

Farmer's Winter Meeting Held near Selinsgrove

The Snyder County Conservation District held its annual Farmer's Winter Meeting on Friday, February 14, 2020, at the Christ Community United Methodist Church, 3939 Park Road near Selinsgrove. Meeting business sponsors were AgChoice Farm Credit, Seedway, Hoover Tractor and Renewable Energy Consultants.

Guest speakers came from the farming community, PA No-Till Alliance (PANTA), Stroud Water Resource Center, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), PA State Conservation Commission (SCC), Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads Studies, Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) and Penn State Extension (PSE).

Ninety-six (96) people attended the meeting. Topics presented during the meeting include the following: Understanding the science and the practical application of soil health on your farms, U.S. Department of Agriculture updates, The PA Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) tax credit program, repairing and maintaining farm lanes and the SCCD's stream buffer program.. There was also information about pesticide recordkeeping, care while mixing pesticides, managing plant parasitic nematodes and below ground insect pests.



Above: Leroy Bupp, farmer and PANTA Board Member, gives a practical yet entertaining presentation to farmers present on the importance of building soil organic matter through no-tilling and keeping soils covered as much as possible with growing plants. The plants capture sunlight and convert carbon into food sources for beneficial symbiotic biology, which in turn helps the plants. Increasing soil organic matter increases a field's water holding capacity. Soils with more organic matter are able to take in more rainwater from heavy storms, decrease soil erosion and soil loss, and hold more water for plants to use later during dry spells.

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). Major sponsors who contributed financially were present to give brief presentations regarding their businesses during the meeting.

Questions or comments about this meeting may be forwarded to [Barry Spangler](#), Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, extension 118.



Above Photos: Lisa Blazure, Stroud Water Resource Center Soil Health Coordinator (left) and Kris Ribble, USDA-NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, discuss soil health to farmers. Below Left: Joel Semke, SCC REAP Administrator, explains the state's tax credit program available for farmers for plan development, certain equipment purchases and installing best management practices (BMPs). Below Right: Tim Ziegler, Field Operations Specialist from the Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies, give farmers ideas on who to improve their farm lanes from poor drainage and stormwater runoff.



Educational Presenters not pictured in this write-up include: Anna Busch, Field & Forage Crops Educator and Joel Imgrund, Agriculture/Horticulture Program Assistant, Penn State Extension; Lauren Cheran, SCCD Watershed Specialist; Brandon Ford, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist and Michael Sherman, USDA-FSA County Extension Director.



###

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Major sponsors for this year's meeting were AgChoice Farm Credit, Seedway, Hoover Tractor and Renewable Energy.

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

All USDA, Penn State and Conservation District programs and services are offered on a non-discrimination basis.

Version: 3-6-2020