Take a scenic drive through Snyder County. The tour features five covered bridges built between 1870 and 1908. Three bridges are located off of Route 104 and span the Mahantango Creek. Two bridges are located in western Snyder County near Beavertown and in Beaver Springs. All five are single-span Burr Arch Truss bridges reflecting the beauty of construction and design not found in the steel and concrete bridges of today.

The Burr Arch Truss design is named for one of the most prominent bridge builders of the era, Theodore Burr. One of his first bridges, built in 1804, spanned the Hudson River in New York. His design was soon adopted by area bridge makers. The Burr Arch Design used two long arches on each side. The double arches rested on the abutments on each end of the structure. Multiple Kingpost structures were placed between the arches to serve as roof supports.

As you travel you’ll also discover modern as well as Amish and Old Order Mennonite farms, interesting country stores, beautiful scenery, and family owned restaurants serving all your favorite country dishes.
1. Curry’s Corner/North Oriental Covered Bridge

This single-span bridge features multiple Kingposts with Burr Arch Truss and measures 68’ 11” in length. Built over Mahantango Creek, you can drive over this bridge originally built in 1908. Painted barn red, it is covered with vertical boards and batten siding. The bridge rests on stone and mortar abutments. The deck has been heavily reinforced with I-beams. Known as North Oriental Covered Bridge, Curry’s Corner Bridge, and the Beaver Covered Bridge. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1979.

**Directions:** Located on SR2023, just North of Oriental, PA. In Oriental, at junction of SR2023 and SR2024, go north on SR 2023 for 2 miles.

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2. Meiser’s Mill/Sheaffer Covered Bridge

Built in 1907, the bridge is located on private land and the owner is trying to restore the bridge. During the flood of 2006, high water rammed a tree into its side. The structure was saved during the height of the storm when the owner, her sister and a friend were able to saw the tree and remove it from the bridge. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1979, it measures 90’ long.

**Directions:** From Route 104 turn west on to Oriental Road and proceed 2 miles to Mahantango Creek. Travel slowly over the concrete bridge. The covered bridge can be seen to the right (north). You must request permission to visit.
3. **Aline/Meiserville Covered Bridge**

A single-span Burr Arch Truss bridge that measures 69’ 11” in length. Built in 1884 it spans the North Branch of the Mahantango Creek. The bridge was bypassed in 1982 by a new bridge that is located just north of the old bridge. It is used only for foot traffic. The structure has no steel reinforcements and rests on stone and mortar abutments. It is covered with barn red vertical board and batten siding. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1979. **Directions:** From Rt. 35 and Rt. 104 junction, travel south on Rt. 104 for 4 miles to the junction of SR104 and Aline Church Road.

There is a round picnic table inside the bridge and a lovely waterfall across the road. This is the perfect spot for a picnic, fishing and picture taking.

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4. **Dreese/Beavertown Covered Bridge**

A Snyder County treasure, this single span Burr Arch Truss bridge measures 103’ 6” in length. Built in 1870 and restored in 2001, it spans the picturesque Middle Creek. You cannot drive over this bridge; it was bypassed by a new highway in 1979. It is covered with vertical board and batten siding and is painted barn red. There is a plaque mounted on the portal indicating the bridge’s name as the “Dreese’s Covered Bridge.” It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1979. **Directions:** From Middleburg, travel west on 522 for 5.7 miles to Covered Bridge Road (TR600). Turn right on Covered Bridge Road and go 0.9 mile. This bridge features a fine example of the Burr Arch Truss Design.
5. Klinepeter Covered Bridge

Originally built one mile northwest of its present location, this bridge was moved and rebuilt in the village of Beaver Springs in 1982. A single-span Burr Arch Truss it is the longest covered bridge in the county, measuring 105’ 5” and is located over a dry creek bed. It is covered with barn red vertical board and batten siding, the roof is sheet metal, and the deck has runners down the center. Also known as “Gross Covered Bridge” and Overflow Covered Bridge.” It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 29, 1977.

Directions: In Beaver Springs, at the junction of SR235 and SR 522, go south on SR 522 for just 0.1 mile to Spring Street. Turn left on to Spring Street for 0.1 mile to Railroad Street; turn right on Railroad Street for 0.1 mile to the bridge. You can travel over the bridge and park in an area to your left.
Did you know?

- Wooden bridges tend to deteriorate rapidly from exposure to the elements and have a useful lifespan of only nine years. Covering the bridges helped to protect their structural parts. It is estimated by covering a wooden bridge the structure’s life span can extend to 80 years or more.

- At one time Pennsylvania had over 1,500 covered bridges.

- Pennsylvania has the most covered bridges (224 were counted in 1989).

- The Burr Arch is the most prevalent bridge design.

- Most covered bridges have openings under the roof line enabling the light to filter in, thus making the crossing safer.

- Historians believe the bridges were painted barn red so the bridge would look more like a barn to a horse. Since horses tend to be skittish about crossing over flowing water, the illusion helped farmers and the horse and carriage traveler navigate the obstacle without a problem. The fact that the bridge was covered and the horse couldn’t see the water below, helped make the trip successful.

- The longest and most versatile covered bridge in the world during its existence was the Columbia-Wrightsville, Pennsylvania Bridge. Measuring 5,960 feet it spanned the mile-wide Susquehanna River. It featured railroad tracks, a towpath for canal boats crossing the river between two canals on either bank, and a carriage/wagon/pedestrian road. It was burned on June 28, 1863 by Union militia during the American Civil War to prevent its usage by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia during the Gettysburg Campaign.