

# FARMANAC

Farmers Achieving Resource Management



## Forested Stream Buffers Bring More Benefits and More Money to your Farm - By: Dean Druckenmiller

**How do stream buffers benefit streams?** Healthy streams process natural organic matter and pollutants more effectively than unhealthy streams. A 2004 Stroud Water Research Center study showed that a forested section of stream reduces 2 to 8 times more nitrogen than an un-forested section of the same stream. In other words, a forest buffer provides a first line of defense (keeping sediment and nutrients out) as well as a secondary line of defense (keeping sediment and nutrients from moving downstream) for maintaining clean water in our streams and rivers. Forest Buffers are a great way to improve wildlife habitat too!

**How do buffers bring landowners more money?** Through the Stroud Center's Farm Stewardship Program, the Berks County Conservation District and other partners can now offer even more financial incentives to farmers who install forested buffers along their stream if its located within eligible watersheds in Berks County. In addition to cost share funding and rental payments through CREP, participating landowners can earn \$4,000 for each acre of forest buffer installed on their property, up to a maximum of \$20,000. These funds must be used to pay for other conservation practices on the farm. The funds can be used in combination with other programs like EQIP and the new RCPP program from USDA-NRCS.

### How will this benefit my farm?

- ◆ Create a new source of income from less productive land
- ◆ Minimize erosion and reduce flooding
- ◆ Enhance the stream as a place for farm families to recreate and enjoy their property

### For more information contact:

Christine Griesemer at 610-372-4657 ext. 210 or by email at [christine.griesemer@berkscd.com](mailto:christine.griesemer@berkscd.com)



The CREP program covers costs for fencing, livestock crossings, watering systems, as well as trees. Farmers who install forest buffers will receive extra points for ranking in the new RCPP program for Berks County.

Photo credit: Stephanie Eisenbise

## Events

### Chapter 102/105 Workshop for Berks Municipalities

When: Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Where: Albright College (CELG-Roessner Hall)

1621 N. 13th Street, Reading, PA 19604

Time: 8:00 am till 12:30 pm

Contact: Kevin at 610-372-4657 Ext. 209

### Don't Let Your Nutrients Go Down The Drain Workshop

When: Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Where: Blue Marsh Conference Room

Time: 10am till 2 pm

Contact: Christine Griesemer at 610-372-4657 Ext. 210

### 2015 October Farm Tour "Meandering Around Marion Farmland"

When: Saturday, October 10, 2015

Where: Marion Fire Co., 4721 Conrad Weiser Pkwy,  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Time: 9:00 am till 4:00pm

Contact: 610-378-1844 or [www.berksag.net](http://www.berksag.net)

### Chile Pepper Festival

When: Friday and Saturday September 11th & 12, 2015

Where: Bill DeLong Park,

Bowers PA 19511

Time: 9:00 am till 6:00 pm

Contact: [Chilepepperfestival@hotmail.com](mailto:Chilepepperfestival@hotmail.com)



1238 County Welfare Road

Leesport, PA 19534

## Tillage Radish - A Different Kind of Cover Crop By: Rita Seidel

Forage or oilseed radishes grown as a cover crop are still rather uncommon. Both are members of the mustard family: the forage radish (daikon or Japanese radish) has a very large taproot whereas the oilseed radish is shorter and more branched. They both tolerate cold temperatures very well (it takes several nights of temperatures in the low 20's to kill them).

Reasons to grow tillage radishes:

- ◆ Rapid growth throughout the fall
- ◆ Provides ground cover that smothers weeds until early April
- ◆ Taproot scavenges nitrate from deep soil layers
- ◆ Dies off in winter, decomposes quickly, and doesn't immobilize nitrogen
- ◆ Vertical root channels increase water infiltration, rooting options for next crop, and accelerates warm up in the spring
- ◆ Rapidly broken down organic matter makes nitrogen available for the next crop
- ◆ Deep roots break up soil compaction ("biodrills")
- ◆ Produces compounds that are toxic to soil-borne pests and pathogens ("biofumigants")



Source: <http://www.covercropsolutions.com/documents/literature/tillage-radish-resource-guide.pdf>

A winter cover crop of forage radishes can fit well into corn silage and vegetable crop rotations. In the Mid-Atlantic they grow best when planted in late August or early September. If planted later, growers may not achieve effective biodrilling and weed suppression, but significant amounts of nitrogen can still be captured. The radishes can be planted with either a conventional or no-till drill or by broadcasting at 12 to 14 lbs/acre.