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Mission Statement

“Dedicated to the encouragement and instruction of the wise stewardship of the soils and waters of Berks County so that present and future generations may have healthy land on which to live and work and clean water for drinking and recreation.”



Berks County Water Facts:

On an average 85 acre farm, with 60 cows:

- Farmland collects 34 million gallons of groundwater from rain.
- One Million gallons are used by the family and cows.

RESULT: Nearly 33 million gallons of groundwater contributed.

If 300 houses are built on the same 85 acre farm:

- Housing development collects at least one third less groundwater from rain.
- 300 families use over 16 million gallons of water.

RESULT: 26 million fewer gallons of groundwater contributed.

Source: Lancaster County Conservation District

Letter From The Chairman

Last year in southeast Pennsylvania, we experienced record precipitation: over twice the average annual rainfall—over twenty inches greater precipitation than in any other recorded year. Yet, this unprecedented year did not produce the devastation we witnessed in Haiti, Pakistan, Australia, or half a dozen other places where record precipitation fell.

We should take a moment to acknowledge the work our Conservation District has enacted over the past sixty-six years. Our mission is and has been to keep water clean and soil in place. Agricultural conservation planning and erosion and sediment plan review are our two main methods to accomplish this mission. There has been a successful partnership forged among the Berks County Conservation District, the federal government, the Pennsylvania state government, the Berks County government and private land owners.

It is not by chance that water management practices have prevented cost of life and/or destruction of property. The conservation we do is not a once-and-done process. Whenever man, soil, and water interface, the dynamic created requires educated planning along with proper compliance.

Our future challenge is to remain focused on our basic mission and maintain our valued partnerships. Without focus and partnerships we cannot continue to conduct our necessary, essential, and successful duties.

Glenn R. Seidel

2011 Chairman

Berks County Conservation District

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Executive Director

Berks County is a Beautiful Place to Live and Farm: Let's Keep it this Way

I have been working with the Berks County Conservation District since May 2011. Berks County has farms producing record yield crops on some of the best soils in the world. Our soils should be included as part of the Nation's Homeland Security Strategy because they are irreplaceable and vital to the food supply. Not only are Berks County's soils an important resource to protect, but the water flowing through our streams is as equally significant. We all need clean water to survive. Clean and abundant water will attract residents, economic development, and water based eco-tourism.

We have a choice, protect and improve our current waterways through Best Management Practices or pay high prices to clean it through chemical, mechanical, and biological methods. The Berks County Conservation District provides services to the people of Berks County with programs such as: holistic watershed planning, tree planting, environmental education, and partnering with Municipalities and the federal and state agencies to prevent stormwater runoff.

The Berks County Conservation District provides services such as developing Farm Conservation Plans, providing technical assistance on Nutrient Management, and funding mechanisms to install conservation practices. The Conservation District also provides information on such topics as: stream bank fencing and nutrient credits/trading. The Conservation District acts as an interface between federal and state agencies and the local farm community. We use common sense to modify various agencies' regulatory approach to fit Berks County agriculture while still meeting the intent. The Conservation District also works with developers /

Executive Director

earthmovers to prevent sediment laden runoff from leaving construction sites.

The Conservation District strives to enhance the quality of life for Berks County residents and those who work or play here. Please visit the Berks County Conservation District web site at www.berkscd.com or visit the office in the Agricultural Service Center.

Dan Greig
District Executive
Dan.Greig@berkscd.com



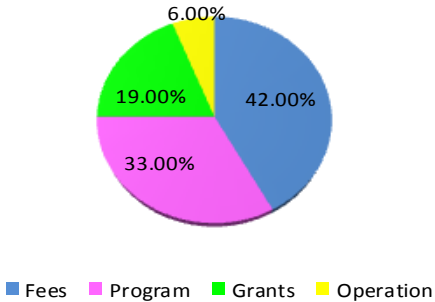
Berks County Land Use Facts:

Berks County is 865.3 Sq. Miles

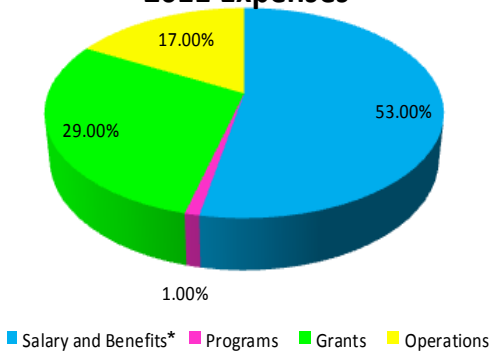
- 12.5% Is Classified as Impervious Cover
*Stream Health Declines When A Watershed's
Impervious Cover Exceeds 10%*
- 11.4% Is Permanently Protected by Conservation Easements
- Forested Lands Make up the Largest Land-Cover Category in Berks County

Financial Report

2011 Income



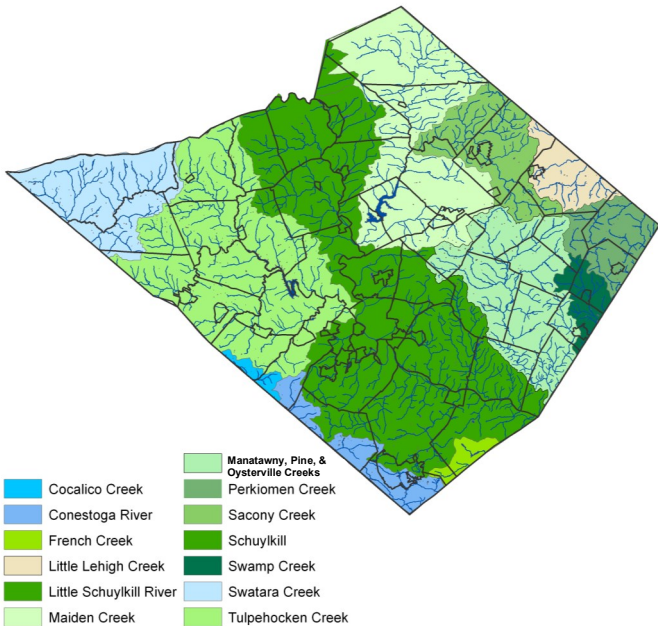
2011 Expenses



- * Salary and Benefits are drawn from various sources—including fees, programs, and grants.
- * More detailed information can be obtained from Berks County Conservation District upon request

Berks County Major Watersheds

What Watershed Do You Live In?



Agricultural Resource Conservation

Nutrient pollution occurs when the nutrients that are required for plant growth on land make their way to the waters of Pennsylvania, and then downstream to our neighbors. This pollution results in unnatural algae growth that outcompetes most other life and consumes the available oxygen that all aquatic life, including fish, plants, and insects, need to live. Best Management Practices, shortened to BMPs, are practices that farmers use in order to help decrease nutrient pollution. The Berks County Conservation District is dedicated to helping farmers implement BMPs and reduce nutrient pollution.



Workers Install an Animal Walkway—One of many Important BMPs

Interagency Requests

One of the ways BCCD helps farmers is by cooperating with other agencies. BCCD, along with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, worked together this past year to provide assistance to 25 landowners, 9 of which were helped directly by the BCCD. If you are a Berks County farmer and would like to request assistance from the BCCD or one of our partners please call the BCCD at 610-372-4657.

Agricultural Resource Conservation

Nutrient Management

Nutrient Management Plans benefit the farmer by allowing them to accurately identify the nutrient needs of their crops and soils, thereby reducing costs associated with over-fertilization. Nutrient Management Plans also benefit the public by keeping the nutrients on the land and out of Berks County waterways.

Plans Accepted	29
Plans Denied	8
Total Plans Reviewed	37

Manure Management

In October of 2011, The DEP released the new regulations for Manure Management Plans. BCCD is offering educational and technical workshops to help farmers develop their own plans in 2012. Contact the BCCD at 610-372-4657 if you have any questions how these new regulations may affect you.

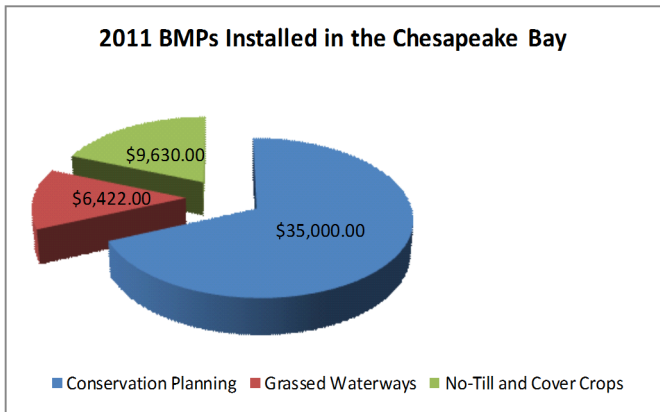
Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Project

Over its 14 year history, the the Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Project has provided over \$4.2 million to assist over 100 farmers in installing BMPs. In 2011, 82 practices worth over \$397,000 on 15 farms were installed. BCCD's contribution included writing conservation plans, providing engineering assistance, and overseeing BMP installation.

Agricultural Resource Conservation

Chesapeake Bay

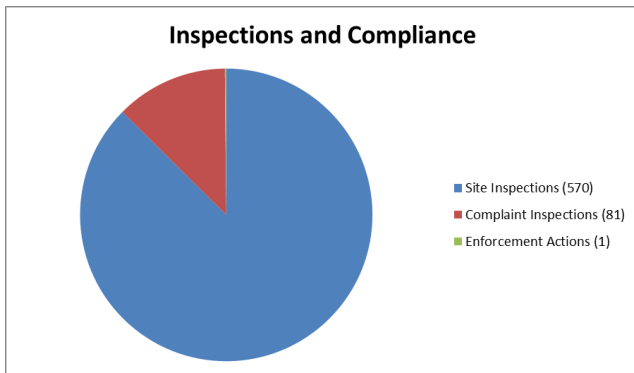
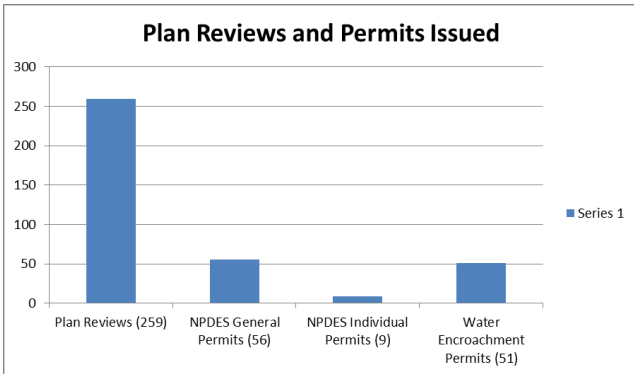
By implementing BMPs, farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed help to reduce the nutrients that cause unnatural algae blooms. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection provides funding to BCCD through its Special Project Program. Because of these specially funded projects, Berks County contributes to a healthier Chesapeake Bay, as well as healthier local waterways.



Urban Resource Conservation

Erosion & Sediment Control Program

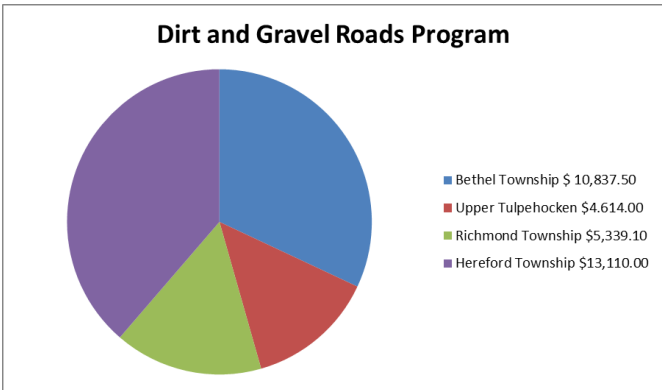
The Urban Resource Conservation Team reduces erosion and sedimentation by monitoring construction and land disturbances.



Urban Resource Conservation

Dirt & Gravel Road Program

In 2011, BCCD awarded Dirt & Gravel Road (D&GR) program funds to several municipalities. The purpose of the program is to provide maintenance of dirt & gravel roads to help eliminate impacts from erosion and the resulting impacts to water quality.



Floodplain Review Assistance:

BCCD assisted municipalities in adopting new compliant ordinances as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order to continue participation in the National Floodplain Insurance Program. BCCD expects it will complete the 50 ordinance reviews in 2012.

Trainings:

The BCCD Staff provides trainings for contractors and engineers. In 2011, staff conducted 3 Engineer/Designer workshops and 1 Operator/Contractor workshop.

Watershed Planning, Restoration, and Protection

Berks County Conservation District's Watershed Program works to restore, protect, and enhance Berks County's streams by working with citizens, farmers, businesses, non-profits, schools, and local governments. In 2011, BCCD was involved in the Wyomissing Watershed, working with municipalities like Reading, West Reading, Spring, Wyomissing, Shillington, Mohnton, and Cumru. The BCCD Watershed Program has also aided two farmers in installing stream bank fencing, stream crossings, erosion and sediment controls, and barnyard improvements in the Maiden Creek Watershed. The efforts of the BCCD and these farmers will contribute to a healthier Maiden Creek and Schuylkill River.

BCCD was also happy to announce the completion of the Agricultural Center's BMP Retrofit Project in June of 2011. The project features such practices as native plantings, a retention island and berms, infiltration trenches, and permeable pavers, concrete, and asphalt. It shows how responsible landowners can reduce stormwater runoff and water pollution. If you would like to arrange a tour for your school, business, nonprofit, or just for you and your family, contact the BCCD at 610-372-4657 Ext. 211.

Rain Barrel Program

What is a Rain Barrel?

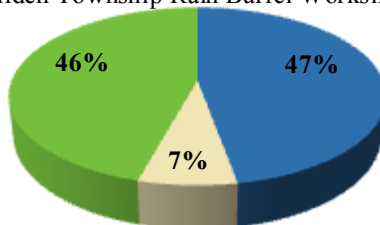
A Rain Barrel is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff that can be used for irrigating gardens and lawns, and conserves water!



Thank you to the Berks County Prison, who provides the previously used 55 gallon barrels and then constructs the rain barrels for this program! In 2011, the BCCD distributed 70 rain barrels! Rain Barrels are \$75/each and come in Green, Blue, and White. Orders can be placed by visiting www.BerksCD.com or calling the BCCD at 610-372-4657 Ext 211.

2011 Rain Barrels

- Barrels Sold
- Barrels Donated
- Tilden Township Rain Barrel Workshop



Environmental Education

BCCD's strong and ever-growing educational programs, such as the Envirothon, Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School, and civic group presentations inform the public on how human actions on the land affect our natural environment. Addressing this issue is a critical step in addressing all other natural resource issues.

Envirothon

The Envirothon is a competition that tests the students'



Forester Rick Hartlieb overseeing the Forestry Station at the Envirothon

knowledge on natural resource topics such as forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and ground water. Oley Valley took 1st and 2nd place in the high school competition with Twin Valley taking 3rd place. (The Oley Valley team then represented Berks County at the State Competition where they placed 8th out of 66

teams.) Fleetwood Middle School won the Junior competition, while teams from Oley Valley placed 2nd and 3rd.

The Berks County Conservation District would like to recognize the generous Envirothon sponsors: Mountz Disposal Services, Boyer Engineering LLC, and Waste Management.

The 2012 Berks County Envirothons will take place on May 1, 2012 and May 9, 2012 at Nolde State Forest. Interested teams and sponsors are always welcome to call the BCCD at 610-372-4657 Ext. 211.

Environmental Education

Don Hartman

Alvernia University, in partnership with the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources—Nolde Forest Environmental



Center, hosted the 2011 Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School, where the focus was on the possible effects of a changing climate. Wildlife distribution, food production, drinking water supplies, and invasive plant succession were all topics covered during the five day event. Students also took a tour of the Berks County Community Foundation's green building and hiked the trails of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary to learn about migratory birds.

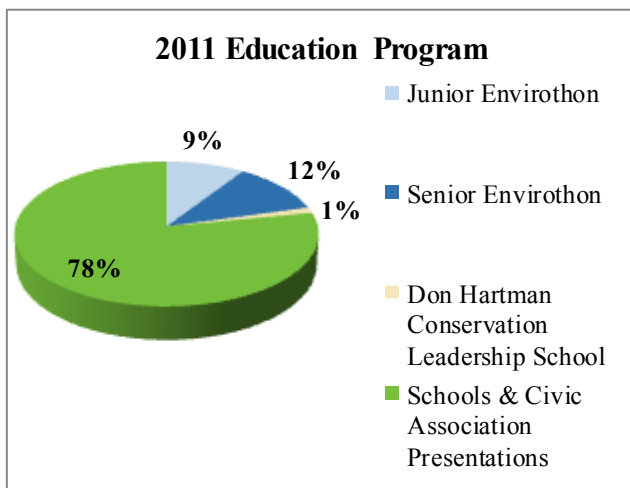
The Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School was possible because of the generous sponsorships from: Adeline Hartman, Perry Township Game Association, Tulpehocken Chapter Trout Unlimited, Inc., Marion Rod & Gun Club, Mohnton Fish and Game, Womelsdorf Rod and Gun.

The 2012 Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School will be held June 25-29th 2012 at Alvernia College. The theme the school is exploring is Pennsylvania Wildlife. Cost to attend the School is \$190/student, however, many scholarships are available!

Environmental Education

Public Outreach

Description	# of Events	People Affected
School & Civic Association Events	17	550
Appearances on BCTV	2	Countless



West Nile Virus Program

The BCCD has coordinated the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program at the county-level since the year 2000, when Pennsylvania first started this program. WNV was newly detected in North America in 1999. The state-funded integrated mosquito management program is designed to reduce WNV transmission and disease, through surveillance, education, and vector management.

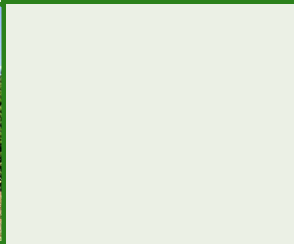
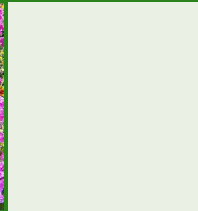
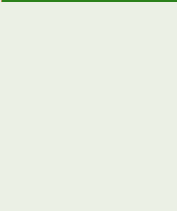
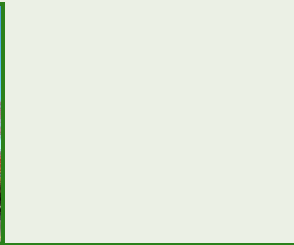
During 2011 in Berks County, a total of 16,138 adult mosquitoes were collected with representatives from 30 different mosquito species. Also a total of 23 WNV-positive mosquito samples were collected from Amity Twp., Bern Twp., Caernarvon Twp., Exeter Twp., Heidelberg Twp., Marion Twp., Shillington Borough, Sinking Spring Borough, Spring Twp., Tulpehocken Twp., and Wyomissing Borough.



Mosquito traps like the one above are used for the BCCD's
West Nile Virus Program

Seedling Sale

Every year, Berks County Conservation District sponsors a seedling sale. The seedling sale offers a variety of trees, shrubs and evergreens. Some of the seedlings that were sold last year include Fraser Fir, the American Hybrid Chestnut, and the Yellow Twig Dogwood. In addition, rain barrels, fertilizer pellets, and wildflower seeds were sold. Proceeds from the Seedling Sale went to support environmental education and scholarships for those studying the environment or conservation.



2011 Banquet Award Winners

Chairman's Award

Rick Kauffman, a 30 plus year member of the Penn State Cooperative Extension, Rick's knowledge and assistance was invaluable for the re-establishment of BCCD in 2010.

Farmer of the Year

Russell Guntz, for conservation practices installed on his 126 acre farm in Oley Valley

Erosion Control Plan Preparer of the Year

Robert Stewartz, of Stackhouse Bensinger, Inc.

Erosion Control Project of the Year

Shiloh Road Relocation, New Morgan Borough

Conservation Individual/Organization of the Year

Chris Shiery, for his work with students at Fleetwood Middle School and his involvement in the Envirothon

Scholarships

Amelia Howe, Oley High School

Berks Conservation District \$5,000 Scholarship

Julie Schubert, Conrad Weiser High School

Berks Conservation District \$1,000 Scholarship

Alyssa Downs, Penn State University

Berks Conservation District \$1,000 Scholarship

Martin Wolfskill, Conrad Weiser High School

Solon Phillips Memorial \$500 Scholarship

Judy Mohn, Hamburg Area High School

Pike Township Sportsman Association \$1,000 Scholarship

Affiliate Members

Berks County Conservation District would like to thank the following organizations for their support during 2011.

Without the generous support of these organizations, various technical and educational assistance would not

Gold Level

Berks County Board of
Commissioners

Silver Level

Township of District
Leesport Borough
Maiden Creek Watershed Association
Township of Spring
Tulpehocken Township
Exeter Township
South Heidelberg Township
Borough of West Reading
Windsor Township



Affiliate Members

Bronze Level

Borough of Robesonia
Brecknock Township
Environmental Design Services, Inc.
Centerport Borough
Boyer Engineering
Wernersville Borough
East Coast Erosion Blankets
Bern Township
North Heidelberg Township
Borough of Fleetwood
Borough of St. Lawrence
Borough of Hamburg
Maidencreek Township
Borough of Topton
Marion Township
Maxatawny Township
Bethel Township
Colebrookdale Township
Kenhorst Borough
Laureldale Township
Rockland Township
Sinking Spring Borough
The Restaurant Store



Notes



Notes



2012 Calendar of Events

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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June						
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December						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Admin Tech Committee Meeting; 9 AM
- RMC Meeting; 8 AM
- Board of Directors Meeting; 1 PM

