



GRACE PROGRAM COST-SHARE UPDATES APPROVED

The Greene County Conservation District Board has approved several updates to the cost-share rates and participation limits for the GRACE Program. These changes were made to better reflect current project costs, support conservation efforts, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

For fencing practices, the cost-share rate has increased from \$1.60 per linear foot to \$2.00 per linear foot. The maximum eligible footage remains 2,500 linear feet, resulting in a maximum fencing reimbursement of \$5,000 per contract. Stream crossing assistance has also increased, with the maximum cost-share amount raised from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Updates were also approved for spring development systems. Adjustments to individual practice rates now allow for a maximum cost-share of \$3,000 for

a complete spring development system. To help distribute funding fairly, participation is limited to two complete spring development systems per year, or a maximum of \$6,000 when individual components are combined.

Forestry practices have also been updated. The forestry contract cap has increased from \$8,000 to \$15,000. For the upcoming contract year, the District will accept up to 11 forestry implementation contracts and 2 forestry plans.

These approved updates will take effect for the upcoming GRACE Program contract year

We are now accepting applications for the 2026 contract year.

2026 GRACE APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED AT THE DISTRICT UNTIL AUGUST 31



FARMLAND PRESERVATION

LOOKING TO PRESERVE YOUR FARM?



**APPLICATIONS DUE
December 31, 2026**

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board is currently taking applications for easement purchases. If you are interested please contact the district at

724-852-5278 or
gccd@greencountypa.gov.

Contact the office for an application

Requirements

- be enrolled in an approved agricultural security area consisting of at least 500 acres
- have at least 50 contiguous acres
- have at least 50% of the soils on the parcel under consideration in soil capability classes I to IV (as defined by the web Soil Survey)
- be available for agricultural production
- contain greater of 50% or at least ten acres of harvested cropland, pasture or grazing land.
- The landowner will also need to provide ownership verification to the surface mineral rights on the parcel being considered.

Greene County's 2nd Annual Farmers' Community Dinner

**Key Note Speaker: Dr. Sjoerd Willem Duiker
from Penn State University**

“Soil Health for Increased Pasture Production”

**Learn how to increase productivity on your
pastures and better utilize the ground you have!**

**Talk with agencies about funding programs
available within the county!**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6pm
Greene County Career & Technology Center
60 Zimmerman Dr., Waynesburg, PA 15370**

**Cost of Registration is \$10/person, dinner included
Registration will be required by Thursday April 2nd**

**Contact The Greene County Conservation District
to Register (724) 852-5278**



PennState Extension


Interns Wanted:

WNV Program & Agricultural Support


Are you looking for hands-on outdoor experience in environmental science or agriculture? Join our team!

We are seeking motivated interns to assist with:

 West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance

 Tick Collection

 Soil Sampling

 Basic Mapping

 General Agricultural Field Work

Responsibilities include:

Trap setup, Specimen Collection, Data Recording, Soil Sample Collection, Mapping Assistance, & Farming Practices.

Ideal Candidates Are:

- ✓ Dependable
- ✓ Detail-Oriented
- ✓ Comfortable Working Outdoors

**Gain real-world experience in vector surveillance & agriculture—
A great boost for your résumé!**

Contact our office to apply!

Intern Program is from May 1st - August 31st

May 2, 2026
10 am to 2 pm
Lunch Provided

Registration Limited to
30 participants
Deadline March 30th
\$70 per person

TREE GRAFTING

Workshop

Items to bring

- 5 gallon plastic bucket
- Pruning shears
- Utility knife
- Straight screwdriver
- Black electrical tape
- Masking tape
- Bath towel
- Gloves with good dexterity
- Sharpie marker
- Small tape measure or 6" ruler
- Scissors
- Old newspaper
- Pen to write with
- Paper to take notes
- A piece of saran wrap
- A spring clothes pin
- Clean plastic bread bag for each tree
- Bottle of rubbing alcohol and cotton balls in zip lock bag
- Paper towels in 1 gallon zip lock bag
- Some wide rubber bands

The Southwest PA Woodland Owners, PA DCNR and the Greene County Conservation District will be sponsoring Dan Matesich, President of the North American Pawpaw Growers Association will hold a hands-on workshop on tree grafting. Lunch will be provided.

Location-Greene County Fairgrounds Conservation District Equipment Garage

To register call
724-852-5278



PENN STATE EXTENSION LAUNCHES AI TOOL TO DELIVER 24/7 AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.- Penn State Extension has introduced a new artificial intelligence-powered tool designed to provide farmers and agricultural professionals with round-the-clock access to trusted, research-based information. The tool, called Tilva, debuted at the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show and aims to expand access to Extension expertise across the commonwealth.

Powered by Penn State's PlantVillage AI platform, Tilva allows users to ask questions or upload images to receive immediate, science-based guidance. Farmers who encounter unfamiliar crop symptoms can upload a photo and quickly receive information to help determine next steps. The system can identify pests, plant diseases, and crops, interpret soil test results from Penn State's Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory, and provide answers related to crop and livestock management, food systems, and environmental topics.

Although designed primarily for production agriculture, Tilva also serves agribusiness professionals, crop and livestock specialists, educators, policymakers, homeowners, and gardeners. In addition to answering questions, the platform recommends relevant Extension workshops, online courses and certificate programs based on user interests. It also connects users with trusted data sources, including state agencies and national market information. Responses are available in both English and Spanish.

Tilva expands Extension's capacity by handling routine inquiries and directing users to existing, research-based resources. At the same time, it links users to Extension educators and specialists when more detailed or complex questions arise. By helping users quickly assess the essential elements of a problem, the system allows Extension professionals to focus on in-depth engagement where it is most valuable.

Unlike general web searches that may surface outdated or unverified sources, Tilva prioritizes trusted Penn State Extension materials and vetted data. Built-in safeguards address high-risk topics such as pesticide use, food preservation, and animal medications by directing users to qualified professionals when necessary. As agricultural challenges grow more complex, Tilva is designed to provide timely, reliable information while maintaining strong expert oversight.

To use the tool, visitors can access Tilva directly through the Penn State Extension website. Users type questions as they would ask a person, upload photos for visual identification, explore recommended resources, and even ask questions in Spanish. Feedback features allow users to rate responses, helping guide improvements over time and refine the tool for broader and more effective use.



ACAP

Agriculture Conservation
Assistance Program

We Are Accepting Applications!

Possible Projects

- Complete Grazing Systems (water and fencing)
- Stream Crossings/ Riparian Buffers
- Farm Lane Access Improvement
- Stabilized Heavy Use Areas/
- Manure Storage
- Many Other BMPs Possible!

Benefits

- Reduced Sediment and Nutrient Pollution
- Better Pasture Utilization
- Decreased Feed Inputs



Apply Now

Contact the Conservation District
today to schedule a farm visit
(724)852-5278

PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION STREAMBANK EROSION ASSISTANCE



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is interested in speaking with landowners in the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed who are experiencing streambank erosion. Funding has become available to address these issues, and the Commission is interested in partnering with landowners to implement projects to improve water quality in the watershed. The goal of these projects is to improve instream habitat for fish and freshwater mussels by reducing sedimentation. Project types to accomplish this goal may include constructing instream fish habitat structures from logs and stone, installing livestock exclusion fencing along waterways, and restoring riparian buffer zones using plantings. If you are a landowner that is experiencing streambank erosion issues and would be interested in discussing the potential to implement these types of projects on your property, please contact the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission by email at jorallison@pa.gov.

Jordan Allison | Fisheries Biologist

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission | Environmental Services

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive | Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814.470.6030 | Fax: 814.359.5175

fishandboat.com

explore recommended resources, and even ask questions in Spanish. Feedback features allow users to rate responses, helping guide improvements over time and refine the tool for broader and more effective use.





6TH ANNUAL TIRE CLEAN-UP JUNE 10TH 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM @ GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Follow social media for further updates!!

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 9,600 tires!

Contact Us

(724) 852-5278

gccd@greencountypa.gov

22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370



Registration:

- Online Payment is preferred
- 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
- 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)



Tire Recycling Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

- How many tires? _____
- What approximate time will you be arriving? _____
- Payment is required at time of registration for the June 10th Recycling Event. You may pay at the conservation district in person between:

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

or

Mail check addressed to our office:

Greene County Conservation District

22 West High Street, Suite 204

Waynesburg, PA 15370

Online payments

https://payments.municipipay.com/pa_gccd/search/de00bef7

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

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Application Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Farm Address: _____

Farm #: _____

Tract #: _____

EMAIL: _____

(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:					
4. <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	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
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"/>	No	<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"/>	No	<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)

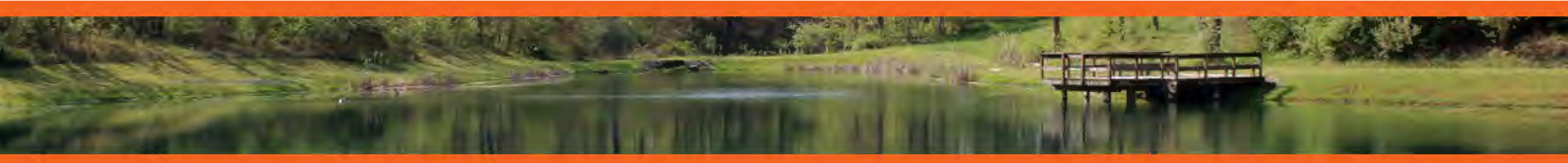
P – lbs/ac	P - PPM	P205 – lbs/ac		K– lbs/ac	K - PPM	K2O – lbs/ac
36 or higher	18 or higher	82 or higher		176 or higher	89 or higher	212 or higher

Owner: _____ Date _____

Operator: _____ Date _____



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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Social
Media



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates



www.greenecountypa.gov



Greene County Conservation District



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