



The Growing Green Series

A Healthier Environment, One Meal at a Time

STREAM PROTECTION PLANTING

Happier Animals = Healthier Products and Cleaner Streams

Who We Are

Many farms in Pennsylvania raise animals to supply milk and dairy products, meat, and fiber (yarn, cloth) using grazing to help feed their livestock. Some farms sell their products directly from the farm and others participate in cooperatives, direct to grocery outlets, or through wholesale distributors.

Protecting Our Environment

Healthy land and water is important to farmers, so they protect the streams on their land by maintaining a stream protection planting. This planting is a strip of shrubs and trees along the stream that will stabilize the stream bank, keep soil in place and remove pollutants. The deep roots of these plants and trees will also let water soak more easily into the ground and filter runoff before it enters the stream.

How It Works

Farmers are often concerned about streams and waterways that run through their land because livestock can damage the stream banks and soil and agricultural chemicals from crop fields may run into the stream. One solution is to put up a fence to keep livestock out of the stream, then plant grasses and trees to help reduce the erosion that may flow off of fields during heavy storms. The planting can also help to protect the stream bank during small floods that can wash away some of the stream bank unless the planting is there to keep it in place.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Shelter tubes protect young trees along a streambank



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

BEFORE



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

AFTER

Why You Should Care

Farmers using stream protection plantings believe that the care of land and water contributes to the care and safety of your family. When you buy from these farms, you are helping them to do their part to make clean, healthy food available to you without harm to the environment.



Fresh and locally produced food tastes better, and it's better for our local economy and environment.



Fresh food is healthier for kids of all ages.



As a result of the improvements described here, the waterways that run through these farms are cleaner, benefitting everyone downstream.



Wildlife neighbors appreciate the cleaner waterways even more than you do!

Capital RC&D's Growing Green Series promotes local farms that produce fresh, high quality, healthy foods using farm practices that keep our water clean and our families safe.

