



☞ Surveys

- ☞ Noticeable differences in crop yields depending on different practices
- ☞ Are there any resource concerns?
- ☞ Are installed BMPs functioning correctly?



Survey



BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Berks County Conservation District continues to assist the Agriculture Community. The Agriculture Resource Consultants are trained to write Conservation Plans, assist with Manure Management Manuals and other state or federal programs. It is our intention to assist you in conserving our valuable resources and soil and water in Berks County. In order to better assist the agriculture community, please complete the survey so we can continue to provide proper assistance to your needs.

1. Have you had contact with the Berks County Conservation District or received assistance in the past 3 years?
 Yes No
2. How could the Conservation District assist you?

3. What problems are you currently facing on your farm?

4. What topics would you like to learn more about?

5. Do you have a current Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Plan or a Conservation Plan?
 Yes No
6. Do you have a current Act 18 Nutrient Management Plan or a Manure Management Manual?
 Yes No
7. What livestock and/or crops do you store on your farm?

8. How many acres do you have? (Overall) _____ (Total) _____
9. Are you interested in attending an event hosted by the district for Pesticide Applicator Credits for a Pennsylvania Pesticide License?
 Yes No

If you would like to be contacted in the future about events the Berks County Conservation District is holding please provide the following information:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

Please return this survey to Berks County Conservation District, 1239 County Wildlife Road, Longport, PA 19033.
We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. If you have any questions please contact us at 610-372-4407.

Thank you!

☞ BCCD will be able to better understand the needs of our cooperators

☞ Where we should focus funding to an area



Best Management Practices

☞ How is your Stream Crossing working?

☞ Survey

☞ Workshops



Site: Knox County Conservation District



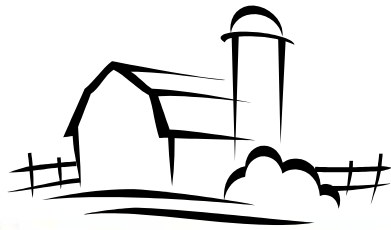
Partners



- ❧ Invitation to speak at workshops, promoting partners' expertise
- ❧ Utilize other Conservation District educational materials
- ❧ Reach out to different organizations to increase partners
- ❧ Invite new partners that do not normally work with the District to come and be involved



Questions..



FARM

