

Farmers Winter Meeting Held outside Selinsgrove

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD, Conservation District) held its annual Farmers Winter Meeting on February 13, 2026, at Christ Community United Methodist Church, 3939 Park Road, outside of Selinsgrove. Ninety-nine (99) attended the meeting. A farmer/seed sales representative, three farmers, two financial representatives, conservation district staff members, a state service forester, and two representing Penn State gave the following presentations:

- Barry Spangler, SCCD Agricultural Conservation Technician gave a brief update on upcoming SCCD events and available programs and a reminder for farmers to have their plans updated.
- Lauren Cheran, SCCD Program Administrator (*Photo Below, Far Left*), led the “Stories of Stewardship” panel question and answer session with three farmers (Nolan Keister, Nate Troup and Steve Smith, *Photo Below, Standing Left to Right of Lauren*) who recently participated in SCCD and other financial assistance programs to install best management practices (BMPs) such as roofed poultry manure storages and roofed beef heavy use area structures.



- David Hunsberger, Central Regional Manager, King’s AgriSeeds (*Top Photo, Next Page, Standing*), who is also a farmer, gave his perspective on how cover crops and annual forage crops can help your soils and the beneficial life living in the soils.
- Jake Lantzch, Business Service Consultant (*Middle Photo, Right,*) and Megan Adams, Agricultural Relationship Manager (*Middle Photo, Left*), both from Horizon Farm Credit, offered information and considerations regarding passing the farming operation to the next generation.



- Penn State Agronomy Extension Educator Anne Hodgson (Mifflinburg Office) relayed information on how to protect children and pets from pesticide contamination, the impact of water quality on pesticide spray mix performance and emceed a field and forage crop pest trivia “game” to help farmers identify problems they may see in the future. *(Bottom Photo, Standing)*.



In the morning, attendees were given the choice of listening to one of two simultaneously held presentations:

- Kyle Seyler, Service Forester from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry (*Standing, Upper Photo*), gave a presentation on agroforestry (integration of trees & shrubs with crops and livestock) and silvopasture (proper integration of trees and grazing livestock).
- Tim Ziegler, Field Operations Specialist, Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads Studies (*Standing, Lower Photo*), offered tips on how to handle gravel farm lanes and how to repair them while taking proper drainage and road surface shaping.



Attendees paid \$5.00 to attend the meeting and they were given time to visit sixteen (16) tables from various local and agricultural and financial businesses. Many participants receive pesticide and nutrient management credits through PDA (PA Department of Agriculture). Local businesses advertised their services in a printed program given to attendees.



Above Photos: Attendees listen to one of the speakers during the meeting. Below Photos: Attendees stopping by to talk to local and agricultural business vendors during meeting breaks.



For more information about the following, please contact these SCCD staff members at 570-837-3000:

- Funding for Agricultural Conservation Practices: [Lauren Cheran](mailto:programadmin@snydercd.org), Program Administrator, ext. 2 or programadmin@snydercd.org.
- Learn to Write Manure Management Plans, Funding for Plan Development: [Barry Spangler](mailto:agtech@snydercd.org), ext. 5 or agtech@snydercd.org.

SCCD Staffing Statement: Some of the staffing promoting agricultural environmental compliance during this meeting and throughout this program, including planning for this meeting, was financed by in part by an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of EPA, DEP, or any of its subagencies.



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

Questions or comments regarding this meeting may be forwarded to [Barry Spangler](mailto:agtech@snydercd.org), Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, ext. 5 or agtech@snydercd.org.

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