



As announced in March, the April edition of Capital RC&D e-News was scheduled as our first bi-monthly news brief featuring only dates and details about upcoming events or important reminders. Since that time, we've all been making changes to our daily routines to help slow the spread of Covid-19 in our region and Capital RC&D staff decided this edition should also contain helpful information and details about the operational changes in our county conservation district, USDA, Penn State Extension offices.

Helpful Resources and Opportunities

COVID-19 Information for the Ag Sector

[COVID-19 Guidelines for Farms & Markets](#)

The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) has links to valuable COVID-19 specific resources for farms, farmers markets, and agriculture-related businesses. This includes general, health & safety, livestock, business, and financial concerns, through web-based, printable resources, and webinars.

[Penn State Extension: Coronavirus / COVID-19 Information](#)

Penn State Extension developed a web resource containing frequently asked questions and specific for Food Safety & Food Businesses, the Agriculture Industry, Business, and Community, Non-profit, and Local Government Resources. The site also contains links to webinars and Extension's online courses, which are available at no cost through April 30.

Emergency Preparedness

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) manages the ReadyPA program, which is designed to provide education and tools for becoming prepared and managing your individual and family interests during and after an emergency.

ReadyPA website: www.ready.pa.gov

Penn State Extension offers a preparation program specifically for the agriculture community. The ReadyAG workbook is available on their website: www.extension.psu.edu/readyag-workbook

Operational Changes within the Capital RC&D Area

Capital RC&D: The Capital RC&D office in Carlisle is closed but staff are working remotely and accessible via email: [Susan Richards](mailto:Susan.Richards@capitalrcd.org) (Executive Director), [Debbie Whitmoyer](mailto:Debbie.Whitmoyer@capitalrcd.org) (Program Administrator), and [Cheryl Burns](mailto:Cheryl.Burns@capitalrcd.org) (Project & Outreach Manager).

County Conservation Districts

Adams County Conservation District: The district office is closed to the public at least through April 13th. Staff are working remotely and available to make arrangements to drop off plans or other documents. *The 2020 Tree Sale is now cancelled.*

Cumberland County Conservation District: The district office is closed to the public until further notice, but staff are working remotely. Call ahead (717-240-7812) before dropping off plans or documents. *The 2020 tree sale and Envirothon are now cancelled.*

Dauphin County Conservation

District: District staff are primarily working remotely but plans or other documents can be dropped off at the office on Mondays. *The 2020 Seedling Sale and Envirothon are now cancelled.*

Franklin County Conservation

District: The district office is closed until further notice, but staff are working remotely (7:00 AM – 3:30 PM). Contact a technician to coordinate details prior to dropping off plans or documents. *The 2020 tree sale is scheduled for May 14, 2020. Customers should check the district website for updates or changes.*



Lancaster County Conservation District: The district office is closed per county Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Documents may be dropped off from 9 AM – 4 PM daily using a collection box located within the Farm & Home Center lobby. Staff are working remotely and have access to email and voicemail as needed. *The 2020 Tree Sale pick-up date is rescheduled to Thursday, May 7th from 9 AM – 4PM and will utilize a drive-thru system. No day-of sales or compost will be available.*

Lebanon County Conservation District: The district office is closed but staff are working remotely with access to both voicemail and email. Please call or email to schedule plan or document drop-off times. *The 2020 Tree & Plant sale is rescheduled to Friday, May 8 and will utilize a drive-thru system to minimize contact. Customers can call ahead to request a no-contact pick-up. The 2020 Envirothon and elementary school outreach programs are now cancelled. The Rain Barrel Workshop is postponed until June 2nd and tire*

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collection is postponed until fall 2020.

York County Conservation District: The district office is closed to the public but is accepting mail for plans and other documents. A limited number of in-office staff are available to answer phone calls from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM but other staff are working remotely and accessible via email. *The 2020 Seedling sale and all Envirothon events are now cancelled.*

USDA-NRCS and USDA-FSA Offices

The USDA state and county offices are open but with limited staff and limited access. Other staff are working remotely. Appointments via phone or Skype but must be made in advance by contacting the local field office. Field staff are also able to conduct field visits to inspect work and certify practices but must utilize safe distancing protocols.

The [USDA-NRCS Pennsylvania website](#) contains links to find contact information for your local field office and other helpful resources.

USDA maintains a dedicated web page for information about operational changes for all USDA offices while instituting precautions against COVID-19. Visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Penn State Extension Offices

Penn State Extension offices are closed to the public, but educators are working remotely and can be contacted via phone or email. Visit the extension website for contact information for specific counties or educators and for updates about activities and events. *All Penn State public events and programs*

Upcoming Dates



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| April 22, 2020 | <i>Deadline to submit event info and updates for Capital RC&D's May e-News</i> |
| May 14, 2020 | Capital RC&D Council Meeting, Coyle Free Library, Chambersburg, PA |
| Aug. 11-13, 2020 | Penn State's Ag Progress Days, 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.

