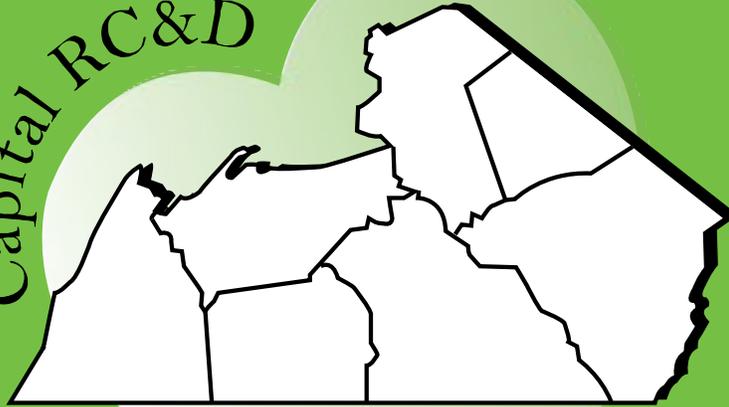


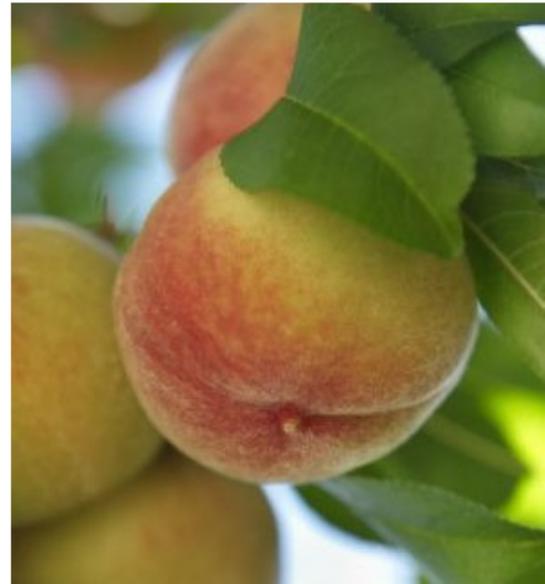
2009

CAPITAL RC&D
ANNUAL REPORT

Capital RC&D



Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to our stakeholders (defined as those affected by an organization's actions), a term the Capital RC&D will be using more frequently as we engage in a strategy for developing a new 5-Year Area Plan. I began my new role as the Board Chair in March of 2009 and I'm delighted to be presiding over this very important undertaking – charting the course for the direction of our organization during the next several years. Our stakeholders will be the key to developing a shared vision for the future of the Capital RC&D. We have engaged Jan Herrold from the York Nonprofit Management Development Center to lead us in this process during 2010.

Another key to our future success is our talented and industrious staff – the efforts of Susan Parry, Susan Richards, Kathy Greiner and Cheryl Burns (who was hired this year as an agricultural outreach specialist) are much valued. They are the “face” of the Capital RC&D and their commitment makes our organization a very high performing council.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the continuing support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; their funding and technical support is crucial to our organization. As is the support of our local County governments – we are encouraged by their generosity and support in these tight economic times.

2009 was a busy year for Capital RC&D and the issue of nutrient management topped the list – council assisted in the sponsorship of several workshops on this topic, in addition to work on no-till program activities as well as the ongoing Park the Plow and Grazing projects.

Our agricultural producers received continuing support from Capital RC&D with an emphasis on marketing tools under the banner of *South Central Buy Fresh Buy Local*. You can read all about this and the rest of the good work of the Capital RC&D in this report.

Thank you dear stakeholders for your support of Capital RC&D; we are indebted.

Committed in your service,

Bicky Redman, Capital RC&D Chair

OFFICE INFORMATION

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Kathy Greiner, Program Administrator · kgreiner@capitalrcd.org ·

Cheryl Burns, Agricultural Outreach Specialist · cburns@capitalrcd.org ·

For more information, to volunteer or to donate, please visit our website: www.capitalrcd.org ·

BOARD MEMBERS

Adams County

- Bicky Redman
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(Member-at-Large)
- Larry Martick
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(Conservation District Rep.)
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- Lia Book
Community Volunteer
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Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)

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(Conservation District Rep.)
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(Member-at-Large)

- Stephanie Harmon
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)
- Robert M. Sentz
Lebanon Co. Planning Department
(Alternate)

York County

- Mark Kimmel
York Co. Conservation District
(Commissioner Rep.)
- Keith Eisenhart
Community Volunteer
(Conservation District Rep.)
- Lonnie Young
RETTEW
(Member-at-Large)
- Felicia Dell
York Co. Planning Commission
(Alternate)
- Mark Flaharty
York Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Ron Beam
RETTEW
- Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz
Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office
- Patrick Naugle
Community Volunteer
- Mike Palko
PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
- Curtis Shreffler
USGS
- Phil Tarquino
Franklin Co. Planning Commission
- Allan Williams
Community Volunteer
- Sam Worley
Community Volunteer

*NOTE: Council meetings take place bi-monthly on the third Friday, beginning in January, and are always open to the public. Please contact the council office for specific meeting information.

VOLUNTEERS AND THE COMMUNITY

The success of RC&D initiatives depends on the support and participation of volunteers in the community. With their new energy, ideas and perspectives — volunteers contribute the necessary “person-power” behind our activities and provide vital links to community organizations and partner groups. The Council relies on our communities for project guidance. By listening to the input of our volunteers, we are able to focus on the issues and concerns that are most important to our region.

CAPITAL RC&D PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

THE CONSORTIUM FOR SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE TO WATERSHEDS (CSAW) - Capital RC&D has provided technical assistance and financial support for more than 20 local volunteer associations through this ongoing statewide project that connects “service providers” to watershed groups that need scientific as well as organizational capacity-building support. We work with over 10 partnering agencies/service providers throughout the state to deliver assistance. The program is in its sixth “funding cycle,” so has proven to be an effective delivery system for this type of assistance. At this point, we are looking for additional groups and types of service needed within local watersheds.



BUY FRESH BIKE LOCAL - On July 11, 2009, sixty-two cyclists set out from South Middleton Park in Boiling Springs to raise awareness of the wide variety of food produced in the surrounding area. This ride, sponsored by Capital RC&D in conjunction with the South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign, enabled participants to see how many tasty products could be found within a bike ride of their homes. Each rider was provided with a map outlining routes for three distinct tours, including agricultural highlights for the area.

There were two 25-mile loops (one east and one west) and one 10-mile loop. This ride offered the opportunity to explore the farm stands, farmers markets, and preserved farms within Cumberland County. Stops along the way included Shared Earth Farm in Mechanicsburg and Huntsdale Fish Hatchery in Carlisle. The day concluded with samples of fresh, locally produced food at the Dickinson College Farm in Boiling Springs. One rider later posted “...I had a great time. Good ride, well planned and carried out. Great food, thanks very much to all of you who worked so hard to pull this off.”

The 2009 Buy Fresh Bike Local event was made a success with the help of wonderful volunteers and farmers donating time and product. Supporting organizations included South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local, Slow Food Harrisburg, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Dickinson College Farm and Cumberland County Farmland Preservation Program.





LEBANON FARMER TO FARMER NETWORK -
 The effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay has evolved into an ever-growing list of technical resources, cost-share programs, and outreach strategies. Many farmers draw on these resources, but many others, for a wide range of reasons, do not. The reasons are unique to each person and each situation—even farmers with an interest in conservation may ultimately fail to act.

In 2007, a group of foundations called the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN) contacted the Capital RC&D to collaborate on an innovative project facilitating the adoption of no-till practices by farmers through a mentoring relationship with peers. Together with Penn State Extension, NRCS and the Conservation District in Lebanon County, the RC&D project goal was to build a “farmer-to-farmer” program addressing the gaps between the assistance available and farmers’ willingness to use that assistance.

A group of no-till farmers, who called themselves the “No-till Sluggers” were paired with transitioning no-till farmers providing for an on-going source of advice and exchange. Twenty-one transitioning no-till farmers drew on the experience of eleven no-till advisors during the course of the three-year project, which ended in 2009. Together, they generated an additional 3,784 no-till acres in the county, which is a reflection of the dialogue and technology transfer that took place.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP - South Mountain is a geographic feature and landscape area encompassing parts of Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and York counties in the Capital RC&D region, and is host to globally significant natural, cultural and recreational resources that contribute to the economic well-being of the region. The partners in the South Mountain Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI) have a wide array of expertise, representing federal, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and educational institutions.

The South Mountain Partnership provides an opportunity to work together to ensure that the key resources identified are sustained for today’s communities and future generations. Initial Goals defined through the partnership include: Engagement with Land Planning, Promoting Local Agriculture, Conservation of Natural Resources, Development of Business and Tourism, Growing Recreational Opportunities, and Protecting Cultural Heritage. All of the above goals align with the Capital RC&D Mission, so fit in nicely with present project activities. The RC&D Coordinator attends the planning meetings and serves on committees to assist in moving this important regional effort forward.

OTHER CAPITAL RC&D PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Claremont Community Gardens
- Grass Roots: Prescribed Grazing for the 21st Century
- PA No-Till Alliance Support
- Park the Plow for Profit
- Fuels For Schools and Beyond
- Taste the Gifts of Our Region
- Weed Control & Wildlife Habitat Technical Assistance Project

The Capital RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

“HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN HARMONY WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.”

-VISION STATEMENT

“THE CAPITAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) AREA COUNCIL, INC. IS A SEVEN COUNTY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT NETWORKS PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND PROJECTS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF OUR REGION’S NATURAL, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.”

-MISSION STATEMENT



PARTNERSHIP WITH USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Its mission is to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.
- The national Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is a unique combination of private enterprise and government assistance that encourages the blending of natural resource conservation with local economic and social values. Started in 1962, the program was designed to partner and link federal, county and local agencies with local community members.
- RC&D responds to the needs of their local communities through regional Councils. Members represent county commissions, conservation districts, business interests, nonprofits and other community-based organizations. These organizations bring a diverse cross-section of skills and interests to the table.
- Program objectives address improving quality of life, conservation of natural resources, and strengthening local citizens' ability to find and use the sources of assistance that are available to them.

CAPITAL RC&D STAKEHOLDER- DETERMINED GOALS

PLANNING PROCESS AND RESULTING GOALS

Each year the Capital RC&D establishes its *Annual Plan of Work*. This plan is the operational and management tool for the 5-year *Area Plan*. The plan directs an annual “schedule of work” toward projects that address objectives outlined in the Area Plan.

The plan of work also serves as a formal annual agreement that provides NRCS funding for RC&D staffing and office costs. NRCS supports the RC&D Councils' locally-determined goals and programs by providing a full time coordinator, a funding base and logistical support. Funding for the RC&D program is allocated annually from the 2008 Farm Bill.

Each council develops its own plan of work addressing activities during the upcoming year. Following is a list of our goals for fiscal year 2009:

- Promote long-range regional planning and community development.
- Recognize and protect water resources as a critical regional issue.
- Promote the conservation of open space, farmlands and natural areas.
- Enhance community development and agricultural sustainability.
- Grow the organizational capacity of Capital RC&D.

REGIONAL EXPENDITURES BY COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 2009 (OCTOBER 1, 2008 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2009)

“Capital RC&D is very proud of the amount of funding we have been able to bring to our communities. I think we can realistically say that the money secured for projects will directly benefit local communities with cleaner water and stronger economies.”

-Susan Richards, Capital RC&D Program Manager

COUNTY	TOTAL
Adams	\$ 42,542.00
Cumberland	41,732.00
Dauphin	52,409.00
Franklin	48,537.00
Lancaster	250,161.00
Lebanon	104,451.00
York	54,648.00
Statewide	120,917.00
TOTAL	\$ 715,397.00

“In 2009 the Capital RC&D increased the number of projects and funding in the Capital Region in spite of a tough economy. Organizations that retain their employees and branch out into new areas should help bring back our economy.”

-Gerald Heistand, Capital RC&D Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2009 (OCTOBER 1, 2008 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2009)

	TOTAL	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	PROGRAM SERVICES
INCOME			
Grants	\$ 698,729.00	\$ 21,067.00	\$ 677,662.00
Donations	5,827.00	950.00	4,877.00
Other Income	16,008.00	15,195.00	813.00
Total Income	\$ 720,564.00	\$ 37,212.00	\$ 683,352.00
EXPENSES			
Salaries/Wages	\$ 52,390.00	\$ 20,247.00	\$ 32,143.00
Rent	8,692.00	8,692.00	
Contractual Services	612,069.00	4,000.00	608,069.00
Supplies and Materials	18,921.00	2,960.00	15,961.00
Program Administration	15,862.00		15,862.00
Other Expenses	7,463.00	4,737.00	2,726.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 715,397.00	\$ 40,636.00	\$ 674,761.00
NET INCOME	\$ 5,167.00	(\$ 3,424.00)	\$ 8,591.00

*Please note: The financial statements above are presented on an accrual accounting basis.

PROJECT IMPACT TESTIMONIALS -

“Collaboration with Capital RC&D has been invaluable to the Farmers on the Square market. As our fiscal agent, they have provided guidance to the market that resulted in a successful first season in 2009 and a steadily growing second season in 2010.”

*-Carla Snyder, Farmers on the Square
Market Enhancement Specialist*

“The Capital RC&D was instrumental in funding and coordinating the launch of an effective Farmer-to-Farmer No-till Initiative in Lebanon County. They have continued the support as this project becomes a much-needed crop management service for agricultural producers — one that will ensure that farming is done in a financially and environmentally sustainable way in our area.”

*-Winifred Williams McGee, PSU Cooperative
Extension County Director*

“Getting the cost share grant from Capital RC&D is what made it possible for us to really get started with our pasture-based livestock farming. We could not have afforded to put in the fencing without their help. And it is nice to have the support of grazing advisers to let us know how we are doing.”

*-Jennifer Lane, Farmer & Grass
Roots Participant*

Capital RC&D

Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!

“Pa No-Till Alliance has had tremendous growth this past year. The funding and grants supported by the RC&D Council have given us great success. We are a non-profit group of no-till farmers educating other farmers on the benefits of a no-till system. Through those efforts, we have been able to reach a new record level of no-till acres in the state. More acres are planted in cover crops each year and most importantly, the soil and water quality have improved here in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.”

-Jim Hershey, PA No-Till Alliance President

“Connecting landowners with better weed control and wildlife management practices on their land is a good way to connect them to the Bay, and we would never have had that opportunity if not for the partnership with RC&D.”

*-Donna Morelli, PA Director, Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay*

RC&D COUNCILS IN PENNSYLVANIA

CAPITAL - (717) 241-4361

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - (717) 248-4901

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS - (570) 265-5288

HEADWATERS - (814) 375-1372

PENN'S CORNER - (724) 834-9063

PENN SOIL - (814) 226-8160

POCONO NORTHEAST - (570) 282-8732

SOUTHEASTERN PA - (215) 453-9527

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES - (814) 623-7900

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.PARCD.ORG

Serving Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York counties.