

WCCD Newsletter

April - June 2022



Can't Beat a Classic!!!

Hello my name is Chris Faux and I am once again taking up the mantel of Agricultural Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Wyoming County Conservation District. I am a 2014 Penn State graduate. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resource Management with a minor in Watersheds and Water Resources. You may remember me from years past.

I was the Agricultural Conservation Programs Coordinator for Wyoming County once before. I held the position from 2014 to 2018. Life took me down a path away from the district for several years. In my time away from the District I worked as an environmental technician for a waste remediation company and also became a licensed municipal water operator. Even though I left the District I never stopped pursuing my passion in agriculture. I have a small farm where I raise beef cows, pastured pigs, and goats. I am extremely

happy to be back in the saddle once again at the District and look forward to working with many familiar farmers and hopefully many new ones!



CONSERVATION COMMENTS

WYOMING COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
21 HOLLOWCREST RD.
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
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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

DAVID MCCOY - DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
PHONE: 570-836-2490 EXT. 3 EMAIL: DAVID.MCCOY@USDA.GOV

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.

EVENTS:

Wyoming County Fair
Wed. 8/31/22-Mon. 9/5/22
Be sure to visit the District
booth!!!



LOCAL RESOURCES:

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

The Magic of Mayflies

Mating Dance

If you've ever hiked along a woodland stream on a warm spring day when the sun is low in the sky and the light is beginning to fade, you may have witnessed mating mayflies. These tiny creatures — some no bigger than a match head — swarm together, their translucent wings fluttering in a midair dance. Once mated, each female descends onto water, where she lays hundreds, or even thousands, of eggs. With her mission to bring new life into the world now complete, she dies. Without any mouth parts, fully mature adult mayflies, called spinners, cannot eat, and so most live but a single day. That's why they have the insect order Ephemeroptera, which in Latin means "briefly winged."



Adult male mayflies have greatly enlarged eyes, which they use to locate females in the mating swarms.

Preparing to Take Flight

It's a day that is a long time in the making. Mayfly eggs hatch within minutes, days, or weeks. As nymphs, they usually spend a year in their freshwater ecosystem, feasting on algae as well as the leaves, branches, and other plant debris broken down by bacteria and other decomposers. Some mayfly species eat other insects, but most only eat plants. Plant eaters are called herbivores. "Herb" is from the Latin word meaning "plant," and "vorus" is from the Latin word meaning "devour." As nymphs, mayflies undergo a series of molts. This is when they shed their exoskeletons. On the eve of mating day, they emerge from the surface of the water and use their newly appeared wings to fly to a resting spot on land. The next day, they molt once more and fly to the swarm site.



After mating, female mayflies like this one extrude a ball of eggs while hovering over the stream. When the ball is complete, they drop to the water surface and release it.

An Alarm Bell

Mayflies are highly sensitive to pollution and other changes in their environment. When they are missing or few in number, it is a warning that a stream isn't healthy enough for mayflies to live there. Scientists at Stroud Water Research Center monitor the presence or absence of aquatic macroinvertebrates like mayflies in streams and rivers throughout the world. In doing so, they have made important discoveries like the River Continuum Concept, which looks at a river and its surrounding watershed as an interconnected system. This concept recognizes that the changes that happen on land and upstream have an impact on what happens downstream.



Many mayflies swarm around dusk. This species flies over the stream until dark.

Forests for Fresh Water

A common cause of unhealthy freshwater ecosystems is a lack of trees and other plants along the banks, in an area called the riparian zone. Trees not only provide an important food source for mayflies and other species. They also keep streams cool by shading the water. They filter pollution like nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment that can wash off roads and fields into streams when it rains. And they reduce flooding.



A stream in Delaware with a healthy riparian forest on its banks.

Wyoming County Locally Led Conservation Survey 2022

This survey will assist the Wyoming County Local Work group in; determining resource concerns to concentrate our assistance to in the county; funding levels for priority resource concerns; And, to find ways to incorporate new technology/methods to address priority resource concerns in the county.

1. What are TWO things that you value the most living and working in Wyoming County?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation (hiking, biking, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting, Fishing, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Rivers, streams, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Views, Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | |

2. Please choose what you believe are the THREE most important natural resource issues or areas facing our community in the next decade. Choose up to 3:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Waste/ nutrient management | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry (Invasives, Timber Mgt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing Land Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Corridor/Buffers/Stabilization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Threatened/Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Quality/ Soil Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality (Surface/Ground) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Concerns |

3. Check up to TWO of the most important products, programs, or services NRCS can provide to the community.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost-Share Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering/ Designs/Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion and Sediment Control Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develop/Maintain Practice Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Inventories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry Management Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Health Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Management Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture Improvement | |
| Other (please specify) _____ | |



4. Below are items that are typically funded through Conservation Programs. Select TWO categories you consider a high priority for funding.

- Waste Storage Facilities & Heavy Use Areas for livestock
- Grazing Practices (Fencing, Water Systems, etc.)
- Forestry Practices (Timber Stand Improvement, Thinning, Invasive Control)
- Wildlife Practices (Tree/Shrub Planting, Pollinator Planting, etc.)
- Cropland Practices (Cover Crops, No-Till incentives, etc.)
- Energy Improvements (Energy Efficient Grain Driers and Reverse Osmosis and Enhanced Preheaters for Maple Syrup Operations.)
- Streambank Stabilization (Streambank Fencing to exclude livestock, Riparian Forest Buffers)

5. Are there other conservation practices that you would like NRCS to consider funding?

6. What is the biggest hurdle to adopting conservation practices in your opinion? (ex. Economics/Finances, Education, etc.)

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Name (Optional): _____

**THIS SURVEY CAN BE RETURNED TO
DAVID MCCOY, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST,
EMAIL: DAVID.MCCOY@USDA.GOV OR MAILED:
21 HOLLOWCREST RD. TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657**

How Well Do You Know Your Species?



- A. HELLGRAMITE
- B. TOE-BITER
- C. DOBSONFLY
- D. ALL OF THE ABOVE



- A. COREOPSIS
- B. OXEYE SUNFLOWER
- C. CONEFLOWER
- D. CALENDULA



- A. GREEN CICADA
- B. TREE CRICKET
- C. TRUE KATYDID
- D. GREEN LACEWING





- A. SHELLBARK
- B. BUTTERNUT
- C. SHAGBARK
- D. PIGNUT

Answers on the bottom of next page...

2022 D&GR/LVR Projects

The Quality Assurance Board (QAB) was able to meet & discuss which projects would be recommended to our District Board of Directors for approval. We had 6 applications for the Dirt and Gravel Roads and 1 application for the Low Volume Roads Program. Here is a list of the approved projects with the funding amounts for the 2022 Spring round of the DGLVR program.

D&GR Projects:



Township	Road Name	Grant Amount
Noxen Township	Hubble Road	\$8,714.50
Nicholson Township	Vic Lane	\$9,992.80
Noxen Township	Paci Hill Road	\$14,426.00
Falls Township	Evergreen Road	\$17,807.40
Noxen Township	Root Hollow Road	\$23,677.00
Tunkhannock Township	Timber Lane	\$25,800.00
	Total	\$100,417.70

LVR Projects:

Township	Road Name	Grant Amount
Overfield Township	Marina Lane	\$34,255.00
	Total	\$34,255.00



Answers: D,B,C,C

Environmental Education

I participated in the first NTIEC Wyoming County AG Camp. I helped coordinate the Wednesday Itinerary at the Steve and Tina Henning Organic Dairy Farm. Also, I gave a presentation on Invasive vs. Native plant species and their impact on Agriculture. The high school students were very receptive to the days program of events, and were eager to discuss the impacts of invasive species on the farm. There were many hands-on activities such as suiting up and getting close to the bees, while Steve opened up one of the hives. Then taking the honey out of the hive, placing the contents in the extractor and viewing how it is collected and put into jars. Also, the students helped unload hay off of the wagon, enjoyed a wagon ride to go to a pasture field and collect soil samples to be sent out for analysis. We picked berries while viewing the blackberry and raspberry bushes. Saw the dairy herd and milking parlor and learned how Steve Junior got his welding certification and built the stainless steel parlor stalls saving thousands of dollars for the family business. The students learned the process of becoming an organic farm as compared to a traditional farm. It was a great program and I was glad to be a part of it!



Environmental Education



UNTIL NEXT TIME WITH CONSERVATION COMMENTS...