



FARMANAC

A newsletter to help Farmers Achieving Resource Management

Upcoming Events

“Profitable Farms and Healthy Streams,” by Stroud Water Research Center

Monday, March 31st
 10:30am to 1:30pm

Located at Blue Mountain Family Restaurant
 Register by March 28th, by leaving a voice message at 717-454-4175 with the number of attendees.

Annual Tree Seedling Sale by Berks County Conservation District

Friday & Saturday
April 11th & 12th

11th, 9:00am to 6:00pm
 12th, 9:00am to 12:00pm
 Located at Berks County Agricultural Center

Annual Banquet by Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Berks County Conservation District (BCCD)

Monday, April 28th
 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Located at Pike Township Sportsmen's Association
 Purchase your ticket from Tammy at 610-372-4657 ext. 200

Manure Management Manual Workshop by Berks County Conservation District

Monday & Tuesday
May 19th & 20th

6:00pm till 9:00pm
 Located at Albright's Mill in Kempton
 Register by May 16th with Albright's Mill at 610-756-6022

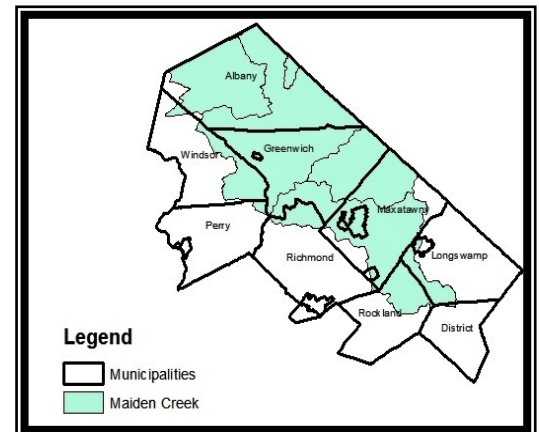
Educational Outreach in the Maiden Creek Watershed

By Olivia Carlson

This summer the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) will be sending a representative for educational outreach in the Maiden Creek Watershed. The representative will be giving farm operators a friendly packet of informational materials including a letter from Natural Resource Conservation Services' District Conservationist, Nicholas Ramsey. The educational packet also has a Manure Management Manual (MMM), which is required for animal operations that produce or apply manure and do not have enough animal units to be in Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan. Additionally, the packet will have other helpful handouts to learn about the requirements to ensure your operation is in compliance.



If you live in the shaded area in the map to the left, then the BCCD may be out to visit with you.



Backyard Conservation Corner

By Olivia Carlson

One easy thing that can be done on the farm in the early spring to help reduce the risk of over-applying nutrients to your crops is a routine soil test. Soil tests help to determine the plants' needs and prevent nutrient deficiencies in the soil. Research has shown that there are 20 essential nutrients that are required for the growth of plants. The three macronutrients needed are nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K). By knowing how many nutrients are in your soil, you can determine how much to

apply to meet the plants' needs and in turn not over-apply nutrients.

Depending on your soils and depth to the water table, there is always a risk of leaching into groundwater or running off into surface water. For best results, soil tests are recommended at least every three years. If you are in need of soil sampling information, call the Berks County Conservation District and we can provide you with the necessary information!



BERKS COUNTY
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Berks County Conservation District

1238 County Welfare Road

Suite 200

Leesport, PA 19533



Sign up for our next Manure Management Manual Workshop today!

A Good Time to "REAP"

By Rita Seidel

Now is a good time to gather the necessary documents (paid receipts, forms etc.) to put together an application for REAP - if you qualify that is. REAP stands for "**Resource Enhancement And Protection Program**", a state program that allows farmers to earn tax credits in exchange for implementing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs), including no-till equipment purchases. Eligible applicants may receive 50 to 75% of project costs as state tax credits for up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation, depending on the type of BMPs implemented.

Since its inception in 2007, almost \$60 million have been allocated to the program, usually \$10 million per fiscal year. ***The funds for fiscal year 2013-14 have been exhausted but new applications can be submitted now to be first in line when the next funding round starts in August 2014.***



What do farmers need to have in order to be eligible for REAP?

1. If you want to apply for the REAP program you first need to have the following:
 - A) A current Conservation Plan or Agricultural E&S Plan
 - B) A current Nutrient or Manure Management Plan
2. If you do not have current plans then you must first use REAP tax credits for the development of such plans before applying for tax credits for other REAP eligible BMPs.
3. If you are an agricultural operation that has animal concentration areas (ACAs) then you must first implement all BMPs necessary to address those areas before applying for tax credits for other eligible BMPs.
4. If you have an approved Conservation, E&S, Nutrient or Manure Management plan, then you may apply for REAP tax credits to implement BMPs or equipment included in those plans before requesting a credit for any other eligible BMPs.

For further information or questions, please contact the Berks County Conservation District at 610-372-4657.

