Snyder County Conservation District

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Farmer's Winter Meeting Held near Selinsgrove

The Snyder County Conservation District held another Farmer's Winter Meeting on Friday, February 17, 2012, at the Christ Community United Methodist Church, 3939 Park Road near Selinsgrove. Major sponsors included Ag Choice Farm Credit, Metzler Forest Products, LLC, Country View Family Farms, Valley Ag & Turf, TeamAg and Grass Roots 21.

One hundred five (105) people attended the meeting. Topics presented during the meeting include the following:

- Methods that farmers can reduce problems with neighbors, etc.
- Best methods of utilizing pastures
- Managing cover crops on farms
- Pesticide handling safety
- Upcoming USDA programs
- How to handle the brown marmorated stinkbug
- Attracting natural crop pollinators on your farm
- Crop fertility management
- Biology of pesticide resistance

Speakers came from the private sector, Community-Partnerships and Capital Resource Conservation & Developments (RC&Ds), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Penn State Cooperative Extension and Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and the PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program.

Lunch was provided at $5.00 per person. Vendors representing various businesses and organizations were also present. Dan Naylor, Eastern Regional Director for PA Department of Agriculture (PDA), offered an update for farmers.

Above: Beth Futrick, PA Agricultural Ombudsman, offers advice on how not to attract negative attention towards their farms.

Questions or comments about this meeting should be forwarded to Barry Spangler, Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, extension 118.

Left: Titus Martin, Capital RC&D Grazing Advisor and practicing grazer, describes to farmers how to estimate forage needs for cattle. Right: Dave Hartman, Agricultural Extension Educator, talks about pesticide resistance biology.

Upper Left: Joel Imgrund, Extension Program Assistant, shows reminds farmers about proper pesticide handling safety. Lower Left: Kevin Morgan, Community Partnerships RC&D Natural Resource Specialist, explains how to attract natural crop pollinators on farms. Center: PDA Eastern Regional Director Dan Naylor speaks. Right: Dr. Doug Beegle, Penn State Agronomy Professor, discusses how to best manage crop nutrients.

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Financial and other support for this meeting is provided by AgChoice Farm Credit in Lewisburg, Country View Family Farms in Middletown, Valley Ag & Turf in Watsontown and Reedsville, Metzler Forest Products of Reedsville and TeamAg of Lancaster and Elysburg are businesses that contract and serve local farmers. Grass Roots 21 offer grazing technical advice in southcentral Pennsylvania. Additional funds are from a Chesapeake Bay Program-Special Project grant from PA Department of Environmental Protection.

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

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

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