2017 Annual Report

Snyder County Conservation District
Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 4PM at the district office meeting room. The public is invited to attend. Any changes to the meeting dates will be publicized.

We would like to thank Roger Reichenbach for his years of service as a public member on the conservation district board. He served as an associate director from 1979-1990. From 1991-2017 he served as a director and elected chairman from 2002-2017. We appreciate Roger’s time and dedication to the district.
Sixty two years ago (1956) we made our debut as a conservation district. Since then the workload multiplied to a point that “conservation district” is a household word when it comes to trees sales, erosion control, gypsy moth, manure/nutrient management, environmental education, farmland preservation, Envirothon, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. To accomplish their goals and objectives, the board relies on a staff and cooperating agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Extension, PennDOT, Snyder County Planning Commission, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Bureau of Forestry, and Farm Service Agency, among others.

For more information on how conservation districts can assist you, call 570-837-3000 or stop by our office from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM M-F.

On Deck For 2018

Farmer’s Winter Meeting—February 16
Annual Banquet—March 9
Tree Pickup—April 19 & 20
Kindergarten Eco Day—May 2 & 3
Elementary Envirothon—May 11

Spotted Lanternfly Workshop—February 23
Tree Sale Orders until April 2
Susquehanna Valley Envirothon—April 24
Middle School Envirothon—May 8
Women In Ag—Fall 2018
Quite A Change!

Statistics for agriculture were first taken in 1840, but the data was quite sparse. The statistics below were taken from the NASS 2012 Census of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Snyder County was founded in 1855 so let’s begin with stats from 1860. Most of these statistics were chosen because of their unique subjects.


1925: Farms on macadam roads-36 Farms on dirt roads-838 Land value-$25.89/acre Number of farms-1,713 Percent in farms-70 Chickens-175,432

1930: Bushels Irish Potatoes-172,229 Number of Swine-6,740 Number of Cattle-10,715 Number of farms-1,596 Average size farm-87.4 Land value -$46.14/acre

1950: Bushels Peaches harvested-38,865 Products sold-$4 million Acreage Avg-90.4


1978: Hogs and pigs-22,255 Broilers-628,860 Number of farms-758 Land value-$1,006/acre Average size farm-134 acres Orchards-51

2012 (Most Recent Census)
Land value-$5,820/acre Average size farm-98 acres Percent land in farms-43.3 Land in farms-91,179 acres Number of operators-1,451 Average age of farmer-52.7 Women operators-395 Irrigated land acres-8,739 Acres of Christmas trees-592 Cattle and calves-21,450 Milk cows-5,756 Sheep and lambs-1203 Horses-1,718 Broilers-3,469,277 Broiler farms-48 Guineas-72,934 Bee colonies-324 Alpaca farms-5 Deer farms-12 Harvested cropland acres-51,056 Acres in orchards-352 Acres in tobacco-14 Acres in vegetable crops-1000 Farms raising melons-35 Farms raising pumpkins-52 Farms raising berries-74 Plant nursery farms-43

How Snyder County Ranks in PA—Top 20

Annual Precipitation for 2017—43.496 inches
(Rainfall statistics taken from Snyder County Emergency Services)

Good morning and welcome to the Snyder County Conservation District.
Chapman Township added two more roads into the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program by contracting for $106,184.88 into the rehabilitation of Lime and Arnold Roads. Spring Township completed work on Hosler Road totaling $21,305.84 while Beaver Township installed a box culvert along Ritter Ridge Road amounting to $76,924.50. These townships contributed $47,893.50 with in-kind contributions.

The Low Volume Road Program provided funding for 5 projects including 2 for McClure Borough and 3 for Spring Township. McClure Borough contracted $63,441.75 for West and Red Orchard Streets. Fultz, Sawmill and Turkey Hill Roads in Spring Township were contracted for $24,693.22. Both municipalities provided $24,915.75 in-kind contributions.

The program has contracted for almost 18 miles of dirt and gravel road rehabilitation totaling $953,494.82 affecting 38 worksites in 9 municipalities since the first contract was signed in 1999. Municipalities that have cooperated include: Adams, Beaver, Chapman, Center, McClure Borough, Perry, Spring, Washington and West Beaver.

2017 Totals
Completed: Dirt and Gravel Roads—$156,521.72
Low Volume Roads—$63,219.22

Do Not Disturb - Erosion & Sedimentation Report

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Tim Hornberger checks saturated ditches along Red Orchard Street in McClure Borough. Photo to right shows ditch stabilization work being done on the same road.
Selinsgrove High School Envirothon winners
L-R: Nathan Moyer, John Merroth, Jr., Jacob Dock, Addie Lannan, Alyssa Landis

Envirothon

The Susquehanna Valley Envirothon was held at Shikellamy State Park Overlook. FFA members from Selinsgrove High School took top honors as the Snyder County winner and placed 2nd overall out of 40 multi-county teams. Selinsgrove also had the top score in Aquatics. Students from Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties participate in this annual event. The 2018 PA Envirothon will be held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove.

Selinsgrove Middle School had the highest score for Snyder County at the Middle School Envirothon held at Montour Preserve. Seventh and eight graders from 5 counties rotated through four testing stations covering soils, forestry, aquatics and wildlife.

Scholarship

Snyder County Conservation District honors a high school senior each year with a $100 Conservation Scholarship. The monetary award was presented at commencement to Nathan Moyer of Selinsgrove Area High School.
Hey.....Listen Up

Notes From Our Ag Tech:
As part of the Bay Reboot, our staff continued to make farm inspections with a goal of visiting 50 farms per year. Through this process farmers will be offered assistance with their manure management/E&S farm plans if needed. The staff was able to conduct 45 inspections covering 2,269 acres in 2017. Staff assisted 20 farmers with manure management plans and 21 farmers with the development of Ag E&S plans.

Through the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects program, farmers were able to contract planners to write their nutrient management plans. Farmers were reimbursed up to 80% with a maximum of $1,000 towards the cost of hiring plan writers. Farmers were able to contract 1581 acres for planning. Also under a CBP Special Project, a farm was able to install 510 feet of streambank fencing, 879 feet of perimeter fencing, 984 feet of interior fencing and 220 feet of water pipeline.

Attention Farmers:
The district hosted the Farmers Winter Meeting with 90 in attendance. These annual meetings educate local farmers/landowners with current agricultural and environmental updates and current issues.

Manure management is still a hot topic, and to get the word out the district set up a display at the Beaver Fair. Two workshops were held to introduce the manual and instructions on writing a plan. Also, staff has been assisting small farm operations with writing manure management plans.

Service Forester Gerald Hoy introduces PSU's Dr. Jim Finley to speak at the Agroforestry Workshop on maple syrup production. Jim was one of seven speakers at the event.
APPLAUSE

Chairman Roger Reichenbach presents the Conservation Contractor of the Year to Spring Township Supervisors L-R: Reichenbach, Deb Browne, Doug Garrison, John Kauffman

They’re All Winners

One hundred thirty five people attended the district’s Annual Awards Banquet on March 17 at the Christ Community United Methodist Church near Selinsgrove. The guest speaker was Mike Klimkos who presented a program on wildfire history in PA.

The Distinguished Service Award went to former Nutrient Management Technician Rachel Naylor.
Let’s Hear It Again

Stanley Inch of Selinsgrove received the Wildlife Conservation Award.

Retiring board member Robert Klingler, Jr. accepts the Distinguished Service Award.

FFA award winners pose with Chairman Roger Reichenbach.
Can You Follow Our Act?

Nutrient Management
Snyder County has approximately 67 concentrated animal operations (CAO) and 6 volunteer animal operations (VAO) with approved nutrient management plans. Twenty one of the CAOs and VAOs are concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). In 2017, 32 CAO nutrient management plans were approved as well as 1 VAO nutrient management plan. One of the CAO plans approved in 2017 was a new CAO. There was another CAO nutrient management plan that was submitted but as of December 31, 2017 was still in the review process. The total AEUs (Animal Equivalent Units) in plans was 18,307.21.

Trail of Trees
As part of the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program under Act 13, the Snyder Conservation District was awarded a grant to rehabilitate the Selinsgrove Center Nature Trail. The 1/2 mile long trail was originally constructed through a Grower Greener Grant. The trail was completed with the placement of 25 tree identification markers. The current grant was approved to extend the trail by .8 mile and include additional trail markers.

Pace Yourself
On October 1 the Pennsylvania Forestry Association spearheaded the first “Walk In Penns Woods”. Every county in PA was encouraged to celebrate Pennsylvania forests by holding a casual trek through their forests. The SCCD participated by holding a tour of the newly established “Trail Of Trees” at the Selinsgrove Center farmland.

Assistant District Forester John Portzline shown here assisting with tree identification at the first Walk In Penns Woods at the Trail of Trees nature trail located at the Selinsgrove Center farmland.
Look What We Did!

Watershed and Beyond

Educational opportunities continued with programs such as a water quality presentation to West Snyder Elementary School 5th graders, Middleburg Elementary School Kindergarten Eco Day, Midd-West 5th Grade Outdoor Ed, Selinsgrove Middle School’s Peer Leadership event, several ecology day events and various classroom programs. A combined effort between the SCCD and the Lower Penns Creek Watershed helped to start a Trout In The Classroom at the Selinsgrove School District.

Agroforestry

We had an overwhelming turnout for our first Agroforestry Workshop. The event was held at the Shade Mt Winery with 75 in attendance. Presentations were given on charcoal making, maple syrup production, riparian forest buffers, mushroom growing and the marketing of ginseng/goldenseal. Speakers were from Quiet Creek Herb Farm, DCNR, Community Partnerships RC&D, and Penn State University.

Farm Girls Rock

The first Farm Girls Rock, formerly known as Women In Ag, was held at the Shade Mt. Winery with 60 in attendance. A joint effort with Ag Choice Farm Credit, the event covered topics such as conservation district and FSA activities, women’s mental health, financing, a local women’s shelter and the art of beekeeping which included making a personalized candle out of beeswax.

NRCS Engineering Technician Shane Eia assisted at the Kindergarten Eco Day at Middleburg Elementary School.

Above: FSA County Executive Director Kelly DeLucy gives a talk at the Farm Girls Rock.

Right: Three generations, Carol Kessler, Kate Swineford and Melissa Swineford make a craft at Farm Girls Rock.
OUR PARTNERS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) - Middleburg 570-837-0007 Ext. 2
Lower Penns Creek Watershed 570-837-3000 Ext 112
Middlecreek Valley Antique Association 570-837-0156
Natural Resources Conservation Service – Middleburg 570-837-0007 Ext. 3
PA Bureau of Forestry – Laurelton 570-922-3344
PA Department of Agriculture – Montoursville 570-433-2640
PA Department of Transportation – Selinsgrove 570-372-9100
PA Fish and Boat Commission – Pleasant Gap 814-359-5100
PA Game Commission – Huntingdon 814-643-1831
Penn State Cooperative Extension Service – Mifflinburg 570-556-4760
Snyder County Farm Bureau 570-539-8992
Snyder County Planning Commission – Middleburg 570-837-4257

Save It For Later

Since the program began in 1988, federal, state, county and local governments have invested more than $1.3 billion to preserve nearly 5,000 farms totaling 522,545 acres in 57 counties for future agricultural production. In Snyder County there are 24 preserved farms totaling 2,707 acres. In 2017, two farms in Spring and Jackson Townships were accepted into the program with 30 and 207 acres respectively.

Snyder County Ag Land Preservation Board Members: Craig Mitterling, Linda Fisher, Dennis Zechman, Carl Landis, John Aucker, Dale Tittle and Scott Wendt.

Michael and Mary Hauck of Jackson Township became the latest easement farm accepted into the program. PDA Secretary Russ Redding presented the certificate at the PA Farm Show.
AGENCY REPORTS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) - Kelly DeLucy, CED
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP)—Active contracts earned approximately $179,600 in rental payments. Producers received $8,730.63 in cost shares. Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)—Loans were disbursed for $341,976.00
Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) — Payments made for Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) were $1,489.00
Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) For 2016 crop year, the 2017 payments were totaled at $401,200.00
Total Funds Disbursed—$932,995.63
Web Site: www.fsa.usda.gov then go to Conservation Programs

Farm Service Agency (FSA) - Chip Weaver, Farm Loan Manager
2 Direct Farm Ownership Loans totaling $525,000.00
2 Micro Operating Loan totaling $16,300.00
13 Youth Loans totaling $41,000
6 Direct Operating Loans totaling $349,270.00
Web Site: www.fsa.usda.gov then go to Farm Loan Programs

PA Bureau of Forestry – Gerald Hoy, Service Forester
Youth
Sun Area FFA Forestry 5th Grade Envirothon Middle School Envirothon
SV & PA Envirothon West Snyder/Midd Outdoor Ed HS Job Shadowing
Selinsgrove SFI Logging Middleburg Elementary School Earth Day
Adult/Landowner
5– Woodland Owner Association Programs SCCD Farmer’s Winter Meeting
SCCD Annual Banquet Agroforestry Workshop
Cooperative Assistance
SCCD Meetings Selinsgrove Shade Tree Selinsgrove Tree City USA
SCCD Trail of Trees Private Landowner Visits NRCS—Forestry EQIP
General Outreach
Beaver Fair Display and Staffing PA Walk in Penns Woods
Web Site: www.www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry

PENNDOT – John Steininger, Roadway Programs Manager
The department completed cleaning of 100 linear feet of pipe and installing of 2,000 linear feet of new pipe. The department also cleaned 3,200 linear feet of roadside ditches and 300 linear feet of stream channels. Erosion control measures include the installation of 300 feet of silt barrier fence and 1,500 square yards of seeding and mulching. A rock lining of 850 linear feet was also used to prevent erosion in drainage swales. The department’s Adopt-A-Highway Program cleaned 110 lane miles of state roadways resulting in 687 bags of litter and 8.79 tons of scrap rubber tires collected and removed. PennDOT staff had two consultations with district staff.
Web Site: www.www.dot.state.pa.us

Administrative Assistant Renee Swineford shows 5th grade students at Outdoor Ed how to properly plant seeds.
Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA - Jill Weaver, Supervisory DC

Conservation Planning

Twenty five conservation plans were written covering 3,411.70 acres of cropland, pasture, farmsteads, and forestland. This included CREP, CSP, CTA and EQIP.

Cost Share Assistance

Under EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) the following contracts and Monetary obligation amounts were submitted:
- Poultry - 1 contract totaling $107,640
- Air Quality - 2 contracts totaling $28,882
- Beginning Farmer - 1 contract totaling $37,435
- Forestry - 1 contract totaling $14,127

For the CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) these contracts were submitted:
- 3 Contracts (renewals) with a total obligation of $287,545
- 2 Contracts with a total obligation of $174,855

Under the CTA (Conservation Technical Assistance) 2,480 acres of conservation applied

Under the EQIP 772 acres of conservation were applied.

Web Site: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Pennsylvania Game Commission – Harold Malehorn, State Game Warden

Sportsmen’s Clubs meetings attended—6
Hunter-Trapper Education courses—8
Fines collected—$11,785.00
Non season bear kills—7
Citizens issued—46
Bear incident complaints—32
Students certified in Hunter Ed—275
Wildlife surveys—Summer turkey sightings

Web Site: www.pgc.state.pa.us

Snyder County Planning Commission – Lincoln Kaufman, Planning Director

In 2017 the County saw 106 subdivisions or Land Developments that were processed, which resulted in 50 lots being created. Over the past 10 year span the County has seen an average of 84 Subdivision/Land Developments per year with an average of 165 new lots being created. Since 2013 there have been 27 plans reviewed for the development of poultry barns which consist of a total of 49 barns. In 2017 there were 5 plans for a total of 8 poultry barns.

The SCPC coordinated with the EMS Department to update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Also, Snyder County has nearly $500,000 in potential funds from the USACE for flood mitigation projects due to the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project. Continued design of the CSVT will result in the future construction of the Routes 11-15 throughway. Lastly, SCPC Director Lincoln Kaufman has been an asset to the board as an associate director by keeping staff updated on local land developments.

http://www.snydercounty.org

Chip Spatz and Barry Spangler teach Kindergarten students about soils at Eco Day.
Workers set the foundation for a box culvert along Ritter Ridge Road in Beaver Township.

Jason Winey assists 5th graders make seed balls at Outdoor Ed.

Director Jake Stiefel takes his turn in the dunk tank at the Snyder County Night-Out.

District Manager Craig Bingman helps a Kindergarten student search for bones in an owl pellet.
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT