

# **State Conservation Commission Meeting**

**May 20, 2025**

**In-Person and Virtual Meeting**

**PA Department of Agriculture**

**Harrisburg, PA**

## **Agenda**

### **Briefing Session - 9:00 a.m.**

- Brief overview of the American Farmland Trust's Saving America's Working Lands conference in Dallas TX, highlighting the intersections between land, soil and water conservation efforts. – Doug Wolfgang, SCC
- Overview of NASCA's mission and current conservation issues and policies at the national level. – Mike Beacom, NASCA: Website [NASCA – National Association of State Conservation Agencies](#)

### **Business Session – 10:00 a.m.**

#### **A. Opportunity for Public Comment**

#### **B. Business and Information Items**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. March 18, 2025 Public Meeting (A)
  - b. April 15, 2025 Conference Call (A)
2. Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program Conservation District FY 2025-26 Allocations- Steve Bloser, PSU and Sherri Law, SCC (A)
3. Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies: Scope and Budget for FY 2025-26- Steve Bloser, PSU and Andy Mickey, SCC (A)
4. ACAP FY 2025 County Allocations- Eric Cromer, SCC and Jenn Fetter, PSU (A)
5. Proposed Nutrient Management Budget FY 25/26- Brady Seeley, SCC (A)
6. FY 25-26 Nutrient Management/Manure Management Delegation Amounts- Brady Seeley, SCC (A)
7. Nutrient Management and Manure Management Administrative Manual: Record of Change- Brady Seely, SCC and Allyson Hanawalt, DEP (A)
8. Proposed changes for the FY 2025 REAP Program- Joel Semke, SCC (A)

**C. Written Reports**

1. Program Reports
  - a. Nutrient and Odor Management Program Measurables Report
  - b. May 2025 Status Report on Facility Odor Management Plan Reviews
  - c. NMP Actions
2. Ombudsman Program Reports – Southern Allegheny Region (Blair County Conservation District) and Lancaster County Conservation District

**D. Cooperating Agency Reports**

**E. Adjournment**

Next Public Meetings/Conference Calls:

June 17, 2025 - Conference Call

July 15, 2025 – In-Person Meeting and Virtual – PA Department of Ag Building, Lobby  
Conference room

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING

PA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In-Person and Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

***Draft Minutes***

Members Present: Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, DEP; Mike Flinchbaugh; Daryl Miller; Don Koontz; Bill Iams; Jim Hershey (virtual); and Dennis Beck, PACD (virtual); Dan Ludwig, NRCS (virtual); Chris Houser, PSU (virtual).

A. Public Comment – None.

B. Business and Information Items

1. Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2025 - Public Meeting; February 18, 2025 - Conference Call (cancelled).

*Daryl Miller moved to approve the January 21, 2025, public meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Don Koontz. Motion carried.*

2. Dirt and Gravel Roads Program DSA Standard and Specifications Update – Justin Challenger, SCC & Wade Brown, Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies. Justin and Wade asked for approval to update the DSA Standard and Specifications. The State Conservation Commission (Commission) approves the standard and specifications for Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). The last update to the DSA specification was approved at the May 2022 meeting. Staff recommends the following change: The only proposed change is to increase the allowable percentage of #16 sized particles from “15-30” percent passing, to “15-32” percent passing.

Why is this change being proposed?

Several years ago, the fine content (#200 sieve) of DSA was increased to address some quality problems identified in the field. DSA quality has improved with these changes. However, we have seen recurring failures with the #16 sieve being just over the 30% maximum as quarries try to increase their fine content. These samples typically fail with the #16 sieve being in the 30%-31% range. The change from 30% to 32% for the upper limit of the #16 sieve is relatively minor and will not significantly impact DSA quality. The change will, however, make DSA easier to produce and reduce the number of testing failures.

When will this change be implemented?

We would like to implement this change effective April 1st, 2025, if approved. Because the change is only a “loosening” of the DSA specification, any current DSA contracts or currently made piles of DSA will not be impacted, since they will still meet the revised specification.

Additional Notes:

- Staff overviewed the change with the DGLVR Advisory workgroup.
- Staff met with the PA Aggregate and Concrete Association, who support this proposed

change.

- We have worked with DCNR Forestry on making similar changes to their DSA specification.
- We will also contact PennDOT to recommend similar changes to their DSA specification to have all the specifications be identical.

A final “draft” form of the standard is provided as an attachment.

Staff recommends approval of the changes to the DSA standard and specifications as outlined in the memo. The full standard and specifications are attached.

*Bill Iams made a motion to approve to change the Board composition Motion seconded by Mike Flinchbaugh. Motion carried.*

3. MEB fund / Public Private Partnerships- Eric Cromer, SCC. Eric asked for approval of proposed PA Department of Agriculture Infrastructure MEB-PPP funding. Since October of 2022, the Commission received a total of \$13.3 million through EPA’s Most Effective Basins-Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant Fund (MEB-IIJA). The Commission and EPA staff agreed on a scope of work that would split the funds between the Conservation Excellence Grant program (CEG) and the new Sustainable Ag Board (SAB). The Commission spent \$4.6 million of these funds on the CEG program, with \$8.7 million remaining to allocate to commission programs. The Commission previously committed \$1 million to the SAB, leaving a total of \$7.7 million of these funds uncommitted. With previous success with expanding the CEG program to enhance public-private partnerships, staff is proposing to expand those efforts to all Most Effective Basin Watersheds in the Commonwealth. If use of these funds for public-private partnerships through CEG is approved by the Commission, staff will complete a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for the MEB-PPP. Private entities would then submit proposals through eGrants and the staff will collect and rank the received projects based on criteria below

The RFP will include the following requests:

1. A brief narrative describing proposed activities to be performed under the grant.
2. List of the Most Effective Basin Watersheds
3. A budget to support the activities described in the narrative according to the ‘Request for Proposal’.
4. Maps / Plans for the project (if available)
5. Proposed project timeline

In evaluation the Commission staff will consider the following:

1. Proposal must include both public (conservation district) and private partners.
2. The project/s fit within the guidelines and policies of the CEG program.
3. Effectiveness of the project to reduce sediment, Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus pollution from waters of the commonwealth.
4. Show a need for special project consideration.
5. Other criteria deemed necessary by the SCC

Recommendation:

The Commission board to approve \$7.7 million to the PA Department of Agriculture Infrastructure MEB-PPP. Approximately \$2 million of these funds will be made available this fiscal year and the remainder contingent upon when spending authority is increased.

Mike Flinchbaugh made a motion to approve to change the Board composition Motion seconded by Don Koontz. Motion carried.

4. Proposed changes for the FY 2025/26 REAP Program- Joel Semke, SCC. Every year, the State Conservation Commission reviews the REAP Program and welcomes input from partners on how to improve the program. The changes range from minor revisions that are meant to improve the administration of the program to major changes regarding what is eligible for REAP tax credits. Staff invites suggestions and comments regarding potential changes to the FY 2025 REAP program. The proposals listed below reflect suggestions from SCC staff and partners based on experiences over the course of the past year. Please note: Each proposal is subject to legal review prior to being incorporated into the FY 2025 REAP Guidelines and Application packet. It is the intent of Commission staff to present a detailed list of proposed changes at the April meeting of the Commission; and it is the intent of Commission staff to present final versions of the proposed FY 2025 REAP Guidelines and Application at the May 2025 meeting of the State Conservation Commission. The FY 2025 Guidelines and Application will include any proposed changes. Staff welcomes further comments and suggestions regarding the list of proposals in the memo.

Action: No action required.

5. Status of Federal funding freeze- Doug Wolfgang, SCC. Doug provide a quick update on federal funding freeze and potential impacts to state conservation efforts. Staff will give assurance that federal ARPA funds for ACAP and Nutrient Management and the last three years of EPA IJIA Most Effective Basin (MEB) Funds are secured for Commission use. However, funding from the USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for \$21 million for the Commission in partnership with Land O'Lakes is still in question. Likewise, future funding commitments through EPA MEB are also in question.

Action: No action required.

6. HB 586 and HB587-Food Processing Residuals (FPRs)- Doug Wolfgang, SCC. Doug provided a quick update and overview on legislation reintroduced this session to place reasonable safeguards on the land application and hauling of FPRs. Legislation is almost verbatim to the previous bills from last session. The bills would direct DEP to work with SCC to update the manual, potentially requiring additional BMPs for odor causing FPR, reaffirming requirements for a Land Application Systems (LAS) plan, and to requiring the characterization and reporting of the FPR. The legislation also establishes a certification program for haulers of FPR.

Action: No action required.

7. PA Ag Conservation Assistance Program (PACS) program guidelines – Doug Wolfgang, SCC and Lauren Shaffer. Lauren asked for Approval of proposed PA Ag Conservation Assistance Program (PACS) relaunch. The PACS program certifies farmers that are the

standard-bearers in

conservation. The program was initially launched as a pilot program in 2019 but did not realize its full potential due to the pandemic and other challenges. However, with ACAP and the onset of historic funding for voluntary incentive-based conservation, along with a growing interest from stakeholders and private industry, PDA and SCC believe it is an ideal time to relaunch. The latest proposed guidelines are the product of extensive stakeholder feedback from private and public sector partners.

In the proposed program, a farmer would need the following to qualify:

- Any relevant/required farm plans that are current (conservation, nutrient management, manure management, E&S etc.)
- A fully implemented best management practice schedule as outlined in plans to date
- A functional, vegetative riparian buffer with livestock excluded AND/OR stream AND/OR wetland restoration with livestock excluded, if there is a stream on the property
- A soil health test with a CASH (Cornell) score between 70 and 100 from the Standard Soil Health Analysis Package OR an equivalent test with the same base indicators; required base indicators of aggregate stability, soil organic carbon, plant available water, soil pH, penetrometer resistance (compaction), and mineralization potential (CO<sub>2</sub> respiration); tiered requirement for number of tests based on acreage
- Supplemental nutrient management practices, if applicable

Staff will review these criteria, along with other changes and discuss potential benefits to the farmer, such as permitting, marketing as a “green farm”, and scoring for other state grant programs, etc.

Recommendation:

Will seek approval from the Commission to move forward with proposed program guidelines with anticipation of a hard launch for the program at Ag Progress Days event in August 2025.

Secretary Shirley made a motion to approve the Audit Extensions. Motion seconded by Mike Flinchbaugh. Motion carried.

8. Recap of NACD conference – Salt Lake City- Doug Wolfgang, SCC. Doug Wolfgang gave a brief overview of his trip to Salt Lake City, Utah for the NACD conference.

Action: No action required.

9. Butler County Conservation District Four Seasons Fair Project- Justin Challenger, SCC & Ian Harrell, Butler County CD Manager. Justin and Ian asked for Approval of Butler County Conservation District Project. The State Conservation Commission (Commission) comprehensive policy requires SCC approval for districts who seek to enter into a contract, when the estimate project cost exceeds \$250,000. Butler CD is seeking approvals to receive funding and complete conservation BMPs on the Four Season Farm dairy farm.

Four Season Farm – Penn Township, Butler County.

This dairy farm operates on approximately 241 acres, with around 200 head. The farm has a manure storage facility that has passed its serviceable lifespan. The current heifer facility is located adjacent to a stream. The facility has no roof over the scrape alley, and runoff

often runs to the stream. The proposed project would use funds from ACAP, Penn VEST, and EQIP. The proposed project will relocate the animals away from the stream, build a new manure storage facility, decommission the old manure facility, and provide stormwater controls. The project includes a Penn VEST grant to the Butler County Conservation District in the amount of \$1,120,000. The overall project will be \$2,236,452. The Butler County Conservation District is requesting the approval to enter into the contract/agreement with Penn VEST to acquire the grant funding. We are also requesting the approval to enter into contracts with the lowest qualified bidder to install the BMPs and practices. The Butler County Conservation District is requesting the SCC's approval to receive a line of credit in the amount of \$450,000 dollars from First Commonwealth Bank. This was approved by the District Board on February 13, 2025. Please see the attached resolution. The line of credit will be used to bridge the payments for an Ag BMP project that is utilizing Penn VEST and ACAP funding. Both funding sources require a holdback on payments until the project is completed, and therefore we require the loan. All the funding sources have been approved. We will require the line of credit to be able to close on the Penn VEST grant.

SCC staff have visited the site and reviewed the Inventory and Evaluation for the project with the district. SCC staff the project has significant environmental benefits.

SCC staff recommend approval of the Butler CD Penn Vest agreement, contracts for the lowest qualified bidder, and the line of credit from Frist Commonwealth Bank.

*Bill Iams made a motion to approve the Audit Extensions. Motion seconded by Don Koontz . Motion carried.*

10. Conservation District Audit Extension Request– Jacquelyn Kerstetter, DEP. Jacquelyn and Karen asked for Approval of 2023 audit extensions for Carbon and Lackawanna County Conservation Districts to May 31, 2025; and gave an update on 2023 audit process for Northampton County Conservation District. Starting in 1999, the State Conservation Commission (Commission) required conservation district (District) financial records to be audited under the supervision of a certified public accountant. District audits must include all funds received, maintained, and expended by the district. Furthermore, those audits must be independent of the County audit and completed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to “Financial Statement” audits contained in the latest revision of Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### Audit Deadline and Number Received

The Commission deadline for Calendar Year 2023 audits was Dec. 31, 2024. Currently, audits have been received and reviewed, with three outstanding audit submissions. The Commission approved audit due date extensions for all three outstanding audits during their January 2025 meeting.

Audit extension requests for Carbon and Lackawanna Conservation Districts, audit update for Northampton Conservation District

Carbon and Lackawanna: The accountant working on both audits recently contacted Department of Environmental Protection staff explaining the inability to meet the Feb. 28th deadline due to his current workload and ongoing health issue. To ensure audit requirements are met, we respectfully request the 2023 audit completion due date be

extended to May 31, 2025. All parties have agreed that open communication will continue as a priority so the task can be completed in a timely manner. Consequently, we also request the opportunity to approve a flexible due date in the future if the need arises. Northampton: Two written proposals are expected to be submitted to the district office the first week of March. The manager has board approval to accept a suitable contract within a specified dollar amount. Both proposals describe starting the audit process in early spring (April – June), with audit completion occurring July – August. The Northampton CD manager will continue to provide regular updates to several DEP staff.

In summary, we ask approval to extend the Carbon and Lackawanna CD audit due dates to May 31st, with flexibility to extend further if needed.

*Daryl Miller made a motion to approve the Audit Extensions. Motion seconded by Don Koontz. Motion carried.*

### **C. Written Reports – Self Explanatory**

1. Program Reports
  - a. Nutrient and Odor Management Program Measurables Report
  - b. March 2025 Status Report on Facility Odor Management Plan Reviews
  - c. NMP Actions
2. Ombudsman Program Reports – Southern Allegheny Region (Blair County Conservation District) and Lancaster County Conservation District

### **D. Cooperating Agency Reports – PACD, EPA, NRCS, Penn State, DEP, DCNR, DCED, PDA**

1. **NRCS** – Dan Ludwig reported on behalf of Denise Coleman:
  - **Reorganization Efforts**  
NRCS is undergoing a significant nationwide reorganization. Details remain under development, with Pennsylvania and other states actively involved.
  - **Personnel Changes**  
26 Probationary Employees:  
Initially let go due to administrative actions but later reinstated.  
Currently on administrative leave; return-to-work framework pending.
  - **Deferred Resignation Program:**  
3 employees accepted the "Fork in the Road" offer.  
Additional early resignation offers expected in the future.
  - **Program & Financial Updates**  
Conservation Work:  
Technical and financial assistance programs (e.g., EQUIP, CSP) remain active.  
Funding:  
\$84M obligated (includes IRA funds committed before January 20, 2025).  
Boot Camps:  
Continue as mission-critical initiatives for workforce development.
  - **Next Steps**  
Monitor reorganization progress and communicate updates.  
Clarify return-to-work plans for employees on administrative leave.



Track early resignation offers and program adjustments.

*Note: Uncertainties around timelines and final decisions were emphasized. Further updates will be shared as details solidify.*

2. **EPA** – Kelly reported:

- Funding & Project Status

Chesapeake Bay farm projects involving USDA climate funds are paused due to funding uncertainties.

Monitoring USDA funding closely to resume stalled initiatives.

- Leadership Updates

Regional Administrator Appointment:

Mid-Atlantic EPA region awaits a new appointee; no timeline confirmed.

Historically, appointments occur by fall, but 5/10 EPA regions already have administrators.

AG Advisor Role:

Kelly serves as the regional administrator's agriculture advisor.

Open to coordinating urgent agricultural/environmental topics for the new administrator's agenda.

- Workforce Concerns

Probationary Employees:

EPA lost staff in environmental justice, equity, and USGS technical support roles.

Awaiting clarity on reinstatement (similar to NRCS's earlier reversal).

Workforce stability for long-term projects (e.g., Bay restoration) remains a priority.

- Collaboration Plans

Meetings with state Environmental/Agriculture Secretaries and Conservation Commission planned within 30 days of the new administrator's tenure.

- Next Steps

Track USDA funding updates to resume paused projects.

Prepare priority topics for the incoming regional administrator.

Monitor EPA workforce reinstatement and reorganization plans.

*Note: Uncertainties around staffing, funding, and leadership timelines were emphasized.*

*Further updates will be shared as details emerge.*

3. **PACD** – Dennis Beck reported:

- Joint Annual Conference

Dates: July 15–17, 2025.

Highlights:

Multiple engaging activities planned.

NACD representative invited to lead discussions on federal funding challenges.

Special Session:

Briefing featuring districts that completed BMP projects, focusing on lessons learned and adaptation strategies amid federal funding changes.

- Next Steps

Finalize conference agenda and promote attendance.

Coordinate with NACD for federal funding discussions.

Prepare case studies from districts for the briefing session.

*Note: Emphasis on leveraging the conference to address funding challenges and share practical insights.*

3. **PSU** – Jenn Fetter reported on behalf of Chris Houser:

- New Academic Program

AG Structural Engineering Course:

Launching a 300-level course (Fall 2025) for juniors/seniors in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Cross-listed with the Engineering College to broaden participation.

Focus: Design/engineering of conservation-focused agricultural structures (reviving a nationally discontinued curriculum).

Instructor: Wei Yoon (hired via SEC's ACAP program funding), who will also train ACAP professionals.

- ACAP Conference

Dates: April 1–3, 2025 (Harrisburg, PA).

Registration: 194 attendees as of March 31; goal to exceed 200.

Encouraged participation from partners and stakeholders.

- Staffing Changes

Leadership Roles:

Chris Hauser: Promoted to Associate Director, overseeing extension programs under Jeff Hyde.

Nicole Thompson: Interim Assistant Director of Programs for Agronomy/Natural Resources (previously managed STAIR program).

Lisa Holden: Interim Animal Science Department Head; permanent replacement interviews ongoing.

Retirements/Transitions:

Mary Worth: Retired in 2024 but continues part-time as Director of Communication/Government Relations search resumes after a failed initial hire.

- Administrative Notes

Ongoing searches for permanent replacements in key roles (e.g., Animal Science Department Head, Communications Director).

- Next Steps

Promote A-CAP conference participation to meet attendance goals.

Monitor staffing transitions and support interim leaders.

Track progress on curriculum implementation and workforce training.

4. **DEP** – Secretary Shirley reported:

- Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Growing Greener & Section 319 Grants:

Timeline: Applications open April 22, 2025 (Earth Day) through June 22, 2025.

Announcement: Details to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin; potential event planned for launch.

- 2025 Annual Conservation District Watershed Specialist Meeting

Dates: October 7–8, 2025

Location: Wyndham Garden, State College, PA

Agenda Highlights:

New Specialist Training: Morning of October 7 (for hires post-October 2023).

General Sessions: Afternoon of October 7 and all-day October 8.

Key Activities: Watershed managers' discussions, regional breakouts.

Attendance: In-person only; registration opens August 2025.

Contact: Trish Attardo for inquiries.

- Section 319 Virtual Watershed Planning Meeting

Format: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Dates: May 27–28, 2025 (mornings only)

Focus:

Program updates for Section 319 nonpoint source management.

Showcase projects in EPA-approved watershed basins (agricultural, stream, AMD, and lake BMPs).

Audience: Conservation districts, DEP/EPA staff, nonprofits, municipalities, and educational institutions.

- SPEED Program Updates

Next Listening Session: April 1, 2025 (reminder sent by Carl DeLuca).

Qualified Professionals (QPs):

Over 100 QPs registered (mostly for Chapter 102/105 permits).

Bid acceptance may extend beyond March 2025; training/resources to follow via Clean Water Academy.

Rollout Plan:

Phase 1: Chapter 102 (Erosion & Sediment Control) permits prioritized due to high demand.

Subsequent phases for air quality/other permits delayed until QP lists expand.

- ENS Technical Training Sessions

Format: In-person regional workshops (6 total in 2025).

Upcoming Sessions:

South Central Districts: March 25, 2025 (registration closed).

Northeastern Districts: April 16, 2025 (register by March 21).

Priority: Newer staff; remaining regions' dates pending.

Summer 2025: Release of Agricultural ENS/MENOR Management SOPs.

- Clean Water Gathering Highlights

Event: January 23, 2025 – 25 strategies for success proposed by Clean Water Progress Teams.

Collaboration Spotlight:

Commended Jill Whitcomb and team for leadership in cross-sector partnerships (local, state, federal, nonprofits).

Pennsylvania recognized as a Chesapeake Bay restoration model.

- Next Steps

Submit SPEED program feedback by April 1, 2025.

Monitor Pennsylvania Bulletin for grant announcements (April 22).

Register for Northeast ENS training by March 21, 2025.

Prepare for October Watershed Specialist Meeting (save-the-date).

*Note: Emphasis on collaboration, grant accessibility, and phased program implementation.*

#### 5. **DCNR** – Matt reported:

- Federal Grants & Partnerships

Grant Accessibility: All federal grants remain accessible.

Buffer Grant: ~\$1M remaining in the "Most Effective Basin" grant for buffers; funds expected to be allocated soon.

NRCS Collaboration: Recent joint trainings with NRCS (Dan's team) on forestry technical assistance.

- Forest Service Updates

Restructuring Announcement: Expected this week; potential impacts include:

Continued support for rural forest landowners.

Concerns about reduced focus on urban forestry and research programs (e.g., Allegheny research lab partnerships).

- Grant Opportunities & Programs

DC & C2P2 Grants: Application deadline in 2 weeks (mid-April 2025); urgent reminders for pending submissions.

Pennsylvania Invasive Replace-ive Program:

Pilot Initiative: Provides free trees to residents who remove invasive species (e.g., invasive trees).

Partners: PA Department of Agriculture, Invasive Species Council, Penn State Master Watershed Program.

Funding: Utilizes expiring Forest Service funds; plans to expand into a tree equity program for underserved neighborhoods.

Events: 5 pilot events in May 2025 (fully booked pre-announcement).

- Wildfire Safety Reminders

Spring Fire Season: Active wildfire risk despite recent rain; dry leaves pose ongoing hazards.

County Coordination: Encourage burn bans and direct inquiries to local forestry offices.

- State Park Developments

Laurel Caverns State Park: Proposed as PA's 25th state park and first underground park; budget discussions ongoing.

Land Swap: Potential exchange with Game Commission to incorporate Glen Onoco Trail into Lehigh Gorge State Park.

- Next Steps

Monitor Forest Service restructuring details and advocate for urban forestry/research priorities.

Finalize C2P2 grant applications before the deadline.

Evaluate pilot invasive species program results for future scaling.

Coordinate wildfire prevention measures with counties.

*Note: Emphasis on leveraging federal partnerships, addressing wildfire risks, and advancing conservation through innovative programs.*

6. **DCED** – no report

7. **PDA** – Doug Wolfgang reported on behalf of Secretary Redding:

- High-Path Avian Influenza (HPAI):

Primary Concern: Continued spread of HPAI remains a critical focus.

Mitigation Efforts:

The Bureau of Animal Health is actively collaborating with stakeholders, producers, and partners to address outbreaks.

Emphasis on safeguarding agriculture, workforce stability, and food security.

- Broader Agricultural Priorities:

Workforce Development: Addressing labor shortages and skill gaps in the agricultural sector.

Food Security: Ensuring resilient supply chains and sustainable practices.

Federal Funding Challenges:

Ongoing efforts to adapt to federal funding changes, mirroring challenges discussed earlier in the meeting.

- Next Steps

Monitor HPAI outbreaks and strengthen mitigation partnerships.

Advocate for federal funding strategies to support agricultural programs.

*Note: The updates underscore the urgency of addressing HPAI while balancing broader agricultural priorities and funding uncertainties.*

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Next Public Meetings: April 15, 2025 – Conference Call

## STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE CALL

Microsoft Teams Conference Call  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 8:30 am

### *DRAFT MINUTES*

**Members Present:** Executive Deputy Secretary Greg Hostetter for Secretary Russell Redding; Acting Deputy Secretary Jill Whitcomb for Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, DEP; Mike Flinchbaugh; Ron Rohall; Daryl Miller; Bill Iams; Jim Hershey; Matt Keefer, DCNR; Amy Brown, PACD; Tree Zuzzio, DCED; and Jeff Hyde, Penn State.

A. **Public Input:** None

B. **Agency/Organization Updates**

1. PDA

Key Updates from Greg Hostetter on behalf of Secretary Russel Redding

a. Farmland Preservation

- i. Recent Investment: \$12 million allocated to preserve 29 farms across 17 counties.
- ii. Cumulative Progress:
  1. Total preserved farms: 6,530
  2. Total preserved acreage: 652,058 acres
- iii. Milestone Recognition: Celebrated as a major achievement for the program.

b. Spotted Lanternfly Management

- i. Expanded Quarantine: Added Bradford, Sullivan, Venango, and Wyoming counties.
- ii. Current Status: 52 counties now under quarantine.

New Initiatives

a. Center for Plant Excellence:

- i. Announced at Penn State SE Research Center.
- ii. Joins existing Centers of Excellence (Dairy, Beef, Poultry/Livestock).
- iii. Funded through the General Fund and overseen by the Department of Agriculture.

Staff Updates

- a. Retirement: Deputy Cheryl Cook (last week with the Commonwealth); acknowledged for decades of service.
- b. Vacancy: Farm Show Director Cheryl Myers has departed; interviews underway to fill the role.

Seasonal Reminders

- a. Spring Farming Activities:
  - i. Emphasis on no-till equipment adoption.
  - ii. Farmers preparing fields for planting.
- b. Rural Road Safety:
  - i. Highlighted risks with increased farm equipment on roads.

- ii. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to host a road safety press event this week.
- 2. DEP
  - Key Updates from Jill Whitcomb on behalf of Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley
    - a. SPEED Program Rollout
      - i. Progress:
        - 1. Over 100 qualified professionals from firms are under review for Chapter 102/105 permits.
      - ii. Phased Implementation:
        - 1. Phase 1 (May 2025): Chapter 102 Individual Permits (Erosion & Sediment Control).
        - 2. Subsequent Phases: Chapter 105 (Water Obstruction), Air Quality, and Dam Safety permits.

#### AG Compliance & Nutrient Management Updates

- b. Revised Procedures:
  - i. New Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for AG inspections and complaint investigations will be added to the *Nutrient Management/Manure Management Administrative Manual*.
  - ii. Timeline:
    - 1. SOP approval by State Conservation Commission: Summer 2025.
    - 2. Training: Virtual sessions via Clean Water Academy (Summer 2025) and in-person workshops (Fall 2025).
  - iii. Goal:
    - 1. Streamline complaint response across conservation districts for Chapter 102, nutrient, and manure management.

#### State Water Plan Regional Advisory Committees

- c. Call for Representatives:
  - i. Target Counties: Potter, Crawford, Erie, Franklin, Adams, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset.
  - ii. Role: Provide expertise on Pennsylvania's water resource management.
  - iii. Meetings: Hybrid (in-person/virtual) sessions starting October 2025.
  - iv. Contact: Express interest via Jill or Karen Books for nomination.

#### Upcoming Chesapeake Bay Webinars

- d. May 7, 2025:
  - i. Topic: Outreach to Plain Sect Communities in Octoraro Creek Watershed & BMP implementation in Lancaster/Chester Counties.
- e. June 4, 2025:
  - i. Topic: County Wetland Action Plan Administration (project execution from RFP to contracting).
- f. Audience: Conservation districts and Chesapeake Bay partners.

#### Staffing Updates

- g. Retirements:
  - i. Stephanie Wilfong (Chesapeake Bay Program Administrative Officer, 44-year tenure) retired in March 2025.
  - ii. Kristen Wolf (Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division) retiring June 2025; succeeded by Natani Miller.

- h. Open Positions:
  - i. Nonpoint Source Management Division Chief (replacing Carl DeLuca).
  - ii. Administrative Officer/Program Coordinator (new posting).

#### Additional Items

- SPEED Program: Monitor May 2025 launch of Chapter 102 permits.
- SOP Adoption: Prepare for summer training on revised AG compliance procedures.
- Committee Nominations: Submit interest for Regional Advisory Committees by October 2025.
- Webinar Registration: Promote May 7 and June 4 sessions to relevant stakeholders.

#### Closing Notes

- Jill emphasized collaboration with conservation districts to maintain service continuity amid staffing transitions.
- DEP acknowledged ongoing challenges but highlighted progress in program alignment and stakeholder engagement.

### 3. DCNR

#### Key Updates from Matt Keefer

- a. Spring Season Preparedness
  - i. Wildfire Risk:
    - 1. Current weather conditions have reduced immediate wildfire threats, but vigilance remains critical until full "leaf out" (late May).
- b. Tree Planting Initiatives:
  - i. Arbor Day & Earth Day Events (Week of April 28 – May 2): Statewide tree-planting activities, including riparian buffers and urban green spaces.
  - ii. Public engagement through news releases and community events.
- c. Community Conservation Partnership Program
  - i. Grant Application Status:
    - 1. Applications closed in early April 2025.
  - ii. Demand Highlights:
    - 1. Near-record funding requests (~\$16 million), matching 2024 levels.
    - 2. Focus areas: Riparian forest buffers, urban tree canopy expansion, and habitat restoration.
    - 3. Final grant awards to be announced later this year.
- d. Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Suppression
  - i. 2025 Spray Program:
    - 1. Timing: Early May (delayed slightly due to weather).
    - 2. Target Areas: Central Pennsylvania and regions north of Route 80.
    - 3. Scope: Smaller-scale operations compared to 2024.
- e. Bureau of Forestry Strategic Plan
  - i. Plan Overview:
    - 1. Title: "Penn's Forest for All" (First update since 1995).
  - ii. Key Goals:
    - 1. State forest management aligned with climate resilience.

- 2. Private land conservation partnerships.
- 3. Restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- iii. Timeline: 10-year framework (2025–2035).
- iv. Availability: Published online; limited hard copies distributed at future in-person meetings.
- f. Collaborative Efforts & Acknowledgments
  - i. Recent Collaboration:
    - 1. Matt and Doug highlighted joint efforts with the Natural Resource Council on Chesapeake Bay conservation (March 2025 meeting).
  - ii. Staff Outreach: Encouraged cross-agency participation in strategic plan implementation.

#### Additional Items

- g. Wildfire Monitoring: Maintain heightened awareness until late May.
- h. Grant Follow-Up: Track grant award announcements and allocate resources for approved projects.
- i. Spray Program Coordination: Communicate timelines to affected communities.
- j. Strategic Plan Dissemination: Share digital links to "Penn's Forest for All" with stakeholders.

#### Closing Notes

- k. Matt emphasized the importance of adapting to dynamic environmental conditions while advancing long-term conservation goals.

#### 4. NRCS

##### Key Program Updates from Denise Coleman

- a. Financial & Technical Assistance
  - i. Boot Camp Initiatives:
    - 1. Completed 2 boot camps (capacity-building for partners).
    - 2. Final Boot Camp: Scheduled for early May 2025.
- b. Federal Funding Status:
  - i. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funds:
    - 1. \$84 million fully obligated for Pennsylvania projects (completed in January 2025).
    - 2. *No delays* – funds are actively deployed for environmental quality and SENSE programs.
- c. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):
  - i. \$10 million currently paused by USDA Secretary's office.
  - ii. \$7 million from federal farm bill remains available for ongoing work.

##### Climate-Smart Commodities Program

- d. Pending Announcement:
  - i. USDA Secretary Rollins to release updated guidance (details TBD).
  - ii. Potential alignment with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) priorities.

##### Staffing & Reorganization

- e. Recent Workforce Reductions:
  - i. 50 employees exited NRCS Pennsylvania (April 2025):
  - ii. Primarily field staff with <2 years of service.
  - iii. Minimal retirements due to younger workforce demographics.



Agency Restructuring:

- f. Goal: Avoid future layoffs ("rifting") through strategic realignment.
- g. USDA Reorganization Plan:
  - i. Submitted to White House on April 27, 2025.
  - ii. Consolidates 36 agency proposals; final cuts pending White House review.

Next Steps & Additional Items

- h. Monitor CSP Funding: Track USDA's release of paused \$10 million.
- i. Boot Camp Execution: Finalize May 2025 session logistics.
- j. Climate-Smart Commodities: Prepare for rapid response to USDA guidance.
- k. Staff Transition Support: Streamline workflows amid reduced field capacity.

Strategic Outlook

- l. Challenges: Balancing reduced staffing with sustained program delivery.
- m. Opportunities: Leverage IRA funds for high-impact projects (e.g., riparian buffers, carbon sequestration).
- n. Critical Timeline: White House decision on USDA restructuring expected by June 2025.

5. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Cooperative Extension

Key Updates from Jeff Hyde

Leadership & Staffing Updates

- a. Chris Hauser's Promotion:
  - i. Appointed Associate Director for Programs, now overseeing all Penn State Extension initiatives.
  - ii. Previously led the Agronomy and Natural Resources Unit, bringing deep operational expertise.
- b. Nicole Thompson's Interim Role:
  - i. Educator from Potter County steps in as Interim Assistant Director for the Agronomy and Natural Resources Unit.
  - ii. Permanent recruitment for this role to be led by Chris Hauser in the near future.

ACAP Conference Highlights

- c. Event Success:
  - i. The recent Ag and Environment Conference (ACAP) received widespread praise for its collaborative energy and cross-organizational engagement.
  - ii. Jeff highlighted the vibrant networking during receptions and dinners, reflecting strong partner alignment.
- d. Special Recognition:
- e. Jenn's team commended for organizing a "fabulous conference," acknowledged for seamless execution.

Lower Susquehanna Region Field Visit

- f. Delegation Participants:
  - i. Included Jeff, Associate Dean for Research, Dean Troy Ott, Jen Fetter, and Ag & Environment Center staff (led by Matt Royer).

Farm Project Observations:

- g. Reviewed recently implemented and ongoing farm initiatives supported by the Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) network.

- h. Farmer testimonials emphasized the critical role of partner networks (e.g., organizations represented at ACAP) in project success.

Future Plans:

- i. Follow-up visits planned to monitor progress and strengthen ties with local stakeholders.

Strategic Collaborations & Acknowledgments

- j. Cross-Department Synergy:
  - i. Joint efforts by Extension, Research College, and Ag & Environment Center demonstrate resource integration strengths.
  - ii. Farm projects observed directly align with priorities of units discussed in the meeting.
- k. Leadership Appreciation:
  - i. Jeff applauded team resilience (“kudos to all units”) and invited further dialogue via Q&A.

Next Steps

- l. Recruitment Support: Assist Chris Hauser in formalizing the Agronomy and Natural Resources Unit leadership role.
- m. Project Follow-Up: Schedule return visits to the Susquehanna region for long-term impact assessment.
- n. Conference Best Practices: Document ACAP’s success factors for future cross-organizational events.
- o. Farmer Engagement: Strengthen technical assistance through CAP networks to sustain on-ground partnerships.

6. PACD

Leadership Transition

- a. Brenda Shambaugh's Retirement:
  - i. Retired on March 17, 2025, after years of service as PACD Executive Director.
  - ii. Recognized as a vital asset to conservation districts; plans underway to honor her contributions formally in the coming weeks.
- b. Interim Leadership:
  - i. Amy Brown now serves as Acting Executive Director of PACD.

Upcoming Key Events

- c. Conservation District Week:
  - i. Scheduled for April 20–26, 2025 (next week).
  - ii. Local conservation districts will engage legislators at county-level meetings to advocate for conservation priorities.
- d. Joint Annual Conference:
  - i. Dates: July 15–17, 2025
  - ii. Location: Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA
  - iii. Highlights:
    - 1. Keynote by NACD representative on federal funding impacts for conservation districts.
    - 2. Showcase of successful Best Management Practices (BMPs) by districts.
    - 3. Celebration of Southeast Conservation District’s 80th Anniversary.

## Strategic Initiatives

- e. Five-Year Strategic Plan:
  - i. PACD is actively developing a new strategic framework to guide operations until 2030.
- f. Staff Reorganization:
  - i. Structural adjustments to optimize team efficiency; implementation timeline spans the next 6 months.

## Next Steps

- g. Conservation District Week: Finalize legislative outreach materials and district participation.
- h. Conference Preparation: Confirm NACD speaker details and anniversary celebration logistics.
- i. Strategic Plan Draft: Circulate initial framework for stakeholder feedback by June 2025.

## 7. DCED

- a. Tree Zuzzio reported no update from DCED

## C. Information and Discussion Items

### 1. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 18, 2025, Conference Call (Cancelled)
- b. March 18, 2025, In person/Conference call

### 2. Proposed changes for the FY 2025 REAP Program- Joel Semke, SCC (NA)

Joel presented proposals that reflect suggestions from SCC staff and partners based on experiences over the course of the past year. Please note: Each proposal is subject to legal review prior to being incorporated into the FY 2025 REAP Guidelines and Application packet. It is the intent of Commission staff to present final versions of the proposed FY 2025 REAP Guidelines and Application at the May 2025 meeting of the State Conservation Commission. The FY 2025 Guidelines and Application will include any proposed changes. Staff welcomes further comments and suggestions regarding the following proposals\*:

- a. EQUIPMENT: ELIGIBLE COST CAPS

**Proposal #1:** Raise the cap on PUKs to \$100,000 from the current cap of \$70,000.

**Proposal #2:** Raise the cap for precision nutrient application equipment to \$80,000 from the current cap of \$70,000.

**Proposal #3:** Lower the cap on the REAP-eligible purchase price for new/used no-till equipment to \$250,000 per piece.

The intent of the proposals is to make it easier for new and/or small farmers to afford better no-till equipment by raising the REAP reimbursement for refurbishment of older equipment. The intent of the proposal to lower the overall cap on equipment from \$300K to \$250K is to find funding within REAP current funding for other BMPs – while still providing relatively generous funding for larger new equipment.

#### b. COVER CROPS

**Proposal #1:** Make the effective reimbursement rate for cover crop rollers consistent across the state at 90%.

The intent of the proposal is to increase the use of roller/crimpers as a cover crop termination tool. Commission staff feels that use of the roller/crimper as a cover crop tool provides a soil health benefit later in the season and potentially reduces herbicide use. The current reimbursement rate for cover crop rollers is 50% of purchase price (non-TMDL) and 90%(TMDL).

**Proposal #2:** Make the reimbursement rate for multi-species cover crops consistent across the state.

The intent of the proposal is to increase the use of multi-species cover crops across the state. The current reimbursement rate for multi-species cover crops is 50% (non-TMDL) and 90%(TMDL).

**Proposal #3:** Cap the REAP-eligible costs for cover crops at \$100,000.

The intent of the proposal is to ensure fair distribution of REAP funding across the state – regardless of operation size.

**Proposal #4:** Clearly remove broadcast seeders from the list of equipment that is eligible for REAP tax credits. Cover crop drones are exempt from the policy (see proposal #3).

The intent of the proposal is to focus REAP funding on the most effective planting equipment for cover crops – no-till drills.

**Proposal #5:** Amend attachment 3 of the REAP Guidelines to state: Cover crops that are mechanically harvested for grain, forage, or hay/straw are not eligible for REAP tax credits. Grazing of cover crops is permitted.

The intent of the proposal is to focus REAP funding on plantings that provide the greatest soil health benefits. The proposal also serves to simplify the administration of REAP tax credits for cover crops.

**Proposal #6:** Eliminate the requirement for farmers to move to multi-species cover crops to remain eligible for REAP tax credits.

The intent of the proposal is to recognize the efforts of farmers across the state where weather conditions may not be conducive to establishing multi-species cover crops. In addition, proposals 2, 3, and 5 make the old REAP Guidelines regarding single species cover superfluous; while proposal #2 sufficiently prioritized multi-species cover crops over single species

#### c. ROTATIONAL GRAZING PRACTICES

**Proposal #1:** Expand REAP's fence guidelines to allow for temporary/mobile fencing used for the implementation of a rotational grazing system and grazing plans. Commission staff also intends to incentivize grazing of crop fields.

**Proposal #2:** Include mobile shade structures as eligible grazing infrastructure.

**Proposal #3:** Expand REAP's water facility guidelines to allow for other temporary/mobile watering systems.

The intent of the proposals is to incentivize the increased adoption of intensive rotation grazing and increased grazing of crop fields. Intensive rotation grazing and grazing of crop fields is viewed a good method to increase overall soil health on an ag operation.

\*See memo for additional proposed changes not discussed

3. Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program update- Justin Challenger, SCC & Steve Bloser Director, PSU (NA)
  1. Steve and Justin highlighted three recent stream restoration projects designed to improve flood resilience and structural integrity. First, upstream grade control measures were implemented in collaboration with ELK technicians to stabilize the stream bed and prevent head cuts, ensuring proper alignment with new structures. A before-and-after comparison demonstrated significant improvements in flood capacity, particularly resolving issues caused by a problematic gas line that previously caused debris buildup.
  2. The second project on Polly Pine Rd in Union County addressed a stream prone to clogging in a forested watershed. A 22-foot concrete box culvert with a bottom was installed, featuring a three-sided design that allowed crews to shape the stream bed and add grade control rocks before sealing the structure. This approach streamlined construction and minimized in-box work.
  3. The third example showcased a newly restored stream's resilience during Hurricane Debbie, which dropped 7 inches of rain just three weeks post-construction. The upgraded system (including stabilized grade control rocks) prevented road washouts that would have previously required township intervention. Post-storm footage confirmed the structure's durability, with the stream maintaining its grade despite extreme flows. The township praised the project's success during recent ESM training, noting its performance in multiple

major storms. Justine concluded by inviting future site tours and referencing an upcoming workshop in Adams County.

4. Nutrient Management Program Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Proposal: NM/MM Delegation Agreement Funding Levels- Brady Seeley, SCC (NA)
  - a. In 2021, Commission and DEP staff, along with the NM/MM delegation workgroup, worked on a process to distribute funding to counties that will accept delegation. This process utilized a program workload analysis that considered the number of farmers in each county implementing current Act 38 and CAFO nutrient management plans. The workload analysis incorporated realistic staff resources for program implementation activities, reflecting a practical workload history for each county and subsequently producing appropriately adjusted district funding levels.
5. Update on PA Sustainable Agriculture Board – Mike Roth, SCC (NA)
  - a. Mike provided an update to the Commission on the Sustainable Agriculture Grant program, which is using funds from EPA’s Most Effective Basin (MEB) program to award grants for sustainable agriculture projects that prioritize soil health. Funds are initially limited to the Chesapeake Bay region, per EPA requirements, with plans to expand statewide in the future if funding becomes available. The Chesapeake Bay Program WIP 3 identifies soil health as a priority for achieving water quality targets. In addition, soil health aligns with climate change and farm productivity goals. The grant guidelines have been posted in the PA Bulletin and the application will launch on April 21st.
6. ACAP conference debriefing/overview Justin Challenger, SCC & Jenn Fetter, PSU (NA)
  - a. Justin and Jenn provided an overview of the recent ACAP conference held in Harrisburg, with roughly 250 people in attendance. The three-day conference, attended by conservation districts, partner agencies, academic, and non-government organizations, provided a mix of classroom sessions and field trips, along with a banquet and awards ceremony.

#### **D. Adjournment**

Next Public Meetings/Conference Calls:

May 20, 2025 – In Person/Virtual, PDA building Lobby Conference room

June 17, 2025- Conference Call



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 1, 2025

To: Members  
State Conservation Commission

From: Justin Challenger  
Director, Financial & Technical Assistance Programs

RE: Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program Conservation District FY 2025-26 Allocations

## Background

The DGLVR Program allocates funding to the participating Conservation Districts (Districts) annually at the start of each fiscal year. Districts have two years to spend funds that are allocated to them. Districts that do not meet the two-year spending requirement are not eligible for an allocation until the funds have been spent. Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) spending requirements are tracked separately from Low Volume Road (LVR) spending requirements. A district that is not eligible for a DGR allocation may still be eligible for a LVR allocation. Likewise, a district that did not meet the spending requirements for LVR may still be eligible for a DGR allocation.

The total DGR and LVR funds allocated annually to Conservation Districts has remained constant since the funding increase and addition of LVR funding in FY 2014-15. Allocations for both LVR and DGR are formula driven. There are no changes to the DGR and LVR allocation formulas for this fiscal year.

### Paved Low Volume Road (LVR) Conservation District Allocations

For Low Volume Roads, the formula is as follows:

**Miles Urban Road > 500' to Stream X 1 = A** (*urban, no stream*)

**Miles Urban Road < 500' to Stream X 3 = B** (*urban, stream*)

**Miles Non-Urban Road > 500' to Stream X 3 = C** (*non-urban, no stream*)

**Miles Non-Urban Road < 500' to Stream X 4 = D** (*non-urban, stream*)

<sup>9</sup> **Miles of road near HQ/EV stream X 1 = E** (*HQ/EV "bonus"*)

$$\text{County Allocation} = \left( \frac{\text{A + B + C + D + E for County}}{\text{A + B + C + D + E for State}} \right) \times \text{Total to be distributed to Counties}$$

### 2025-26 LVR Allocation Factors:

Each year, the data layers used for allocation factors are updated to the most recently available data. For FY 2025-26, only minor updates were made for the base road and stream data, and allocation changes from the previous fiscal year were minimal. Allocations generally decreased slightly for most counties for FY 2025-26 due to two additional counties becoming allocation-eligible who did not receive FY 2024-25 allocations (which were distributed to eligible counties).

### **Dirt and Gravel Road (DGR) Conservation District Allocations**

The formula used to allocate DGR funds is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 \text{Worksites} & & \\
 \text{Factor} & \mathbf{50\%} & = & \frac{\text{County Miles of Worksites}}{\text{State Miles of Worksites}} \\
 \\
 \text{Unpaved Road} & & \\
 \text{Factor} & \mathbf{45\%} & = & \frac{\text{Miles of Unpaved Road in County} + \text{Miles of Unpaved Road in County within 1,000' of HQ/EV stream}}{\text{Miles of Unpaved Road in State} + \text{Miles of Unpaved Road in State within 1,000' of HQ/EV stream}} \\
 \\
 \text{Stone Cost} & & \\
 \text{Factor} & \mathbf{5\%} & = & \frac{\text{Stone Cost in County (minus)- Minimum Stone cost in State}}{\text{Minimum Stone cost in State}}
 \end{array}$$

### 2025-26 DGR Allocation Factors:

Each year, the data layers used for allocation factors are updated to the most recently available data. For FY 2025-26, changes to the allocation factors were minimal. A few counties saw allocation increases due to identifying additional potential project sites or from updating their limestone costs.

### **Recommendation for SCC Action:**

Staff recommends approval of the conservation district allocations for Dirt and Gravel Roads and Low Volume Roads, based on the allocation formulas shown above, pending the approval of the state budget at current funding levels.



**PA State Conservation Commission - Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program**  
**DIRT AND GRAVEL ROAD Proposed Conservation District FY 25-26 Allocations**  
**For SCC Approval**

*pending state budget approval*

for		FINAL	notes	for		FINAL	notes
County	comparison 2024-25			County	comparison 2024-25		
Adams	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Juniata	\$ 115,944	\$ 111,839	
Allegheny	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Lackawanna	\$ 111,134	\$ 109,132	
Armstrong	\$ 784,669	\$ 771,692		Lancaster	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Beaver	\$ 109,424	\$ 105,533		Lawrence	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Bedford	\$ 264,772	\$ 259,421		Lebanon	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Berks	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Lehigh	\$ 133,162	\$ 128,647	
Blair	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Luzerne	\$ 186,956	\$ 183,430	
Bradford	\$ 1,375,000	\$ 1,375,000	max	Lycoming	\$ 438,830	\$ 436,046	
Bucks	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	McKean	\$ 277,886	\$ 261,899	
Butler	\$ 152,706	\$ 151,626		Mercer	\$ 168,540	\$ 164,214	
Cambria	\$ 119,089	\$ 115,186		Mifflin	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Cameron	\$ 54,244	\$ 50,417		Monroe	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Carbon	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Montgomery	LVR Program Only		1
Centre	\$ 148,507	\$ 147,029		Montour	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Chester	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Northampton	LVR Program Only		1
Clarion	\$ 367,255	\$ 362,979		N'uberland	\$ 197,254	\$ 195,790	
Clearfield	\$ 617,030	\$ 613,526		Perry	\$ 151,433	\$ 147,252	
Clinton	\$ 185,381	\$ 187,763		Pike	\$ 112,175	\$ 108,270	
Columbia	\$ 370,809	\$ 372,961		Potter	\$ 831,520	\$ 860,038	
Crawford	\$ 746,955	\$ 752,605		Schuylkill	\$ 176,358	\$ 173,427	
Cumberland	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Snyder	\$ 128,870	\$ 125,967	
Dauphin	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min	Somerset	\$ 477,143	\$ 479,128	
Delaware	LVR Program Only		1	Sullivan	\$ 330,773	\$ 324,297	
Elk	\$ 240,695	\$ 237,126		Susquehanna	\$ 1,225,747	\$ 1,214,930	
Erie	\$ 528,617	\$ 521,936		Tioga	\$ 989,374	\$ 980,836	
Fayette	\$ 224,497	\$ 221,344		Union	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	min
Forest	\$ 151,127	\$ 180,423		Venango	\$ 509,073	\$ 520,527	
Franklin	\$ 43,888	\$ -		Warren	\$ 506,853	\$ 500,821	
Fulton	\$ 165,907	\$ 186,589		Washington	\$ 369,709	\$ 363,465	
Greene	\$ 397,571	\$ 388,999		Wayne	\$ 477,409	\$ 474,638	
Huntingdon	\$ 316,074	\$ 311,469		Westmoreland	\$ 163,652	\$ 175,476	
Indiana	\$ 579,869	\$ 587,128		Wyoming	\$ 344,380	\$ 337,421	
Jefferson	\$ 508,230	\$ 504,088		York	\$ 143,509	\$ 237,670	
				<b>TOTAL \$ 18,620,000 \$ 18,620,000</b>			

**NOTES:**

min = minimum DGR allocation (\$100,000)

1 = Does not participate in DGR portion of Program

max = maximum DGR allocation (\$1,375,000)

**PA State Conservation Commission - Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program**  
**PAVED LOW VOLUME ROAD Proposed Conservation District FY 25-26 Allocations**  
**For SCC Approval**  
*pending state budget approval*

for comparison			notes	for comparison			notes
County	2024-25	FINAL 2025-26		County	2024-25	FINAL 2025-26	
Adams	\$ 118,955	\$ 115,422		Juniata	\$ 68,947	\$ 67,291	
Allegheny	\$ 267,219	\$ 259,519		Lackawanna	\$ 81,839	\$ 80,471	
Armstrong	\$ 132,854	\$ 131,381		Lancaster	\$ 278,229	\$ 271,605	
Beaver	\$ 99,719	\$ 97,020		Lawrence	\$ 101,054	\$ 97,946	
Bedford	\$ 176,344	\$ 170,711		Lebanon	\$ 85,468	\$ 82,829	
Berks	\$ 259,798	\$ 253,456		Lehigh	\$ 132,163	\$ 128,223	
Blair	\$ 83,388	\$ 81,776		Luzerne	\$ 153,296	\$ 150,414	
Bradford	\$ 110,391	\$ 108,516		Lycoming	\$ 134,372	\$ 134,286	
Bucks	\$ 198,251	\$ 192,355		McKean	\$ 65,042	\$ 64,680	
Butler	\$ 189,133	\$ 184,691		Mercer	\$ -	\$ 132,307	
Cambria	\$ 116,905	\$ 113,232		Mifflin	\$ 59,049	\$ 57,563	
Cameron	\$ 40,000	\$ 13,333		Monroe	\$ 129,806	\$ 125,317	
Carbon	\$ 53,333	\$ 51,752		Montgomery	\$ -	\$ 171,048	
Centre	\$ 107,530	\$ 105,821		Montour	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	min
Chester	\$ 228,402	\$ 221,790		Northampton	\$ 128,176	\$ 124,517	
Clarion	\$ 89,211	\$ 86,871		N'uberland	\$ 102,067	\$ 100,473	
Clearfield	\$ 119,136	\$ 120,643		Perry	\$ 108,819	\$ 105,273	
Clinton	\$ 53,943	\$ 53,731		Pike	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	min
Columbia	\$ 85,313	\$ 83,882		Potter	\$ 62,389	\$ 62,743	
Crawford	\$ 101,478	\$ 102,747		Schuylkill	\$ 156,532	\$ 151,635	
Cumberland	\$ 130,377	\$ 126,707		Snyder	\$ 65,678	\$ 62,995	
Dauphin	\$ 129,049	\$ 125,191		Somerset	\$ 181,782	\$ 179,217	
Delaware	\$ 86,983	\$ 84,134		Sullivan	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	min
Elk	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	min	Susquehanna	\$ 70,785	\$ 70,575	
Erie	\$ 133,862	\$ 130,623		Tioga	\$ 62,608	\$ 60,806	
Fayette	\$ 145,623	\$ 141,571		Union	\$ 46,166	\$ 44,804	
Forest	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	min	Venango	\$ 73,800	\$ 72,049	
Franklin	\$ 118,057	\$ -		Warren	\$ 53,941	\$ 52,384	
Fulton	\$ 62,006	\$ 60,511		Washington	\$ 221,487	\$ 215,305	
Greene	\$ 136,478	\$ 133,360		Wayne	\$ 94,950	\$ 92,682	
Huntingdon	\$ 108,558	\$ 110,032		Westmoreland	\$ 263,291	\$ 256,109	
Indiana	\$ 170,524	\$ 167,342		Wyoming	\$ 45,388	\$ 44,004	
Jefferson	\$ 104,092	\$ 101,104		York	\$ 263,964	\$ 259,225	
				<b>TOTAL \$ 7,448,000 \$ 7,448,000</b>			

**NOTES:**

min = minimum LVR allocation (\$40,000)



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Date:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**To:** State Conservation Commission  
**From:** Justin Challenger, Director of Financial & Technical Assistance Programs  
**RE:** Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (Center): Scope and Budget for FY 2025-26

**Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (Center): Scope and Budget for FY 2025-26**

The Center provides education, outreach, and technical assistance to entities involved in Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program. The Center has been funded primarily through the PA State Conservation Commission and PA Bureau of Forestry through PA Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program funds since 2001. FY 2025-26 represents year two of an existing five-year contract between the Center and the SCC to continue providing these services. The scope of work and budget for FY 2025-26 remains similar to year 1 of the existing agreement, with the Center providing a variety of training and technical assistance events, in addition to maintaining the GIS project tracking system and working with SCC staff closely on a variety of issues.

Highlights of the scope and budget for 2025-26 include:

- Continuation of established training events such as the in person two-day ESM training, administrative trainings, new hire trainings, and the annual maintenance workshop.
- Continued support and development of the Customized GIS and financial tracking system used to track over \$26 million in annual spending by Conservation Districts.
- Stream crossing trainings for conservation districts, private engineers, DEP staff.
- Continued support of Conservation District programs through a wide variety of technical assistance on upcoming and active road projects.
- Continuation of other outreach efforts in support of the program, including technical assistance, aggregate testing, webinars, QAQC visits, additional written technical guidance, and more.
- The continuation of the "other tasks as assigned and agreed upon" clause in the scope that provides flexibility in adapting this scope and budget as issues arise

As was done in past years, the SCC establishes a 5-year contract with the Center, with the updated budget and scope of work for each year brought back to the SCC for approval each May. The scope of work and summary budget is attached here for FY 2025-26. The detailed budget has been reviewed with SCC staff.

**SCC staff requests approval of the FY 2025-26 Scope of Work and Budget, pending State Budget approval of DGLVR Program funds.**

4/22/25

## **Scope of Work**

**(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)**

### **Submitted To:**

**Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Road Maintenance Program (Program)**

Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission (SCC)

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

### **Performing Organization:**

**Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies (Center)**

The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)

201 Transportation Research Building

University Park, PA 16802-4710

Principal Investigator: Steven M. Bloser, 814-865-6967

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**FY 2025-26 represents year two of an existing five-year contract between the Center and the SCC. The Scope of Work below for approval is for FY 2025-26. Also included are estimated Scope of Work plans for the remaining three fiscal years of the proposed contract.**

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The Center provides education, outreach, and technical assistance to Conservation Districts and local road owning entities throughout Pennsylvania as part of the PA Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program (Program).

### **1) ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MAINTENANCE (ESM) TRAINING COURSE**

- a) **Description:** The two-day ESM training course focuses on the connection between road maintenance activities and surface water quality and covers all of the road maintenance practices promoted by the Program. It also covers the basics of Program functionality and how to apply for Program funding. Municipalities or other road-owning entities who wish to apply for Program funding must have attended the ESM training within the previous 5 years in order to be eligible for funding.
- b) **FY 2025-26:** The Center will:
  - (1) Continue to provide ESM trainings throughout the state. The annual number to be based on requests for trainings by eligible entities and the recommendations of the SCC. Some of these training may be larger-scale “regional” trainings. It is estimated that 12 ESM trainings will be held in FY 2025-26 for approximately 700 attendees.
  - (2) Be responsible for training scheduling, logistics, publicity, registration, provision of continuing education units upon request, and attendee certification tracking and verification.
  - (3) Provide at least 2 trainers per session along with all necessary classroom equipment.
  - (4) Provide for training facility and necessary meals for attendees.
  - (5) Provide attendees with printed material related to the ESM training and instructions on applying for funds.
  - (6) Update ESM training with new material and field project experience.
- c) **FY 2026-27 through FY 2028-29:** The Center plans to:
  - (1) Provide trainings with similar deliverables described above through FY 2028-29.
  - (2) The number and size of trainings to be held will be determined based on

4/22/25

- (i) demand from local entities.
- (ii) the recommendations of the SCC and Program advisory groups

## 2) **ANNUAL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP**

- a) **Description**: Annual conference focusing on current issues and new practices related to the Program practices, procedure, and projects. This is a 2-3 day event with concurrent classroom session, invited speakers, and multiple field trips. It is held at a different location within PA each year.
- b) **FY 2025-26**: Plans are currently underway to hold the 2025 workshop in Gettysburg in September. The Center will work with established advisory workgroups in developing classroom and field topics for the workshop. The Center will handle all of the logistics for the workshop including coordination of field trips, classroom sessions, meals, busses, agendas, registration, etc.
- c) **FY 2026-27 through FY 2028-29**: The Center plans to continue to conduct the Annual Maintenance Workshop each year. The Center will make adjustments to the workshop duration and format to accommodate attendance and subjects to be addressed. It is anticipated that a workshop will continue to be held every fall at a different location in Pennsylvania. Any potential changes to the workshop format, timing, etc. will be made through recommendations by the Program's advisory groups, in which both SCC and Center staff participate.

## 3) **FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) **Description**: The Center provides a wide range of technical assistance education to Conservation Districts and local public road owners statewide regarding road projects funded by the Program. Technical assistance on road projects can include, but is not limited to:
  - (1) E-mail and phone response to specific project questions with varied levels of response required.
  - (2) Walkthrough of potential projects to assist in work plan development.
  - (3) Review and improvement suggestions for project applications.
  - (4) Pre, during, and post-project site visits to address specific project issues or questions.
  - (5) Detailed project walkthroughs for educational purposes, involving multiple site visits, especially in cases where there is new staff at the local Conservation District.
  - (6) Visits to assess post-project performance issues and remediation actions.
  - (7) More in-depth project oversight and on-site training in some cases.
- b) **FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29**: The Center will:
  - (1) Handle daily support via phone and e-mail regarding project technical assistance throughout the counties involved in Program.
  - (2) Handle an estimated 300 on-site technical assistance visits and at least 30 "in-depth" project oversight visits annually. The amount and type of technical assistance will be based on demand.
  - (3) Continue to utilize the tech-assist tracking system that will allow better summary of technical assistance efforts and direct access by SCC staff.

## 4) **PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- a) **Description**: In addition to technical assistance related to "field operations" described above, the Center also provides a wide range of other technical assistance to entities involved in the Program. These services include but are not limited to:

4/22/25

- (1) General e-mail and phone support on a wide variety of Program-related questions (project eligibility, spending issues, Program policy questions, GIS issues, etc.)
- (2) On-site walkthrough of programmatic issues at county offices when issues arise or when new staff comes on board with the conservation district.
- b) **FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29**: The Center will continue to serve as the “help desk” for general program questions and issues from participants. Office visits to Conservation Districts will be conducted on an as needed basis to address issues or to assist new District staff.

## 5) **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) AND REPORTING**

- a) **Description**: Since the Program began, the Center has maintained a customized GIS system used by County Conservation Districts throughout Pennsylvania to track location, project data, and over \$350 million in spending data on the over 7,300 completed and active contracts throughout the state. The Center has continued to work with the SCC, users, and developers to refine the GIS tool and add components such as better financial tracking and project layout features.
- b) **FY 2025-26**: The Center will continue to work closely with the SCC to ensure the GIS meets the financial tracking and reporting needs of the DGLVR Program. The Center will work with sub-contractors on maintenance and any changes and upgrades determined necessary. Updates are anticipated for FY 25-26 to the contracting and deliverable reporting process. Regular training and webinars will be available to Conservation District users.
- c) **FY 2026-27 through FY 2028-29**: The Center plans to continue to support the GIS and Annual Summary Report process throughout the life of the Program. Advisory workgroups and SCC involvement will guide the development, upgrades, and trainings necessary for the GIS system.

## 6) **MISCELLANEOUS (FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29)**:

- a) **Advisory Workgroups**: The Center and Program have relied on advisory workgroups in various capacities since the Program began. The Center works closely with Program staff to schedule and chair workgroup meetings. The Center will continue to coordinate with SCC staff in order to schedule these workgroup meetings as needed. Currently active workgroups include:
  - (1) **DGLVR Advisory Workgroup**: Consisting mostly of Conservation Districts, this is the primary advisory group for the Program on matters of administration, education, outreach, and more.
  - (2) **Product and Process**: Deals with approval of products such as dust suppressants for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program.
- b) **Administrative Manual**: The Center worked closely with SCC staff to write the Program’s Administrative Manual in 2014, and on modifications to the manual roughly every two years since then. The Center will continue to work with SCC staff to on corrections, additions, and clarifications to the manual as necessary.
- c) **Stream Crossing Replacement Trainings**: The Center will continue to work with the SCC to determine the need for trainings on stream crossing replacement for Conservation Districts as well as other outside entities.
- d) **Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QAQC)**: The QAQC effort visits individual Conservation Districts to evaluate how they are administering the Program within their county and make recommendations for improvement. While the QAQC effort is driven by the SCC, the Center is part of the QAQC team and typically assists with visit data preparation, evaluation of field sites, and review of the field sites with Conservation

4/22/25

District staff during the visit. The Center will continue to assist the SCC in these QAQC visits, which are expected to be held in approximately 22-23 counties each year. Center staff will provide the SCC with timely feedback on site visits for incorporation into reports.

- e) **ESM Boot Camp**: The “Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Boot Camp” is a three-day training aimed at new hires at Conservation Districts. This field-intensive course is designed to “jump start” new technicians into their role with the DGLVR Program at the district. It is anticipated that 1-2 boot camps will be held per year moving forward.
- f) **Research and PSU Class**: Working in conjunction with the PA Bureau of Forestry and other outside contracts, the Center will continue to conduct and promote research that will be of direct value to participants in the Program. Research findings will be incorporated into the ESM trainings annually to strengthen the practices promoted by the Program. The Center will continue to offer, through other funding sources, an “Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance” focused course for graduate and undergraduate students at Penn State University.

## 7) **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

- i) **Fact Sheets/Technical Bulletins**: The Center will continue to revise and publish new information bulletins on specific maintenance practices.
- ii) **Webinars**: The Center will continue to work with the SCC to develop and deliver a variety of DGLVR webinars for conservation districts. It is anticipated that approximately 20 webinars will be delivered each year
- iii) **Website**: Continued maintenance and updating of the Center and Program website will occur throughout the contract year.
- iv) **Reporting**: The Center will submit quarterly activity reports along with invoices.

## 8) **OTHER TASKS AS ASSIGNED AND AGREED UPON**

The Center will, on occasion, provide other products and/or services to SCC under this agreement provided that funds to do so are available. It is expressly understood by both parties that this section is intended to allow flexibility in carrying out the annual work plan to address items unexpected or unforeseen at the time of adoption. In all cases, such additional products and/or services will be undertaken based on mutual agreement of SCC and the Center. This flexibility has worked well between the SCC and Center over the past decade. Office and field supplies are required for assigned projects. Purchase of field equipment, including but not limited to safety equipment, paint, flagging, survey equipment, and testing equipment may be required to fulfill contract obligations. Purchase of office equipment including but not limited to laptops, projectors, screens, cameras, copiers, software, printers, and other office or computer equipment, may be required to fulfill contract obligations.



**PA State Conservation Commission - Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Road Maintenance Program**  
**Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Studies (Center)**  
**Summary Budget for FY 2025-26**

4/24/2025

- FY 2025-26 represents year two of an existing five-year contract between the Center and the SCC.
- Projected budget for all FY's approved in 2024 are provided below.
- **Approval is only being requested for FY 2025-26 budget at this time.**
- **This is a summary budget only, detailed budget was reviewed with SCC staff.**

**Center Budget 5-year Projection Estimates Provided in April 2024**

	<i>projected Year 1 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025</i>	<i>projected Year 2 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026</i>	<i>projected Year 3 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027</i>	<i>projected Year 4 7/1/2027 - 6/30/2028</i>	<i>projected Year 5 7/1/2028 - 6/30/2029</i>	<i>projected Total 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2029</i>
<b>SUMMARY BUDGET</b>						
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 887,278	\$ 908,760	\$ 930,780	\$ 953,350	\$ 976,484	\$ 4,674,452
TOTAL TRAVEL	\$ 213,000	\$ 213,000	\$ 213,000	\$ 213,000	\$ 213,000	\$ 1,065,000
TOTAL OPPEERATIONAL	\$ 128,722	\$ 107,240	\$ 85,220	\$ 62,650	\$ 39,516	\$ 470,548
TOTAL SUB-CONTRACT	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 650,000
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 6,860,000
Admin Fee (0\$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 6,860,000

**Center Past Approved Budgets and FY 2025-26 Budget for Approval**

	<b>SCC Approved Year 1 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025</b>	<b>FOR SCC APPROVAL Year 2 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026</b>	<b>Year 3 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027</b>	<b>Year 4 7/1/2027 - 6/30/2028</b>	<b>Year 5 7/1/2028 - 6/30/2029</b>	<b>Total 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2029</b>
<b>SUMMARY BUDGET</b>						
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 887,278	\$ 908,760	Updated budgets for future years will be brought to SCC for approval.			
TOTAL TRAVEL	\$ 213,000	\$ 213,000				
TOTAL OPPEERATIONAL	\$ 128,722	\$ 107,240				
TOTAL SUB-CONTRACT	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000				
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 6,860,000
Admin Fee (0\$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 6,860,000

**Date:** April 30, 2025

**To:** State Conservation Commission

**From:** Eric Cromer, ACAP Program Manager

**RE:** Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program Allocations

### **Background**

In FY 2022-23, the State Conservation Commission was provided a one-time allocation of \$154 million under the newly created Clean Stream Fund (CSF) to support the newly created Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). These funds must be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

The ACAP enabling legislation also contains several parameters for how these funds are utilized, including:

- An allowance for SCC Administrative Expenses (up to 4%)
- Allowance for SCC Contractual Services (up to 4%)
- A requirement that funds apportioned (committed under agreement) to conservation districts must be utilized within 2 years of receipt
- A requirement to reapportion unutilized funds to other districts consistent with the apportionment criteria under the Act.

### **FY 2025 State Budget**

The FY25 budget includes an anticipated investment of \$50M of state dedicated funds to the Clean Streams Fund. With ACAP planned to receive a large share of this fund, with a proposed yearly amount of \$35.75M available for ACAP going forward. FY25 also includes a proposed additional amount of \$3.146M of interest funds bringing the total to \$38.896M for ACAP.

### **ACAP Allocation Methodology**

Given the parameters above, the Commission proposes the following **Allocation + Methodology for SCC consideration:**

- Four percent (4%) or **\$1,555,840** will be **reserved** for SCC administration purposes and will be utilized for program staff and other administrative needs.

- Four percent (**4%**) or **\$1,555,840** will be **reserved** for SCC contractual purposes for contractual support expenses incurred by the Commission (e.g. contractual services from Penn State, private sector engineering, non-profit partners, etc.).
- The remaining funds or **\$35,784,320** will be **allocated** to the counties as shown on the chart below and based on the four-apportionment criteria formula under the enabling legislation including:
  - miles of agriculturally impaired streams;
  - acres of cropland;
  - number of farms;
  - number of livestock and poultry, in animal equivalent units (AEU's)
- The **four apportionment criteria** in the Act will be **equally weighted** in the apportionment formula.
- A **minimum allocation** per county will be set at **\$300,000**.

By law, conservation district will have **2 years** from the receipt of these funds **to commit and spend these funds**.

These **allocations** will allow the Commission to **monitor progress** of districts to commit and spend funds at the county level, and to provide districts **2-years from the date of receipt to utilize** the funds allocated to the county.

**Future annual allocations** to county conservation districts will be **adjusted based on their performance** metrics (have they been able to commit and spend their annual allocation in a timely manner) and **may be supplemented** in subsequent years with unspent funds from other counties.

**Fifty percent (50%) advanced working capital (AWC)** will be provided to participating conservation districts as a part of their annual allocation and this AWC will be replenished as district funds are utilized for actual eligible costs.

#### **Recommendation for SCC Action:**

Staff recommends approval of the county allocations as shown below for Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program, based on the allocation criteria set forth in the memo, pending the approval of the state budget.

**PA State Conservation Commission - Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program  
Proposed Conservation District FY 25-26 Allocations**

County	Allocation
Adams	\$761,189
Allegheny	\$300,000
Armstrong	\$344,838
Beaver	\$300,000
Bedford	\$790,561
Berks	\$1,220,156
Blair	\$452,288
Bradford	\$789,618
Bucks	\$531,204
Butler	\$431,913
Cambria	\$300,000
Cameron	\$300,000
Carbon	\$300,000
Centre	\$496,760
Chester	\$1,210,855
Clarion	\$353,075
Clearfield	\$300,000
Clinton	\$300,000
Columbia	\$460,426
Crawford	\$967,791
Cumberland	\$789,881
Dauphin	\$671,087
Delaware	\$300,000
Elk	\$300,000
Erie	\$474,230
Fayette	\$333,115
Forest	\$300,000
Franklin	\$1,443,384
Fulton	\$300,000
Greene	\$300,000
Huntingdon	\$491,342
Indiana	\$590,852
Jefferson	\$300,000
Juniata	\$446,442

County	Allocation
Lackawanna	\$300,000
Lancaster	\$3,594,151
Lawrence	\$328,594
Lebanon	\$1,046,912
Lehigh	\$300,000
Luzerne	\$300,000
Lycoming	\$402,853
McKean	\$300,000
Mercer	\$482,502
Mifflin	\$379,285
Monroe	\$300,000
Montgomery	\$364,359
Montour	\$300,000
Northampton	\$300,000
Northumberland	\$668,618
Perry	\$680,960
Philadelphia	\$300,000
Pike	\$300,000
Potter	\$300,000
Schuylkill	\$426,683
Snyder	\$548,996
Somerset	\$752,676
Sullivan	\$300,000
Susquehanna	\$365,785
Tioga	\$528,972
Union	\$481,404
Venango	\$300,000
Warren	\$300,000
Washington	\$681,946
Wayne	\$300,000
Westmoreland	\$563,631
Wyoming	\$300,000
York	\$1,034,989
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,784,320</b>



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** May 12, 2025

**TO:** Members  
 State Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Brady Seeley, Director  
 Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

**RE:** Nutrient Management Program Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Proposal

**Action Requested**

Grant approval for the Nutrient Management Program budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 2025-26).

**Background**

The proposed FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget provides an appropriation to the Nutrient Management Fund of \$6,200,000 and transfer from the Clean Streams Fund of \$5,440,000. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is intended to receive as part of the proposed budget \$3,496,000 of the proposed Nutrient Management Fund. These funds are intended for the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreements with county conservation districts. These funds are the State Conservation Commission's (SCC) portion for the delegation agreement.

Program staff proposed a NMF budget that provides funding for the following program elements:

- a. Prioritizes funding to conservation districts recognizing their key role in carrying out the mandates of the Nutrient and Odor Management Act, known as Act 38. The proposed allocation represents a contribution from the Nutrient Management Fund (NMF) towards a delegation agreement outlining combined Nutrient Management Program and Manure Management Program activities. Manure Management Program activities will be funded by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Pa DEP) under the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program delegation agreement between conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission and the Pa DEP. Delegation Agreement funding amounts will be approved under separate correspondence. Note, SCC / DEP staff are proposing a new minimum of ½ Full Time Equivalent funding (\$40,000) for all qualifying districts. This new minimum is being provided for NO additional Required Output Measures (ROMs).
- b. Provides funding to farmers for implementation of financial assistance programs, such as, Agri-Link and Conservation Excellence Grants (CEG).

- c. Provides funding for educational and technical support, provided by the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) program partners, Dr. Charlie White, Dr. Robb Meinen, Dr. Robert Mikesell, Dr. Jennifer Weld, and program staff from the College of Agricultural Sciences. The proposed FY 2025-26 budget provides funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 3-year contract agreement.
- d. Maintains Commission's personnel and operating budgets for the year, based on projected expenditures for FY 2025-26.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget proposal.

Attachment

<b>STATE FY 25 Nutrient Management Budget</b>						
					<b>2025-26 Budget w/ Clean Streams Fund</b>	
					<b>\$ 6,200</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>						
					\$6,200	
					\$5,440	
					\$665	
					<b>\$12,305</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>						
				1	\$3,496	
					\$2,022	
					\$500	
				2	\$375	
				2	\$58	
				2	\$325	
					\$1,518	
				3	\$804	
					<b>\$5,602</b>	
					<b>\$9,098</b>	
1 Fiscal year spending threshold authorized by the Governor's Office of Budget. (DEP EA and PDA EA Combined)						
2 Contract Year 1 - Certification, Technical and Training Support (this is being paid with Federal ARPA funds)						
3 Projected spending authority for operating expenditures including Department Admin billing						



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** May 12, 2025

**TO:** Members  
State Conservation Commission

**TROUGH:** Douglas M. Wolfgang, Executive Secretary  
State Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Brady Seeley, Director  
Nutrient & Odor Management Programs

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Nutrient Management/Manure Management Delegation Agreement  
Funding Levels for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

**Action Requested**

Grant approval of funding levels for participating conservation districts for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 2025-26) for the Act 38 Nutrient Management / Chapter 91.36 Manure Management delegation agreement. This approval is consistent with the proposed FY 2025-26 General Fund and is dependent on the passage of the proposed budget.

**Background**

In 2021, Commission and DEP staff, along with the NM/MM delegation workgroup, worked on a process to distribute funding to counties that will accept delegation.

This process utilized a program workload analysis that considered the number of farmers in each county implementing current Act 38 and CAFO nutrient management plans. The workload analysis incorporated realistic staff resources for program implementation activities, reflecting a practical workload history for each county and subsequently producing appropriately adjusted district funding levels.

The Commission approved in May 2023 an increase in delegated technician funding rates per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to be the following:

- 1 FTE = \$80,000
- 3/4 FTE = \$60,000
- 1/2 FTE = \$40,000
- 1/4 FTE = \$20,000

The proposed FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget provides an appropriation to the Nutrient Management Fund of \$6,200,000 and transfer from the Clean Streams Fund to the Nutrient



Management Fund of \$5,440,000. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is intended to receive as part of the proposed budget \$3,496,000 of the proposed Nutrient Management Fund. These funds are intended for the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreements with county conservation districts. These funds are the State Conservation Commission's (SCC) portion for the delegation agreement.

The proposed \$3,496,000 transfer to DEP from the Nutrient Management Fund to support delegation agreements is an increase from previous years. This increase includes a new minimum Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to all eligible conservation districts of 1/2 FTE (\$40,000). Additionally, some districts are receiving increases in FTEs due to increase in workload according to an updated workload analysis.

The increase in technician funding and larger portion of the Commission's obligation to the funding of the delegation agreement is due to the increase in funding to the Nutrient Management Fund from the Clean Streams Fund. It needs to be noted if the transfer from the Clean Streams Fund does not occur in future years, Commission staff will need find additional dollars to cover the proposed increase or lower the delegation amount back to FY 21-22 levels.

The total available funds needed for allocation to conservation districts under the delegation agreement is \$4,080,000 annually.

Funding under this proposal is available to any conservation districts that has expressed interest in a NM/MM delegation agreement with the Commission and DEP.

### **Proposal**

The attached chart '*Proposed' FY 2025-2026 Nutrient Management/Manure Management Delegation Agreement Funding*', illustrates the suggested funding allocations for conservation districts implementing Act 38 and Chapter 91.36 activities under the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the delegation agreement.

Conservation districts receiving 'zero' dollars under this proposal are currently designated as "non-delegated" districts under the Act 38 program. If a "non-delegated" district is interested in implementing Chapter 91.36 activities, primarily outreach and education activities, the Commission and DEP would have to consider funding of a petitioning district on a 'case-by-case' basis, as resources permit.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed delegation agreement funding levels as this will assist conservation districts, DEP and the Commission in the implementation of the nutrient and manure management programs in Pennsylvania.

Attachment

DRAFT

May 12, 2025

1/2 = \$40,000

3/4 \$60,000

Full = \$80,000

Final FY 2025-2026  
Nutrient Management Program Delegation Agreement Funding

County	Total Grant
Adams	-
Allegheny	\$ 40,000.00
Armstrong	\$ 40,000.00
Beaver	\$ 40,000.00
Bedford	\$ 60,000.00
Berks	\$ 240,000.00
Blair	\$ 40,000.00
Bradford	\$ 60,000.00
Bucks	\$ 40,000.00
Butler	\$ 40,000.00
Cambria	-
Cameron	-
Carbon	-
Centre	\$ 60,000.00
Chester	\$ 80,000.00
Clarion	-
Clearfield	\$ 40,000.00
Clinton	\$ 120,000.00
Columbia	\$ 40,000.00
Crawford	\$ 40,000.00
Cumberland	\$ 80,000.00
Dauphin	\$ 80,000.00
Delaware	-
Elk	-
Erie	\$ 40,000.00
Fayette	\$ 40,000.00
Forest	-
Franklin	\$ 200,000.00
Fulton	\$ 60,000.00
Greene	\$ 40,000.00
Huntingdon	\$ 60,000.00
Indiana	\$ 40,000.00
Jefferson	\$ 40,000.00

County	Total Grant
Juniata	\$ 160,000.00
Lackawanna	-
Lancaster	\$ 640,000.00
Lawrence	\$ 40,000.00
Lebanon	\$ 240,000.00
Lehigh	\$ 40,000.00
Luzerne	-
Lycoming	\$ 60,000.00
McKean	\$ 40,000.00
Mercer	\$ 40,000.00
Mifflin	\$ 80,000.00
Monroe	-
Montgomery	\$ 40,000.00
Montour	\$ 40,000.00
Northampton	\$ 40,000.00
Northumberland	-
Perry	\$ 100,000.00
Pike	-
Potter	\$ 40,000.00
Schuylkill	-
Snyder	\$ 240,000.00
Somerset	\$ 40,000.00
Sullivan	\$ 40,000.00
Susquehanna	\$ 40,000.00
Tioga	\$ 40,000.00
Union	\$ 140,000.00
Venango	\$ 40,000.00
Warren	\$ 40,000.00
Washington	\$ 40,000.00
Wayne	-
Westmoreland	\$ 40,000.00
Wyoming	\$ 40,000.00
York	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,080,000</b>



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DATE: May 6, 2025

TO: Members  
State Conservation Commission

THROUGH: Douglas M. Wolfgang, Executive Secretary  
State Conservation Commission

FROM: Brady Seeley, Director  
Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

Allyson Hanawalt, Water Program Specialist  
Department of Environmental Protection

RE: Act-38 Nutrient Management Program and Chapter 91 Manure  
Management Administrative Manual – Version 6.0 Record of  
Change

**Action Requested**

Action is requested to approve the record of changes for Version 6.0 of the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program Administrative Manual (Adm. Manual).

**Background**

The Nutrient Management and Manure Management Administrative Manual (Admin Manual) has been developed to provide guidance to conservation districts that are involved with the everyday decision making in the administration of the Nutrient Management Program for the Nutrient and Odor Management Act (Act 38) and the Manure Management Manual under Chapter 91. This Admin Manual is periodically updated to address new policies and guidance.

The following revisions are proposed.

- 1) Nutrient Management Compliance Strategy and DEP County Conservation District Agricultural Complaint Response Policy, General Guidelines Packet (Chapter 4)
  - a. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has revised its agricultural complaint strategy to improve consistency in complaint handling and follow-up procedures across various agricultural programs and agencies. This updated guidance was initially developed for the Chapter 102 Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control response and follow-up procedure and is now being extended to include Chapter 91 Manure Management Compliance. As part of this effort, the

Administrative Manual has been updated to incorporate the new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Agricultural Routine Inspections, Complaint Investigation, and Follow-up guidance.

**Summary**

SCC staff asks for approval of the record of change for version 6.0 of the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program Administrative Manual.

If approved, final document processing will occur and the Adm. Manual record of change will have a release date of June 2025.

**DATE:** May 6, 2025  
**TO:** State Conservation Commission  
**FROM:** Joel Semke – Conservation Program Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed changes for the FY 2025 REAP Program

Every year, the State Conservation Commission reviews the REAP Program and welcomes input from partners on how to improve the program. The changes range from minor revisions that are meant to improve the administration of the program to major changes regarding what is eligible for REAP tax credits.

The proposals listed below reflect suggestions from SCC staff and partners based on experiences over the course of the past year. Please note: Each proposal is subject to legal review prior to being incorporated into the FY 2025 REAP Guidelines and Application packet. The proposed changes listed below are found in the Attachment 1 of the proposed 2025-26 REAP Guidelines unless otherwise noted. Upon approval by the Commission, the proposed changes will be incorporated into the 2025-26 REAP Application and will be available to the public on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The Commission will begin accepting FY 2025 REAP applications on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and the deadline for submitting FY 2025 REAP applications will be Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

#### 1. EQUIPMENT: ELIGIBLE COST CAPS

**Proposal #1:** Raise the cap on PUKs to \$100,000 from the current cap of \$70,000.

##### **Equipment Performance Upgrade Kits**

*REAP Lifespan:* 3 years  
*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$100,000 per purchase  
*Additional Information:* Refer to Attachment 2  
*REAP Conditions:* Upgrade kits must include precision nutrient placement capabilities  
*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**Proposal #2:** Raise the cap for precision nutrient application equipment to \$80,000 from the current cap of \$70,000.

##### **Precision Nutrient Application Equipment**

*REAP Lifespan:* 3 years  
*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$80,000 per purchase  
*Additional Information:* Refer to Attachment 2  
*REAP Conditions:* Nutrient application equipment components that enable automatic variable rate application. Autosteer is not eligible for REAP tax credits.  
*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**Proposal #3:** Lower the cap on the REAP-eligible purchase price for new/used no-till equipment to \$250,000 per piece.

##### **No-Till Planting Equipment – Planter or Drill**

*REAP Lifespan:* New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years  
*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$250,000 per planter/drill  
*Additional Information:* Refer to Attachment 2  
*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

The intent of the proposals is to make it easier for new and/or small farmers to afford better no-till equipment by raising the REAP reimbursement for refurbishment of older equipment. The intent of the proposal to lower the overall cap on equipment from \$300K to \$250K is to find funding within REAP current funding for other BMPs – while still providing relatively generous funding for larger new equipment.

## 2. OLDER EQUIPMENT

**Proposal:** Update sunset provision for no-till equipment of 20 years; and sunset provision for precision nutrient application equipment of 10 years.

The intent of the proposal is to ensure that farmers are aware that older (presumably cheaper) equipment can be eligible for REAP if the equipment is refurbished by a qualified dealer at the approximate time of purchase. Here's the proposed updated guideline found in Attachment 2:

### Age Restrictions

- **No-Till Planters:** Equipment must be **20 years old or less** to qualify for funding. If the planter is older, it may still be eligible if it has been refurbished by a qualified dealer, with appropriate documentation provided

**Documentation:** Refurbished equipment older than 20 years requires proof from the dealer to be REAP eligible.

- Equipment must be refurbished within 6 months of purchase and/or prior to use on the ag operation for the nearest respective planting season
- Dealer must have business receipt/invoice, website, EIN, etc. to be considered a qualified equipment dealer
- **Precision Nutrient Application Systems:** These systems must be **10 years old or less**, with similar refurbishment exemptions applicable

## 3. COVER CROPS

### Cover Crop Equipment

*REAP Lifespan:*

*Tax Credit Rate:*

*Additional Information:*

*REAP Conditions:*

New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years

90% for Cover Crop Rollers in an ag-impaired watershed

Refer to [Attachment 2](#). Equipment used to enhance the use of cover crops on an ag operation; e.g., cover crop roller/crimpers, drones, other.

The equipment's primary use must be the establishment and management of cover crops. Broadcast seeders (except cover crop drones) are not eligible for REAP tax credits

### Cover Crop (ac)

*REAP Lifespan:*

*Tax Credit Rate:*

*Additional Information:*

*REAP Conditions:*

*Certification Requirements:*

1 year - Annual (FY)

50%; 90% for multi-species Cover Crop in an ag-impaired watershed

Refer to [Attachment 3](#).

Mechanical harvesting of cover crops is prohibited. REAP-eligible costs are capped at \$100,000.

Subject to random spot check by SCC staff; Applicants must complete Cover Crop Worksheet (p13 of the REAP Application).

**Proposal #1:** Make the effective reimbursement rate for cover crop rollers consistent across the state at 90%.

The intent of the proposal is to increase the use of roller/crimpers as a cover crop termination tool. Commission staff feels that use of the roller/crimper as a cover crop tool provides a soil health benefit later in the season and potentially reduces herbicide use. The current reimbursement rate for cover crop rollers is 50% of purchase price (non-TMDL) and 90% (TMDL).

**Proposal #2:** Make the reimbursement rate for multi-species cover crops consistent across the state.

The intent of the proposal is to increase the use of multi-species cover crops across the state. The current reimbursement rate for multi-species cover crops is 50% (non-TMDL) and 90% (TMDL).

**Proposal #3:** Cap the REAP-eligible costs for cover crops at \$100,000.

The intent of the proposal is to ensure fair distribution of REAP funding across the state – regardless of operation size.

**Proposal #4:** Amend attachment 3 of the REAP Guidelines to state: Cover crops that are mechanically harvested for grain, forage, or hay/straw are not eligible for REAP tax credits. Grazing of cover crops is permitted.

The intent of the proposal is to focus REAP funding on plantings that provide the greatest soil health benefits. The proposal also serves to simplify the administration of REAP tax credits for cover crops.

**Proposal #5:** Clearly remove broadcast seeders from the list of equipment that is eligible for REAP tax credits. Cover crop drones are exempt from the policy (see proposal #3).

The intent of the proposal is to focus REAP funding on the most effective planting equipment for cover crops – no-till drills.

**Proposal #6:** Eliminate the requirement for farmers to move to multi-species cover crops to remain eligible for REAP tax credits.

The intent of the proposal is to recognize the efforts of farmers across the state where weather conditions may not be conducive to establishing multi-species cover crops. In addition, proposals 2, 3, and 5 make the old REAP Guidelines regarding single-species cover superfluous; while proposal #2 sufficiently prioritized multi-species cover crops over single-species.

#### 4. ROTATIONAL GRAZING PRACTICES

**Proposal #1:** Expand REAP's fence guidelines to allow for temporary/mobile fencing used for the implementation of a rotational grazing system and grazing plans. Commission staff also intends to incentivize grazing of crop fields.

**Fence (ft)** (see *Riparian and Water Quality* section below for stream-bank fencing)

NRCS Practice Code:	382
REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	50%;

<i>Additional Information:</i>	Fence that is part of an ACA-related BMP or is Waste Storage safety fence should be submitted as part of those BMPs.
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Used in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) Plan only. REAP tax credits will be authorized for establishing permanent or temporary fence; utilizing new materials – unless otherwise justified by Prescribed Grazing. GPS or solar-powered mobile fencing systems are also eligible for REAP tax credits. Fence surrounding equine riding rinks is <b>not</b> eligible for REAP tax credits.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

Here's an example of an item that would be eligible under the expanded guidelines:

[https://store.am.gallagher.com/am/us/en\\_US/animal-management/electric-fencing/portable-fencing/posts---pigtails-and-tread-ins/tumblewheel/p/G63800](https://store.am.gallagher.com/am/us/en_US/animal-management/electric-fencing/portable-fencing/posts---pigtails-and-tread-ins/tumblewheel/p/G63800)

e.g. solar chargers, GPS fence systems, other

**Proposal #2:** Include mobile shade structures as eligible grazing infrastructure.

**Livestock Shade Structure (no.)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	717
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Mobile shade structure eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. May not be placed within riparian or environmentally sensitive areas.
<i>Additional Information:</i>	<a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Delete/2011-10-15/717_LS_shade_struct_stand.pdf">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Delete/2011-10-15/717_LS_shade_struct_stand.pdf</a>
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

**Proposal #3:** Expand REAP's water facility guidelines to allow for other temporary/mobile watering systems.

**Watering Facility (no.)**

<i>Practice Code:</i>	614
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; <b>90% - in conjunction with animal exclusion from streams in an ag-impaired watershed</b>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. REAP tax credits authorized for permanently or temporarily located facilities within grazing paddocks or pastures.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

The intent of the proposals is to increase overall soil health on an ag operation by incentivizing the increased adoption of intensive rotation grazing and grazing of crop fields.

4. MANURE DIGESTORS



**Proposal:** Add Manure Digestors to the list of practices that are eligible for REAP tax credits upon revision of the REAP law.

**Anaerobic Digester**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	366
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	REAP-eligible costs capped at \$500,000.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

The intent of the proposal is to expand the number of manure digestors in PA. Currently, several components of the manure digester system are eligible for REAP tax credits; e.g.; manure storage, separator, separator facility, manure transfer. However, the digester itself is not REAP-eligible. Addition of this BMP to the REAP-eligible list is contingent upon increased funding for the program and will only appear in the FY 2025 REAP Guidelines if new funding for the program is secured. If additional funding is secured in the future, manure digestors will be added to the list of REAP-eligible BMPs at that time.

## 5. INTEGRATED EROSION CONTROL & HABITAT BUFFERS

**Proposal:** Add a variety of buffers to the list of BMPs that are eligible for REAP tax credits.

**Integrated Erosion Control & Habitat Corridor System (ac)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; <b>90% for projects in ag-impaired watersheds</b>
<i>Eligible Practices:</i>	Filter Strips (393), Field Borders (386), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Conservation Cover Areas (327), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (380)
<i>Additional Information:</i>	This integrated system combats agricultural runoff to protect water resources while establishing wildlife corridors and pollinator habitats. It improves soil health through organic matter retention and compaction reduction while sequestering carbon through perennial vegetation growth. The approach addresses erosion control, water quality protection, biodiversity enhancement, and climate resilience in ag landscapes.
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Grazing prohibited in designated buffer zones.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

The intent of the proposal is to incentivize the establishment of a variety of perennial herbaceous areas that filter nutrient and sediment runoff, reduce dust, and provide habitat for beneficial insects. The BMP will serve as a catch-all category of buffers that includes new BMPs like Field Borders and Pollinator Habitat; and consolidates various herbaceous buffers that are already REAP-eligible e.g, herbaceous riparian buffers, filter strips, etc.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed changes to the 2025-26 REAP Guidelines - pending final review by department legal counsel. Upon legal review, program staff will finalize all pertinent documents, webpage content, and correspondence to reflect the changes adopted by the Commission.

# Resource Enhancement and Protection Program



## Guidelines

Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

State Conservation Commission  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 787-8821

Fax: (717) 705-3778



## Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program Guidelines 2025-2026

The REAP Tax Credit Program, established in 2007, incentivizes private investment in water quality best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations in compliance with the PA Clean Streams Law. The program protects natural resources - while enhancing farm productivity - by allowing farmers, landowners, and businesses to earn Pennsylvania state income tax credits for implementation of these BMPs.

For Fiscal Year 2025, \$13 million in REAP tax credits is available to eligible applicants. The Commission awards REAP tax credits on behalf of the PA Department of Revenue.

For a comprehensive list of REAP-eligible BMPs, please refer to Attachment 1.

### A. Application Procedures

1. Equipment purchases must be completed by June 30, 2026; structural BMPs by June 30, 2027; and cover crop planting by June 30, 2028.
2. Tax credits are awarded after project completion and submission of paid receipts and signed project certification by a qualified professional.
3. Applications are accepted beginning August 1, 2025, and must be submitted by September 1, 2025:
  - By email: [nbloom@pa.gov](mailto:nbloom@pa.gov)
  - By mail: State Conservation Commission, REAP Program  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

### B. Applicant Eligibility

1. The applicant must be an individual or business subject to Pennsylvania income taxation such as Personal Income Tax, Corporate Net Income Tax, or Bank Shares Tax. Non-Pennsylvania residents must confirm their PA tax status with the PA Department of Revenue before their application will be considered by the Commission.
2. An agricultural operation must have the following to be eligible to receive REAP tax credits:
  - Up-to-date Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) Plans for all acres operated - meeting Chapter 102.4 requirements of the PA Clean Stream Law.
  - A current Nutrient or Manure Management Plan meeting the standards of Chapter 83(Act 38) or Chapter 91 of the PA Clean Streams Law (*if animals are present or manure is applied*).
  - Full implementation of BMPs related to managing runoff from Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs), if applicable. ACA-related BMPs must be implemented before tax credits can be awarded for any other REAP-eligible BMPs (excluding planning).

If an operation lacks the required plans or full implementation of ACA BMPs, the REAP application must include documentation of designs and plan development for all operational acres.

The Commission reserves the right to assess an ag operation's compliance with the PA Clean Streams Law and ACA regulations.

**C. Project Eligibility:** Projects must mitigate nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediment runoff and are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

1. Each agricultural operation is limited to one REAP-eligible project per funding round.
2. Tax credits may be awarded for proposed or completed projects (or a mix of both). Proposed projects must include industry standard cost estimates and an anticipated completion timeline.
3. Projects are eligible for REAP tax credits for up to three years post-completion or for their designated REAP lifespan – whichever is shorter. All projects must be maintained for their entire REAP lifespan. If a BMP is not maintained for its full lifespan, the recipient must return the awarded tax credit unless the Commission approves a prorated adjustment.
4. Projects involving public funding (e.g., ACAP, EQIP, Growing Greener) are eligible but cannot receive tax credits for the publicly funded portion.
5. High-priority BMPs, including planning and runoff management from ACAs, may qualify for a higher tax credit rate. Please see Att 1 for specific reimbursement rates.
6. Operations in watersheds impaired by agricultural sources may receive tax credits covering 90% of eligible out-of-pocket costs for certain BMPs, including:
  - Riparian buffers exceeding 50 feet in width.
  - Multi-species cover crops.
  - Cover crop roller/crimpers.
  - Stream crossings and livestock exclusion BMPs, including fencing, animal trails, and off-stream watering facilities.
  - Soil health testing.
7. A maximum of \$250,000 in REAP tax credits may be awarded per agricultural operation over any consecutive seven-year period (except as set forth in Paragraph D).
8. Agricultural operations expanding by more than 25% may have REAP-eligible costs reduced by 50%.

The Commission reserves the right to deny applications for BMPs that exceed fair market value or do not align with program objectives. Fraudulent activities, such as falsifying verification signatures or receipts, will result in program exclusion.

**D. Sponsorship:** A sponsor, such as banks, businesses, and individuals/family trusts, may fund a REAP-eligible project and receive the associated tax credits. Sponsored projects are exempt from the \$250,000 limit per seven-year period and the sponsored project does not count against cap amount set forth in paragraph C (7).

1. Sponsorship applies to proposed and recently completed projects.
2. The sponsored agricultural operation must meet all eligibility criteria outlined in Section B.
3. Sponsors and agricultural operators must sign an agreement confirming compliance with REAP requirements. A sample sponsor agreement is available upon request.

The Commission reserves the right to limit the amount of REAP tax credits awarded to a single sponsor per funding cycle.

#### **E. REAP Tax Credit Information**

1. The PA Department of Revenue must verify tax compliance before issuing REAP tax credits.
2. REAP tax credits reduce PA income tax liability dollar-for-dollar and can be carried forward for up to 15 years.
3. Pass-through entities, such as partnerships or S-corporations, may allocate credits to their individual members based on ownership share.
4. Applicants should submit the REAP tax credit claim form when filing their annual PA tax return to avoid delays.

#### **F. Sale/Assignment of Tax Credits**

1. REAP tax credits may be sold or transferred after claiming the REAP tax credits against any income tax liability in the year of issuance and/or one year from the date of issuance.
2. The seller must be tax-compliant before approval.
3. Buyers and transfer recipients must claim the tax credits in the year of acquisition. Tax credits cannot be resold, reassigned, or carried forward by the buyer.
4. Recipients may arrange tax credit sales independently or through brokers that are registered with the PA Department of Revenue.
5. The REAP Tax Credit Sale/Assignment Application packet is available upon request.

For additional information, refer to Act 13 of 2019, Sections 1701-E to 1710-E, or contact the State Conservation Commission at 717-787-8821. For specific tax-related inquiries, please consult a tax professional.

**Attachment 1****REAP Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

The following is a list of the most-commonly used REAP-eligible BMPs. *Please contact the SCC if you have questions regarding a specific BMP; or a water-quality BMP that is not listed below.*

**Planning BMPs****Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Plan (acres)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	75%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	The plan must meet the requirements of Chapter 102.4 of the PA Clean Streams Law.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	The plan shall be written by a person trained and experienced in the writing of Ag E&S Plans; and in the pollution control methods and techniques applicable to Chapter 104.4.

**Conservation Plan (acres)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	75%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	The plan must meet the requirements of Chapter 102.4 of the PA Clean Streams Law.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	The plan must be written by a NRCS-certified conservation planner.

**Manure Management Plan (acres)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	75%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	DEP Land Application of Manure – Manure Management Plan Guidance
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	The plan must meet the standards of Chapter 91 of the PA Clean Streams Law.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	The plan shall be written by a person trained and experienced in the writing of a MMP; and in the pollution control methods and techniques applicable to Chapter 91.

**Nutrient Management Plan (acres)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	75%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	The plan must meet Act 38 Standards.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	The plan must be written by an Act 38-certified specialist.

**Variable Rate Nutrient Application Plan, Soil Health tests (acres)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	75%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Soil Health tests are eligible, e.g. Cornell, Haney, and Solvita. Variable rate nutrient application plans are eligible, e.g. precision grid soil sampling, data inputs for map-based and sensor-based site-specific variable rate application of nutrients

**Equipment BMPs****Equipment Performance Upgrade Kits**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$100,000 per purchase
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Refer to <a href="#">Attachment 2</a>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Upgrade kits must include precision nutrient placement capabilities
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**Manure Injection Equipment – Low Disturbance**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Refer to <a href="#">Attachment 2</a>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Equipment must be capable of shallow injection of manure and must be a contiguous part of a manure injection system. Equipment must be utilized on farm ground operated by the applicant.

*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**No-Till Planting Equipment – Planter or Drill**

*REAP Lifespan:* New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$250,000 per planter/drill

*Additional Information:* Refer to [Attachment 2](#)

*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**Precision Nutrient Application Equipment**

*REAP Lifespan:* 3 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost capped at \$80,000 per purchase

*Additional Information:* Refer to [Attachment 2](#)

*REAP Conditions:* Nutrient application equipment components that enable automatic variable rate application. Autosteer is not eligible for REAP tax credits.

*Certification Requirements:* Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form

**Waste Storage and Animal Concentration Areas**

**Access Road (ft)**

*NRCS Practice Code:* 560

*REAP Lifespan:* 7 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%

*REAP Conditions:* This practice shall only be applicable to those locations on the farm where an improved travel-way is needed to access newly established REAP-eligible BMPs. REAP tax credits will not be authorized for any portion exceeding 14 feet in width or 200 feet in length.

*Certification Requirements:* Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

**Anaerobic Digester**

*NRCS Practice Code:* 366

*REAP Lifespan:* 7 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%

*REAP Conditions:* REAP-eligible costs capped at \$500,000.

*Certification Requirements:* Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

**Animal Mortality Facility (no.)**

*NRCS Practice Code:* 316

*REAP Lifespan:* 7 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible costs may be reduced by 50% for new animal operations (built within 1 year of the new animal facility).

*Additional Information:* Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p12 of the REAP Application).

*REAP Conditions:* The animal mortality composting facility must be part of a Manure/Nutrient Management Plan. The dead animals must come from the producer's operation and may not come from outside sources.

*Certification Requirements:* Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

**Composting Equipment**

*REAP Lifespan:* New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%; REAP-eligible cost is capped at \$100,000

*Additional Information:* Screeners, turning equipment, rotary drums, etc. as approved by the Commission

*REAP Conditions:* Composting must be included in the operation's Nutrient/Manure Management Plan.

**Composting Facility (sq ft)**

*NRCS Practice Code:* 317

*REAP Lifespan:* 7 years

*Tax Credit Rate:* 50%

<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p12 of the REAP Application).
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	The composting facility must be part of an up-to-date Manure/Nutrient Management Plan. Spreading of the composted material must be done in accordance with an up-to-date Manure/Nutrient Management Plan. The composting operation must meet all PA-DEP criteria for composting. Production of mushroom compost does not apply. For composting of animal mortalities, use <b>Animal Mortality Facility</b> guidelines.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Heavy Use Area Protection (sq ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	561
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - ACA treatment
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p12 of the REAP Application).
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Animal feed/silage storage areas do not apply. Projects involving an operation expansion of greater than 25% are subject to a reduction in eligible costs of 50%.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Manure Separation Equipment (no.)**

<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Manure separation must be included in the operation's Nutrient/Manure Management Plan. Projects involving an operation expansion of greater than 25% are subject to a reduction in eligible costs of 50%.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Manure Separation Facility (no.)**

<i>Practice Code:</i>	632
<i>Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p11 of the REAP Application).
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Manure separation must be included in the operation's Nutrient/Manure Management Plan. Projects involving an operation expansion of greater than 25% are subject to a reduction in eligible costs of 50%.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Pumping Plant for Wastewater Control (no.)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	533
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Poultry/Livestock Housing Vegetative Buffers (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	380 (Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment)
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Plantings must conform to USDA/NRCS Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)-Technical Note No. 1, SCC Odor Management BMP Guide
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Establishment costs only. Plantings must be close to livestock housing and exhaust fans.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.



### Roofs and Covers (sq ft)

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	367
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - ACA treatment
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p11 of the REAP Application).
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Practice applies to construction of roofing over Waste Storage Facility (313) and/or Heavy Use Area Protection (561). SCC staff site visit may be required. Projects involving an operation expansion of greater than 25% are subject to a reduction in eligible costs of 50%. Roofs over permanent animal housing (barns) are not eligible for REAP credits.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### Roof Runoff Structure (ft)

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	558
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - ACA treatment
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	This practice includes roof gutters, downspouts and outlets. Practice must include establishment of a stable outlet (see Underground Outlet). Repairs to a roof in preparation for this practice are not eligible for REAP tax credits.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### Underground Outlet (ft)

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	620
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - ACA treatment
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	This practice is to be used as a supporting practice to outlet water from other conservation practices such as roof runoff structure, terrace, and watering facilities. Pipes greater than 12" in diameter may require SCC site visit.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### Waste Storage Facility (cu ft)

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	313
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicants must include the REAP Storage Facility & Animal Heavy Use Area Protection Worksheet (p12 of the REAP Application). SCC staff site visit may be required.
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Projects involving an operation expansion of greater than 25% are subject to a reduction in eligible costs of 50%. <b>Under-barn storages are not eligible for REAP tax credits unless certified by NRCS to be necessary for the treatment of an existing resource concern.</b> For storage of food waste, please refer to <b>Compost Facility</b> guidelines.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### Waste Transfer (ft or no.)

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	634
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Eligible in conjunction with Waste Storage Facility (e.g. reception pits). REAP tax credits are not authorized for: Portable pumps, pumping equipment, or other equipment for agitating, removing, distributing, or applying animal waste on farm ground.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

## Livestock Management/Rotational Grazing

### Animal Trails and Walkways (sq ft)

NRCS Practice Code:	575
REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	75%
REAP Conditions:	Eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. REAP tax credit not authorized for any portion exceeding 12 feet in width.
Certification Requirements:	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### Fence (ft) (see Riparian and Water Quality section below for stream-bank fencing)

NRCS Practice Code:	382
REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	50%;
Additional Information:	Fence that is part of an ACA-related BMP or is Waste Storage safety fence should be submitted as part of those BMPs.
REAP Conditions:	Used in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) Plan only. REAP tax credits will be authorized for establishing permanent or temporary fence; utilizing new materials – unless otherwise justified by Prescribed Grazing. GPS or solar-powered mobile fencing systems are also eligible for REAP tax credits. Fence surrounding equine riding rinks is <b>not</b> eligible for REAP tax credits.
Certification Requirements:	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

### Livestock Shade Structure (no.)

NRCS Practice Code:	717
REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	50%
REAP Conditions:	Mobile shade structure eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. May not be placed within riparian or environmentally sensitive areas.
Additional Information:	<a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Delete/2011-10-15/717_LS_shade_struct_stand.pdf">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Delete/2011-10-15/717_LS_shade_struct_stand.pdf</a>
Certification Requirements:	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

### Pipeline (ft)

NRCS Practice Code:	516
REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	50%
REAP Conditions:	Eligible as a component of livestock watering systems in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. Pipeline to a new barn, domestic water supply, or irrigation is not eligible.
Certification Requirements:	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider with appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

### Silvopasture (ac)

REAP Lifespan:	7 years
Tax Credit Rate:	50%
Additional Information:	Contact SCC for more information.
REAP Conditions:	Practice applies to non-riparian areas only, in conjunction with rotational grazing systems (528). Establishment of new trees and other elements of the silvopasture system are eligible. No part of the silvopasture project may involve removal of existing trees.
Certification Requirements:	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

### Spring Development (no.)

NRCS Practice Code:	574
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**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; **90% - with animal exclusion from streams in an ag-impaired watershed**  
**REAP Conditions:** Eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. Collection lines capped at 1,200 feet. For collection systems greater than 1,200 feet, SCC staff approval is required.  
**Certification Requirements:** Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

#### **Watering Facility (no.)**

**Practice Code:** 614  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; **90% - in conjunction with animal exclusion from streams in an ag-impaired watershed**  
**REAP Conditions:** Eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. REAP tax credits authorized for permanently or temporarily located facilities within grazing paddocks or pastures.  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Water Well (no.)**

**NRCS Practice Code:** 642  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%  
**REAP Conditions:** Eligible in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) only. REAP tax credits not authorized for providing water for the farm headquarters or domestic use.  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### **Erosion & Sediment Control**

#### **Critical Area Planting (ac)**

**NRCS Practice Code:** 342  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; 75% ACA treatment  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Diversion (ft)**

**NRCS Practice Code:** 362  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; 75% ACA treatment  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Grassed Waterway (sq ft)**

**NRCS Practice Code:** 412  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%;  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Lined Waterway or Outlet (sq ft)**

**NRCS Practice Code:** 468  
**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years  
**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%;  
**REAP Conditions:** Used where vegetation alone will not provide adequate stabilization.  
**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (no.)**

**Practice Code:** 527

<i>Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Structure for Water Control (no.)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	587
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%;
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	REAP tax credits not authorized for the installation of structures designed to impound water for irrigation, recreation, household water; or to create ponds.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Subsurface Drain (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	606
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Eligible as a companion practice for other REAP-eligible BMPs (except for Cover Crop).
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

#### **Terrace (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	600
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

#### **Underground Outlet (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	620
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - ACA treatment
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	This practice is to be used as a supporting practice to outlet water from other conservation practices such as roof runoff structure, terrace, and watering facilities. Pipes greater than 12" in diameter may require SCC site visit.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### **Riparian & Water Quality Protection**

#### **Riparian Forest Buffer (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	391
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50% rate when used in conjunction with the minimum width of the practice (35 feet); 75% in conjunction with 50+ foot width; <b>90% for 50+ foot width in an ag-impaired watershed.</b>
<i>Additional Information:</i>	<a href="#">NRCS Practice Guide for Riparian Forest Buffers</a> , <a href="#">PA DEP Riparian Forest Buffer Guidance</a>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Riparian buffer establishment only (see below). This practice is available to agricultural and non-agricultural operations.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

#### **Riparian Forest Buffer Maintenance (ft)**

<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	391
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	annual (FY)
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50% rate when used in conjunction with the minimum width of the practice (35 feet); 75% when used with 50 foot or greater width; <b>90% for 50+ foot width in an ag-impaired watershed.</b>

<i>Additional Information:</i>	<a href="#">NRCS Practice Guide for Riparian Forest Buffers</a> , <a href="#">DEP Riparian Forest Buffer Guidance</a>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Maintenance activities performed to ensure the survival and growth of riparian buffer plantings, in accordance with a long-term buffer operation and maintenance plan, are eligible (e.g: mowing, herbicide application, vegetation removal, control of noxious weeds, protections from competing plants/animals. This practice is available to agricultural and non-agricultural operations.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.
<b>Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)</b>	
<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	390
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	35+ buffer establishment only. This practice is available to agricultural and non-agricultural operations. Grazing of the buffer is not permitted.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.
<b>Stream Crossing (no.)</b>	
<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	578
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; <b>90% - in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing and with animal exclusion from streams in an ag-impaired watershed</b>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Animal and agricultural equipment crossings are eligible. Culvert crossings are not eligible. REAP tax credits not authorized for any portion exceeding 12 feet in width.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.
<b>Fence - Streambank (ft)</b>	
<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	382
<i>Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Reimbursement Rate:</i>	50%; 75% - in conjunction with 35+ ft buffer; 90% - in conjunction with 50+ ft buffer from streams in an ag-impaired watershed; REAP-eligible costs capped at \$5.00/ft
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	REAP tax credits will be authorized for establishing permanent fence used for excluding animals from stream areas; in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528) Plan only. Utilizing new materials. REAP tax credits not authorized for removal and/or upgrade of existing fence.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.
<b>Streambank and Shoreline Protection (ft)</b>	
<i>NRCS Practice Code:</i>	580
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	7 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Applicant is responsible for all local, state and federal permits and approvals that may be required. This practice is available to agricultural and non-agricultural operations.
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Used to stabilize stream banks eroded due to excessive water flow or livestock activity.
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### **Cover Crops**

<b>Cover Crop (ac)</b>	
<i>REAP Lifespan:</i>	Annual (FY)
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%; <b>90% for multi-species Cover Crop in an ag-impaired watershed</b>
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Refer to <a href="#">Attachment 3</a> .
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Mechanical harvesting of cover crops is prohibited. REAP-eligible costs are capped at \$100,000.

**Certification Requirements:** Farmer Certification; Subject to random spot check by SCC staff; Applicants must complete Cover Crop Worksheet (p13 of the REAP Application).

### **Cover Crop Equipment**

**REAP Lifespan:** New Equipment - 7 years, Used Equipment - 3 years

**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; 90% for Cover Crop Rollers in an ag-impaired watershed

**Additional Information:** Refer to Attachment 2. Equipment used to enhance the use of cover crops on an ag operation, e.g., cover crop roller/crimpers, drones, other.

**REAP Conditions:** The equipment's primary use must be the establishment and management of cover crops.

Broadcast seeders (except cover crop drones) are not eligible for REAP tax credits.

## **Integrated Erosion Control & Habitat Buffers**

### **Vegetated Treatment Area (ac)**

**Practice Code:** 635

**Lifespan:** 7 years

**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; 75% ACA treatment

**Certification Requirements:** Must meet the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; certified by an individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

### **Integrated Erosion Control & Habitat Corridor System (ac)**

**REAP Lifespan:** 7 years

**Tax Credit Rate:** 50%; **90% for projects in ag-impaired watersheds**

**Eligible Practices:** Filter Strips (393), Field Borders (386), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Conservation Cover Areas (327), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (380)

**Additional Information:** This integrated system combats agricultural runoff to protect water resources while establishing wildlife corridors and pollinator habitats. It improves soil health through organic matter retention and compaction reduction while sequestering carbon through perennial vegetation growth. The approach addresses erosion control, water quality protection, biodiversity enhancement, and climate resilience in ag landscapes.

**REAP Conditions:** Grazing prohibited in designated buffer zones.

**Certification Requirements:** Any Conservation District technician, NRCS technician, or private sector Technical Service Provider, who has appropriate training and experience in the BMP planning, design and installation methods applicable to the size and scope of the BMP being certified.

## Attachment 2

### REAP Equipment Guidelines

The REAP Equipment Guidelines outline the eligibility criteria and requirements for agricultural equipment purchases under the FY 2025 program. This program is designed to support sustainable farming practices and includes no-till planters, precision nutrient application systems, manure injectors, cover crop tools, and precision upgrade kits. All equipment must be delivered by **June 30, 2026**, and must be used on farmland operated by the applicant.

#### Age Restrictions

- **No-Till Planters:** Equipment must be **20 years old or less** to qualify for funding. If the planter is older, it may still be eligible if it has been refurbished by a qualified dealer, with appropriate documentation provided

**Documentation:** Refurbished equipment older than 20 years requires proof from the dealer to be REAP eligible.

- Equipment must be refurbished within 6 months of purchase and/or prior to use on the ag operation for the nearest respective planting season
- Dealer must have business receipt/invoice, website, EIN, etc. to be considered a qualified equipment dealer
- **Precision Nutrient Application Systems:** These systems must be **10 years old or less**, with similar refurbishment exemptions applicable

#### Cost Caps

- For applicants who are not residents of Pennsylvania, the REAP-eligible cost is capped at **\$50,000 per piece of equipment**
- REAP-eligible cost limits are set for different categories: **\$250,000** for no-till planters, **\$100,000** for PUKs, **\$80,000** for precision nutrient systems, and **\$20,000** for drones
- Costs associated with self-installed parts, repairs, and refurbishing are **not eligible** for reimbursement

#### Equipment Specifications

##### 1. No-Till Planting Equipment

- **Purpose:** This equipment is intended for seed placement in untilled soil while maintaining residue cover to promote soil health
- **Certification Requirement:** Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form (see p8 of the REAP Application)
- **Lifespan:** New equipment is expected to last **7 years**, while used equipment has a lifespan of **3 years**

##### 2. Manure Injection Equipment

- **Requirement:** This equipment must perform shallow manure injection at a depth of **4 inches or less** to minimize soil disturbance and promote better nutrient absorption
- **Certification Requirement:** Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form (see App p9)
- **Compliance:** Users must adhere to established Conservation Plans and Nutrient Management Plans to ensure environmentally responsible practices
- **Lifespan:** Similar to no-till planters, new manure injection equipment has a lifespan of **7 years**, while used equipment has a lifespan of **3 years**

### 3. Precision Nutrient Application Systems

- **Functionality:** These systems enable variable-rate nutrient application using sensors or computerized maps, thereby optimizing nutrient use and minimizing waste
- **Eligible Components:** This includes control units, variable-rate drives, and upgraded nozzles that enhance application efficiency
- **Certification Requirement:** Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form (see p10 of the REAP Application)
- **Exclusions:** Equipment such as manure spreaders and spinner-type spreaders, as well as subscription services for software, are not eligible for funding
- **Lifespan:** 3-years

### 4. Cover Crop Equipment

- **Eligible Tools:** This category includes rollers with chevron blades and drones specifically designed for seeding (spraying is not eligible). Broadcast seeders are not eligible (except for drones)
- **Certification Requirement:** Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form (see App p11)
- **Lifespan:** New cover crop equipment is **7 years**, while used equipment is **3 years**

### 5. Precision Upgrade Kits

- **Purpose:** These kits are designed to enhance the precision of existing planting or nutrient application systems, contributing to more efficient agricultural practices
- **Installation Requirement:** All installations must be performed by a dealer to ensure compliance with program standards
- **Certification Requirement:** Requires a qualified farm equipment dealer Certification form
- **Lifespan:** Precision upgrade kits have a **3-year lifespan**

### Trade-In Policy

In some circumstances, an applicant may wish to sell or trade in a piece of equipment prior to the expiration of the required lifespan under the REAP program (7 years for new equipment, 3 years for used equipment). The equipment may be traded for REAP-eligible equipment under the following conditions:

- The trade-in policy requires prior approval from the Commission and mandates that any trade-in must be replaced with comparable equipment that meets the same or larger acreage capacity requirements
- Applicants may claim tax credits for any cost differences incurred during the trade-in process, which will reset the lifespan of the new equipment
- It is important to note that selling or trading equipment without replacement may result in a prorated repayment of tax credits previously claimed

The SCC reserves the right to deny an application for equipment if the cost is not within fair market values as determined by the Commission.

The SCC reserves the right to deny an application that does not meet the intent of the standards set forth for the equipment by the SCC.



## Attachment 3

## REAP Cover Crop Guidelines

Cover crop establishment costs are eligible for REAP tax credits. Applicants may apply prior to planting based on a cost estimate. All invoices and receipts must be submitted upon completion of planting.

Completion of the REAP Cover Crop Worksheet (p13 of the REAP Application) is required. The REAP tax credit reimbursement rate for a single-species cover crop is 50%. REAP tax credit reimbursement rate for multi-species cover crops is 90% in an ag impaired watershed.

Applicants may apply for up to 3 years of proposed cover crop plantings on a single REAP application. Sponsored applicants are limited to applying for 1 year of cover crops.

- Multi-species cover crop definition: A seed mix that consists of a grass/small grain species plus a minimum of 2 broadleaf species; in which the cumulative seeding rate of the grass/small grain species does not exceed **1.5 bu/ac**; and the mix includes at least **5lbs/ac** of the broadleaf species.
- Total cost = seed cost + planting costs. Total costs are capped at \$50/acre for single-species plantings and \$70/acre for multi-species plantings. Please contact the Commission for information regarding planting cost via drone.

### Restrictions

- Total REAP-eligible costs are capped at \$100,000 per applicant per round.
- Crops that are mechanically harvested for grain or forage are not eligible for REAP tax credits. Grazing of cover crops is permitted.
- The REAP lifespan for cover crops is 1 year – annual. Implementation costs are eligible only within the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) in which they are incurred.
- All seed used for cover crops must be tested and properly labeled in accordance with the PA Seed Law and regulations. Seed grown by the applicant must be tested for purity, germination, and absence of noxious weeds by a recognized seed laboratory prior to seeding.

*The Commission reserves the right to prioritize multi-species cover crop applications over single-species plantings; and to prioritize new applicants over applicants who have previously received REAP tax credits for cover crop plantings.*

*The Commission reserves the right to deny applications for multi-species cover crop that do not meet the Commission's intent set forth in the REAP Guidelines.*

## **Attachment 4: Verification Signatures for REAP Eligibility**

### **Applies to: REAP Application Section 2 (pp. 2–4)**

#### **Who Can Verify REAP Eligibility:**

1. Conservation District technicians with appropriate training and experience in Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law compliance.
2. USDA/NRCS technicians certified in conservation planning, appropriate training and experienced in PA Clean Streams Law compliance.
3. Act 38-certified Nutrient Management Plan writers.

By signing, the verifier confirms that the applicant's answers on pp. 2–4 are accurate and truthful.  
Examples:

- If the applicant states that required plans exist on all acres operated and are fully implemented, the verifier may sign if they agree.
- If the applicant states that plans do not exist or are not fully implemented, the verifier may still sign—if they agree with the accuracy of that response, or if those plans are not needed for that operation, or in development.
- If the verifier does not agree that the answers are accurate or truthful, they must not sign that section.

#### **Important Notes on Verification:**

- Both Section 2A and Section 2B of the REAP application must be verified, even if the applicant has no animals present on their operation.
- For example, if an applicant answers “NO” to question B1, the verifier must confirm that the answer is accurate.

#### **Conflict of Interest Policy:**

The individual signing must have no conflict of interest, meaning they may not verify applications for:

- Their own farming operation
- A family member (parent, spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, cousin, etc.)
- A business with which they or their immediate family is associated

The Commission reserves the right to disqualify any individual from providing a verification signature.

## **Verification Signatures for Equipment Purchases**

### **Applies to: REAP Application pp. 8–11**

#### **Who Can Sign Dealer Certification Forms:**

1. Qualified equipment dealers (Dealer must have business receipt/invoice, website, EIN, etc.)
2. Other individuals as determined by the Commission (on a case-by-case basis)

#### **Conflict of Interest Policy:**

The signer must have no conflict of interest, meaning they cannot certify:

- Equipment they are selling to themselves
- Equipment purchased by a family member
- Equipment for a business connected to them or a family member

The Commission reserves the right to disqualify any individual from providing a verification signature.

## Attachment 5 – REAP Program Definitions

- **Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan:**

A site-specific plan that:

- Meets Clean Streams Law & 25 Pa. Code Ch. 102
- Identifies BMPs to minimize erosion and sediment from an agricultural operation

- **Agricultural Operation:**

The managed property that produces crops, livestock, poultry, or for equine activities.

- **Animal Concentration Areas:**

Outdoor zones exposed to rainfall, (ie. barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots, etc.) where animals congregate, difficulty in maintaining green cover and/or manure accumulates

- **Best Management Practice (BMP):**

Practices approved by SCC/USDA-NRCS to manage nutrients and protect surface waters through technological, economic and institutional factors

- **Business Firm:**

Entity subject to PA taxes under Articles III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, or XV.

- **Commission or SCC:**

The State Conservation Commission.

- **Conservation District:**

County-level agency under the Conservation District Law (May 15, 1945, P.L. 547, No. 217).

- **Conservation Plan:**

USDA-NRCS plan listing BMPs with an implementation schedule.

- **Department or DOR:**

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

- **Eligible Applicants:**

Business firms, individuals, or joint filers under the previously listed tax articles.

- **Equine Activity:**

Boarding, training, lessons, pasturing, riding of horses. Excludes racehorse operations under the Race Horse Industry Reform Act (P.L. 435, No. 135).

- **Food Processing Residual/FPR:**

This space is reserved for the working definition that is being defined currently within another division

- **Legacy Sediment:**

Eroded upland sediment occurring after early PA Settlement. Affects hydrology/ecology by deposition along streams and valley bottoms.

- **Manure Management Plan:**

Outlines manure/agricultural wastewater application practices per 25 Pa. Code § 91.36(b).

- **Nutrient Management Plan / Specialist:**

Defined under 3 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 to align with nutrient/odor laws.

- **Pass-Through Entity:**

Partnerships or PA S corps per section 301(n.0)/(n.1).

- **Qualified Tax Liability:**

PA tax obligations under eligible articles (excluding payroll).

- **Riparian Forest Buffer:**

Tree/shrub zone near surface waters meeting SCC conservation standards.

- **Sponsor:**

Businesses subject to PA Taxes receiving REAP tax credits for funding eligible farm projects.

- **Technical Service Provider:**

Certified individual, entity or public agency on USDA-NRCS list for technical support.

- **TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load):**

The sum of pollutant load limits for water bodies from non-point sources.

- **USDA-NRCS:**

US Dept. of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## **Agricultural Operation for \$250,000/7-Year Cap**

For the purpose of REAP applicant eligibility under Section 1703-E(B) of the ACT

- Operator of agricultural land is considered the property owner for REAP tax purposes.

- All tracts of land, whether contiguous or non-contiguous, are under the common ownership or common management control of the person; whether as an individual, corporation, partnership or other legal entity; applying for the REAP tax credit;

and have organizational structures that include or retain the same (or significantly similar) ownership, management, directors, officers or shareholders;

or which utilize substantially common management or production resources such as land, equipment, labor, accounting and business systems to support one or more farm enterprises, partnerships, corporations, or other farm-related entity.



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DATE: May 7, 2025

TO: State Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Brady Seeley, Director  
Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

THROUGH: Douglas M. Wolfgang  
Executive Secretary

RE: Nutrient and Odor Management Programs Report

The Nutrient and Odor Management Program Staff of the State Conservation Commission offer the following report of measurable results for the time-period of March / April 2025.

For the months of March and April 2025, staff and delegated conservation districts have:

1. Odor Management Plans:
  - a. 11 OMPs in the review process
  - b. 10 OMPs Approved
  - c. 0 OMPs Rescinded
2. Reviewed and approved 50 Nutrient Management (NM) Plans in the 1st quarter of 2025.
  - a. Those approved NM plans covered 8,286 acres.
  - b. Those approved NM plans included 26,435 Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs), generating 531,838 tons of manure.
3. Managing fifteen (15) ACTIVE enforcement or compliance actions, currently in various stages of the compliance or enforcement process. Monitoring an additional two (2) other cases of enforcement / compliance / interest.
4. Continue to daily answer questions for NMP and OMP writers, NMP reviewers, delegated Conservation Districts, and others.
5. Assisted DEP with various functions and as workgroup members in Federal and State settings for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
6. NM/OM Certification/CEC:
  - a. Approved 13 hours of NM and OM continuing education.
  - b. Facilitated the following trainings:
    - i. Nutrient Management Orientation

- ii. Managing Manure Nutrients
    - iii. Stormwater and Soil Loss Workshop (2 sessions were held)
    - iv. P-Index Workshop )2 sessions were held)
  - c. Reviewed 7 Public Review Specialists NMP reviews as part of the certification training.
7. Commercial Manure Hauler / Brokers
- a. Approved 3 hours of MH/B continuing education.
  - b. 5 Act 49 inspection letters sent (includes in-office, onsite and affidavit letters).
  - c. Facilitated the following trainings:
    - i. Manure Hauler and Broker Orientation
    - ii. Manure Hauler and Broker Exam
    - iii. Broker 2 Training
    - iv. Broker 2 exam
8. Issued 4 new (total of 91) Ag 101 seat licenses to CD and DEP staff. 64 persons have already completed and sent in their course completion certificate.



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** May 6, 2025

**TO:** Members, State Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Karl J. Dymond  
State Conservation Commission *KJ Dymond*

**SUBJECT:** May 2025 Status Report on Facility Odor Management Plan Reviews

**Detailed Report of Recent Odor Management Plan Actions**

In accordance with Commission policy, attached is the Odor Management Plans (OMPs) actions report for your review. No formal action is needed on this report unless the Commission would choose to revise any of the plan actions shown on this list at this time. This recent plan actions report details the OMPs that have been acted on by the Commission and the Commission's Executive Secretary since the last program status report provided to the Commission at the March 2025 Commission meeting.

**Program Statistics**

Below are the overall program statistics relating to the Commission's Odor Management Program, representing the activities of the program from its inception in March of 2009, to May 5, 2025.

The table below summarizes approved plans grouped by the Nutrient Management Program Coordinator areas.

	Central	NE/NC	SE/SC	West	Totals
2009	7	6	28	1	42
2010	5	7	25	2	39
2011	10	12	15	2	39
2012	9	17	16	2	44
2013	10	11	38	3	62
2014	13	16	44	2	75
2015	15	15	61	2	93
2016	19	16	59	5	99
2017	25	24	44	3	96
2018	14	13	40	1	68
2019	12	11	14		37
2020	8	11	42	1	62
2021	15	15	30	1	61
2022	16	11	19	2	48
2023	24	12	42	3	81
2024	12	13	40	1	66
2025	5	6	16		27
Total	219	216	573	31	
Grand Total					1039

As of May 5, 2025, there are one thousand thirty-nine **approved** plans and/or amendments, nine plans have been **denied**, eighteen plans/ amendments have been **withdrawn** without action taken, one hundred and eleven plans/ amendments were **rescinded**, and seventeen plans/ amendments are going through the **plan review process**.



# OMP Actions Status Report

Action	OMP Name	County	Municipality	Species	AEUs	OSI Score	Status	Amended
3/21/2025	Zeiset, Bryan – Harmony Dairy	Lancaster	Ephrata Twp	Cattle	0.00	68.4	Approved	
4/3/2025	White Oak Hollow Farms LLC – Mellott Research Farm	Fulton	Bethel Twp	Swine	776.81	53.2	Approved	
4/11/2025	AB Acres, LLC – Home Farm	York	Peach Bottom Twp	Broilers	192.19	43.3	Approved	A
4/11/2025	Courter, Philip – Courter’s Finisher Farm	Clinton	Porter Twp	Swine	1367.02	52.8	Approved	B
4/29/2025	Ag Ventures, LLC – Peach Glen Farm	Cumberland	Dickinson Twp	Swine	30.74	73.3	Approved	
4/29/2025	Bailey, Randy – Turkey Farm	Snyder	Monroe Twp	Turkey	0.00	30.5	Approved	
4/29/2025	Beaver Run Farms, Inc – Grandpa’s Farm	Union	Buffalo Twp	Broilers	0.00	22.8	Approved	
4/29/2025	Kulp Family Dairy, LLC – Farm 1	Blair	Woodbury Twp	Cattle	5521.60	50.1	Approved	B
4/29/2025	Martin, David H – Home Farm	Lancaster	Little Britain Twp	Pullets	69.62	81.2	Approved	A
4/29/2025	White Oak Hollow Farms LLC – Mellott Nursery	Fulton	Bethel Twp	Swine	776.81	24.3	Approved	A

As of May 5, 2025



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** May 7, 2025

**TO:** Members  
State Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Brady Seeley, Director  
Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

**THROUGH:** Douglas M. Wolfgang, Executive Secretary  
State Conservation Commission

**SUBJECT:** Nutrient Management Plan Actions

The State Conservation Commission (Commission) approved the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Action Policy on May 9, 2023 that allows the Executive Secretary of the Commission to perform actions on Nutrient Management Plans. These NMPs are located in counties whose local conservation district does not have administrative authority under Act 38.

<u>Agricultural Operation (Name and Address)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs)</u>	<u>Operatio n Type (CAO, CAFO, VAO)</u>	<u>Animal Type</u>	<u>Approval or Disapprov al</u>	<u>Date Approve d</u>
W&M Farms LLC- Bradlyn Martin 972 Friedline Road Danville, PA 17821	Northum berland	9.8	159.63	CAO	Layers	Approved	4/3/25
Brendon Burkholder 370 Crawford Rd Watson town, PA 17777	Northum berland	112	159.31	CAO	Broiler	Approved	4/11/25



## BUILDING BRIDGES

Farmers\*Municipalities\*Citizens  
Conservation Districts\*Agribusiness

To: Members  
State Conservation Commission  
From: Beth Futrick  
Agriculture/Public Liaison  
Through: Douglas Wolfgang, Executive Secretary  
State Conservation Commission  
Re: Ombudsman Program Update – Southern Alleghenies Region

April 30, 2025

### **Activities: March-April**

- Administering NFWF-INSR Grant
  - Prepared and submitted the final report for this grant.
- Administering PADEP Growing Greener Grant
  - Prepare quarterly reports, submit reimbursement requests, and manage invoice information.
- Organized a new regional grazing network committee – continued work with this new committee to plan 2025 pasturewalk events for Cambria, Huntingdon, Blair and Bedford Counties.
- Assisting Keystone Development Centre with Allegheny's Local Food Hub development.

### **Conflict Issues/Municipal Assistance**

- Mifflin County – on-going Darkling Beetle complaint – follow up phone calls with producer, neighbor and CD staff.
- Lycoming County – on-going fly complaint.
- Wyoming County – trespassing poultry – followed up with Conservation District

### **Meetings/Trainings/Outreach**

- attended Ag Law Webinar with Penn State Ag Law Center
- attended National Fish and Wildlife Foundation- INSR meeting
- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy meeting
- Grazing committee planning meeting
- ACAP conference
- Blair County Envirothon
- attended Juniata College Sustainable Dinner/Presentation
- attended Healthy Blair County Coalition – Food Insecurity meeting
- attend Penn State Extension – Conflict Management training

### **Reports & Grant Applications**

Growing Greener grant reimbursement and progress report  
Administer PDA – Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant  
Assisting with Blair Co Watershed Specialist mini grant  
Administering Susquehanna River Basin Commission grant  
Assisting with Blair CAP Block Grant



## BUILDING BRIDGES

Farmers \* Municipalities \* Citizens  
Conservation Districts \* Agribusiness

To: Members  
State Conservation Commission

May 20, 2025

From: Shelly Dehoff  
Agriculture/Public Liaison

Re: Agricultural Ombudsman Program Update

**Activities:** Since mid-March 2025, I have taken part or assisted in a number of events, including the following:

- Coordinating manure injection educational and promotion effort for farmers in Lancaster County, and handling incentive program applications and invoice payment processing
  - Administering new NFWF INSR grant for injection, focusing more on education of CCAs and NMSs, in addition to farmers, subawarded through Sustainable Chesapeake
  - Working to enter/download injection documentation in Lanc Co recorded in PracticeKeeper
  - Promoting horse drawn dribble bar incentive program and looking at research about N and NH3 retention
- Events as South Central Task Force (SCTF) Agriculture Subcommittee Planning Specialist:
  - Hosted March, April and May monthly Ag Subcomm meetings
  - Participated in multiple Training Education & Exercises committee meetings
  - Planned logistics for Large Animal Response and Behavior training in Adams Co for CART team members and other first responders
  - Attended Amish Safety Committee meeting
- Planning Farm Safety Day for First Responders with Extension staff for later in 2025
- Attended regional Homeland Security Conference, and sponsored 3 breakout sessions related to ag/rescues
- Participated in Franklin Co EMA's practice drill for activating an Emergency Operations Center (EOC); was the ag rep
- Participated and recorded minutes for March and April Lancaster Co. Agriculture Council meeting
- Continuing to assist with Conservation Foundation of Lanc Co meetings, and Exec Comm meetings
- Helping plan LCCD's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration year and events in 2025 and chairing one sub-committee
- Beth F, and I participated in quarterly virtual meeting with PennAg and PFB reps to stay connected and working together when needed
- Beth F and I participated in PSATS convention breakout sessions about the OMB program, along with Brook Duer and Susan Bucknum about ag regulations and the ACRE program.
- Attended PennAg's Horse Council meeting; restarted after a few year hiatus; good connections for resources when needed
- Attended Intro to Conflict, Communications & Culture (mediation and restorative practices) seminar; prereq for future trainings I might be interested in
- Participated in Ag & Food Careers virtual meeting; can't offer an intern, but always interested in ways to promote this topic/workforce development
- Part of Scholarship Candidate interview committee for LCCD
- Helped with LCCD Jr Envirothon

**Local Government Interaction:** I have been asked to provide educational input regarding agriculture:

- **Chester Co**—municipal employee asked if a current situation in the township related to woodland protection, clearcutting and ultimately developing a property in an industrial and commercial zone could potentially be an ACRE case
- **Chester Co**—Participated in Ag Connect/ Ag Does meeting; groups are working to promote agriculture, ag communications, ag ed for public, community relations and more

- **Schuylkill Co**—municipal staff requested information about smells from manure, regulations that apply/don't apply, and they will pass that information along to the resident who is complaining

**Moderation or Liaison Activities:** I have been asked to provide moderation or liaison assistance with a particular situation:

- **York Co**—resident asked about manure spreading schedule for neighboring farm

**Research and Education Activities:**

- **Adams Co**—received inquiry from landowner about ordinance requirements and the small scale keeping of livestock; gave general guidance about how to calculate acres required based on anticipated number of livestock
- **York Co**—received call about odor concerns, setback distances and overapplication concerns of poultry litter; coordinated response coverage with York CD
- **Bedford Co**—requesting help connecting with Bedford CD, and wondering if Lanc Co programs would help her also
- **York Co**—neighbor to farmer would like him to use injection, but she thinks he is resistant; she requested information about injection in case he is willing to take the information

**Fly Complaint Response Coordination:** I have taken complaints or am coordinating fly-related issues in:

- **York Co**—new complaint in new area of York Co
- **Adams Co**—received complaint; asked Adams Co based poultry educator to help with technical advice for farmer
- **Lebanon Co**—neighbor to poultry farm with historical issues, requested proactive reminder to farmer about importance of fly control methods
- **York Co**—fly complaint from an area with many historical complaints
- **Northumberland Co**—complaint about flies and odors and potential for improperly disposed poultry carcasses; coordinating response with DEP and PDA
- **Franklin Co**—PSU Extension Educator requested information on fly control methods for 2 farms she is working with, especially an organic one; provided information, handouts and coordinated additional info from Dr. Martin in Lanc Co.