



Dirt On the District

Annual Photo Contest

2022 Photo Contest entries are rolling in and we are so excited!
Don't miss your chance to show off your photos and chance for a cash prize! \$\$



Ken Kasenter
"Cardinal"

2021 Honorable Mention

**Entries will be accepted until
January 13th, 2023.**

In an effort to support the conservation of our natural resources, we believe it is important to allow the public an opportunity to showcase what they feel are Lawrence County's finest natural resources.

To participate in the Annual Photo Contest you will find a printable entry form and contest rules on our website www.lawrencecd.org.

All entries can be mailed or personally delivered to the Lawrence County Conservation District Office located in the county courthouse.

If you intend to deliver the photos in person, please call ahead to Jeannie Shay at 724-333-2817.



Lawrence County Conservation District

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New Castle, PA 16101

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Website: www.lawrencecd.org

Community Outreach

With your help, our Social Media following is growing each month.

We encourage you to "Invite" your family and friends on Facebook to "Like" our page and hit our goal of **1200 Likes** before January!



@Lawrence County
Conservation District



Instagram
LCCD_DOD

Farewell to Legendary District Manager Jo Ann McCready

After serving the Conservation District for 32 years, Jo Ann McCready is ready to embrace her well earned retirement and we couldn't be happier for her!!

Jo Ann began working for the Lawrence County Conservation District in 1990 as an Erosion and Sedimentation Prevention Technician and was promoted to District Manager in 1991. During her tenure as District Manager, Jo Ann has mentored countless employees, coworkers and colleagues and has served in various capacities for numerous organizations outside of the conservation district.



Jo Ann served on the legislative committee for the PA Association of Conservation Districts and as treasurer for Penn Soil RC&D Council . She has managed and been part of several watershed, source water, abandoned mine reclamation, education, revitalization, and trail organizations. Jo Ann has always been deeply involved in environmental education initiating the development of our own county Nature Camp.



Jo Ann's personality and commitment to the District will be greatly missed.

Recognition has included a dinner with board members and employees, followed up with an honorary party at the Courthouse with all her professional friends and acquaintances.

Jo Ann's presence with the Lawrence County Conservation District will be greatly missed as she embarks on her next chapter of life. We wish her all the best of luck and slower paced days with her family and friends. Though we expect she will stop by every so often - at least we sure hope so!



Welcome our New Agriculture Technician Mitchell Whiting



The Lawrence County Conservation District welcomed new Agricultural Conservation Technician, Mitchell Whiting, to the staff in October 2022. He is a graduate of New Wilmington Area High School and a member of the Farm Bureau.

Mitchell has attended several state trainings, is studying Conservation Planning, and will work toward his certification in the Nutrient Management Program in early 2023. He will be overseeing construction of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) through grant funds and funds available through the new Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). Mitchell will also be assisting Ag producers with writing Manure Management Plans.

Feel free to contact Mitchell with Conservation Agriculture related questions at mwhiting@lawrenceccd.org

2022 Ag Encounter

Lawrence County Penn State Extension hosted the Annual “Ag Encounter” at the Fairgrounds September 27th and 28th. This event is open to all fourth graders in the county including homeschool groups. It was exciting to have an in-person event after a two year hiatus.

Students rotated through 12 different stations each with a specific agricultural themed topic. Included were live animals (dairy/beef cows, pigs and sheep), Master Gardeners, orchard owner, local farmer, beekeeper, Conservation District and many others.

The objective is to help local youth understand where their food comes from, the basics of farming and the importance of healthy soil and livestock.



Jeannie Shay-Watershed Specialist/Educator and Jillian Court-E&S Technician, facilitated the “Soil” station.

The main message to over 700 students was the importance of healthy soil and how little actually exists on the earth. Therefore, Soil Conservation is essential. It was explained that the Conservation District helps local farmers and residents with conservation efforts and implementing new techniques and practices.

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program - ACAP

Agriculture is an integral part of Pennsylvania's culture, heritage, and economy. It also serves, when done correctly, as a natural filter, soaking up rainfall and runoff before it reaches Pennsylvania's creeks and the Bay downstream.

But farmers need help to implement critical conservation practices to clean up the Commonwealth's waters. The new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) will provide a true statewide cost-share program to help them implement practices that keep healthy soils and nutrients on their land and out of waterways.

What Is ACAP?

Enacted as part of the Clean Streams Fund legislation (SB 832/HB 1842), ACAP invests \$154 million to establish a statewide program that will be directed locally by county conservation districts. The program will provide financial resources to farmers to install conservation practices that work best for each farm and technical assistance funding to the conservation district to support farmer requests.

The result: healthy soils, clean water, thriving local economies to name a few—for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

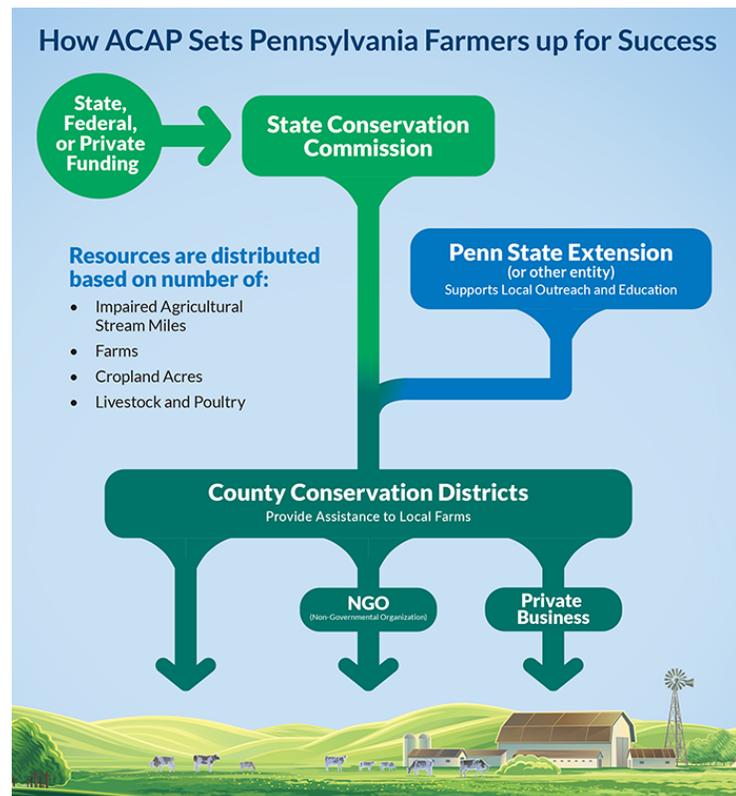
How ACAP Will Work

In early 2023 ACAP funding will be distributed to county conservation districts based on areas with the greatest need for improvement. County conservation districts will work with participating farmers and landowners, or with non-governmental organizations and farm consultants, to help design and implement soil and water conservation practices that will work best for each farm's unique circumstances.

Contact Mitchell Whiting if you are interested in finding out more about ACAP - mwhiting@lawrencecd.org

5 Ways ACAP Will Benefit Farmers

- 1. Custom Solutions :** County Conservation Districts, Penn State Extension, and others will help you with a plan tailored to your operation.
- 2. More Productive Soil:** Adopting conservation practices fosters healthy soil that will help sustain plants and animals, break down dead vegetative material, control diseases, and improve soil structure.
- 3. Reduced Costs:** No-till cultivation, cover crops, and other practices that improve soil health will strengthen nutrient cycling and natural pest resistance, reducing your need for costly fertilizers and pesticides.
- 4. Cleaner Water:** Healthy soils filter water in wet weather, retain moisture during drought, moderate soil temperature, and keep soils and nutrients from running off your land.
- 5. A Lasting Legacy:** For many of farmers, farming is more than a livelihood. It's their culture, their heritage, and their legacy. Passing down a productive operation with healthier soils and cleaner water can be key to the success of future generations.



Watershed Specialist

Flying Wild Workshop

On Saturday September 17th, Jeannie Shay - Watershed Specialist/Educator took part in a workshop for educators at Pymatuning State Park. This was a hands-on event titled "Flying Wild" pertaining to the education curriculum book supplied as part of Project WILD. Participants were provided with fun and easy to use environmental education activities focused on celebrating birds for use with elementary and middle school students.



We learned about migratory birds and their conservation. The highlight of the workshop was taking part in a PA Game Commission duck banding field experience. Each educator had multiple opportunities to handle wild ducks and assist with determining if they required banding. Using the curriculum books, some activities were facilitated to help illustrate use of the education materials provided. Later, Tamarack Wildlife Center presented a live birds of prey program.



Ellwood City Fall Festival



LCCD staff, Jeannie Shay and Jillian Court, hosted a booth at the Ellwood City Fall Festival and Car Cruise on Saturday September 24th along Lawrence Avenue.

In addition to general education about the Conservation District, they offered an Owl Craft for kids and temporary tattoos. The craft table became the highlight of the day with more than 50 people stopping by to participate.

All ages had fun with the fall themed temporary tattoos.

This was a great opportunity to distribute more of the new Logo Stickers and obtain signups for our newsletter.



Greening Your Home Workshop



December 1st, 2022, the LCCD, in cooperation with Lawrence-Mercer Recycling & Solid Waste Department, hosted a “Greening Your Home” workshop.

Participants learned ways to save money and help address climate change through energy and resource conservation, waste reduction, composting, recycling and making easy green choices.



Recycling/Solid Waste Department

The workshop illustrated how simple it can be to make a positive difference for your wallet AND the environment.

Jerry Zona, Director of Lawrence-Mercer Recycling & Solid Waste Department, touched base on many recycling topics that brought about great questions from the audience. It was made clear that all single acts add up to huge impact.

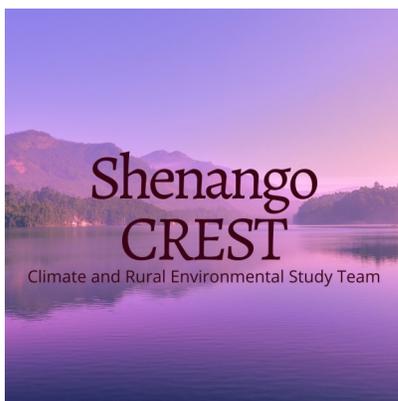
Megan Gahrng, Assistant Director of Lawrence-Mercer Recycling & Solid Waste Department, explained how we can all work on using less - reducing our usage overall and the importance of reusing items for other purposes before declaring it trash or a recyclable.

Jeannie Shay, Conservation District Watershed Specialist/Educator, educated the public on the basics of climate change and how it is now affecting our everyday lives and environment. Another topic was how to mitigate storm-water runoff at home using rain gardens and rain barrels. She also introduced representatives from the Shenango Climate and Rural Environment Study Team (SCREST), who were there to promote public conversations about climate change.



At the end of the workshop, all participants were provided an Energy Saving Kit that included a Smart Power Strip, set of Reusable Silicone bags, and 4 LED light bulbs.

Another workshop will be presented in the spring of 2023, so be sure to keep informed on our social media.



Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Mercer County Conservation District through a grant from the Shenango Climate and Rural Environmental Study Team and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, administered by the National Science Foundation.

Shenango CREST (SCREST) is a network of organizations in rural Western PA having conversations about climate change and climate action. The SCREST network is a part of the Climate in Rural Systems Partnership (CRSP) project, facilitated through the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the University of Pittsburgh UPCLOSE.

Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Control

There are many factors that affect erosion such as soil characteristics, vegetative cover, topography, and climate. For example, soils with greater fine sand and silt content are the most erodible whereas soils with more organic matter improves stability. Also, vegetative cover is important to reduce soil erodibility because the vegetation's roots hold the soil particles in place. These factors are complicated further when construction activities take place.

Erosion Problems Associated with Construction Sites

Land development often expose soils to increased stormwater runoff. The shaping of land for construction purposes changes the soil characteristics which is detrimental to infiltration and runoff patterns. Erosion can be increased to 10 or more times the natural rate which can be harmful to surrounding properties and receiving waterways.

There are serious potential hazards that can occur due to a construction project including:

- Increased exposure of soil to erosive forces.
- Increased volumes of stormwater runoff, accelerated erosion and sediment yield, and higher peak flows caused by:
 - ⇒ Removal of vegetation.
 - ⇒ Exposure of underlying soil which are more erodible than the surface soil.
 - ⇒ Soils reduced capacity to absorb rainfall due to compaction by heavy equipment.
 - ⇒ Enlarged drainage areas caused by grading and stormwater conveyance facilities.
 - ⇒ Prolonged exposure of disturbed areas due to scheduling problems.
- Alteration of the groundwater regime which affects drainage systems, slope stability and vegetative survival.
- Exposure of subsurface materials that are unfavorable to the establishment of vegetation.

Erosion best management practices (BMPs) and post-construction BMPs are implemented to mitigate these hazards.



How to Apply for NPDES Permits

NPDES permits are required for earth disturbances greater than 1 acre.

Step 1: Contact an environmental engineer for assistance filling out the application.

Step 2: Visit DEP's "E&S Resource" webpage for permitting forms and instructions. www.dep.pa.gov.

Step 3: Visit our website at www.lawrencecd.org to download LCCD's E&S Pollution Control Plan Fee Schedule.

**Contact E&S Technician
Jillian Court at
jcourt@lawrencecd.org
or 724-714-3315 with
questions.**

Tick Prevention



Photo 1: Left image shows that ticks enter a state of diapause in cold winter months. The right image shows a tick questing for a blood meal in the warm summer

In reality, approximately 1/5 of the tick population die off when the temperature is below 10°F for several days. The remaining 4/5 of the population find refuge by attaching to a host or seeking insulated shelter in leaf litter and snow. Once the temperature is consistently below freezing, the tick will enter a diapause state (or hibernation) where they decrease their cellular freezing point by reducing water in their bodies. This creates a natural antifreeze called a cryoprotectant.

There are some species that are active in the winter and one of those species is the black-legged tick which is prominent in Pennsylvania and can potentially carry Lyme Disease. In winter, these ticks search for a host when the first frost hits the region; however, they enter diapause state when the temperatures reach freezing.

Anxious for the Warm Weather to Return? Ticks are too!

When we think about ticks, we envision them sitting on knee-high vegetation reaching out to find their next meal whether it be a deer or human in the warm weather months. After the cold winter months set in, we normally do not think about ticks because how ever could they survive, right?

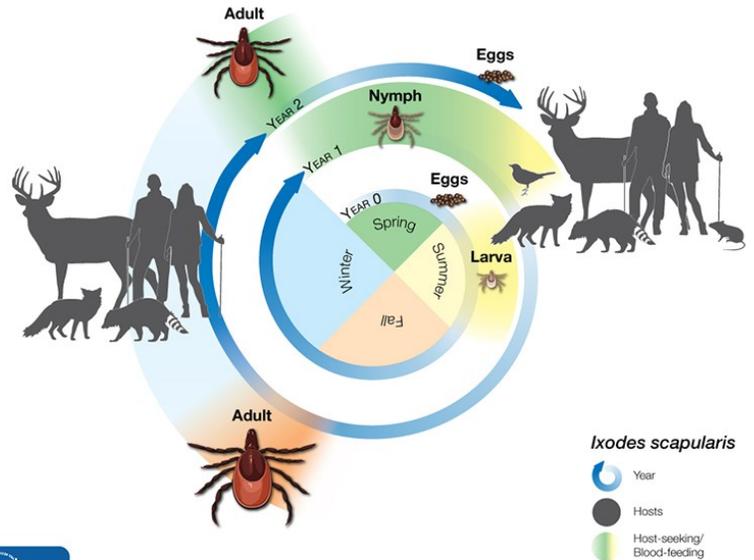


Photo 2: Lifecycle of a black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), also known as a Deer Tick.

Make Your Own Tick Removal First-Aid Kit



Removing a tick as soon as you find it will reduce the likelihood of catching any disease that a tick may be carrying. Don't wait until you need these items to find them. Put together your kit today!

A baggie to keep everything together

Fine-tipped Tweezers to remove the tick

Alcohol Swabs to clean the bite area and the tweezers after the tick is removed

Band-aids to cover/mark the bite area

Ticks are hardy and resourceful insects that can withstand even the harshest of winters. Once the temperature begins warming, ticks become active again and search for a host to feed on. Adult ticks feed in early spring, find a mate, and reproduce. Whereas, nymphs will feed all spring to summer and grow in to an adult.

So if you are hunting or enjoying the outdoors on a day that is unseasonably warm, remember to protect yourself from ticks by doing the following: use an EPA-approved repellent like Permethrin, wear long pants and long sleeves, check yourself for ticks before going in the house, and wear light colored clothing to make ticks easier to spot.

Lastly, use fine-tipped tweezers to remove a tick if you find one. You can easily create a tick removal first aid kit with simply tweezers, alcohol swabs, and Band-Aids. Keep it with you because you never know where a tick will be lurking.

Photo 3: Tips on how to make a tick removal first-aid kit.



It's why I'm here.

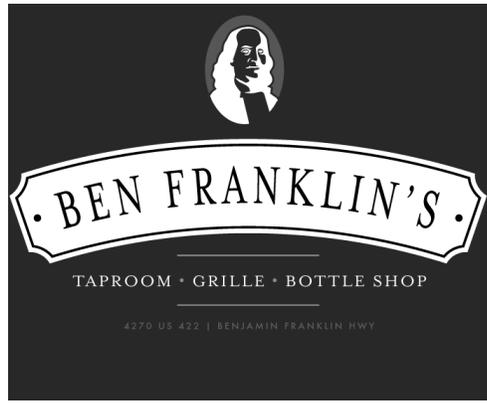
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Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here. **LET'S TALK TODAY.**



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
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Preston Auto Group



2023 - Board of Directors

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- Bruce Badger - Vice Chairman
- Dan Vogler - Secretary
- Phil Dean - Treasurer
- Don Hoye - Public Member
- Blane Sturgeon - Ag Member
- Gary McConnell - Ag Member
- Frank Romeo - Associate Director

Conservation District Staff

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mary Burris | District Manager |
| Becca Naber | District Technician |
| Jillian Court | E & S Technician |
| Mitchell Whiting | Agriculture Technician |
| Jeannie Shay | Watershed Specialist / Educator |



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Help our Facebook Grow!!

Invite your family and friends to "Like" our page as we strive for 1200 Followers before January 2023!!!



LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT