



**Agricultural BMP, CREP & Buffer Tour Held in Snyder County**

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) held a tour on Wednesday, June 28 that visited and viewed conservation practices, called best management practices (BMPs), installed on their farms to prevent nutrient and sediment pollution. The SCCD cooperated with USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Middleburg Field Office and other agency staff.

Twenty-six (26) participants met at the Whispering Pines Fruit Farms parking lot near Mt. Pleasant Mills. They rode in rented vans to view several USDA and SCCD projects that received technical and financial assistance. Practices viewed include riparian stream buffers through USDA’s CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and SCCD’s buffer programs, as well as stream cattle crossings, poultry manure storages, roofed heavy use areas, roof gutters & outlets, streambank pasture fencing, cattle walkways, and streambank & fish habitat restoration projects through USDA and SCCD programs. Everyone received an updated version of the Snyder County Ag. BMP Guide showing pictures of the various BMPs installed for farms and landowners throughout Snyder County.

Speakers explained how these programs work and how these practices were installed. Interested farm operators and landowners can reach out for more information about CREP, SCCD streamside conservation programs, SCCD Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), SCCD County Action Plan (CAP) and other potential funding sources, and USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Main tour guides were Lauren Cheren, SCCD Program Administrator and Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician from the Middleburg Field Office. Other speakers included Andrea Hanson, Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever, Sunbury NRCS Field Office; Jessi Reichenbach, County Executive Director, Snyder/Union Counties, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Middleburg Office; and Brandon Ford, District Conservationist, NRCS Middleburg Field Office.

For more information about this Tour or SCCD programs, contact us at 570-837-3000 or [sccd@snydercd.org](mailto:sccd@snydercd.org). For CREP, call the USDA-FSA Snyder/Union Office at 570-837-0007, x2. For the USDA-NRCS Middleburg Field Office, call 570-837-0007, x3.

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*Top Photo: Participants look over a well maintained CREP buffer while Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, (standing, facing toward group) explains how it was installed and maintained successfully along the West Branch Mahantango Creek. Bottom Photo: Participants listen to Lauren Cheran, SCCD Program Administrator, (speaking to group from road center) on details about the streamside conservation practices, such as riparian buffers, streambank fencing and cattle crossings, along the Susquehecka Creek on a livestock farm right before it enters Middle Creek.*







*Top Photo: Lauren Cheran, SCCD Program Administrator, (blue shirt with black hat, speaking to group) points to a large “before” reference photo while giving details to participants about installed streamside conservation practices, such as streambank fencing and cattle crossing, log deflector and mudsills, along an unnamed stream on a livestock farm approximately a half-mile before it enters Middle Creek. Bottom Photo: Participants listen to Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician, (standing, gray shirt, in front of group) explains how the roofed heavy use area (HUA, also known as a roofed animal concentrated area, ACA) with supporting roof water controls was installed to help the farmer to temporarily store manure, keep stormwater from being contaminated by manure and needing treatment, and protect pastures from over grazing or damage due to low vegetation, too wet or snow covered.*



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