



First Place — Commissioner Jared Edgreen, Kevin Willis, Advisor; Hayden Yeager; Joselyn Carter; Allie Miller; Emma Bates; Isiah Currey; Blake Conard, Advisor; Dustin Teagarden, EQT

## CARMICHAELS TEAM WINS GREENE COUNTY ENVIROTHON

The 37th annual Greene County Envirothon competition was held at Hunting Hills on Wednesday, April 23rd. Sixty high school students from four of Greene County's school districts competed in this year's event.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participate in a series of field station tests that focus on five topic areas – soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and environmental issues. The theme for the 2025 event was "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change."

Carmichaels Team # 1 won this year's competition with a score of 412.5 points out of a possible 500. Team members consisted Isiah Currey, Emma Bates, Allie Miller, Joselyn Carter, Hayden Yeager, with team advisor Kevin Willis and Blake Conard. The team will represent Greene County at the PA Envirothon. The 2025 PA Envirothon will be held at Windber Park, PA on May 21st.

Second Place was Carmichaels Team #3 who earned 313.5 points and consisted of Maya Makel, Bridget Pollock, Stephen Lewis, Katelynn Schoenfeldt, Mario Pascuzzo and their advisor Kevin Willis.

The third-place team was Carmichaels High School Team # 2 who earned 301 points, which included Rhythm Caffrey-Bauman, Ruah Dobosh, Kaitlyn Kramer, Brody Schiffbauer, Sydon Myers and advisor Kevin Willis.

The Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded through

donations and grants from various businesses, agencies, and individuals. Thank you to the following that improved our competition – EQT Foundation, Sheetz, Greene Team Pellet Fuel Company, LLC, Hunting Hills, Bankson Engineers, First Federal of Greene County, Community Bank, Watters Pools and Community Foundation of Greene County.

Each student on the first-place team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by donations from donors and the Greene County Conservation District.

In addition to the continued financial support of sponsors, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Jared Edgreen, Betsy McClure, and Blair Zimmerman; Russell Gibbs and Jon Zelenski, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Brandon Bonin, PA Game Commission; Christine Phillips of PA Department of Environmental Protection; Dustin Teagarden of EQT; Jeremy Kelly, County of Greene; Kyle Lamb, Greene County Development Office; Matt Heffner and Calvin Livingood, USDA NRCS. The Conservation District would sincerely like to thank Roy, Sally, Raz and Johnna Sisler for the use of their facility at Hunting Hills for the day. Special thanks to Sheetz for donation of drinks, desserts and breakfast and assistance especially, Derek Kurdilla, Klorissa Williams and Debbie Stein. Lunch was provided for the event by Greene County CTC Culinary Department, Dan Wagner.

For more information on the Greene County Envirothon, call the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278.

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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- **Betsy McClure**, *Vice Chairman*
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- **Lindsay Kozlowski**, *District Office Manager*
- **Zachary Basinger**, *Environmental Permitting Manager*
- **Tiffany Stewart**, *Watershed Specialist*
- **Daniel Phillips**, *Agricultural Conservation Specialist*
- **Heather Yorko**, *Fiscal Officer*

## MEET OUR NEW HIRE

Daniel Phillips recently joined the Greene County Conservation District as the new Agricultural Resource Conservationist. In this role, he will work closely with local farmers to provide technical assistance and help implement environmentally sustainable practices that support long-term agricultural success.

A lifelong resident of Greene County, Daniel graduated from Penn State University in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. He is passionate about improving agricultural management practices and ensuring clean water and healthy land for future generations.

Daniel grew up hunting and fishing across Greene County—activities he still enjoys today. He is excited to give back to the community he calls home and he looks forward to working with local farmers to support the county's agricultural heritage.



## MEET OUR NEW INTERN

Hi! My name is Aidan Snider, and I'm a recent graduate of Waynesburg Central Junior/Senior High School. This fall, I will be attending the University of Kentucky to pursue a degree in Environmental Science and Conservation. I've always had a strong passion for the outdoors and a deep appreciation for the environment, which is what led me to this career path. I'm excited to dive into my studies and explore the many ways I can make a positive impact on the world around me.



This internship is an incredible opportunity for me to gain valuable hands on experience before I begin college. I'm eager to expand my knowledge, develop new skills, and see what a career in this field could look like day to day. Getting a head start like this not only prepares me academically, but it also gives me real world insight into the kind of work I hope to be doing in the future.

Outside of academics, I stay active by being involved with several sports teams, where I've learned the importance of leadership, teamwork, and perseverance. I'm also a member of the FFA, which has helped shape my interests in agriculture, sustainability, and the environment. These experiences have taught me to work hard, stay committed, and always keep learning qualities I know will serve me well in college and beyond.

I'm truly looking forward to all that this internship has to offer and to growing both personally and professionally as I prepare for the next chapter of my journey.

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development  
Kyle Lamb, Planning Director
- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Calvin Livengood, Soil Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA Fish and Boat Commission  
Dorian Siebel, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Justin Brackenrich, Agronomy Educator
- 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  
Email: [gccd@greencountypa.gov](mailto:gccd@greencountypa.gov)  
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, located at 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TIRE CLEANUP

## JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> • 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### GREEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

#### About The Event

Our mission is simple: collect as many tires as we can with the support of our generous grant. By doing so, we not only eliminate breeding habitats for mosquitoes and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases but also work together to keep Greene County clean and beautiful. The GCCD has held the tire recycling event since 2021 and have collected over 8,200 tires!

#### Registration:

- Complete registration form
- Payment will be required for registration
- Payment may be cash or check at the office or check mailed to Conservation District
- Online registration and payment coming soon!
- Payment will NOT be accepted at the event
- Space is limited, first come first serve

#### Requirements:

- \$1.00 per tire (passenger tires only off the rim)
- Maximum of 20 tires per person
- Must be a Greene County resident
- Try to clean all debris out of tires

## TIRE RECYCLING REGISTRATION FORM

### PRE-PAID REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How many tires? \_\_\_\_\_

What approximate time will you be arriving? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is required at time of registration. You may pay at the conservation district in person between:

**8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday**

or

Mail check addressed to our office:

**Greene County Conservation District  
22 West High Street, Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370**

or

Online payments will be accepted in the near future. Please check back for further information or contact the Conservation District at (724) 852-5278.

# HOW LATE IS TOO LATE TO PLANT COOL-SEASON FORAGES?

JUSTIN BRACKENRICH, PENN STATE AGRONOMIST

Spring is a traditional and popular time in Pennsylvania to plant forages. However, wet soil conditions and unpredictable weather often make this practice difficult. Many growers ask, "When is it too late to plant?" or "If I can't plant my cool-season forages this spring, what can I do?"

This answer depends on the weather as we move into the heat of summer. We can rely on what we know about how cool-season forages are established. Cool-season grasses will begin to grow when soil temperatures reach 40-45°F, reach their optimum growth when temperatures are between 60 and 75°F, and decline in growth as temperatures continue to increase in the summer months. Cooler night temperatures can help with development on hotter days, but eventually, cool-season grass will go dormant until the fall, when temperatures begin to recede.

To start answering the question "When is it too late to plant?" we will need to make a couple of assumptions,

- **First, we will get adequate moisture; not too much or too little, but just the right amount for germination and initial growth.**
- **Second, the temperatures will remain consistent with the state averages and not be unseasonably warm or cool.**
- **Third, day temperatures above 75°F can be tolerated if the lows are less than 60°F.**
- **Fourth, stands will be established a minimum of six weeks before the temperatures outlined in assumption three are reached, sending the stands into summer dormancy.**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FARMERS' COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

**WAYNESBURG, PA** – The Greene County Conservation District hosted its first annual Farmers' Community Roundtable on April 7 at the Greene County Career and Technology Center.

The roundtable was organized to share timely, relevant information and provide Greene County farmers with a platform to voice their concerns and discuss their needs. It also served as an opportunity for the conservation district to spotlight several of its cost-share programs, including ACAP and GRACE, which are designed to support local farmers. The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Lowell Midla, who presented "The Top Ten Opportunities for Profit in Beef Cow-Calf Operations."

Representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Penn State Extension were also present to provide updates on funding

For our area, highs greater than 75° and lows greater than 60° are typically maintained around mid-June. Working backwards six weeks, cool-season forages have the best chance of success if planted before early May. This should not be used to make all your decisions, nor by any means is this saying, "Anything after this date will fail," but it is evident that the risk associated with these plantings does increase after these dates.

### What do you do if you can't spring plant?

Since this is a spring-seeded forage, the expectation should be low for getting more than one cut toward the end of the growing season. Meaning, yield loss may be more evident in the next growing season when attempting to get multiple cuttings. However, if hay or pasture is in short supply without this planting, use a annual summer, like sorghum-sudangrass or millet, followed by a fall-seeded cool-season perennial to reduce a forage shortage this summer. Planting a cool-season perennial in late summer or fall will allow the stand more time to catch up and return to productivity rather than waiting for the subsequent spring to try again.



programs and technical assistance opportunities available to local producers.

With 72 attendees, the event was considered a great success. Many participants expressed appreciation for the information shared and enthusiasm for making the roundtable an annual tradition.

The Greene County Conservation District extends its sincere thanks to Dr. Midla for his insightful presentation, as well as to all who attended and contributed to the event's success. Special thanks go to the culinary students at the Greene County Career and Technology Center for preparing an outstanding meal.

For more information, please contact Daniel Phillips at (724) 852-5278 or via email at [dphillips@greencounty.pa.gov](mailto:dphillips@greencounty.pa.gov).

# GREENE COUNTY LAUNCHES 2025 TICK AND MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS

The District has officially begun its 2025 tick surveillance program in Greene County during the week of April 14. The primary objective is to collect samples of the blacklegged tick, commonly known as the deer tick, which will be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for testing. These samples will be analyzed for tick-borne pathogens, helping monitor the presence of diseases such as Lyme disease and others within the region. Tick collection efforts will continue through the end of August.

Looking ahead, the District's West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance season will begin on May 12 and continue through October. Mosquitoes will be collected from 12 designated areas throughout Greene County in an effort to detect WNV as well as other mosquito-borne illnesses. This data is vital in assessing potential health risks and enabling proactive public health responses.

In addition to these surveillance programs, the District will

be holding a Tire Collection Event at the Greene County Fairgrounds on Thursday, June 11, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This initiative aims to help reduce mosquito breeding grounds, as tires can hold standing water and become ideal habitats for mosquito larvae. Participants must be pre-registered and have paid in full prior to the event. The sign-up form can be found in this issue of the newsletter as well as on our website and our social media accounts. Payments can be accepted in the office via cash or check; or payment can be mailed with the registration form. We are working on an online payment method that should be up and running in the near future.

These seasonal surveillance programs and events are part of the District's ongoing commitment to protecting public health and the environment in Greene County.

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## MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WAYNESBURG, PA – The Greene County Conservation District hosted its first annual Farmers' Community Roundtable on The Greene County Conservation District administers the 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.

In 2024, PADEP updated the Manure Management Program Planning Manual, this manual can be found on the DEP website or you can contact the County Conservation District for one. If your operation remains unchanged and you are currently using a previous version of the workbook, it is not necessary to obtain a new one. However, it is important to note that all operations must maintain records of manure spreader calibrations, crop yields, and manure applications.

The updated edition of the workbook includes a few revisions, notably:

- A **new short form** designed for eligible operations
- A **new animal worksheet** designed to calculate Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs)

Please note that the short form applies only to operations that maintain fewer than 8,000 pounds of livestock and possess at least one acre of pasture or cropland per 1,000

pounds of livestock.

Every farm in Pennsylvania that applies manure to the land is required to have a written manure management plan according to Title 25 Chapter 91 25 PA Code §91.36. This includes manure application by various types of equipment and/or direct application by animals on pastures and in animal concentration areas. By following the application requirements, the farmer will optimize yields and protect streams, rivers, ponds, and groundwater. We would also like to remind you that anyone participating in GRACE after their first year is required to have a plan.



Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (724) 852-5278.

# AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The County Conservation District is currently looking for new applicants for their ACAP program. ACAP, or Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program, provides financial and technical assistance for implementing best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth. The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund and is now in the Pennsylvania Budget, this fund is administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC). The purpose of ACAP is to reduce non-point source pollution in local streams and rivers by implementing BMPs that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution on local farms.



The photo above shows a roofed heavy-use area that was installed, the picture does not show the completed project.

In order, to qualify for ACAP funding you must be an active farmer who owns their land and has animals. ACAP does require a written Ag Erosion and Sediment Plan or Conservation Plan and a Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan that includes the BMPs required to control nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. These are all things the County Conservation District can help you with. BMPs must be in place to address runoff of pollutants and soils associated with animal concentration

areas (ACAs), otherwise, these BMPs must be included in the proposed ACAP project. All projects must meet design and construction standards set by the SCC.

The projects that can be funded through ACAP vary widely but some common ones include roofed heavy-use areas, manure stacking facilities, farm access roads, stream crossings, and grazing projects.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for ACAP please contact us at (724) 852-5278.



Pictured above is a before photo, notice the amount of bare soil and runoff that would occur.

# G.R.A.C.E Program Application Eligibility Form

Applicant Information	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Application Date:</b>
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>
	<b>Farm Address:</b>
<b>Farm #:</b>	
<b>Tract #:</b>	<b>EMAIL:</b>

(To be completed by staff based on application and supplemental information)

Is the landowner and/or operator holding a seat as a Conservation District Director?  Yes  No

### Best Management Practices

*Please check the following Best Management Practices applied for (change practice list to fit CD):*

<input type="checkbox"/> Lime	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Exclusion Fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossings
<input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer	<input type="checkbox"/> Watering System	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture Mgmt/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Streambank Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### Program Eligibility

1. Is the applicant a Conservation District Cooperator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
2. Is it a farming operation? (as defined in 63 CSR 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
3. Is applicant the landowner and/or operator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
If applicant is operator, please check one of the following below:					
<input type="checkbox"/> copy of lease					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> producer information agreement that shows control of the land for the length of the contract			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
5. Is there documentation to support development of a Contract? (Maps, soil test, etc.)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
6. Is there a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan/ Manure Mgmt Plan completed? (if applicable) These plans are required to be completed if not applying for first grant.			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
7. The fields and BMP's being applied for have not been paid through previous contracts within the practice lifespan. Select one: Y/N			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
8. Operation type and crops					
9. Please list livestock numbers.					

Soil test required for the following practices:

-Lime—Is ineligible if soil test results show no need. 3 tons per acre is the maximum per field based on CCE%

-Fertilizer (Is ineligible if pH is 5.5 or less and if P and K levels are in high range ineligible)

P – lbs/ac	P - PPM	P205 – lbs/ac		K– lbs/ac	K - PPM	K2O – lbs/ac
36 or higher	18 or higher	82 or higher		176 or higher	89 or higher	212 or higher

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Operator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your completed application by mail, fax, email or in-person to the following:**

22 W. High Street | Suite 204 | Waynesburg, PA 15370 | Fax: (724) 852-5341 | email: gccd@greencountypa.gov

If you have any more questions regarding the GRACE program, please call us at (724) 852-5278



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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.



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Greene County Conservation District



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