



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR FAYETTE COUNTY FARMERS THROUGH AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Uniontown, PA** – Fayette County farmers who need funding for projects involving stream water quality or reducing soil runoff may qualify for a grant under a fairly new program administered by the Fayette County Conservation District.

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Stream Fund, first established in the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania state budget, and dedicated \$154 million from that fund to reduce non-point source pollution in the state’s rivers, streams, and other bodies of water.

The program is administered by the State Conservation Commission, which then allocates funding to county conservation districts.

“These monies are available to assist Fayette farmers with best management practices with regard to soil and water conservation,” said Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Scott Dunn, a member of the Fayette County Conservation Board. “This plays well with what our farmers are already doing and can assist them monetarily.”

Pierce Willson, agricultural coordinator for the Fayette County Conservation District, said eligible grant project parameters basically come down to two areas: livestock-related projects and crop-related projects.

“Rotational grazing systems, stream bank fencing, root runoff systems and water development would be the livestock side of it,” Willson said. “Crops would be promoting cover crops and other innovative techniques.”

Cover crops are those planted in between regular harvest crops to improve water quality and soil health.

Willson said in its simplest terms, ACAP is intended “to implement agricultural projects that would reduce soil runoff and manure runoff, and (provide) better water quality.”

ACAP is a reimbursement program, so for example, farmers may be approved for a project involving cover crops and purchase the seeds themselves. They would later have their purchase refunded by the program.

“The program’s not been around a long time yet,” Willson said. “We’ve been working with it for a little over a year.”

He said there are some projects that will begin construction this spring, and there is money remaining to allocate. The grant program currently is operating on a rolling basis, meaning there is no specific window for applications.

Willson urged potential applicants to look over grant qualifications carefully to be sure their projects are eligible. If so, the next step is to reach out to the Fayette County Conservation District.

“If you’re a local farmer with a project involving sound agricultural practices related to conservation, call and see if you may qualify,” Willson said.

To learn more about ACAP, visit <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/about-pda/boards-commissions/state-conservation-commission/agriculture-conservation-assistance-program.html>. Or, contact the Fayette County Conservation District at 724-438-4497.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

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