



FALL 2025

IMPROVE YOUR PASTURES WITH OUR RENTAL AERATORS

Aerating your pasture and hay fields is a proven way to boost productivity. It helps reduce soil compaction, improves air and water infiltration, and promotes deeper root growth—enhancing overall soil health and forage quality.

To support local producers, the Conservation District offers two aerators for rent:

- **Ranchworx 830SC**
Ideal for smaller operations, this aerator is perfect for targeted field improvement. It requires a 55 HP 4-wheel drive tractor for operation.
- **Ranchworx 1036SC**
with Broadcast Seeder Designed for larger fields, this heavy-duty unit comes equipped with a broadcast seeder for simultaneous overseeding. It requires a 95 HP 4-wheel drive tractor and three hydraulic remotes for proper operation.

To rent the aerators, please contact the district at **(724)-852-5278** or email at **gccd@greencountypa.gov**

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- **Daniel Phillips**, *Agricultural Conservation Specialist*
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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
Logan Opfer, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
Justin Brackenrich, Agronomy Educator
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency
Michal Roup, CED

PRIVATE WATER WELLS PRESENTATION

What do you know about your water and your well? What is an aquifer? What is groundwater? Has your well water been tested for contaminants? What are the basic well construction elements? How do I protect my well?

If you would like the answers to these and other questions you may have, join us, the Penn State Extension Master Well Owner Network, on **October 15, 2025 by the Greene Co. Conservation District**, (at 107 Fairgrounds Rd., Bld. #10, Waynesburg, PA.) PSU Extension

Master Watershed Stewards will present an informative program and answer your questions from **7pm to 9pm**. No registration needed.



Master Watershed Steward Program



PennState Extension

LIME SPREADER RENTAL PROGRAM



Have you tested your soil recently?

Rent our 2 Ton Wet Lime Spreader.

Do you have a pasture or hayfield that needs lime?

**For more information call:
724-852-5278**

Do you have a minimum 50 HP tractor?

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
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

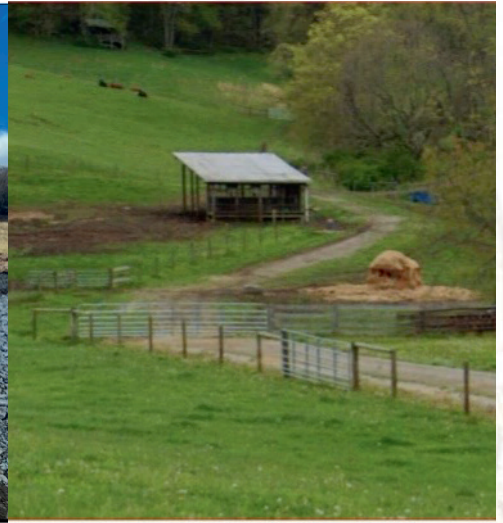
The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, located at 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

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.



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

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!

GRACE 2025-2026 ROUND APPROVED

The Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program directly funded by the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) that was designed to enhance soil health and water quality within the agriculture community. This year, the program approved contracts with the largest funding amount in a single year compared to previous years. The GCCD Board of Directors approved \$274,912.86 in contracts for the 2025-2026 program year at their September 16, 2025 Board meeting.

The 71 contracts approved at the September Board meeting include 2,277 tons of lime for 1,093 acres, 665.31 acres of fertilizer, 17,750 feet of interior pasture division or streambank fencing, 4 stabilized stream crossing, 22 water systems, and 20 forestry projects. These Best Management Practices promote soil and water conservation practices that improve soil health in pastures and woodlands. These practices can lead to improvements in animal production as well as, healthier soils and forest stands. When these practices are implemented correctly, value and profit can be added to the land.

The district has had great success and participation in the GRACE Program. This would not be possible without the financial assistance received by PA Act 13 Unconventional Gas Impact Fee that is allocated through the Public Utility Commission and State Conservation. The district would like to recognize the Greene County Government and their support of our organization which covers many of the district's overhead costs and administrative assistance. The support of the county government allows the district to utilize "Impact Fee Funds" on the ground within the community that has been impacted by gas development over the past years. The money and support received from all of these funding sources could be utilized to cover other District expenses; however, support from the county government frees up funds allocated to the district allowing the ability to spend money on projects that are put back into Greene County. Through this cost-share assistance for landowners, the implementation of BMPs within their agricultural operations will enhance soil health, and water quality and create more productive farms within the County.



TIRE CLEAN-UP

NOV 13TH

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

@ GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**Space is limited!!!
Registration ends
November 7th unless
limit has been met prior**

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 help 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!

Contact Us

 (724) 852-5278

 gccd@greencountypa.gov

 22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370



✓ 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
- Payment will NOT be accepted at the event
- Space is limited, first come first serve
- Deadline to register: 6/9/2025
- Online Payment Accepted:
https://payments.municipipay.com/pa_gccd/search/de00bef7

✓ 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

✓ Location:

- Use livestock entrance off of Rt. 21
- Event located behind Conservation District Building (beside rabbit barn)

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN GREENE COUNTY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Greene County Conservation District has released its latest findings from the ongoing mosquito surveillance program, revealing the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the area.

Mosquito sampling begins in May and continues through September. As of August 22nd, the district has collected a total of **269 mosquito samples**, representing **13,896 individual mosquitoes**. Of those, **22 samples tested positive** for West Nile Virus, prompting continued efforts to monitor and control mosquito populations in the region.

West Nile Virus is primarily spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people infected with the virus do not experience symptoms, others may develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and fatigue. In rare cases, particularly in older adults or individuals with weakened immune systems, the virus can lead to serious neurological illness including encephalitis or meningitis.

To combat the spread of the virus, the Conservation District continues to implement **larvicide treatments**—which target mosquito larvae before they can mature—as well as **barrier**

treatments that help reduce adult mosquito populations in high-risk areas. These control methods are applied as needed, based on surveillance data and environmental conditions.

Residents are encouraged to take personal precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites, including:

- Wearing insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Eliminating standing water around homes (birdbaths, buckets, clogged gutters)
- Wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk
- Ensuring window and door screens are in good condition

The District will continue its monitoring efforts through September, when mosquito activity typically declines with cooler temperatures.

FALL WEED MANAGEMENT

DWIGHT LINGENFELTER AND JUSTIN BRACKENRICH PENN STATE EXTENSION

Managing weeds in hay and pasture is not a once-a-year, one-size-fits-all activity. To properly manage weeds, this is a multi-faceted approach that includes good fertility, proper mowing or grazing management, and, lastly, herbicide usage. While some weeds, like annuals, may have already developed, set seeds, and died by now, many others, like biennials and perennials, are in the optimum state for control.

Biennials, or plants that complete their life cycle in two years, will be in the rosette stage now and will be much easier to eradicate. Once they start growing in the spring, they rapidly develop with the goal of reproducing, and it becomes more difficult to control them. Weeds such as common burdock, wild carrot, poison hemlock, and bull, musk, and plumeless thistles are in this category of plants.

Perennials, or plants that return every year, are also best controlled in the late summer and early fall. Since plants are actively storing carbohydrates in their roots, systemic herbicides have a better opportunity to enter the plant and move to the roots with these processes. The application window generally runs from early September through October. However, certain species like horsenettle, smooth groundcherry, and woody species like multiflora rose should be on the early side of this window, and cool-season perennials like Canada thistle and dandelion can be effectively controlled after several light frosts.

With both biennial and perennial species, adequate green leaf tissue must be present, and it should be reasonably healthy to absorb the herbicide. If the weeds are turning yellow or brown, they have already started to go dormant for the season, and the herbicide will likely not be absorbed. Table 2.6-17 from the Penn State Agronomy Guide provides a great reference for timing herbicide applications.

The most common herbicides used to control many of the broadleaf weeds in the fall are 2,4-D and dicamba (Clarity, etc.) for broadleaves. However, other systemic products such as triclopyr (e.g., Crossbow, Candor, Crossroad,

Table 2.6-17. Optimum time of year for foliar application of systemic herbicides to selected weeds.

Weeds	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Winter annual weeds (chickweed, henbit, horseshoe, etc.)									
Summer annual weeds (ragwort, pigweed, spinyweed, sunflower, etc.)									
Biennial weeds (burdock, wild carrot, poison hemlock, bull thistle, spotted knapweed, etc.)									
Musk thistle									
Herbaceous Perennials									
Burns-up top, poison ivy									
Candor									
Clarity									
Crossbow									
Candor									
Dogbane, hemp									
Milkweed, common									
Pokeweed									
Spotted knapweed									
Thistle, Canada									
Woody Perennials									
Bittersweet, Japanese									
Burns-up top									
Ox-eye daisy									
Rosa multiflora									
Smooth groundcherry									
Spotted knapweed									

Do not apply
 Less than optimal but potentially effective depending on your specific geography and weather.
 Optimum timing or application

Remedy Ultra) or metsulfuron can be options as well. A combination of these products may be the best solution for a mixture of different perennial weeds. For most perennials, including hemp dogbane, horsenettle, common milkweed, pokeweed, hedge bindweed, multiflora rose, poison ivy, and wild blackberry, make applications from September 1 through October 15 or before a hard frost. In general, applications by October 1 may be more effective. An additional two-week application window can exist for Canada thistle and quackgrass, because of their cool-season habit of growth.

For more specifics on weed management and information on what herbicide product may be best for you, give me a call at 724-207-2009 or email me at jub1489@psu.edu.

Finding Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells

Penn State Extension

Dan Brockett dlb14@psu.edu
Summer Boyle sqw5805@psu.edu
814-758-4090

Penn State Extension, in partnership with, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and Oil Region Alliance, is working to map orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells that are not currently documented.



History of Oil and Gas Wells

Legacy Wells

Over 160 years ago, in Titusville, PA, the first commercial oil well in the United States was drilled. Since then, an estimated 760,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled in the state. Many gas and oil companies went bankrupt, leaving the state and their wells behind. This and other factors have led to many gas and oil wells becoming "legacy wells." The term "legacy well" refers to a well that was drilled and abandoned, leaving no record of who was responsible. The Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act of 1984 established the Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Program. The purpose of this program is to find and plug legacy wells across the state.



How Can You Help?

After being contacted, the landowner's address will be compared to the existing map of abandoned wells through DEP. If the number of wells reported on the property comes back different, a time will be scheduled to come out with the landowner and visit the well site. During this visit, an Extension Educator will take pictures of the well to document its condition, as well as GPS coordinates. This information will be provided to DEP. After DEP is contacted, the landowner can schedule a time with DEP to visit the wells. DEP will determine if the well needs to be plugged by a risk assessment based on the risk to human safety and the environment. Wells with a greater risk will take priority over the lower-risk wells.

What's the Big Deal?

Historical Regulations

As with anything that happened over a century ago, there were no regulations put in place to keep people and the environment safe. Many of these abandoned wells look like one would think -- old and rusty. However, most of the wells that are being discovered look like a hole in the ground or a random metal pipe sticking out. During World War II, many of these wells were sought after to reuse the metal for war efforts. Thus, leaving many wells improperly exposed and unplugged.

Safety of Your Family and Future Generations

Wells that have not been plugged are a cause for concern for the safety of people, pets, and the environment. Unplugged wells release a flammable gas called methane. Methane is highly flammable and can even cause house fires and explosions. These abandoned wells leach pollutants into aquifers, affecting our groundwater and springs. The wells that were scrapped during WWII or altered by unknowing landowners create a hazard for farming, hunting, and other activities.

Financial Detriments

Financially, it could cost over \$100,000 to plug a single well, depending on the condition and how deep the well has been drilled. DEP absorbs this cost when a legacy well is reported and confirmed, thanks to surcharges that are paid when new gas and oil wells are drilled. Future generations will pay the price of leaving these abandoned wells as they will only deteriorate, causing further erosion of the equipment and environment

Abandoned gas & oil wells serve no useful purpose

As a thank you for cooperating and playing a part in making the Commonwealth safer, each well that is reported and conferred by DEP will receive \$100*. As an example, if 3 wells are conferred, the landowner will receive \$300.



! New World Screwworm

(Cochliomyia hominivorax)

New World screwworm (NWS) is a devastating pest of livestock. It can affect any warm-blooded animal. It can also affect people. Untreated screwworm infestations can be fatal to livestock, wildlife, and humans. Not controlling the pest in a livestock population can damage a country's economy.

Distribution

NWS is endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and countries in South America.

Since 2006, the United States and Panama have maintained a barrier zone in eastern Panama. This barrier zone prevents NWS from moving north from South America to screwworm-free areas in Central and North America.

In 2023, APHIS confirmed an unprecedented number of NWS cases in Panama. Since then, cases have been detected in every Central American country and Mexico.

Hosts

NWS can affect livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people.

This pest can infest a wide variety of wounds, from tick bites to cuts and dehorning or branding wounds. Infestations are very common in the navels of newborn animals and the genital regions of their mothers.

Description

Adult screwworm flies have orange eyes, a metallic blue or green body, and three dark stripes along their backs. The center stripe begins partway down the backside and appears shorter than the outer stripes.

Screwworm larvae (maggots) burrow into a wound, feeding as they go like a screw driving into wood. The maggots cause extensive damage by tearing at the hosts' tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound becomes deeper and larger as more maggots hatch and feed on living tissue.

Impact

NWS can threaten the livelihood of livestock producers. It can cause millions of dollars' worth of production losses and economic damage. Screwworm also pose a threat to humans in infested areas.

What You Can Do

Immediately report signs of screwworm to your local veterinarian, State veterinarian's office, or USDA (www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health). Look for the following signs in warm-blooded animals (including pets and birds):

- Irritated behavior
- Head shaking
- The smell of decay
- Presence of maggots in a wound



Adult screwworm fly

If you travel with a dog to regions affected by screwworm, know the requirements for returning to the United States. Go to www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs for more information.

If you live or are traveling in areas affected by screwworm, have your animals inspected before you move them. Use available animal checkpoints to prevent the spread of this pest.

Learn More

For more information about screwworm, including information on the NWS outbreak in Central America and Mexico, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm.

For information on how screwworms affect people or to report human disease, please visit www.cdc.gov/myiasis/about/about-new-world-screwworm-myiasis.html.



22 West High Street
Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370



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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