



## District Staff Can Assist Farmers with Manure Spreader Calibrations

Through efforts of the conservation district, we were able to work with many of our farm operators, both large and small, to develop manure management plans. One of the issues that arose through this effort was that many did not have an accurate feeling for application rates for applying manure. As a result, the district applied for and received a grant to purchase portable

scales for the purpose of being able to come out to individual farms and assist with manure spreader calibrations.

If you're farming operation involves spreading of manure, we encourage you to contact us to schedule an appointment to complete a calibration of your equipment. We all know that manure nutrients are

a valuable resource and using a calibrated spreader as part of your management plan will allow for the best use of manure nutrients.

Please contact Corey Richmond at the district office, at 928-7057, to make plans to have a calibration completed on your spreader.



## 2013 Seedling Sale - Still Have Time to Place an Order

There is still time to place your seedling sale order. The district is offering 5 different deciduous trees, 4 different evergreens, 8 different fruit trees, 2 different blueberries, 1 kind of strawberries, 4 different landscaping, 4 different wildlife enhancement trees, 3 different backyard enhancement plants, wildflower

seed mix, fertilizer tablets, blue bird boxes and wood duck boxes. The order deadline is March 15, 2013. The pick-up date is April 13, 2013 at the Cherry Township Building on S.R. 87 South across from Fitzpatrick and Lambert. Your order may be picked up between 9 AM – Noon. The order form is available on our web-

site at [www.sullcon.com](http://www.sullcon.com), different businesses through out the county or at the district office.

If you have any questions, please contact the district office by phone at 570-928-7057 or by email at [district@sullcon.com](mailto:district@sullcon.com).

## Township's Complete Dirt and Gravel Road Projects

Cherry Township completed a project on T-352 Swamp Road. It involved over 4,000 feet of under drain and adding or updating 7 cross pipes to correct drainage problems. The cost of the project was \$35,699.90. The township will be applying for funding to complete more work on the road in 2013.

Davidson Township completed a project on T-321 Robin's Hill Road. It involved stabilizing the inlet and outlet of a stream pipe and stabilizing upstream and downstream with rip-rap to stop erosion from occurring during high

water events. The cost of the project was \$16,159.91.

Elkland Township completed two projects. One was on T-417 Creek Road. It involved adding two cross pipes and over 500 feet of under drain to correct drainage problems. The cost of this project was \$5,756.73. The second project was on T-420 Lake Road. It involved replacing two undersized cross pipes, and adding another to solve a drainage problem. The cost of this project was \$6,904.95.

Forks Township completed a

project on T-453 Kahni Hill Road. It involved replacing an undersized stream pipe and stabilizing the inlet and outlet of the structure to help stop erosion during storm events. The cost of this project was \$7,912.01.

Fox Township completed a project on T-408 Hoagland Branch Road. The project involved replacing and realigning an undersized stream pipe and stabilizing both the inlet and outlet to help stop erosion occurring. The cost of the project was \$9,189.78.



## New Fees for Chapter 105 Permits

DEP has announced that effective Saturday, Feb 16, 2013, new fee rates will be in effect for all Chapter 105 permits and acknowledgements. It is recommended that you get the

latest information and forms from DEP's website, <http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-93044/3150-PM-BWEW0553.pdf>,

or contact DEP directly to make sure that the application meets the new requirements.

## Calendar of Events

March 12	District Board Meeting	March 15	Seedling Sale Order Deadline
March 19	Office Closed for Easter	April 9	District Board Meeting
April 13	Seedling Sale Pick Up	May 14	District Board Meeting
May 27	Office Closed for Memorial Day	June 11	District Board Meeting
July 4	Office Closed for Independence Day	July 9	District Board Meeting
August 13	District Board Meeting	Aug. 28—Sept. 2	Sullivan County Fair

On November 14, 2012 the Department of Environmental Protection's new "Permit Decision Guarantee" policy will be applicable to all permits received after that date. To see the complete policy and other information pertaining to the new policy go to DEP's web site at: [www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/Permit-Decision-Guarantee/21048](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/Permit-Decision-Guarantee/21048).

### **Process Guidance**

The policy of the Department is to minimize processing time while ensuring adherence to all applicable regulatory and statutory requirements and prioritizing permit applications. The Department's performance, and that of its staff, will be measured by time lapsed for Department processing.

A. Possible Processing Delays - Ancillary activities required or in addition to the Department's review of the permit application that may delay the final permit decision. Examples of these activities include:

1. Submission, processing and review of financial assurance instruments;
2. Resolution of outstanding violations or compliance actions against the applicant, where state law requires those violations be resolved before permits are issued or renewed;
3. Reviews due to the need for approval by or coordination with a federal, state or municipal agency, including related decisions by such agencies;

4. Reviews by other Department programs, the purpose of which is to provide technical information to the reviewing program, and therefore cannot be accomplished concurrently;

5. Other complex, but necessary factors, such as the need for air modeling, risk assessments, the completion of a harms-benefits analysis or permit coordination;

6. Circumstances where public meetings or hearings are held, or draft final permits are issued and additional public comment is needed;

7. Time necessary to address additional public comment opportunities for areas of special concern such as Environmental Justice areas;

8. Factors outside of the Department's control, e.g. natural disasters or emergency responses that may require immediate use of resources or render Department resources unavailable; and,

9. Applications submitted pursuant to a Consent Order and Agreement, Department Order, consent decree or an Order of the Environmental Hearing Board or other judicial body.

Many permits decisions cannot be made until the above actions have been taken and resultant issues resolved. To the greatest extent possible, the Department will complete its review of permit applications expeditiously, however, the above situations may delay the Department's final permit decision.

B. Permit Review Hierarchy - The Money-Back Guarantee Policy and associated review process are re-

scinded and replaced in their entirety by the policy. Further, the Department, unless required by law or regulation, will not review permit applications solely on a "first-in-first-out" basis. When an application is received, the Regional Director, Director of District Mining Operations or Director of District Oil and Gas Operations will provide direction to staff on the priority of the permit application.

C. Permit Coordination - The Department will follow the Permit Coordination Policy 021-2000-301, when reviewing applications or proposed projects to ensure efficient use of resources, thorough environmental review and consistent Department action on proposed projects before the commencement of operations, construction or other activities that require Department permits.

D. Permit Review and Approval - All permits will be reviewed following the process detailed in the policy. The Permit Decision Guarantee shall apply only to those applications listed in Appendix A that are complete, technically adequate and address all applicable regulatory and statutory requirements. It is the Department's intention to review annually, and as necessary, update the applications listed in Appendix A.

## 2013 Poster Contest Winners Announced

The conservation District is pleased to announce the winners of its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Poster Contest. The contest was sponsored by the Sullivan County Conservation District, Dushore Borough, and White Ash Land Association. This year's theme was "Where Does Your Water Shed?" The theme challenged students to think about where precipitation from their schools, homes, and more goes. The students learned about watersheds, pollution prevention, soil and water conservation practices, and the importance of clean water for everyday uses.

The contest was open to students in grades 4-6. Awards were presented to first, second and third place posters in each grade level. These students received a plaque and t-shirt with their poster design imprinted on it. First place winners in each grade level also received gift certificates to Mary Beth's West Side Deli courtesy of White Ash land Association. Honorable mention ribbons were also presented in each grade level. An overall winning poster was selected to represent the county at the PA Association of Conservation District's State Poster Contest. The overall winning poster received an additional gift certificate to Mary Beth's West Side Deli.

Listed below are the students whose posters received recognition.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Joshua Heess; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bethany Beinlich; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jade Eberlin. Honorable mentions were awarded to Jalen Thomas, Matt Polcrack, Colby Heaten, and Jaeden Patson.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Samantha Skoranski; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Madison Burke; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Braeden Bedford. Noah Phillips, Cynthia Eberlin, and Jessica King received honorable mention ribbons.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Aaron Kinsey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Anna Myers; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Chandra Thomas. Honorable Mentions were made to Leah Beinlich, Violet Williams, Aimee Craddock, and Morgan Randall.

The Judges selected the poster submitted by Aaron Kinsey as the Overall Winning Poster. Aaron's poster will represent Sullivan County for the 2013 State Poster Contest.

The conservation district would like to thank Dushore Borough and White Ash Land Association for their continued support of this contest. Special thanks also go to the teachers at the elementary school for their continued support of the contest. Last, but certainly not least, the parents who encourage their children to learn about natural resource issues and express their knowledge in a poster format.

At the right are the 5th and 6th grade poster contest winners.



At the left are the 4th grade poster contest winners.

## 2013 Agricultural Agencies Meeting to Feature Van Wagner's "Tall Timber" Program

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The Sullivan County Agricultural Agencies Banquet Meeting will take place on November 1, 2013, so save the date on your calendar, since the public is invited. The conservation district is pleased to announce that Van Wagner will be the featured presenter for the evening. Van Wagner is an educator. In the classroom, he teaches Environmental Science at Lewisburg High School. He has been selected as Conservation Educator of the Year in 2005 from Schuylkill County and in 2007 and 2009 in Union County. Van was also recently received the Sandy

Cochran Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Education by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Outside of the classroom, he educates audiences with his music and programs on Pennsylvania History. His music has been featured on the History Channel, WVIA TV, as well as Country Music Television (CMT). He has released 14 original albums and published his first book entitled "Coal Dust Rust and Saw Dust." His music and programs not only entertain but inspire audiences to become involved in learning more.

Van's program "Tall Timber" will take us back to the days of timbering and floating rafts of logs down the Loyalsock Creek and Susquehanna River and the journeys of making it back upstream. The program will tell us WHO did the logging. His personal adventures of constructing and floating a raft of logs are sure to interest the crowd as well. Van Wagner will also share his music as part of the program. A little bit of music, a little bit of laughter, and lots of culture will have us all proud to be from the timber country of Pennsylvania.

## On-Farm Safety Issues: Manure Storage Gases

With spring just around the corner, it will soon be time to start agitating manure storages, collecting and spreading stacked manure, and cleaning barns of manure from the winter months. These activities become second nature to many farmers as normal Spring chores.

Be aware that harmful and potentially fatal gases form as manure is stored, whether in a liquid storage or as dry stacked manure. The gases produced by manure can include: hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and methane. These gases can accumulate in confined or low-lying areas leading to the risk of exposure especially during agitation of liquid storages or when working with stacked manure.

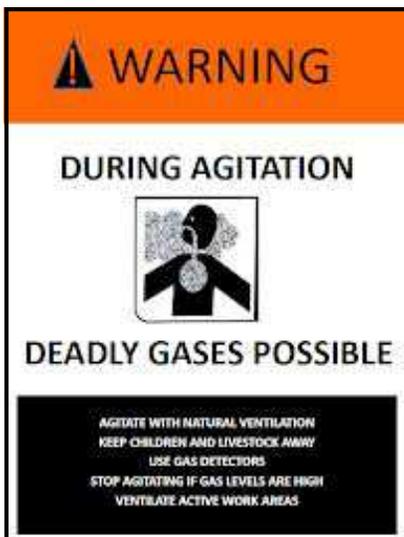
These gases can be odorless, colorless and in many situations, if there is an (indicative)

odor associated with a gas, it can be masked by customary animal operation odors experienced on the farm.

Children are found on many farmsteads and are particularly vulnerable if they wander and play unwittingly in high-hazard areas where gases can accumulate. Be particularly aware of these gases in enclosed structures where manure is handled or low-lying areas adjacent to storage structures. Ideally, agitation and unloading activities would be carried out on windy days as air movement will disperse the gases and lower the risk. The symptoms of gas poisoning can include among other things as dizziness, trouble breathing, respiratory tract irritation, and eye irritation. If you're experiencing these symptoms, or you observe someone else experiencing these symptoms, leave the immediate area and seek fresh-air refuge upwind.

All farm operators should consider developing emergency response plans to address the hazards and "what-ifs" on the operation. The tools and resources are available to assist with this. If you have a concrete or earthen manure storage, the fencing around it should be maintained to avoid entrance to the system, warning signs should be placed on all sides of the structure and should warn of hazards including drowning, non-solid surface, and gases.

Penn State Extension has numerous fact sheets on this issue. If you are interested in learning more about ensuring safety from gases around your farm, contact the Conservation District at 570-928-7057 or Penn State Extension at 570-928-8941. Information is also available on the web at <http://extension.psu.edu/agsafety>.



## USDA Conservation Farm Bill Programs

Sullivan, Bradford, Wyoming County Farmers and Landowners

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There are various USDA Farm Bill Programs, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which offers technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to address natural resource concerns on their land.

**You may be interested in learning more about applying for a comprehensive nutrient management plan, seasonal high tunnel, grazing system, barnyard/manure handling systems, forest riparian buffers, no till/cover crops, forestry practices, wildlife practices and/or learning more about other practices that you may be eligible for technical or financial assistance. For more information please contact NRCS at (570)265-6969 Ext. 3 Bradford/Sullivan County or (570) 836-2490 Ext. 3 Wyoming County**

Depending on the program, Conservation Farm Bill Programs can offer an incentive payment, which is a fixed payment rate based on the average costs of the practice; or an annual payment for conservation practices completed and maintained on your property. These payments can offset the cost of implementing best management practices.

### **Spotlight on Forest Stewardship**

There are a variety of programs that can assist forest landowners, but there are three main programs to discuss: Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

NRCS and PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, have partnered together to promote USDA Farm Bill Programs to forest landowners.

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - Targeted towards Forest Landowners with higher priority given towards landowners that have a forest stewardship plan.** Provides an incentive to implement conservation practices with an emphasis in reducing soil loss and sedimentation, improving water quality, improving forest health, and the promotion of at-risk species habitat.

**Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) - Targeted toward landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land.** Currently there is an initiative to target Golden Wing Warblers. The Golden Winged Warbler has undergone significant population declines in the Appalachian region. Golden-winged warblers (GWW) and many other species depend upon shrubby, early successional habitats. WHIP provides an incentive payment to implement conservation practices with emphasis on improving wildlife habitat.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Targeted toward landowners that have been active in implementing their forest stewardship plan and have addressed resource concerns on their property.** CSP provides an annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.

Contacts: Chad Gadsby, Service Forester, DCNR, (570)946-4049 Bradford/Sullivan County

Michael Hanawalt, District Conservationist, NRCS, (570)265-6969 Ext. 102 Bradford/Sullivan County



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