



## **Capital RC&D is Now on Instagram**

Capital RC&D staff and partners often take photos for projects, at meetings, or during events that may only be used for reference or a report destined for a handful of reviewers. Yet these photos often demonstrate great conservation activities throughout the region, as well as behind-the-scenes efforts that make projects and activities successful, and should be shared. So, Capital RC&D will now share these photos via Instagram, @capital\_RCD. If you aren't currently an Instagram user, you can also find our account by selecting the Instagram glyph on the [capitalrcd.org](http://capitalrcd.org) homepage. We hope you will enjoy seeing more day-to-day activities!



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

### **Cover Crop Grazing is the Focus of Our Latest Collaborative Project**

In July, Capital RC&D kicked-off a two year cover crop grazing project funded through a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant, that examines the inclusion of a grazed cover crop as part of a regular crop rotation on livestock farms. The project, *Promoting Grazing and Cover Cropping by Developing Better Practice Information, Outreach and Cost-sharing*, will develop and share best practices for grazing cover crops and the impact on soil health by, follow the progress of four farms implementing cover crop grazing systems. Grant funds will also provide cost share for grazing infrastructure and technical assistance to farmers in the Capital RC&D region. Of the four participating farmers, two are located in Adams County and two are in Franklin County. Each farm has unique challenges, and various experience levels as graziers and with using cover crops, but all are curious to see how grazing impacts their field productivity. All four farmers will graze dairy replacements or beef cattle. Project team members including Capital RC&D staff, researchers from Penn State University, Grazing Specialists from USDA-NRCS, Grazing Advisors from Capital RC&D, and researchers with the USDA Ag Research Service, visited participating farms in August to learn



Project partners visiting participating farm in August 2019

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about the unique features and concerns of each farm. Long before the team visit, the NRCS Grazing Specialist and Capital RC&D Grazing Advisors spent hours working with each farmer to plan how grazing could be implemented into their crop rotation. This required identifying existing and needed infrastructure for both grazing and equipment access, and answering questions about livestock, paddock size, and nutrition. This background work was key to ensuring that each farmer could not only participate in the program but be successful in their grazing endeavors. In the four months since the site visits, the farmers have harvested regular crops, planted winter cover crops, and installed or scheduled installation of fences and other infrastructure. One farm with a previously planted cover crop mix, was able to start grazing cattle and researchers visited in early October to collect forage samples for analysis.



Beef cattle grazing cover crop mix. (Photo by S. Duiker)

Through our partnership with PA Grazing Lands Coalition (PA-GLC), we will introduce the farmers and researchers over the winter via individual episodes in PA-GLC's Graziers Grapevine podcast. Look for additional project information and results, including pasture walks and videos, in future newsletter editions and via the events page on [capitalrcd.org](http://capitalrcd.org).

## Capital RC&D Partner Spotlight



PA GLC members tour Village Acres Farm in Juniata County during National GLC focus group meeting.

### Local, Regional, and Statewide Grazing Support

For more than 10 years, Capital RC&D has helped promote grazing throughout South Central PA through projects that provide technical and financial support, as well as partnership with stakeholder groups at the local, regional, and statewide level. These groups provide education and mentorship through one-to-one engagement, workshops, and field days, to help ensure the success of new and experienced graziers.

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Capital RC&D has also worked with the Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition (PA GLC). PA GLC is a statewide organization that includes members from local and regional stakeholder groups, as well as technical advisors from institutions like USDA-NRCS, USDA ARS, and Penn State Extension.



PA GLC provides educational programs including hosting the Graziers Grapevine podcast, statewide events and pasture walks. PA GLC provides mini-grants to stakeholder groups. To learn more about their programs or apply for a mini-grant, visit [www.paglc.org](http://www.paglc.org).

The Graziers Grapevine is accessible via iTunes, Spotify, or even through the PA GLC website: <http://www.paglc.org/category/the-graziers-grapevine/>

## Conservation Districts in Action

### Tri-County Watershed Association Meeting Hosted by Local Conservation Districts

Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin County Conservation Districts are hosting a Tri-County Watershed Association meeting on December 3, 2019 at Shippensburg University. The event, designed to help watershed associations better work with landowners and partners, features information about upcoming watershed projects, a panel discussion with conservation district watershed specialists, provides time for watershed organizations to share updates,

Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tri-county-watershed-association-meeting-tickets-80161985657> to learn more or to register.

## Upcoming Dates



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|------------------|---|
| December 3, 2020 | Tri-County Watershed Association Meeting, Shippensburg, PA                      |
| January 9, 2020  | Capital RC&D Council Meeting, Lebanon County Conservation District              |
| January 9, 2020  | South Mountain Water Workshop, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA                  |
| January 16, 2020 | Franklin County Graziers Grazing Conference 2020, Chambersburg Mennonite Church |

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

