JANUARY 2024

FAYETTE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

10 NICKMAN PLAZA
LEMONT FURNACE, PA 15456
724-438-4497

NEWSLETTER

Tree Sale Info Inside!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree Sale Order Form & Payment

Due: MARCH 15, 2024

Tree Sale Pickup: APRIL 5 & 6TH, 2024, 9 - 1

Wild About Nature Pre-registration starts: MAY 20,2024 - JUNE 5, 2024

Wild about Nature: JUNE 8, 2024, 10 - 3

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

By Pierce Willson

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Budget. ACAP provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth.

ACAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and delegated to participating conservation districts for local implementation of the program.

ACAP was dedicated $154 million from the Clean Streams Fund to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution in Commonwealth streams, rivers and waterbodies. SCC is required to allocate ACAP funding to participating county conservation districts based on written apportionment criteria developed by the SCC that is focused on preventing nutrient and sediment pollution. The SCC's apportionment criteria must consider:

- Agriculturally Impaired Stream Miles
- Number of Cropland Acres
- Number of Farms
- Number of Livestock and Poultry
- Other criteria established by SCC

Please see the Guidelines & Uses for ACAP inside on Page 2!

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ACAP Continued

Guidelines & Uses

When evaluating applications for eligible projects under ACAP, a participating conservation district will give priority to complete applications based upon the following criteria:

- BMP(s) funded meets the goals of any applicable WIP or CAP plan
- BMP is part of a conservation plan or AG E&S plan and a manure management or nutrient management plan. Development of such plans shall be included in the application if not yet developed prior to the application.
- Priority given to BMPs that implement best management practices for control of nitrogen or phosphorus or sediment.
- All Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs) on the farm must be treated to abate storm water runoff, loss of sediment, loss of nutrients from the ACA, or the implementation of such BMPs shall be included in an application for funds.
- Proximity to surface waters, public drinking water sources or karst geology with underground drainage systems or open sinkholes.
- The project must meet the design and construction standards established by the commission.

Any other criteria considered by the conservation district, as applicable, and approved by the commission.

Funding Opportunities

ACAP provides grant funding to eligible projects through delegated local county conservation districts.

- The grant is a reimbursement grant.
- The amount of reimbursement is based on eligible costs submitted by an approved applicant for an approved project.
- A single grant awarded to an eligible applicant over $500,000 must be considered by the Commission before approval.

Eligible Costs

- Project design, engineering and associated planning costs.
- Project construction or installation provided by a contractor, including labor provided by the applicant.
- Equipment, materials and other components of eligible projects
- Post construction inspections

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/ACAP/Pages/default.aspx

If you would like to apply, have questions, or would like additional information please contact Pierce Willson at 724-438-4497 or email at piercewillson@gmail.com

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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER CAMP

By Terri Springer

Tot Time and Nature Explorers Camps are offered annually by the Fayette County Conservation District with the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association. Children are guided through 4 sessions of fun, environmental education activities, crafts, and games to engage them in an immersive environmental education experience!

Tot Time is for children ages 2-5. Camp runs from 10:00am-12:00pm (**Parents are required to chaperone for the duration of camp)

Nature Explorers is for children ages 6-9. Camp runs from 9:30am-12:00pm (**Parents not required to chaperone but are welcome)

Tentative dates for 2024 are Wednesday's, beginning on June 26, (skip July 3rd for the holidays) and then continue on July 10th, 17th, and 24th. We plan to be back at Jacob's Creek Park.

Keep an eye out for registration information and other details.

FCCD PROGRAMS

- **FCCD Rental Program**
  - **3 ft No-Till Drill**
  - **7ft No-Till Drill**
  - **5-ton Lime spreader**
  - **2-row No-Till Corn Planter**

There is no guarantee for availability, seeding results, or any other factor that would be outside of the FCCD. To schedule usage, call Pierce Willson at 724.438.4497.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Fayette County Conservation District is offering four $1,500.00 scholarships to students from Fayette County for the 2024/25 academic year.Two will be awarded to students enrolled in an agriculture related major or program, and two will be awarded to students enrolled in an environmental science related major or program.**
- **For more information or to receive an application, contact Terri Springer at the Conservation District office at (724) 438-4497 or by email at TerriSpringer.43@gmail.com**
- **The completed application must be returned to the District office on or before 4:00 PM Monday, May 6, 2024.**

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

By Jessica Wolfe

JANUARY 2024

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NEWSLETTER

Stormwater is water that falls from the sky during a precipitation event which can be rain or snow. The water produced drains down into the soil and eventually evaporates into the atmosphere completing the Water Cycle. Water that does not drain or infiltrate into the soil and flows downhill to streams, ponds, etc. is called stormwater runoff. When development takes place certain surfaces that once were able to infiltrate the stormwater, cannot infiltrate the water anymore. These surfaces include roofs, sidewalks, streets, and driveways. After development, the natural environments which could once infiltrate (called pervious surfaces), now become impervious surfaces that cannot be infiltrated. When it rains, the stormwater is increased and flow becomes greater and may travel along roads, driveways, etc. faster than it previously did.

With the Stormwater flowing faster it can quickly cause an increase in erosion. This increase can cause instability in streams which can make them become wider, deeper, straighter, and decrease the habitat for fish and other animals that live in the stream. Stormwater carries an enormous amount of pollution, including but not limited to sediment, car oil, fertilizers, pet feces, and pesticides.

The more stormwater occurs and runoff takes place it is collected by extensive drainage systems that combine curbs, storm sewers, and ditches to carry stormwater runoff directly to streams. This can cause frequent flooding and cause problems for residents. Forest buffers along our streams provide a wealth of benefits. They filter pollution, enhance the ability of streams to process pollutants, cool streams to offset thermal impacts, and reduce flooding and flood damage.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

- Sediment harms aquatic life and macroinvertebrates by destroying essential habitats.
- Fertilizers can cause algae to grow excessively, which can cause algae blooms that remove oxygen from the water. When the oxygen is depleted or low, fish and other aquatic life cannot exist.
- Over 3,600 miles of streams in Pennsylvania are polluted by stormwater runoff from our developed and developing areas.
- When debris (cigarette butts, plastic bags, popped balloons, etc.) is washed into any body of water, it can cause harm like choking, suffocating, and possible death of animals and aquatic life.
- Many household wastes (paint, pesticides, oil, etc.) can be hazardous and can poison aquatic life.
- Rethink your lawn care. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Flooding often occurs in urban watersheds when water enters the area too quickly to be absorbed into the ground.
- Help us to reduce stormwater pollution by planting a rain garden or setting up a rain barrel. If you are interested The Fayette County Conservation District may offer workshops in the future.

If you have any questions please call Heather Knupsky or Jessica Wolfe at 724-438-4497

Wild about NATURE

FREE

Saturday June 8, 2024

10 am - 3 pm

Fayette County Fairgrounds

Barnyard Petting Zoo

Fun Agricultural Stations

Food & drinks available for purchase

TONS of cool Hands-on Displays

Explore the outdoors at Wild About Nature where you can learn about agriculture, nature and conservation!

Brought to you by:

FAYETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Preregister and be entered to win a cool prize!

Preregistration is from May 20, 2024 - June 5, 2024

724-438-4497

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Dirt & Gravel, and Low Volume Paved Road Maintance Program

By Terri Springer

The Fayette County Dirt & Gravel (D&G) , and Low Volume Paved Road (LVPR) Maintenance Program provides contract funding to public road-owning entities in order to eliminate stream pollution caused by runoff and sediment from unpaved or low volume roads. The Fayette County Conservation District will work with municipalities/public road-owning entities to acquire this funding and develop work plans for projects using Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Practices. To receive funding from this program, at least one person in the municipality/public road-owning entity (preferably the person who will be overseeing the project) must have completed an ESM certification training provided by the Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies (CDGRS) within the previous 5 years. Applications for both D&G and LVPR projects can be submitted to the district at any time. Ranking and awards are made when funding is available each year. Applications that are not funded are held for an additional year and are considered in the next funding cycle. Applications may be withdrawn at any time. Priority will be given to road projects (either D&G or LVPR) that involve or protect Cold Water Fishery streams.

The State Conservation Commission (SCC), under the concurrent authority of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA), administers the program, determines statewide policies, allocates funds to the districts and implements a quality assurance/quality control effort. In addition to the (CDGRS), which supplies technical assistance and does a program audit every three years (FCCD was found to “meet expectations” in their 3 year audit in 2023), the county program is directed by a Quality Assurance Board (QAB). This county-based multidisciplinary advisory board establishes county-specific policies and ranking criteria, and recommends projects to the District board of directors for approval. Members of the QAB for The Fayette County Conservation District include Doug Petro, FCCD,Scott Opfer, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Jack Lee, NRCS and Terri Springer, non-voting / FCCD.

The QAB meets at 10:45 a.m., on the 4th Monday of each month at the FCCD office .

For more information call the FCCD at 724-438-4497 or check the links below

http://fayettecd.org

https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/districts/fayette-county/

FCCD FUNDED AND WORKED WITH NICHOLSON TWP. ON A "FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION" PROJECT TO DEAL WITH DRAINAGE IN A DIFFICULT LOCATION. IT WAS OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THIS PROCEDURE AND WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. EL GRANDE INDUSTRIES, INC. WAS THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR AND RUSSELL STANDARD SUBCONTRACTED THE CHIP SEAL.

SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE THIS YEAR
All are native to Pennsylvania

AMERICAN CHESTNUT HYBRID (Castanea dentate x) A fast growing hybrid of the American Chestnut can reach heights of 80 to 100 feet. Best planted in full sun in well drained soil. Best planted in groups to ensure pollination. Should produce nuts in 10 to 12 years. 1Yr. Seedlings 8-16 inches. **2 per package, $12.00 per package.**

PAWPAW Paw Paw trees are native to the eastern and southern US. Trees grow to 25 feet and produce an edible fruit 2 inches wide and 10 inches long, looking and tasting much like a banana. Can grow both in full sun and shade. 2 or more trees needed for cross pollination. Seedlings 6-10 inches. **6 per package, $12.00 per package.**

PERSIMMON A native tree 25 to 40 foot tall, 20 to 35 foot width at maturity. Slender with an oval crown, often very symmetrical. Fragrant white flowers with an orange edible fruit after a hard frost. Need several trees to pollinate so plant all in the same area. 2-Yr. Seedlings 18-36 inches. **6 per package, $8.00 per package**

AMERICAN HAZELNUT Native to northeastern U.S. Also known as American Filbert, it is a small multi-stemmed tree that grows 10 to 15. Medium to fast growing its leaves are dark green in summer turning yellow in fall. Produces edible nuts in September that are loved by wildlife. 2-Yr. Seedlings 16-30 inches. **6 per package, $8.00 per package.**

BUTTONBUSH A small shrub/tree that thrives in wet and low lying area. Blooms June to September with a white cluster of small spike-like flowers. It is an excellent pollinator species. Grows best in full sun. Grows 5 to 12 feet. 2Yr. seedlings 6-10 inches. **6 per package, $8.00 per package.**

CHINKAPIN OAK An oak in the white oak family that grows to a height of 50 to 60 feet. Grows best in rich, moist, well drained soil but will tolerate poor, dry soil. Produces abundant small acorns, excellent wildlife tree. 10 to 20 inches **6 per package, $8.00 per package.**

SUGAR MAPLE Also called "Rock Maple or Hard Maple." A handsome shade tree with large round head and dark green foliage, growing to 75 feet. Brilliant yellow to burnt orange in autumn. Excellent sugar product and lumber tree. 2Yr. Seedlings 10 to 20 inches. **6 per package, $8.00 per package.**

WASHINGTON HAWTHORN Grows to a height of 25 to 30 feet and spreads 20 to 25 feet. Clusters of small single white flowers in May and early June developing to bright red fruit in fall & early winter. Loved by birds and wildlife. It has thorns. 1Yr. Seedlings 8-16 inches **6 per package, $8.00 per package**

EASTERN WHITE PINE Fast growing to 100 feet. A fine needled pine with soft light green/blue 4 inch needles. Grows in a wide range of conditions from dry and rocky to wet and swampy. Excellent ornamental and forms a dense screen. 2Yr. Seedlings 6-10 inches. **8 seedling per package, $8.00 per package.**

BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX

EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX Constructed from kiln dried inland red cedar. Features: 7/8 inch predator guard, overhanging roof with ventilation, back cover to stop rain seepage, bottom slots for drainage, easy open front for monitoring and cleaning, exit. Place in open area with scattered trees. Size: 7.25" X 9.25" X 12"; hole size: 1.5 inches. **1/$24.00**

FRUIT TREES

APPLE – HONEY CRISP	Mid-season apple with a light orange/red color over yellow. Crisp juicy sweet apple that stores well. Very winter hardy. Matures mid-September. 3/8 inches in diameter on EMLA 7 rootstock, 4-6 feet tall. **1/$15.00**
APPLE – LIBERTY	Medium-sized yellow fleshed dessert apple, 90% red over yellow background. Tree is resistant to apple rust, fire blight & mildew. Matures last week of September. Good choice for the home gardener. 1/2 to 5/8 inches in diameter, 4-6 feet tall. EMLA 7 rootstock **1/$15.00**
APPLE – NOVAMAC	Attractive, high quality McIntosh-type dessert apple that is medium in size, with 90% dark red color. Fruit is firm and crisp, ripening just ahead of McIntosh. Tree is medium sized, very productive, and an annual bearer. Matures mid-Aug. 1/2 to 5/8 inches in diameter, 4-6 feet tall. EMLA 7 rootstock **1/$15.00**
CHERRY – MONTMORENCY	A tart cherry that is still very sweet. Fruit is bright red, juicy and medium sized. Winter Hardy. Fruit ready in early July. 5/8 to 3/4 inches in diameter, 4-5 feet tall. **1/$15.00**
PEACH – GLENGLO	One of the best flavored of the early peaches. Fruit is large, very firm and freestone when tree ripened. Tree is moderately vigorous and productive. It's one of the best choices for the mid-Atlantic region. Ripens 1st of August. ½ to 5/8 inches in diameter, 4-6 feet tall. **1/$15.00**
PEAR – SHENANDOAH	Fruit size is large with traditional sub-acid pear flavor. Blight resistance is good and similar to that of Seckel. Shenandoah stores very well for up to five months without breaking down. Ripens mid September. 1/2 to 5/8 inches in diameter, 4-6 feet tall. **1/$15.00**
PLUM – VALOR	Medium sized, purple blue fruit with yellow flesh. Semi-free stone is a great eating or fresh market plum. Ripens early September. Winter hardy for this area. 1/2 to 5/8 inches in diameter, 4-5 feet tall. **1/$15.00**

ALL SALES ARE PRE-ORDER AND MUST BE PICKED EITHER FRIDAY APRIL 5th OR SATURDAY APRIL 6th.
NO REFUNDS FOR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP

FAYETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 - ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____

Variety	Size	# Per Package	Price Per Package	# of Packages	Total Cost
American Hybrid Chestnut	8"-16"	2	$12		
Paw Paw	6"-10"	6	$12		
American Common Persimmon	18" – 36"	6	$8		
American Hazelnut	16" – 30"	6	$8		
Buttonbush	6" – 10"	6	$8		
Chinkapin Oak	10" – 20"	6	$8		
Sugar Maple	10" – 20"	6	$8		
Washington Hawthorn	8" – 16"	6	$8		
Eastern White Pine	6" – 10"	8	$8		
Apple – Honeycrisp	4' – 6'	1	$15		
Apple – Liberty	4' – 6'	1	$15		
Apple – Nova Mac	4' – 6'	1	$15		
Cherry - Montmorency	4' – 6'	1	$15		
Peach - Glenglo	4' – 5'	1	$15		
Pear – Shenandoah	4' – 6'	1	$15		
Plum – Valor	4' – 5'	1	$15		
Eastern Blue Bird House		1	$24		

Total Amount Enclosed $ _____

- All Seedlings Are Native to Pennsylvania
- Please Make Checks Payable to: **FAYETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT** - All Prices Include Tax
- Mail Order Form to: **Fayette County Conservation District**
  10 Nickman Plaza
  Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
- **Order & Payments** Must Be in by: **March 15th, 2024**
- Pick-Up is Friday April 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & Saturday April 6th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fayette Co. Fairgrounds
- Sale will be pre-order ONLY. Pick up will be touchless with us placing your order in your vehicle.
- Confirmation Slips Will Be Mailed Prior to Pick-Up
- For Additional Information Please call the Fayette County Conservation District at: **724-438-4497**
- **ALL** Orders Must Be Pre-Paid & There Will Be **No Refunds** on Items Not Picked-Up

Fayette County Conservation District
10 Nickman Plaza
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
UNIONTOWN PA
PERMIT NO 15

Tree Sale Species List & Order Form enclosed

FAYETTE COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT