

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Greene County Conservation District Nominating Organizations are the backbone to a diverse conservation district board. These organizations provide County Commissioners with potential district directors. All nominating organizations are approved by the State Conservation Commission at the district's request. Diverse nominating organizations provide directors with different points of view on a board that makes critical decisions about how we manage our growing community's natural resources in Greene County.

Our current Nominating Organizations are Penn State Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, Association of Township Officials, Bar Association, Greene County Fair Board, Pomona Grange #63, Farm Bureau, Farmland Preservation, Fireman's Association, Tourist Promotion Agency, Historical Society, Planning Commission, Izaak Walton League, Richhill Agricultural Society, Southwestern PA Woodland Owners. Contact the District for information about how County organizations can be considered for approval as Nominating Organizations.

If the conservation district seems like an organization that you would like to be involved with, you can request a nominating organization to submit your name. Each September the county commissioners send out the nomination forms to each organization requesting nominations for board members and select the members that serve as directors. Those not chosen as directors can then be selected each year to serve as associate board members by the district board.

BOARD MEMBERS

2022 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Mike Belding, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Commissioner Mike Belding, Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Treasurer
- William Wentzel, Secretary
- Glodenna Halstead, Director
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Melissa Adamson, Director

2022 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- William Cree, Jr.
- Jerry Day
- Jim Willis
- Dominick Barbetta
- Rebecca Salosky
- Carol Adamson
- Spencer Johnson
- Raymond Stockdale
- George Scull
- Keith Golden
- Tim Neil
- Sean Hilverding
- Lewis Crouse
- Dan Bazzoli

DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- April Morris, Fiscal Manager

COOPERATING AGENICES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA Fish and Boat Commission
Brian Guenin, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
Tom Beresnyak, Area 6 Client Relations Manager
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency
Michal Roup, CED

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at 22 West High Street, Suite 204 Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
gccd@co.greene.pa.us
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conservation District Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2021

Donation Income.....	\$1,763.23
Envirothon	\$2,950.00
Total Grant Income.....	\$94,721.33
Interest Income	\$8,671.12
Misc. Income	\$470.00
Total Program Income.....	\$977,375.66
Rental Income	\$2,808.17
Soil Test Kits	\$885.60
Total Income	\$1,089,645.11

*Reconciliation Discrepancies-	-\$297,481.12
Total Advertising/Marketing/Events	\$24,006.58
Audit.....	\$6,500.00
Bank Service Charge	\$35.00
Total Contracted Work.....	\$545,932.36
Total Donations	\$1,800.00
Dues	\$3,800.00
Total Employment Expenses	\$457,046.25
Total Equipment/Automobile.....	\$4,366.10
Farmland Easement Purchase	\$6,000.00
Information Technology	\$2,983.38
Office Equipment and Supplies	\$9,529.46
PNDI Search	\$440.00
Total Postage Machine/Copier.....	\$3,895.34
Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Surety Bonds	\$1,750.00
Total Telephone.....	\$1,333.88
Total Travel	\$3,671.13
Total Expense.....	\$777,108.36



2021 ANNUAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDS BANQUET



Outstanding FFA Speaker of the Year (shown left to right)—Jim Cowell, Jr., Chris and Danielle Frye parents of Zachary Frye



Cooperator of the Year (shown left to right)—Jim Cowell, Jr., Bobbi Bailey and Gene Saurborn

Each year, the Conservation District honors county residents who have shown an outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation with the presentation of the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award. This award is given to local farms that have shown substantial improvements to their operations by committing to the use of conservation practices that improve soil and water quality.

The 2021 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award was presented to Gene Saurborn and Bobbi Bailey, owners of the Buckshot Cattle Company. Gene and Bobbi both have strong farming backgrounds. Gene was raised on a beef and dairy farm with a horse boarding operation in Morgantown, WV. Bobbi grew up on a beef cattle farm in Princeton, WV. Both Gene and Bobbi's careers are deeply rooted within the agricultural community.

In 2008, Gene and Bobbi purchased a 92-acre farm located in Perry and Whiteley Townships and nestled within both the Dunkard and Whiteley Creek Watersheds. With additional leased land to support the operation, it became a 202-acre farm and has allowed them to have a cow-calf operation of Simmental and Angus breeds along with four horses.

They have worked hard over the past 13 years to implement sound conservation practices offered by federal, state and local programs that protect local resources.

Zachary Frye, a 2021 Graduate from West Greene High School was honored for his outstanding speaking skills at the county speaking contest with his speech entitled "Energy: Preserve, not Replace". Chris and Danielle Frye, parents of Zachary Frye, accepted the 2021 Outstanding FFA Speaker award on behalf of their son. During the 2021 speaking contest year, Zachary advanced through the county and area rounds and placed first in the regional Conservation Speaking contest. This qualified Zachary for the State Prepared Speaking Contest making him the highest placing Conservation Speaker in the Greene County FFA programs.

Zachary was the 2020-2021 Vice President of the West Greene FFA Program and 2021 Pennsylvania State Keystone Degree recipient. Zachary has started a career with the United States Marine Corps where he finished boot camp this past November and during boot camp Zachary was awarded the Rifleman Award for being the best shot out of the entire company.



RALPH K. BELL BIRD CLUB OF GREENE COUNTY 2021 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



In honor of Ralph K. Bell, former director of the Greene County Conservation District, an annual district contribution is made in his name to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club for their Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Bell was a member of the district from 1976-2006 where he was treasured as a great bird enthusiast and conservationist.

This year the club honored Anna Havrilesko as their 2021 Ralph K. Bell Bird Club Memorial Scholarship winner with a check for \$500. Miss Havrilesko is a 2021 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School and is the granddaughter of Sandy and John Gatten of Waynesburg. Anna earned a 4.0 GPA and maintained perfect attendance throughout high school. She was a member of the Academic League team, Student Council, member of the marching, concert and jazz band, served as WCHS drum major and has served as the stage manager of the drama club.

Anna's future plans are to attend Penn State Behrend and major in Aerospace Engineering.

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



Khloe Calvert, 5, daughter of Terry and Kelsey Calvert

Nolan Johnston, 5, son of Garrett and Chelsey Johnston



Colt Roupe, 5, son of Chris and Kari Roupe

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

7th-8th Grade Division



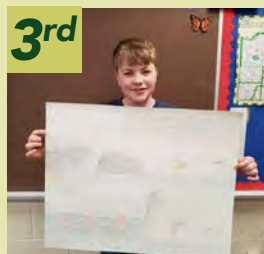
1st

Emmaline Bezell
West Greene Middle School, Grade 7



2nd

Gracie Whitlatch
West Greene Middle School, Grade 7



3rd

Hunter Gorby
West Greene Middle School, Grade 7

2nd-3rd Grade Division



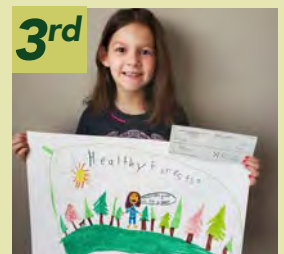
1st

Payton Duncan
Home Schooled, Grade 2



2nd

Luke Patton
Home Schooled, Grade 2



3rd

Lily Giles
Carmichaels Elementary, Grade 2

2021 ENVIROTHON



1st

Spencer Conard, Faith Willis, Brooke Watters, Sophia Zalar, and Alex Lawrence, with team advisor Kevin Willis and board members Jim Cowell and Bill Wentzel.



2nd

Gavin Husentis, Daniel Hetrick, Levi Krampy, Brady Jones, and Esther Schmelzoen, with advisor Kevin Willis and board members Jim Cowell and Bill Wentzel.



3rd

Jalane Supler, Elizabeth Hawk, Kammi Collins, Elizabeth Lingenfield, and Ethan Mata, with advisor Kevin Willis and board members Jim Cowell and Bill Wentzel.



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



DISTRICT AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

DISTRICT MARKS 5TH YEAR FUNDING GRACE PROJECTS

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program designed to empower the agricultural community to enhance soil health and water quality. Over the past 5 years, there have been 239 applications, \$846,000 in projects approved for funding and over \$400,000 in project funds expended to date. For the 2021 year, 65 farmers with \$225,000 in projects were awarded.

The GRACE program provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and forest landowners. Technical assistance and cost share practices promote soil and water conservation that will improve soil health in pastures and woodlands. These practices can lead to better animal production as well. Correctly implementing these practices adds value and profit to the land.

Practices include but are not limited to lime, fertilizer, fencing, watering systems and forestry practices. The District's goal for the program is to support the mission of ensuring healthy soils for viable farming, in a way that is easy to navigate and has a quick turnaround.

Funds for the program are a direct result of PA Act 13 that the district receives annually to foster conservation efforts within Greene County. These funds are obtained through an 'impact' fee and the district believes that the money received should be used on the ground where the impacts were made.

2021 APPROVED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- 2,014** tons of lime to condition 1,182 acres of pasture
- 799** acres of fertilizer of farm land
- 10** interior fencing projects for pasture division or streambank fencing
- 29** full water development projects
- 12** pipeline projects
- 10** trough replacement/repairs
- 2** spring development repair/replacements
- 4** forest management planning projects
- 4** forest management practice projects

CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOLDS FARMER'S FIELD DAY

The Conservation District held a Farmer's Field Day on Saturday, October 9th at the Frosty Springs Farm operated by Jim and Billie Cowell. The field day was an opportunity for Greene County farmers to connect with experts and other farmers. A dozen farmers attended the event. The Conservation District Watershed Specialist worked with PACD and Project GRASS to develop a farm record book to help farmers track their pasture condition and herd health. Each participant received a book at no cost.

J.B. Harrold and Phil Evans from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Clint Iams, of Log Cabin Fence Company, and Dr. Glodenna Halstead discussed a variety of topics related to pasture condition and management, fencing and herd health.

Finally, Jim and Billie Cowell, highlighted practices they have implemented, such as winter-feeding areas. They discussed the process of working with groups like the Conservation District and the NRCS for technical and financial assistance.



DISTRICT AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

COOPERATOR PROGRAM

The Greene County Conservation District is proud to offer assistance to all Greene County landowners. The District's Technical Assistance Program aids landowners not only in planning and executing projects but also in obtaining financial assistance when funds are available. District staff can assist landowners with cropland, woodland, agricultural waste, wildlife habitat and grassland management, streambank protection, erosion and sedimentation control practices, surface water control, irrigation and livestock watering, planned grazing systems as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members. The District's GRACE program has drawn in many new applicants. In 2021, twenty-eight landowners, farming 2,549.07 acres, enlisted as new cooperators.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The GCCD delegation agreement administers nutrient and manure management programs for Greene County. These programs regulate Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), Act 38 volunteer animal operations (VAO's) and any landowner utilizing manure in Pennsylvania. Currently the GCCD Agricultural Technician position is open. In 2021, the district agricultural technician reviewed/approved one amendment with the assistance of the State Conservation District staff, conducted one site inspection, reviewed one Act 38 plan for Washington County for certification, provided manure management technical assistance and education outreach with to 30 plus GRACE applicants, assisted NRCS with one CNMP and responded to zero complaints.

GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Agriculture is the leading economic enterprise in Pennsylvania with a \$75 billion total economic impact. Preserving prime farmland for the future is crucial. Farmers face a tough challenge when it comes to keeping their land profitable through Agriculture. Pennsylvania has developed some 1.14 million acres, or 1,800 square miles, of fields, open space, and natural land between 1982 and 1997-the sixth largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California. This equates to 209 acres per day, or 9 acres per hour, every hour (The Brookings Institution.)

In 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program and began its effort to preserve prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural uses. Farmland preservation ensures prime farmland availability for future generations. The program has protected more farms and acres than any other state program in the nation. Approximately \$1.6 billion dollars have been invested by federal, state, county, and local agencies to preserve over 5,329 farms with more than 552,702 acres for future agricultural production within Pennsylvania.

Greene County joined the movement in 2007 by preserving its first farm in the county. Since 2007, a total of seven farms consisting of nine farm parcels with over 935 acres has been preserved and over \$1.28 million dollars of state and county funds have been invested into purchasing these easement rights.

In 2021, the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board encumbered its tenth property, the Dominick and Kimberly Barbetta Farm, a 79-acre parcel located in Morgan Township. The operation has not reached the final stage of encumbrance due to the lack of funding available to the GCFLP Program. It is forecasted that in 2022 this parcel will be placed on the easement list of the state and county.

The GCFLP Board would like to thank EQT Corporation for their donation of \$1,000 that was presented at the 2021 Conservation District and Farmland Preservation Boards annual banquet. These funds will be utilized to administer the program and continue to place easements on local farms preserving future agriculture production. The administrative expenses of the board are not included in the county budget and any funds received to assist the board with education, outreach and administrative costs are in need and appreciated.



WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

GRANT SUMMARY

Grant-funded Projects Help Landowners Conserve Soil and Water

The Conservation District has just completed a \$204,000 grant-funded project in the Brown's Creek Watershed that resulted in stream stabilization and farm conservation practices on multiple properties. The Conservation District Watershed Specialist worked with other landowners to submit grant funding requests for similar work in 2021.

The Conservation District is currently beginning work on a \$111,000 project to stabilize streambanks and implement farm conservation practices within the Pumpkin Run Watershed. This watershed is listed as impaired by the Department of Environmental Protection and is a priority watershed for restoration activity.



Crews regraded steep, eroded banks and planted native grasses to ensure they remain stable.

Charting the future of the Cree Dairy Farm

The Conservation District has been working with the Cree Dairy Farm, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and other partners on a number of improvements that will make the farm more efficient and protect nearby natural resources.

Using funds from NRCS' EQIP Program, the Cree's were able to work with R&R Engineering to complete a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for the farm in 2021. The plan highlighted places where the operation could be improved and provided initial designs and cost estimates for improvements.

Now that the plan is complete. We are working with our partners to implement these improvements. The District Watershed Specialist is in the process of writing grant applications to cover some of the costs of these improvements.



DISTRICT CONTINUES POPULAR STORMWATER WORKSHOPS

The Conservation District has been holding stormwater workshops for several years now. This year, the District's Watershed Specialist held two evening workshops and a special day-long workshop as part of the Rain Day Festival in Waynesburg. During these workshops the specialist discusses the importance of stormwater management with participants as well as actions they can take on their own property to manage stormwater in their communities. To help them get started, the District provides them with a rain barrel free of charge. Installing a rain barrel is a great way to get started in managing stormwater.

The roofs of our homes, sheds, barns and garages shed hundreds and possibly thousands of gallons of water during a rain storm. A rain barrel collects a portion of this water and stores it for later use by the property owner. This reduces the effect of this roof on stormwater runoff but also provides a benefit to the property owner by storing a supply of water suitable for watering gardens, washing vehicles and equipment, cleaning decks and windows and a host of other household tasks.

Combined with other practices like rain gardens, a landowner can hold back some of the water that falls during a storm until it has a chance to soak into the ground. The idea is that a lot of landowners within a watershed each hold back a little of the water to reduce the overall amount of stormwater runoff hitting our streams all at once. This reduces flood risk, water pollution potential and keeps municipal sewer systems from being overwhelmed.



EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM: YEAR IN REVIEW: 2021

Sediment is the most widespread pollutant in Pennsylvania’s waterways. PA Code Title 25 Chapter 102 addresses earth disturbance and Chapter 105 addresses water obstruction and encroachments. These regulations are in place to protect our streams and wetlands from accelerated erosion. Erosion is a natural process, but human activity, such as construction and land development, can accelerate erosion and result in sedimentation if proper controls are not utilized.

Best management practices (BMP’s) are controls and/or activities (such as silt-fence, grass seed and mulch, etc.) that help minimize the effects of accelerated erosion/sedimentation and increased storm water to our waterways. Anyone proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities are required to implement and maintain these BMP’s. Permits are required for various earth disturbance activities, based on the size and the type of the project.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required when one acre or more of earth disturbance occurs over the life of the project. Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP-3) are required for projects associated with oil and gas activities that disturb five or more acres. Permits are also required for work in or near a stream or wetland. There are many types of permits depending upon the type of work that is proposed.

The Conservation District maintains a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer earth disturbance (Chapter 102) and water obstruction and encroachment (Chapter 105) permits. Our office has also been tasked with inspections of these permits to ensure compliance is being met with the clean stream laws. Assisting landowners and developers with these permits ensures that proper controls are maintained and minimizes sedimentation. It is always best to contact the Conservation District office if there are any questions as to whether a permit is required.

The Conservation District’s goal is to assist landowners and developers remain in voluntary compliance with clean stream laws. For this reason, The District has chosen not to participate in enforcement actions but merely administration of the programs. When compliance cannot be achieved and enforcement actions are needed the DEP is contacted to issue field orders and violations.

Some of the larger projects that were received and/or are under construction in 2021 were:

Wisecarver Park – Construction started for phase 1 of the project in summer of 2021. This phase includes a parking lot and 3 baseball fields. More recreational activities are planned for further phases of the park!

Ryerson Station State Park – Pool Complex – Ryerson Pool Complex was completed in late summer of 2021. Some small items still need taken care of at the site, but the pool complex will be open for swimming season in 2022!

Jefferson Dollar General – Jefferson Dollar General began construction in early February 2022. The site is expected to be completed by early spring of 2022.

PennDOT Maintenance Facility – The Waynesburg PennDOT Maintenance Facility began construction in summer of 2020. The facility is nearing its completeness, and PennDOT workers are eager to return back home for the first time since the fire of 2019.



2021 Chapter 102/105 & NPDES Program Accomplishments			
Plans Received & Reviewed		59	
Inspections & Sites Visited		196	
NPDES Permits Issued		6	
ESCGP-3 Permits Issued		3	
E&S Plans Issued		8	
Chapter 105 General Permits Issued		Chapter 105 General Permits Issued	
GP-1 – Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures	0	GP-9—Agricultural activities	0
GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps	0		
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal	13	Chapter 102 Fees	\$95,150.00
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure	0	Chapter 105 Fees	\$6,775.00
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing	8	Total 102/105 Fees Received:	\$101,925.00
GP-6—Agricultural crossings and ramps	0	Funds Collected for PADEP Disturbed Acreage Fee **	\$20,800.00
GP-7—Minor road crossings	7	These Fees go directly to the PADEP and are not kept by the GCCD. **	
GP-8—Temporary road crossings	7		

2021 DIRT, GRAVEL AND LOW VOLUME ROAD SUMMARY

The district awarded a total of \$798,225.26 in Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road (DGLVR) funds to 6 municipalities for seven projects that implement quality Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) practices this year.

Low Volume Road Projects Awarded

Center Township-Barton Hollow Road- \$76,500.00 for road fill and drainage

Dirt and Gravel Road Projects Awarded

Richhill Township-Riggs Road-\$217,484.30 for the repair of a slide

Wayne Township-Goodwin Hill Road-\$100,992.00 for slide repair, culvert installation and road fill

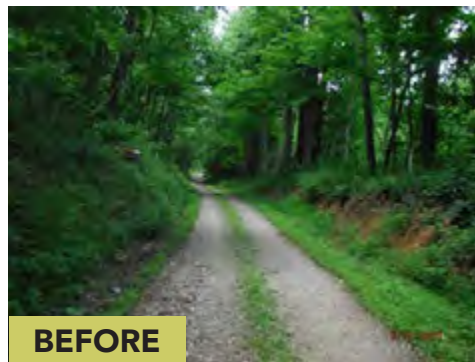
Richhill Township-Jacobs Road-\$69,608.97 for streambank stabilization, culvert installation, road fill and slide repair

Monongahela Township-Leslie Road-\$106,600.00 for replacement of an undersized stream crossing

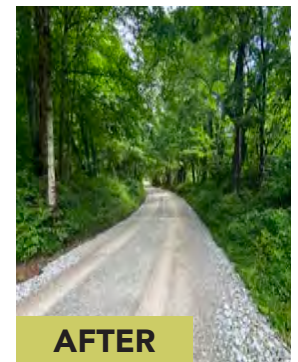
Aleppo Township-Jacobs Road-\$132,960.00 for replacement of 2 undersized stream crossings, road fill, culvert installation

Springhill Township-\$94,080.00 replacement of an undersized stream crossing

Cumberland Township completed work on Nesmith Road and installed 3 turnouts, 6 cross drains, 1 through-the-bank pipe, 7 grade breaks, 1 stream crossing and added 2,386 tons of road fill. The site was approximately 1,639 feet long and the road was severely entrenched. After rain events, the entire stretch of road would be washed out and the road material ended up in the stream because there was no way for water to leave the road. The ESM practices that were installed captured the water and removed it from the road profile quickly to eliminate erosion on the road surface.



BEFORE



AFTER

Springhill Township completed work on Coon Run and replaced 3 undersized culverts and streambank stabilization. The project included creating a streambed through the culverts to avoid head cutting upstream. All of the crossings were undersized and added to flooding of the road and loss of road surface during large rain events. After installation there have been a few large rain events, the stream did not top the structures, and stormwater flowed through each crossing without causing severe erosion.

Both projects were awarded in late November of 2019 and then Covid-19 hit a few months later in March 2020. This set the townships back some, but they were able to continue working on the project and complete work prior to the end of 2021. Hats off to the township for working through the pandemic to complete their large projects.

In March of 2021, the district hosted a virtual ESM training for local municipalities at the Greene County Fairgrounds. In all, 18 individuals were certified to participate in the DGLVR program. Our office also conducted the bi-annual road assessment of the entire county. This assessment determined that many roads that were once dirt roads are now paved. This is mostly due to gas activity in the western portion of the county. In 2021, Harshman CE Group, LLC and the district entered into an MOU that will allow the district staff to assist townships with applications for stream crossings and large projects.



WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITIES

2021 TIRE RECYCLING EVENTS

The 2021 Greene County Conservation West Nile Virus grant allowed for a small amount of funding for tire collection. One could say the event was both successful and very unsuccessful at the same time. The District was unaware of the amount of support it would need to be able to pull off an event of this magnitude. The District Board approved the office to collect as many tires as they could to stop breeding sites for mosquitoes. In hindsight, we now know there are more tires in our community than desired.

To summarize our success, on April 24th the district partnered with Washington Township Supervisors to collect unwanted passenger tires from local residents during their spring clean-up day. That day 136 tires were collected. On May 19th a collection event was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and open to only Greene County residents. This event turned out much larger than expected. Our event was met with trucks lined up an hour before the event even started. That day we received 640 tires in less than 2 hours, which was over 300 more tires than we had allotted for. The district paid for 2 dumpsters out of pocket to accommodate the extra tires. Our office had to actually turn away citizens with tires to dispose, which we deeply regret. One would say it was a success to collect 640 tires in 2 hours, but the downside is folks were turned away from being able to dispose of the tires collected. To those individuals: We are truly sorry.

Moving forward from lessons learned, we are going to try to do this right. The district is working towards holding additional events throughout the year. Once funding, locations and logistics are figured out, we will post that information on the county website, social media and WANB radio. Please keep an eye out for our next event. The Conservation District Staff will make improvements and move forward efficiently with more communication to the public.

WEST NILE VIRUS / TICK SURVEILLANCE

Ryan Swartz, a 2019 graduate of Carmichaels High School, joined our team this summer as our West Nile Virus intern. Ryan was part of the back-to-back state champion Envirothon team in 2018 & 2019, while at Carmichaels High School. He is currently attending Penn State University and pursuing a degree in biology. Ryan was a great asset to our team and successfully helped run our summer mosquito and tick surveillance programs. Below are some of the results that we collected in 2021. Paige Jones a Waynesburg Central Greene senior was also on staff to assist with programs and assisted Ryan with WNV monitoring and tick drags.

From May 17th through October 29th, 8,211 mosquitoes were collected. 4 samples tested positive for WNV at 3 different locations, or 0.049% of the mosquitoes that were collected tested positive for the virus. The 0.049% is relatively average for a normal year in Greene County, and a little below the state and national average.

Samples were taken from 10 sites across the county, mostly sewage treatment plants. The mosquitoes that are most common to carry WNV (*Culex pipiens* & *Culex restuans*) are attracted to the sewage smell. That being said, an average of less than 1% of all mosquitoes carry WNV. 80% of people have no symptoms if infected, but children and the elderly population are most likely to show symptoms (flu like symptoms).

Tick surveillance was conducted again this year. The PA DEP's goal was for the district to collect Black-Legged nymph ticks (deer ticks). The nymph is the second stage of the tick's life cycle. To locate the species, we used a 3ft X 3ft piece of white felt to drag along the forest floor. The ticks would attach themselves to the cloth while making passes through the sample area. The drags were conducted throughout the county's game lands biweekly, and other areas in the county on the off weeks. Nymph ticks do not carry Lyme disease as frequently as the adult ticks, but they are harder to discover on your body, because of their small stature. This factor results in the nymph's transmitting the majority of Lyme disease to humans. Black-Legged ticks need to be attached to the host for usually 24-36 hours in order to transmit Lyme disease. Be sure to wear proper protective clothing and/or spray when outdoors and always check yourself when you get back inside.



SOUTHWEST PROJECT GRASS ANNUAL GRASSLAND EVALUATION CONTEST

Forty-eight students from around Pennsylvania gathered at the Ag Progress Days site on September 30, 2021. They were competing in the Southwest Project Grass Annual Grassland Evaluation Contest with a focus on the value and benefits of pasture management, wildlife, livestock grazing, and soil health. Winning teams receive scholarships toward their secondary education at any accredited institution. Winning teams also have the opportunity to compete in the National Competition in Missouri.

Congratulations to the team from Carmichaels Area High School for placing second in the state at the 2021 Grasslands Evaluation Competition. Each Carmichaels team member received a \$250 scholarship for the second-place finish. The team would like to especially thank the Greene County Conservation District for their help in funding the transportation to this event.



Team Members from Left to Right-Alex Lawrence, Brooke Watters, Sophia Zalar, Faith Willis and Kevin Willis

NEW STORAGE FACILITY



Thank you Greene County Commissioners for utilizing funds to build a space for our lime spreaders and no-till drill to be housed. This building is located at the Greene County Fairgrounds and will allow the district to better serve our agriculture community.

FFA YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Greene County FFA Improvement Fund

In honor of Byron Hughes, former director of the Greene County Conservation District, an annual district contribution is made in his name to the Greene County FFA Improvement Fund to assist with premiums at competitions and as needed by the program. Mr. Hughes was a member of the district from 1988-2003 his knowledge of education and FFA involvement was a valuable gift to the district and helped forge the relationship with local schools. We are honored to share with you the past years accomplishments of FFA programs.



Spring 2021 Speaking

Contests: Zachary Frye qualified and completed in the state Conservation Speaking contest. Benjamin Archer also qualified for and competed in the state Extemporaneous contest.

Pictured:

(Back row l to r): Joshua Archer, Benji Shaner, Neil Lemmon, Zachary Frye, Benjamin Archer. (Front row l to r): Alex Berdine, Kiley Meek, Keri Shipman



2021 Fall Harvest: We held our annual fall harvest festival where we sold chickens, apple butter, and rigatoni in the afternoon for the high school students. In the morning the elementary students came outside where they learned new things in the agricultural industry.



Pictured (l to r): Mr. Synder, Mrs. Wright, Mr. Gaydos, Hayden Ross, Austin Orndoff, Marshall Dobbs, Mr. Sakai, and Mr. Jackson.



Pictured (l to r): Neveah Vedis, Alex Berdine, Celia Parson, Aaron Parson, Justin Pettit, and Joshua Archer

2021 Farm Show: Students were not able to attend Mid- Winter Convention/ Farm Show due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. Through perseverance students were still able to be recognized at home in their community for their outstanding work within the program. Jacket Recipients: Joshua Archer, Justin Pettit, Aaron Parson, Celia Parson, Alex Berdine, and Neveah Vedis. Keystone Recipients: Benjamin Archer, Zachary Frye, Austin Orndoff, Marshall Dobbs



2021 Banquet: We held our annual banquet at Valley View Farm where FFA members are encouraged to invite their family to enjoy a nice meal while FFA members are awarded for their hard work throughout the school year and the 2021-2022 Chapter Officers are installed into their positions.



2021 Fall Leadership Conference: 5 freshmen and 5 officers spent the day in Altoona, Pennsylvania developing their leadership skills to bring back to their community!

Pictured:

(Back row l-r): Keri Shipman, Levi Meek, Owen Hughes, Benji Shaner, Wyatt Mooney
Front row l-r: Maelyn Hill, Madison Debolt, Alex Berdine, Lane Allison, Neil Lemmon



2021 National Convention:

A total of nine students were in attendance **Pictured:**

(Back row l to r): Jordan Jacobs, Keri Shipman, Owen Hughes
Middle row l to r: Jaime Jacobs, Kiley Meek, Alex Berdine
(Front row l to r): Noah Walls, Emily Wise, Benji Shaner.



American FFA Degree Honorees:

Pictured:

(l to r): Avery Berdine, DJ Jones, of West Greene FFA were awarded their American FFA Degree, the highest award The National FFA Organization is able to bestow upon members. Throughout this week students attended sessions at the Lucas Oil Stadium, the Career and Expo Hall, a Brett Young concert, Cinch's World's toughest rodeo, Churchill Downs, and ended the week at Hermitage farms.



2021 Career Development Events:

The spring of 2021, we were not able to hold many county Career or Leadership Development Events besides speaking contests due to restrictions with COVID-19. This fall though we were about to compete in several contests with Waynesburg FFA and it was great to be back at practicing the skills we learn in class!

Forestry/ wildlife- West Greene member - Owen Hughes placed 1st in Chapter and 5th overall

Land Use and Management- West Greene member - Marissa Tharp placed 1st overall

Dairy Judging- West Greene member - Bryce Anderson 1st overall

Small Gas Engines- West Greene members - Joshua Archer placed 1st overall individually. Aaron Parson and Joshua Archer placed 1st as an overall team.

Milk Quality Products - West Greene members - Keri Shipman won 1st overall

2021 FFA Week- Students held a virtual FFA week, where they made demonstrations and created videos around the Agriculture Education Department to exhibit various activities in the classrooms for the elementary kids.

2021 FFA Sales



Poinsettia Sale: Students along with Dr. Raleigh Daniels have taken the time to nurture and grow Poinsettias in the Greenhouse. Students sold the Poinsettias within the school and community and with the remaining portion, donated to local nursing homes, and the State Police Station to spread a little bit of the Holiday spirit. From the Poinsettia sale this year we deposited a total of \$2,389. We really couldn't have done this sale without the help and experience from Dr. Daniels!



Citrus Fruit Sales & Strawberry Sales: This year's citrus fruit sales we sold a total of \$12,656 which will allow us to pay for things in the chapter and different field trips.



Valentine Sale: West Greene's Floral Design class held their first Valentine's Day sale and brought in over \$1800 in sales. This is a classroom experience for students to develop their skills in the field of Floral Design!

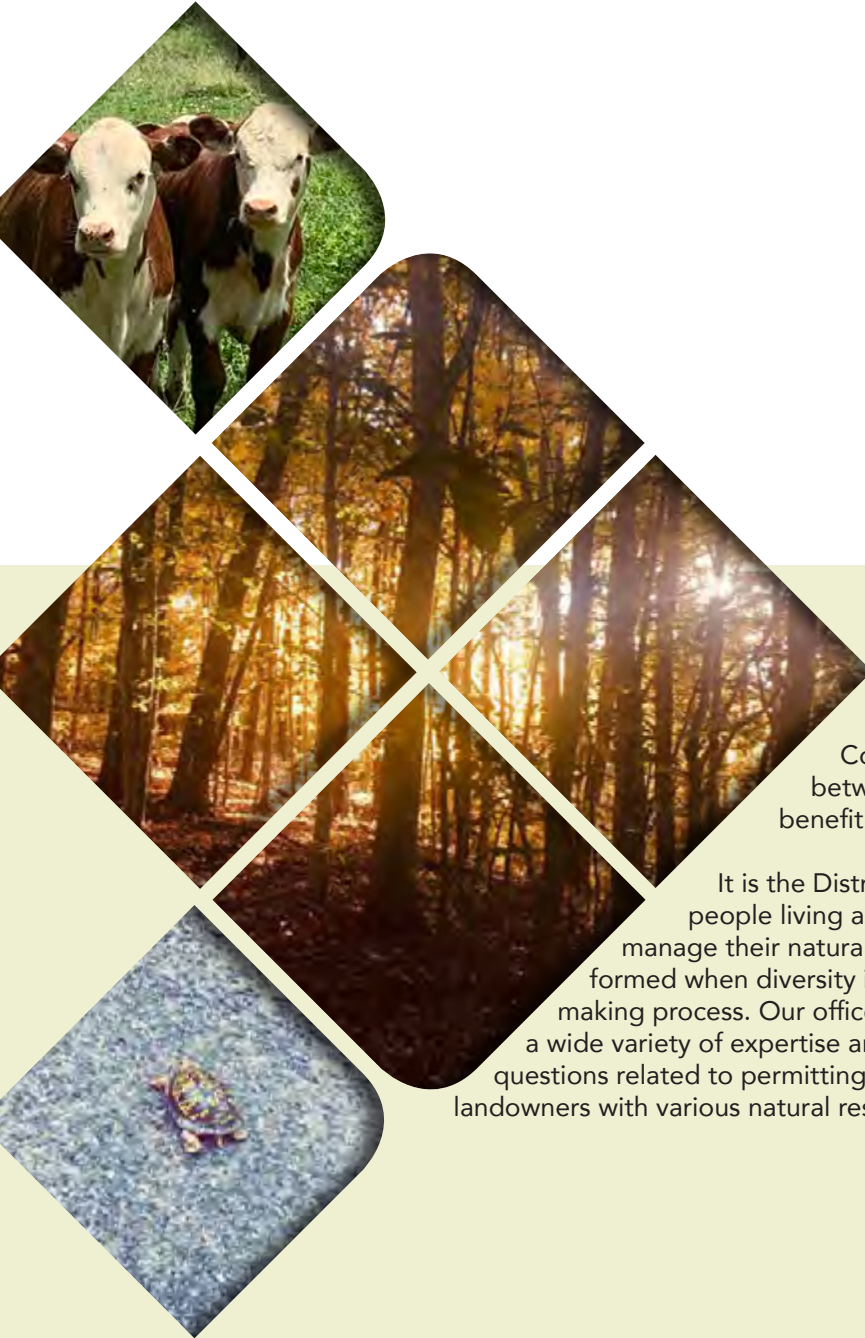


Spring Greenhouse Sale: The total sales for the greenhouse this year was \$10,780. We sell a variety of hanging baskets as well as bedding plants and vegetables!



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OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.