

2023 BANQUET

The District held their 74th Annual Banquet on 11/9/23. The event took place at Keystone College. We started the evening with the welcoming comments followed by the invocation giving by Chairman, Dorne White.

The 30 people in attendance were able to enjoy a buffet style dinner followed by a sweet treat. We were delighted to have Rick Koval, WNEP TV Personality on "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life" speak at our event for the second year. Rick went on to present "Fluorescent Minerals, Nature's Glow Show". The program was amazing, especially because it was very interactive with the audience & Rick brought some of his specimens that he displayed under the fluorescent lights.

The staff also presented a "What We've Been Up To" segment to highlight what new things the District had been working on. The evening wrapped up after this.

Another year under our belt & special thanks to the District staff, attendees & to Rep. Tina Pickett for showing on going support.



EVENTS:

2024 CWS
Wed. 3/13/24
Keystone College

2024 Seedling Sale
Deadline: 1/12/24
Pickup: 4/27/24

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER
2023

WYOMING COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6052 SR 6
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
PHONE: 570-836-2589
FAX: 570-836-6063
EMAIL: INFO@WCCDPA.ORG

DISTRICT STAFF

Doug Deutsch - District Manager Ext. 404
Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant Ext. 406
Bernie Scalzo - Watershed Specialist Ext. 403
Dave Taylor - Resource Conservation Specialist Ext. 405
Laura Anderson - Environmental Education Coord. Ext. 402
Chris Faux- Ag. Conservation Prog. Coord. Ext. 407

NRCS STAFF

Vacant - District Conservationist
Phone: 570-836-2490 Ext. 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorne White - Chairman
Neil Tague - Vice Chairman
Butch Sands - Secretary/ Treasurer
Commissioner Tom Henry
Bob Robinson
Walt Dana
Ken Harvey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jill Tague

Meeting the second Monday of each month,
9:30am, District Office.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

BUREAU OF FORESTRY: 570-945-7133
DEP: 570-826-2511
GAME COMMISSION: 570-675-1143
PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION: 570-477-5717



2024 Annual Spring Seedling Sale Order Form

Wyoming County Conservation District



Order Deadline: January 12, 2024

Pickup Date & Time: April 27, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - noon

Pickup Location: Wyoming County Conservation District, 6052 SR 6

Note: Payment must accompany order. Seedlings will be healthy at pickup.
No guarantees after this date.



Keep top portion for pickup information *Please type or print clearly*

Visit our website www.wccdpa.org for photos & information on the seedlings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Item	Size	Container	Price	# of Trees	Total
Norway Spruce	10-16"	Plug	\$6.00 each -or- 5/\$25.00		
Concolor Fir	9-16"	Plug			
Red Oak	5-10"	Plug			
Sugar Maple	12-24"	Pot			
Persimmon	12-24"	Pot			
Paw Paw	8-16"	Pot			
American Chestnut	15-30"	Pot			
Dk Purple Rhododendron	4-8"	Pot			
Lilac, Light Purple	8-16"	Pot	\$4.00ea or 5 for \$15		
Nannyberry	2-4'	Bare Root	\$2.00 each -or- 5/\$9.00		
Chestnut Oak	18-36"	Bare Root			
Northeast Wildflower Mix	Packet	By the ounce or per pound	1oz for \$5.00 1lb for \$60.00		

**Interested in larger quantities?
Please contact the District for availability.**

ORDER TOTAL	
6% SALES TAX	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	

Please send this form with your check or money order to:

Wyoming County Conservation District

6052 SR 6 Tunkhannock, PA 18657 (570) 240-4661

No refunds on orders not picked up or guarantees on plants.

Please Note, we order the largest seedlings available for better survival rates.



November 15, 2023

NEW INVENTORY SUBMISSION PROCESS FOR 2024!

A new CHEMSWEEP inventory submission process was developed for 2023 and will be continuing for 2024. All inventory submissions will be online through our website at www.agriculture.pa.gov/Chemsweep. The inventory, (survey), opens in December for 2024. Find the link for inventory submissions. All the information that was on the paper forms is on the electronic version. You must be a licensed applicator or a pesticide business to participate.

With these program improvements we can move our deadline for submissions to **March 31st, 2024**. **The link will no longer accept submissions after this date. Please do not delay.** The program collects most counties on a four-year rotation schedule so it will be a while for us to return to your area. Anyone without internet access may call the CHEMSWEEP administrator for a paper form. All forms must be mailed to our attention to Harrisburg rather than the regional offices as done in the past.

The CHEMSWEEP Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, continues to provide farmers, pesticide applicators, pesticide business and dealers with a means to dispose of cancelled, unwanted, or unused pesticides. Participation in CHEMSWEEP is free for the first 2,000 pounds of waste pesticides. Amounts over 2,000 pounds will be direct billed to the participant at PDA's contracted price at date and time of collection. The funding source for this program comes from pesticide registration fees, pesticide applicator license fees, and pesticide business license fees paid annually to PDA.

This information is being mailed to licensed private applicators, pesticide application businesses, and pesticide dealers in the counties selected for CHEMSWEEP 2024. Those counties are Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Clarion, Delaware, Forest, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Venango, and Wyoming. *This is your chance to dispose of your unwanted pesticides, so don't delay!*

Please make every effort to fill in the online form as completely as possible, including contact information, EPA registration number, quantity, type and condition of containers, total quantity of each product listed and directions to your pesticide storage area. If you have unlabeled pesticide products, please identify them if possible. If they cannot be identified, list them as "unknown". It is easiest to write down all chemical information before starting the inventory.

After you submit the online inventory form, a PDA Regional inspector will visit your location to verify the inventory, sample any unknown pesticides if necessary, and assess any specific needs. If you have more items to add to the inventory after verification is complete, please contact me for assistance. Once all inventories are verified, a collection schedule will be created. The actual collection of your old pesticides should occur between June and October of 2024. You will receive a yellow postcard notification from the contractor (MXI Environmental, Inc.) of the exact collection date two weeks prior to the collection. The generator of record of your waste pesticides will be the PDA contractor. If we can be of further assistance, please contact your regional office or myself at 717-772-5210.

Sincerely,
James Cunningham
Pesticide Specialist

This information is intended for use by the licensed pesticide community and does not constitute a press release.

CHEMSWEEP Waste Pesticide Disposal Program

What is the CHEMSWEEP program?

Each year, pesticide products are cancelled by the manufacturer or phased out by operations, leaving growers and applicators with quantities of unwanted and/or unusable pesticides. Due to the nature of these materials, there are often limited options available for responsible management. The high cost of disposal prohibits many users from hiring professionals to dispose of these materials which can postpone disposal decisions indefinitely. The unwanted pesticides may then become a safety hazard and environmental liability through long-term storage in barns and other areas in and around the farm or business.

CHEMSWEEP provides Pennsylvania farmers and other licensed applicators with a means to dispose of canceled, suspended, or unwanted pesticide products. Environmental liability and health and safety issues are the primary concerns. The liability may also manifest itself as an extra burden in the event of a transfer or sale of the property. By participating in this program, applicators can legally dispose of their old pesticides, generally at little or no cost. Almost all of the pesticides collected by CHEMSWEEP are burned in EPA-approved incinerators. The remaining pesticides are treated and placed in EPA-permitted hazardous waste landfills.

Who is eligible for CHEMSWEEP?

The pesticide disposal program will be conducted in selected Pennsylvania counties which rotate annually. A county rotation schedule can be found on our website. Participation is limited to the selected counties. Retired farmers are encouraged to participate. Homeowners may contact their county Solid Waste Authority for information on pesticide disposal.

Which products will be accepted?

Pesticide concentrates that have been registered for sale or use in Pennsylvania will be accepted in this program. **Leftover tank mix and rinsate are your responsibility to manage according to the product label and will not be accepted.**

How do you participate?

Licensed applicators, commercial pesticide businesses and pesticide dealers in the selected counties will receive a direct mailing for participation in CHEMSWEEP. *New for 2024 inventory submissions - complete the registration form online through the CHEMSWEEP website at www.agriculture.pa.gov/Chemsweep.* Inventory submissions open in December. Enter each pesticide you wish to dispose of. Information required is the same as the past used paper inventory forms. It is easiest to write down all the pesticides before you start the inventory submission process. All inventories will be verified by PDA inspectors prior to collection. If you do not have internet access, please call the Chemsweep administrator at (717) 772-5210 for a paper form.

What if I have a product but I don't know exactly what it is?

Check the container for product label information on what crop or pest the product may have been used. If you cannot identify the product, list it as "Unknown" on the website. Samples of unknown (but suspected) pesticide products may be taken by PDA Inspectors for analysis by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) pesticide laboratory. Lab analysis (if required) will be performed at no cost to the participant. Results will indicate the presence or absence of pesticides and may not identify exactly what the unknown product is. Products identified by PDA as not being pesticides will not be accepted.

How will pesticides be collected?

The pesticides will be collected directly from your storage location by the hazardous waste disposal company under contract with PDA. These products are classified as "Universal Waste Pesticides" and will be collected, transported and disposed of in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. The PDA contractor becomes the generator of record of your old pesticides at the time of collection.

How much will the program cost the participant?

PDA will cover the disposal cost of up to 2,000 pounds of pesticide from any one (1) participant. Amounts over 2,000 pounds will be direct billed to the participant at the time of collection at PDA's contracted price, which is significantly less than normal costs for hazardous waste removal.

Need more information?

**Contact the nearest
PA Department of Ag
Regional Office**

Region I	Meadville	(814) 332-6890
Region II	Montoursville	(570) 433-2640
Region III		(717) 257-6533
Region IV	Greensburg	(724) 832-1073
Region V	Altoona	(717) 705-5500
Region VI	Harrisburg	(717) 346-3223
Region VII	Collegetown	(610) 489-1003

ALL ABOUT THE OWLS

L G N I W O R R U B M A R G M M D D V X T O
 N T Q B K S V G U H T K S T H T N F T Z I R
 W Z X O W J Y N U I A N V C C I R E Z T N A
 U Z D S V Y Y J R P Z W F P E F T U L S J G
 A H E J W T G B B W S J K C E U Z L L P D E
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 T L L B A M P B A H U N B T L P N G I B C O
 E X G I P X V J W L O N G Q E B U S O L D H

ASHY FACED

BARN

BARRED

BOREAL

BURROWING

CONGO (BAY)

ELF

FERRUGINOUS (PYGMY)

FLAMMULATED

(GREAT) GRAM

(GREAT) HORNED

HAWK

LITTLE

LONG (EARED)

NORTHERN (PYGMY)

ORIENTAL (BAY)

SAW WHET

SCOPS

SCREECH

SHORT (EARED)

SNOWY

SPOTTED

TAWNY

WHISKERED (SCREECH)



BARN OWL

The 2023 Chesapeake Bay dead zone is the smallest on record

Chesapeake Bay Program website



This year, the Chesapeake Bay’s summer “dead zone” was the smallest it’s been since monitoring began in 1985, according to data released by the Chesapeake Bay Program’s monitoring partners: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), Old Dominion University and Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

“These results illustrate that nutrient input reductions can produce a significant improvement for fish, crab and oyster habitats, and that we need to continue and advance our management efforts throughout the watershed,” said Mark Trice, program chief of water quality informatics with MD DNR’s Resource Assessment Service.

Dead zones are areas of low oxygen (less than 2 milligrams per liter oxygen) that form in deep Bay waters when nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients) enter the water through polluted runoff and feed naturally-occurring algae. This drives the growth of algal blooms, which eventually die and decompose, removing oxygen from the surrounding waters faster than it can be replenished. This creates low-oxygen—or hypoxic—conditions at the bottom of the Bay that limit habitat for crabs, oysters, fish and other wildlife.

Based on water quality data provided by MD DNR, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Old Dominion University, MD DNR and VIMS individually estimated the size of the dead zone from May to October 2023 using separate methods. They then calculated hypoxic volume within the Bay’s mainstem from that time period. The MD DNR found that hypoxic water volume averaged 0.52 cubic miles, while VIMS reported a similarly low estimate of 0.58 cubic miles. Both estimates are the lowest on record and much lower than the historical average of 0.97 cubic miles taken from 1985-2022. These findings also align with the forecast released in June 2023, which predicted a 33% smaller than average dead zone.

Pa. to receive grant funding for development of wildlife corridors

By: Cassie Miller - December 7, 2023 (Pennsylvania Capital Star)

Pennsylvania is set to receive federal grant money to reduce and prevent the number of deadly collisions between vehicles and wildlife on the Commonwealth's roadways.

Pennsylvania will receive \$840,000 as part of the **Federal Highway Administration's Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program** to develop a strategic plan for wildlife crossings, or corridors, across the Commonwealth's roadways.

The grant funding was announced Tuesday and is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which allocated \$350 million for wildlife crossing and related projects over five years.

In September, State Farm Insurance Company released data showing that Pennsylvania reported the highest number of auto insurance claims filed for animal-vehicle collisions among states between July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

"These numbers are stark, but not probably not surprising for Pennsylvania residents from across the state who've been involved in a wildlife-vehicular collision," PennEnvironment Conservation Advocate Stephanie Wein said of the data. "We know the bleak reality is that every year thousands of animals, including deer, bear, elk, game bird and turtles are killed on Pennsylvania's roads. This endangers both drivers and Pennsylvania's native wildlife species. This data also highlights the urgency of investing in wildlife corridors across Pennsylvania as a proven solution for helping to avoid wildlife-vehicular collisions."

Earlier this year, state Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery) reintroduced legislation — HR 87 — to authorize a study on the "current status, management and benefits of conservation corridors" in Pennsylvania, hoping to better protect wildlife and prevent harmful interactions with vehicles.

"Pennsylvania is a destination for many seeking to take advantage of its vast recreational opportunities," Daley, who chairs the Pennsylvania House Tourism, Recreation & Economic Development Committee, said. "By limiting vehicle-wildlife collisions, these corridors make the roads people take to get here safer while nourishing the flora and fauna that people travel to see."



(C) dron285 – Stock.Adobe.com Wildlife Crossing – Bridge over a highway in forest

The resolution passed the House in a 129-72 vote, but has yet to be taken up in the Senate.

UNTIL NEXT TIME WITH CONSERVATION COMMENTS...