

Snyder County Agricultural BMPs Showcased in Legislative Tour

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) held a tour on Friday, November 15, 2024, that visited and viewed conservation practices, called best management practices (BMPs), installed on Snyder County farms to prevent nutrient and sediment pollution. The SCCD cooperated with USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Middleburg Field Office with this tour.

Sixteen (16) invitees from the Snyder County Commissioners office, state legislator offices, Snyder County Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) committee and SCCD Board of Directors and staff met at the SCCD office to start the tour. They rode in rented vans to view three recently completed projects receiving financial assistance for BMP installation.

Main practices viewed were a roofed poultry manure storage and two roofed animal heavy use areas (AHUAs, barnyard improvements). Each of them included some of these other supporting BMPs: roof runoff controls, underground outlets, riparian forested buffer, animal walkways, pasture fencing, and watering systems. Everyone received a copy of the Snyder County Ag. BMP Guide showing pictures of the various BMPs installed on other farms and throughout the county.

Operators whose projects were showcased applied for and received financial support from one or more of the following programs: SCCD Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), SCCD County Action Plan (CAP), and USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Engineering design and quality assurance during construction were from NRCS and/or through private consultants.

Main tour guides and speakers were Jason Winey, SCCD District Manager, and Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician from the Middleburg Field Office. Each farm operator gave their comments as well. All these projects are to aid the farmer in their management as well as reduce nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) loads from entering local surface and groundwaters.

For more information about this Tour or SCCD programs, contact us at 570-837-3000 or sccd@snydercd.org. For EQIP and other USDA programs contact the USDA-NRCS Middleburg Field Office, call 570-837-0007, x3.

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Top Photo: Tour participants listen to Jason Winey, SCCD District Manager (2nd from left) explain the ACAP funding process for this roofed poultry manure storage located near the South Branch and Main Branch of Middle Creek. Bottom Photo: Tour participants arrive at a recently installed AHUA installed near an unnamed tributary and Main Branch of Middle Creek.





Top Photo: Shane Eia, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician (foreground near left, facing right wearing gray hooded sweatshirt), explains how EQIP, with CAP contributions, helped install a new AHUA on a beef operation to tour participants. Bottom Photo: Tour participants listen to a second beef operator describe how his new roofed AHUA is helping manage his operation at his farm that lies near an unnamed tributary to Krep Gap Run.



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