



Snyder County Conservation District

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Conservation District Helps Farmers & Water Quality with Corn Nitrogen Testing

The Conservation District offered a service for farmers to test corn fields in determining whether they have to add extra nitrogen on their corn fields before it begins its growth spurt. The Conservation District tested 406 acres of corn in June and July 2011.



The meter (shown being used in the picture), reads the amount of chlorophyll on the corn leaf which helps determine the sidedress nitrogen needs for the farmer. If there is enough nitrogen in the soil due to prior fertilizer and manure applications, the farmer then does not have to spend money for unneeded nitrogen. Also, the excess nitrogen, if applied, would likely not runoff or leach away into nearby streams or groundwater.

Snyder County farmers paid a \$10.00 onetime fee for the service. This service was funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Special Project grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Conservation District plans to offer this service again for farmers in 2012.

Additional information about the 2011 program can be found on our [fact sheet](#). For more information about other programs for farmers, contact the [Snyder County Conservation District](#) at 570-837-3000.

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