



Farmers Achieving Resource Management Program



Our Mission Statement



✧ Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) is dedicated to the encouragement of and education in the wise stewardship of soil and water, so that present and future generations in Berks County and surrounding Watersheds may have healthy land on which to live and work, and clean water for drinking and recreation

What is a Conservation District?



- Created in Pennsylvania in 1945 in reaction to the dust bowl of the 1930s to improve soil and water conservation



Berks County Conservation District



- County governing body appoints a 7 person Board of Directors to 4 year terms
 - ❧ 4 farmers
 - ❧ 2 non-farmer members of public
 - ❧ 1 member of county governing body

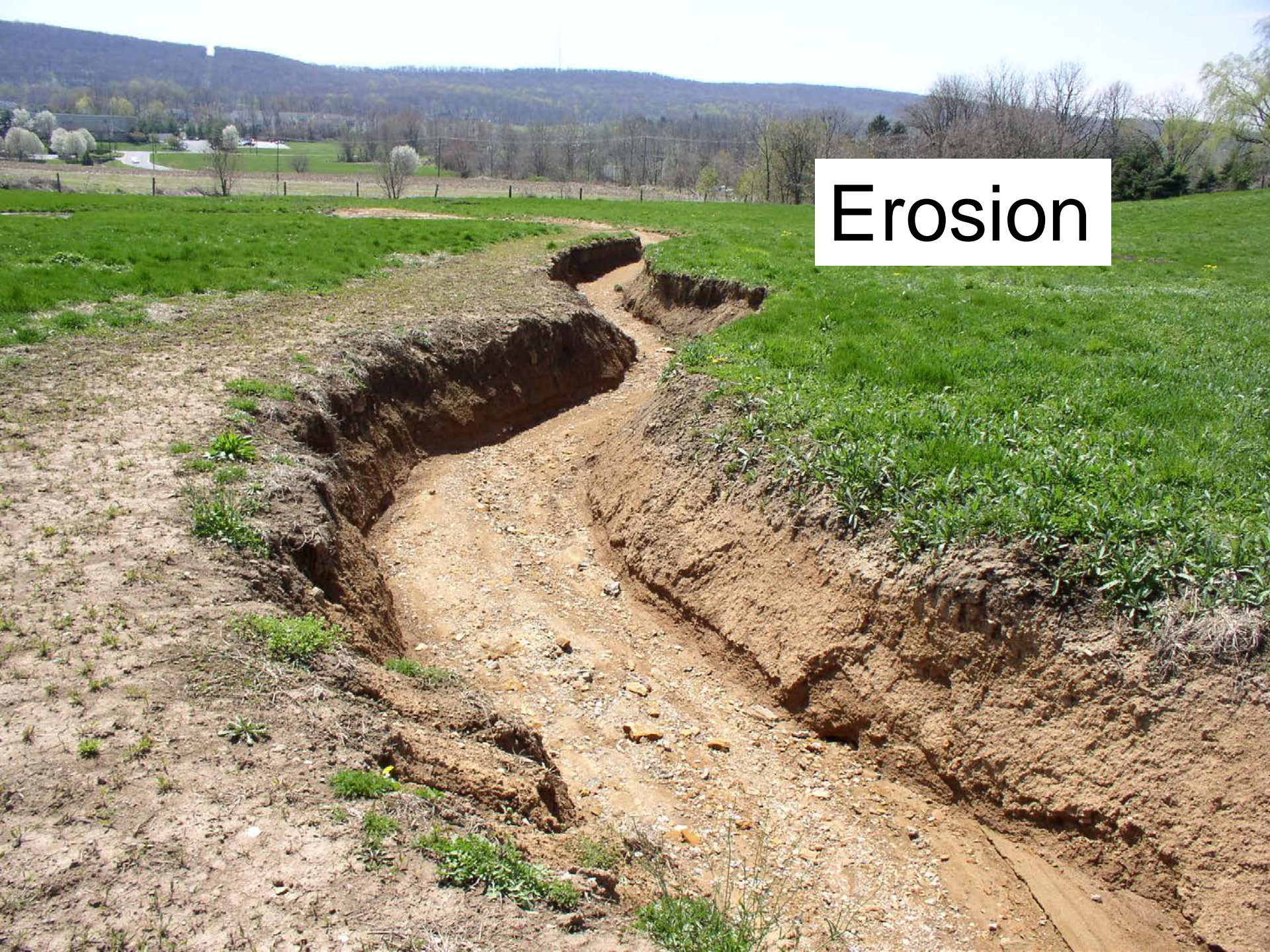
What Does BCCCD Do?



Partners



Erosion





Sedimentation

Background



- ❧ Many farmers receive assistance from the Berks County Conservation District
 - ❧ Conserve and protect **Water** and **Natural Resources**
 - ❧ Conservation Planning
 - ❧ Nutrient Management
 - ❧ General Technical Assistance

What happens after assistance was given?



After assistance....



- ❧ Communication is lost and no follow up on successes or failures is completed
- ❧ In order to change this Berks County Conservation District is developing FARM

Mission



- œ Continuing correspondence with all past and present cooperators
 - œ Changes in regulations
 - œ Offer technical assistance
 - œ Feedback on conservation practices that work well
 - œ Promote other programs
 - œ Network with other cooperators



Participants



- ❧ Berks County Conservation District
- ❧ Farmer Cooperators
- ❧ Partnering Agencies
 - ❧ FSA
 - ❧ NRCS
 - ❧ Penn State Extension
 - ❧ Berks Conservancy
 - ❧ BCCD is always looking for more!!!



Methods



- ❧ Join FARM by being a cooperator through the following programs:
 - ❧ Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Planning
 - ❧ Conservation Planning
 - ❧ Manure Management
 - ❧ Act 38 Nutrient Management Planning
- ❧ Farms that have had educational outreach will not automatically be put into the program



Goals for better production

- ❧ Encourage the return of cooperators
 - ❧ Exclusive cooperator (farmers/partners) mailings:
 - ❧ New programs, new regulations
 - ❧ Workshops
 - ❧ Financing options
 - ❧ Agriculture is always coming up with new technologies



Benefits



- ❧ If there are new financing options we want our cooperators to be the first to be able to apply for the funding sources.
- ❧ If there are new programs we want the farmers to be aware of the benefits of that program and avenues on how to join.



Mailings



❧ Newsletters

❧ Spring and Fall

❧ Invitation to Banquet

❧ Literature to conduct farm self- assessment

❧ The mailings will provide you with up to date information of new programs and workshops

❧ The district wants to get these educational materials to our cooperators quicker



Annual Trainings



- ❧ Summer trainings
- ❧ Farmers can showcase their farms and any improvements made
 - ❧ Crop walks
 - ❧ Best Management Practice Walks
- ❧ Winter trainings
 - ❧ Innovative Agriculture
 - ❧ Date for 2015: February 26th, 2015



Benefits of Trainings



- ❧ Look at what different farmers do across the county to increase ease of management
- ❧ We want feedback on which Best Management Practices work or what we could do differently to make changes to increase production
- ❧ Innovative ideas on what you would want to see at our winter workshops



Connect Farmers to Farmers

☞ Mentor Program

- ☞ Cooperators can discuss challenges and successes with new cooperators
- ☞ Example: Different tilling practices used on shale soils, to increase yields



Yearly Check-in




☞ Surveys

- ☞ Noticeable differences in crop yields depending on different practices
- ☞ Are there any resource concerns?
- ☞ Are installed BMPs functioning correctly?



Survey



 **BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Berks County Conservation District continues to assist the Agriculture Community. The Agriculture Resource Conservationists are trained to write Conservation Plans, assist with Manure Management Manuals and other state or federal programs. It is our mission to assist you in conserving our valuable resources of soil and water in Berks County. In order to better assist the agriculture community, please complete the survey so we can continue to provide proper assistance to meet your needs.

1. Have you had contact with the Berks County Conservation District or received assistance in the past 3 years?
_____ Yes _____ No
2. How could the Conservation District assist you?

3. What problems are you currently facing on your farm?


4. What topics would you like to learn more about?

5. Do you have a current Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Plan or a Conservation Plan?
_____ Yes _____ No
6. Do you have a current Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan or a Manure Management Manual?
_____ Yes _____ No
7. What livestock and/or crops do you manage on your farm?

8. How many acres do you farm? Owned: _____ Rented: _____
9. Are you interested in attending an event hosted by the district for Pesticide Applicator Credits for a Pennsylvania Pesticide License?
_____ Yes _____ No

If you would like to be contacted in the future about events the Berks County Conservation District is holding please provide the following information:
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Please return this survey to Berks County Conservation District, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533.
We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. If you have any questions please contact us at 610-372-4657.

Thank you! 

✧ BCCD will be able to better understand the needs of our cooperators

✧ Where we should focus funding to an area



Best Management Practices

❧ How is your Stream Crossing working?

❧ Survey

❧ Workshops



Site: Knox County Conservation District



Partners



- ❧ Invitation to speak at workshops, promoting partners' expertise
- ❧ Utilize other Conservation District educational materials
- ❧ Reach out to different organizations to increase partners
- ❧ Invite new partners that do not normally work with the District to come and be involved



Education Outreach

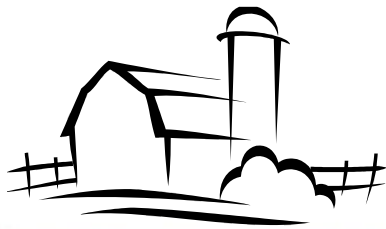


- ❧ Everyone today received an Education Outreach Packet which contains the following items:
 - ❧ A letter from the District Manager
 - ❧ A letter from the District Conservationist
 - ❧ Manure Management Manual
 - ❧ Compliance and regulation brochures
 - ❧ Nutrient Management Flow Charts

Questions..



☞ Become a Cooperator today!



FARM