CAPITAL RC&D e-NEWS

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E-Newsletter Update

The Capital RC&D e-Newsletter is moving to a new publishing schedule that will include two newsletter formats, a bi-monthly full content edition and a brief containing important updates and event dates during alternate months. Each edition will include deadlines for submitting event or activity details. The first brief edition will be published in April 2020.

The deadline for submitting event and activity details or updates as needed is **Friday, March 27, 2020**.

Please forward information to Cheryl Burns (cburns@capitalrcd.org) and include the event name, host organization, dates, email address for primary contact, and if possible, links to relevant event information.

A few remarks related to the COVID-19 health emergency:

Our partners in the Cumberland County Food Systems Alliance have brought to our attention a need for volunteers in food banks and pantries throughout our region due to the loss of many regular volunteers who are self-quarantining or are in high risk groups. These organizations expect higher than normal demand at area food pantries due to the sudden, health-related closing of many businesses. Individual pantries have organization-specific volunteer intake, contact your local pantry for more information. The Central PA Food Bank accepts volunteers 12 years old or older and you can find more about volunteering on their website.

We hope each of you stay safe and follow the recommendations of the CDC and other experts as well as finding ways to look out for neighbors during this unprecedented health emergency.

What's happening at Capital RC&D?

Conservation Plan Videos Available for PA Farmers

Capital RC&D's two most recent videos share information about conservation management plans and how farmers or landowners can use them to stay on track with pursuing their conservation goals. The first video focuses on Understanding and Using an USDA-NRCS Conservation Plan, and the second, Conservation Management Plans: An Overview of Important Plan Types details different types of conservation management plans available for farmers in Pennsylvania.

Understanding and Using an USDA-NRCS Conservation Plan is a valuable resource for planners and other conservation professionals to share with farmers and landowners who may otherwise "file away" their conservation plan after initial best management practices are installed. The video looks at information about the planning process and goes through the steps and thought processes for regular

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self-assessment of their planned goals and on-farm activities, including:

- Are implemented practices functioning properly and working with other farm activities?
- Are there any farm business or land access changes?
- Do the goals in the plan still match the goals of the farm and owners?

USDA-NRCS District Conservationist, Diana Dellinger, discusses conservation plan elements with a farmer in Cumberland County, PA.

Regular review of the farm's conservation plan will encourage ongoing communication with county ag agencies. Some of these plans, particularly those required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are featured in the second video, *Conservation Management Plans: An Overview of Important Plan Types*.

In the video, Frank Schneider with Pennsylvania's State Conservation Commission highlights the types of plans that may be required under the Pennsylvania Clean Streams law, like nutrient and manure management or agricultural erosion and sediment (E&S) control plans. The video coincides with the release of a new Ag E&S manual released in Fall 2020 and available on the DEP Clean Water website.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the Cumberland and Franklin County USDA-NRCS offices, as well as the Franklin County Conservation District for participating in the production of these videos.

Capital RC&D Partner Spotlight

(Photo Courtesy of the Lebanon County Conservation District)

Conservation Districts Hold Annual Tree Sale

Every year in late winter, conservation districts throughout Pennsylvania host an annual tree sale as both a project fundraiser and to provide bare root or small containerized trees and landscape plants to constituents in their respective counties. Each conservation district sells a unique mix of species based on the recommendations of foresters and local preferences. In 2018 and 2019, the York County Conservation District offered white ash seedlings at the recommendation of a forester as a way to reverse losses due to Emerald Ash Borer. In 2020 they will sell paw-paw trees that are in demand likely due to the Paw-paw festival held at the Horn Farm Center each year.

Each conservation district uses the funds raised during the sale for general use, on-the-ground projects, or to sponsor

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community based activities like Envirothon. In Lebanon County, the conservation district uses the tree sale to fund a program to provide seedlings to fourth graders in the county. In the spring of 2017, the district was able to distribute 255 seedlings. According to Katie Doster, Lebanon County Conservation District Manager, "Since then, we've partnered with PPL Community Roots, who donate seedlings to us for our outreach event as well, so last year we were able to distribute 750 seedlings to 4 elementary schools. Our goal is to visit one additional 4th grade school every year so we ultimately end up visiting every 4th grade class in the entire county, every year."

Valerie Weaber, Lebanon County Conservation District, talks with fourth graders as part of the district seedling giveaway program.
(Photo Courtesy of the Lebanon County Conservation District)

Most counties also offer supplies, such as tree tubes, that provide protection for newly planted trees. Order deadlines are rapidly approaching, please review specific county information for dates and additional details:

- Adams - Order by March 26th
- Cumberland - Order by March 30th
- Dauphin - Order by March 30th
- Franklin - Order by March 20th
- Lancaster - *Orders Closed*
- Lebanon - *Orders Closed*
- York - Order by March 23rd

Upcoming Dates

March 27, 2020	South Mountain Water Workshop: POWR Regional Water Workshop; Mechanicsburg, PA
March 27, 2020	***Deadline to submit event info and updates for Capital RC&D April updates***
May 14, 2020	Capital RC&D Council Meeting, Coyle Free Library, Chambersburg, PA

For additional details about these and other Capital RC&D and partner events, including postponements or modifications resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 virus, visit the Events page at capitalrcd.org.