



Capital RC&D's Instagram feed shared the progress of farms participating in our cover crop grazing project as they installed fence, saw the first flush in their pasture and cover crop mix, and as their grazing herds.

Follow [capital\\_rcd](#) on Instagram to see how research is being conducted and the changes in the fields as we move into summer.



Signs of spring at the Letort Spring Garden Preserve in Carlisle, PA.

## What's Happening at Capital RC&D?

### Stay Tuned for Capital RC&D's Conservation Podcast

What projects and programs are making conservation happen in our region? Who are the key partners needed to accomplish your work? Are there any issues or hurdles that make this work difficult? How do folks find themselves in conservation related careers?

These are a few of the questions we hope to address in the new Capital RC&D Conservation Podcast.



The first episode introduces Anna Yelk, Executive Director of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) and Capital RC&D Council member. It focuses on how CPC started, their role in the region, a current acquisition that will impact the Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area, and Anna's journey within the organization.

Future episodes will feature regional project partners, "on-the-ground" professionals, and other conservation leaders.

Podcast episodes are accessible via iTunes/Apple Podcast, Spotify, and the Capital RC&D website. If you

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are new to podcasts, you can use listen to episodes through your computer's internet browser or through iTunes/Apple Podcast, Spotify, or other podcast apps on your phone or tablet.

## Capital RC&D Partner Spotlight

The past three months have been difficult. Everyone has been impacted by COVID-19, some more than others through illness, loss, or inability to work. Those able to work from home or with limited office

“The most important factor in survival is neither intelligence nor strength but adaptability.”

- Charles Darwin

hours are now accustomed to video conferencing and seeing emails sometimes sent very late at night or in the small hours of morning. Regardless of the exact impact experienced, we’ve all had to adjust and adapt both as individuals and as organizations and businesses. As Pennsylvania reduces restrictions, we’ll adapt again but to protocols that allow us to safely collaborate in-person, host small educational events, and enjoy the fellowship of colleagues, constituents and customers.

Many Capital RC&D partners have already adapted events and programming to accommodate current and future physical distancing requirements. Some, Capital RC&D and county conservation districts included, are successfully hosting board meetings via video or voice

conferencing services. Others, like the South Mountain Partnership are transitioning events like their spring partnership-wide meeting to a webinar format.

Other organizations, Penn State Extension and Capital RC&D included, have postponed field days from the spring to mid or late summer.

In a previous edition, we announced the annual tree and seedling sales held by conservation districts throughout the state. Many were forced to cancel but the conservation districts in both Lancaster and Lebanon Counties were able to proceed by developing protocols that allowed staff to bundle orders and for



Participants learn about dove banding as part of the week-long Lancaster County Youth Conservation School (Photo courtesy of Lancaster County Youth Conservation School)

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customers to pick-up orders via drive-thru or other contactless options. Several counties use funds from their tree and seedling sale to fund youth activities like Envirothon, but like many other youth activities this spring, Envirothon was also cancelled.

Each year the Lancaster County Conservation District and Federated Sportsmen of Lancaster County host the week-long Lancaster County Youth Conservation School (YCS) for students age 14-16. This spring the organizers faced the possibility of cancelling what would have been the school's 42nd year but opted to restructure the program and host the camp virtually instead.

Extracurricular activities were extremely limited this spring and by quickly redesigning programming, YCS organizers are securing an opportunity to help students stay engaged and motivated. In addition, the virtual programming effectively expands the reach of their conservation messaging because of increased capacity, not only allowing more students to participate but also those from outside Lancaster County or those who may have been hesitant to attend in person.

Youth participants may miss the in-person camaraderie, hands-on experiences, and camping each night at the Northern Lancaster County Game and Fish Protective Association, but they will still have access to excellent educational experiences through virtual field trips and live-streamed activities and instruction. The school will run from 9-11 AM daily on July 20-24, 2020. There is no cost but registration is required. YCS kits containing printed materials and activities for the week will be mailed to each participant registering by July 6, 2020.

To learn more about the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School, visit [lancasterconservation.org/education/youth-conservation-school](https://lancasterconservation.org/education/youth-conservation-school)

## Upcoming Dates



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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 26, 2020    | <b><i>Deadline to submit event info and updates for Capital RC&amp;D's June 2020 e-News</i></b> |
| July 9, 2020     | Capital RC&D Council Meeting, Adams County Conservation District Office, Gettysburg, PA         |
| Aug. 11-13, 2020 | *CANCELLED* Penn State's <a href="#">Ag Progress Days</a> , Pennsylvania Furnace, 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](https://capitalrcd.org).*

