



# CAPITAL RC&D e-NEWS

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[www.capitalrcd.org](http://www.capitalrcd.org)

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## **Welcome to Capital RC&D!**

The Capital RC&D staff and council members are excited to release the first edition of the Capital RC&D e-newsletter. Capital RC&D is fortunate to partner with many different organizations to conduct the work of promoting wise use and conservation of our natural and community resources, our goal for the e-newsletter is to share details about our projects and to highlight the great work being accomplished by our partners. Some of our work is easily recognizable and visible, for example our workshops and video resources, but others are “behind the scenes” and are designed to provide support to help existing programs work better or get new initiatives started. Each bi-monthly edition will feature a Capital RC&D project, a partner project, and important links for resources, events and announcements. To learn about other Capital RC&D projects, services, and partners and view our e-news, visit [www.capitalrcd.org](http://www.capitalrcd.org).



## What’s happening at Capital RC&D?

### **Video Case Studies Highlight On-Farm Composting**



Capital RC&D staff worked with farmers throughout Pennsylvania and researchers at Rodale Institute to produce video case studies that show successful examples of on-farm composting and provide insight about each farm’s methods.

The videos, along with a corresponding written overview and bibliography, showcase five composting techniques including turned windrows, static aerated piles, in-vessel, vermicomposting, and bedded pack composting. In addition to the benefits of each system, the videos provide detail about the inputs used by each

farmer featured and how they use the finished compost. Viewers also learn about research undertaken at Rodale Institute using compost tea for weed and pest control, as well as a seed coating to help control plant disease.

Farmers and researchers featured in the videos include John Shenk, Shenk’s Berry Farm in Lancaster County, PA; Mike Brownback, Spiral Path Farm in Perry County, PA; Ned Foley, Two Particular Acres in Montgomery County, PA; Kenny and Cyrus Gehringer, Four Springs Farm in Lehigh County, PA; Rick Carr and Dr. Gladis Zinati, Rodale Institute, Berks County, PA.

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USDA-NRCS provided funding for the series and can provide technical assistance for farmers looking to implement or expand an on-farm composting system as part of their conservation practices. Farmers should contact their local NRCS office to learn more about this and other conservation practices.

Visit [www.capitalrcd.org/on-farm-composting](http://www.capitalrcd.org/on-farm-composting) to view the videos, read the written companion, or access links to learn more about composting, participating farms, and NRCS programs.

## Capital RC&D Partner Spotlight

### Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Snapshots

In 2017 and 2018, the Cumberland County Conservation District partnered with local watershed associations and the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) at Dickinson College, to conduct a series of seasonal water sampling, monitoring, and educational "snapshot" events. The Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Snapshots engaged citizen volunteers to collect samples at specific pre-identified sites throughout the watershed. The volunteers returned the samples to the ALLARM lab in Carlisle, where the volunteers assist in sample analysis to identify pH, nutrient levels (nitrate and orthophosphate), and electrical conductivity. Participants were also given information about the analysis.

The data has been compiled with other monitoring data collected by ALLARM for their ongoing Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative program. It will be used by the Cumberland County Conservation District and partners to demonstrate geologic and land use impacts within the watershed. A final report will be available in Summer 2019, additional material about the Conodoguinet Snapshot, participating partners, and supporting programs is currently available on the Capital RC&D website.



Citizen volunteers conduct water sample analysis with the assistance of students at the ALLARM lab in Carlisle. Photo credit: Lori Glace, Cumberland Co. Conservation District

## Upcoming Dates

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|----------------|---|
| April 2, 2019  | Webinar: A Fresh Start: Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation in High Tunnel Systems, Part 1 (Intro)    |
| April 9, 2019  | Webinar: A Fresh Start: Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation in High Tunnel Systems, Part 2 (Advanced) |
| April 9, 2019  | Workshop: Farm & Conservation Opportunities for Hispanic, African American, and Other Under-    |
| April 16, 2019 | Webinar: Plastics, They Make a Difference in Your High Tunnel                                   |
| April 28, 2019 | Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's, Ironmaster's Challenge                                      |
| May 17, 2019   | Capital RC&D Council Meeting: Adams County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center             |

For additional details about these and other Capital RC&D and partner events, visit the Events page at [capitalrcd.org](http://capitalrcd.org)

