SNYDER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

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NEWS

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Conservation District Helping Out with Cover Crop Survey

Sometime in during the week of November 16, farmers in Snyder County will see a vehicle with flashers traveling about and stopping periodically along the road looking at crop fields. DO NOT BE ALAMRED! These folks are conducting a survey on cover crop practices on local farms to help the state count the many farms using this soil conservation practice to improve water quality.

Since 2012, Capital RC&D, with support from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), coordinates a survey of tillage/crop residue and cover crop practices on agricultural acreage in selected Pennsylvania counties within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The work is completed with technical support from the county's conservation district in each surveyed county, in addition to a survey team comprised of two Capital RC&S staff members, an experienced agricultural technician and an intern.

The team travels a predetermined route in each county and stops at regular intervals to capture information about land use and agricultural activity at each stop. At sites with crop fields, the team collects data about the crop type, cover crop remnants, indications of tillage or soil disturbance, and how much plant material (residue) is remaining from the previous crop. The teams return to the same points in each county, first, in the fall, to survey cover crop use and then in the spring for the tillage survey. Data collected helps show the extent to which farmers are using conservation practices that impact the quality of our waterways.

Additional inquiries and questions about the survey may be forwarded to Ann Basehore, Capital RC&D Executive Director, at 717-241-4361 ext. 16, 401 East Louther Street, Suite 307, Carlisle, PA, or Barry Spangler, Snyder County Conservation District Agricultural Conservation Technician, at 570-837-3000, ext. 5, 10541 Route 522, Middleburg.

Notes: Survey information taken from Capital RC&D's website. Conservation District staffing for this project 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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