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2025 REFLECTION

As we reflect on the work of the Greene County Conservation District throughout 2025, it is clear that our district remains strong, resilient, and deeply committed to its mission. This past year has shown not only the importance of conservation in our community but also the remarkable dedication of our staff, board, and partners, who continuously rise to meet the needs of Greene County with integrity and innovation.

The overall state of the district is healthy and forward-moving. Our programs continue to expand in reach and effectiveness, and we have strengthened our ability to serve landowners, municipalities, and residents through practical conservation solutions. From agricultural support and environmental permitting to waterway protection and education, each effort reflects our ongoing promise: to protect, restore, and enhance Greene County's natural resources for today and the generations ahead.

Our staff remains the backbone of the organization. Their expertise, enthusiasm, and day-to-day commitment ensure that our mission is put into action in meaningful ways across the county. We are equally fortunate to be guided by a dedicated Board of Directors whose leadership and vision keep us grounded, focused, and prepared for future opportunities.

This year's Annual Report will review the accomplishments of 2025—celebrating the progress we have made, the partnerships we have strengthened, and the goals we continue to pursue. As we look back on a year of growth and achievement, we also look forward with optimism. The Greene County Conservation District remains well-positioned for continued success, and together, we will carry this momentum into the years ahead, building an even stronger conservation legacy for our community.

2026 CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS

2026 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Jared Edgreen, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Vice Chairman
- Dan Bazzoli, Treasurer
- Rebecca Trigger, Secretary
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Vacant-Director
- Jared Edgreen, Commissioner Representative

2026 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Glodenna Halstead
- Jerry Day
- Jim Willis
- Dominick Barbetta
- Rebecca Salosky
- Carol Adamson
- George Scull
- Keith Golden
- William Hilverding
- Lewis Crouse
- Doug Willis
- Kevin White
- Ryan Wise
- Matt Robison

DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Tiffany Stewart, Watershed Specialist
- Daniel Phillips, Agricultural Conservation Specialist
- Heather Yorke, Fiscal Officer

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- PA Department of Environmental Protection
Ryan, Furrer, Conservation District Field Rep.
- Greene County Department of Economic Development
Kyle Lamb, Planning Director
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Scott Williams, District Conservationist
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

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor
Ben Franklin Building
22 West High Street
Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2025

Donation Income.....	3,026.00
Envirothon	13,524.00
Grant Income.....	78,499.05
Interest Income.....	130,262.13
Misc. Income	1,111.73
Total Program Income	1,283,891.81
PUC Funding	75,280.81
Rental Income.....	1,307.48
Soil Test Kits	1,200.00
Topo Maps.....	18.00
Total Income	\$1,588,157.01

Advertising/Marketing/Events.....	24,612.20
Audit.....	4,000.00
Bank Service Charge	538.36
Total Contracted Work	1,161,114.89
Total Donations	3,929.00
Dues	1,165.00
Total Employment Expenses	455,088.96
Farmland Easement Purchase	0.00
Farmland Preservation Board	0.00
Envirothon Expense.....	16,529.23
Total Equipment/Automotive	92,010.76
Farmland Preservation Board	0.00
Information Technology.....	157.09
Office Equipment and Supplies	4,572.86
PNDI Search	360.00
Total Postage Machine/Copier.....	9,048.67
Refund	10.00
Scholarship	2,000.00
Surety Bonds	2,188.00
Total Telephone	946.90
Training.....	55.00
Total Travel	3,755.01
Total Expense.....	\$1,782,081.93



2025 CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARDS ANNUAL BANQUET

The Greene County Conservation District honored eight recipients during its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Valley View Farm.

Each year, the Conservation District recognizes individuals, farms, students, and municipalities that demonstrate outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation. Honorees for 2025 included Phil and Breanna Judy; Jason Ellis; Emmaline Beazell; and the Richhill Township Supervisors. Farmland Preservation Board and Conservation District directors and district staff members were also recognized for their years of service.

OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR — PHIL AND BREANNA JUDY

The Judy's operate Heritage Hills Farm in Whiteley Township along Dyers Fork, managing 112 acres with a herd consisting of 20 brood cows, 20 calves, four heifers, one bull, and two donkeys. Their herd is primarily used for breeding Simmentals and producing show calves that have been sold and exhibited throughout the county.

Working with the Conservation District, the Judy's have secured funding to implement manure storage, streambank fencing, animal trails and walkways, an access road, a watering facility, roof runoff controls, and a heavy-use protection area.



Phil and Breanna Judy were honored as the 2025 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year. This award recognizes farms that have made significant enhancements to their operations through the adoption of conservation practices that improve soil and water quality.

OUTSTANDING FOREST CONSERVATIONIST AWARD — JASON ELLIS

In 2023, Ellis completed a Forest Stewardship Plan for his 102 forested acres and, in 2024-25, carried out multiple species tree planting and hosting herbicide workshop. He has also implemented windbreak conifer planting with 280 conifers, vegetation management application to control invasive species, and timber improvement practices, including 5 acres of crop tree release and 5 acres of wildlife aspen harvest and slash wall construction by Partners for Fish and Wildlife.



Jason Ellis received the Outstanding Forest Conservationist Award for his dedicated work in improving the forest stand on his 112-acre property in Monongahela Township.



2025 CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARDS ANNUAL BANQUET (CONTINUED)

DGLVR MUNICIPALITY OF THE YEAR — RICHHILL TOWNSHIP

Each year, the district honors a municipality that demonstrates excellence in improving water quality through Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices.

Richhill Township was recognized as the 2025 Municipality of the Year for its continued commitment to the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program. The township completed several projects featuring drainage improvements and streambank stabilization on multiple roadways.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FFA SPEAKING AWARD — EMMALINE BEAZELL

Emmaline Beazell, a senior at West Greene High School, was honored for her exceptional performance at the FFA county speaking contest with her speech, "Changing Climates, Changing Lives: The Impact on Wildlife and Habitats." She placed first in the county competition and fourth at the area level.

Beazell is the daughter of Noah and Joni Beazell and is a four-year FFA member currently serving as Vice President of the West Greene Chapter. Her extracurricular involvement includes National Honor Society, Science Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, P-20, Academic League, Prom Committee, and Ski Club. She is also a multisport varsity athlete in volleyball, softball, rifle, and cheerleading. After graduation, she plans to major in animal and pre-veterinary sciences at either The Ohio State University or West Virginia University.



Emmaline Beazell, a senior at West Greene High School placed first at the FFA County speaking contest.

SERVICE AWARDS

The Conservation District also recognized four individuals for their years of service to the Conservation District Board, the Farmland Preservation Board, and district staff.



L to R:
Keith Golden, Conservation District Board — 5-Year Service Award
George Scull, Conservation District Board — 5-Year Service Award



L to R:
Lisa Snider, Conservation District Staff—25-Year Service Award
Lindsay Kozlowski, Conservation District Staff — 15-Year Service Award
Corby Orndorff, Farmland Preservation Board — 15-Year Service Award

2025 ENVIROTHON



2025 First Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen; advisors Kevin Willis and Blake Conard; team members Hayden Yeager, Joselyn Carter, Allie Miller, Emma Bates, and Isiah Currey; Dustin Teagarden, EQT.



2025 Second Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen; advisor Kevin Willis; team members Maya Makel, Bridget Pollock, Stephen Lewis, Katelynn Schoenfeldt, and Mario Pascuzzo; Dustin Teagarden, EQT.



2025 Third Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen; advisor Kevin Willis; team members Rhythm Caffrey-Bauman, Ruah Dobosh, Kaitlyn Kramer, Brody Schiffbauer, and Sydon Myers; advisor Blake Conard; Dustin Teagarden, EQT.

2025 PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

The 37th annual Greene County Envirothon was held on April 23, 2025, at Hunting Hills in Dilliner, bringing together 60 high school students from four school districts to test their knowledge of natural resource conservation. Student teams competed in field stations covering soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues, centered on the 2025 theme, "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change."

Carmichaels Team #1 earned first place with a score of 412.5 out of 500 and advanced to represent Greene County at the PA

Envirothon. Team members included Isiah Currey, Emma Bates, Allie Miller, Joselyn Carter, and Hayden Yeager. Each member of the winning team received a \$500 college scholarship, supported by District funds and generous sponsors.

The Greene County Envirothon continues to provide hands-on environmental education while fostering teamwork, leadership, and stewardship among local students. The event is organized annually by the Greene County Conservation District with support from community partners, agencies, and volunteers.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



CONSERVATION DISTRICT WEEK

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

In honor of Conservation District Week, April 20–26, the Greene County Conservation District proudly recognized local students for their creativity and conservation awareness through its annual poster and coloring contests.

The poster contest, open to Greene County students in kindergarten through eighth grade, highlighted the National Association of Conservation Districts' 2025 theme, "Home is Where the Habitat Is." The contest encourages student interest in environmental stewardship while connecting science, art, and natural resource conservation. First-place posters from each age category will automatically advance to the statewide competition hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

In addition, the District hosted its annual coloring contest for pre-K students, designed to introduce young children to the importance of soil and water conservation. This year's contest received an impressive 102 entries from across Greene County. Each of the three winners received a new bicycle and helmet, generously provided by the Greene County Conservation District.

The Greene County Conservation District congratulates all contest winners and extends its appreciation to every student who participated. These contests continue to play an important role in fostering environmental awareness and conservation values among Greene County's youth.

7th–8th Grade

1st Place: Kaitlyn Courtwright, West Greene Junior High School
2nd Place: Caden Goodell, Waynesburg Central Junior High School
3rd Place: Braelynn Ramsey, Waynesburg Central Junior High School

4th–6th Grade

1st Place: Hailey Courtwright, West Greene Elementary School
2nd Place: Julianna Kirsch, Waynesburg Central Elementary School
3rd Place: Payton Duncan, PA Distance Learning Charter School

2nd–3rd Grade

1st Place: Henry McGowan, Waynesburg Central Elementary School

Kindergarten–1st Grade

1st Place: Kaelyn Duncan, PA Distance Learning Charter School
2nd Place: August McGowan, Waynesburg Central Elementary School

Congratulations to all the winners!



Coloring Contest Winners (Photo Left to Right):
Evelynn Donahue, age 5 (parent: Mirana Koratich),
Milo McCombs, age 5 (parents: Sean and Ashlee McCombs),
Lakyn Stefanizzi, age 5 (parents: Tim and Jordan Stefanizzi)

CARMICHAELS TEAM EARNS SECOND PLACE IN PENNSYLVANIA'S 2025 GRASSLANDS EVALUATION CONTEST

Congratulations to the Carmichaels Area High School team for earning second place in the state at the 2025 Grasslands Evaluation Contest.

During the competition, students completed exams in four skill areas:

- Grassland Condition
- Wildlife Habitat
- Soil Evaluation
- Plant Identification

Team members included Emma Bates, Hayden Yeager, Isiah Currey, and Joselyn Carter. Each student received a \$250 scholarship, and the team was awarded a banner recognizing their second-place finish.

The team extends special thanks to the Greene County Conservation District for assisting with transportation funding to the event, which was held at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site. Additional appreciation is given to Justin Brackenrich, Penn State Extension Agronomist, for his guidance and support in preparing the students for competition.

The Grasslands Evaluation Contest, hosted by Southwest Project Grass, has helped high school students learn practical and profitable livestock-grazing strategies since 2003. To date, the program has awarded more than \$41,000 in scholarships to participating youth.



Pictured left to right: Kevin Willis—coach, Isiah Currey, Hayden Yeager, Emma Bates, Joselyn Carter, Blake Conard—coach

ROBBIE WILSON-JONES AWARDED 2025 RALPH K. BELL BIRD CLUB OF GREENE COUNTY ANNUAL MEMORIAL CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP

Robbie Wilson-Jones, a 2025 graduate of Carmichaels High School, was awarded the 2025 Ralph K. Bell Bird Club of Greene County Annual Memorial Conservation Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded by the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club to students who demonstrate strong academic achievement, community involvement, and an appreciation for conservation and stewardship of natural resources. Robbie graduated with a 4.36 GPA and consistently displayed dedication both in the classroom and through his extracurricular activities.

Robbie is currently attending Wheeling University, where he is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering while competing as a catcher on the university's baseball team through an athletic scholarship. His academic goals and leadership skills reflect a commitment to thoughtful problem-solving and responsible resource management.

During his high school career, Robbie lettered for three years in baseball, basketball, and football. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, he was actively involved in Leo Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Junior Achievement, National Honor Society, Greene County 4-H Swine Club, and the Market Lamb Club. His involvement in 4-H and agricultural programs provided hands-on experience with land stewardship, animal care, and conservation-minded practices.

Robbie enjoys spending time outdoors and fishing, interests that strengthen his connection to the natural environment and align with the conservation values promoted by the Bird Club. He is the son of Dottie and Dave Jones.



Pictured Marjorie Howard, Robbie Wilson-Jones and Dave Bell, Ralph's grandson.

The Ralph K. Bell Bird Club of Greene County Annual Memorial Conservation Scholarship honors the legacy of Ralph K. Bell, former director of the Greene County Conservation District. In his honor, the Conservation District provides annual funding to support this scholarship, which is administered and awarded by the Bird Club. Mr. Bell served the District from 1976 to 2006 and was widely respected as a dedicated conservationist and bird enthusiast whose passion for natural resource stewardship continues to inspire future generations.

The Greene County Conservation District congratulates Robbie Wilson-Jones on receiving this conservation scholarship and wishes him continued success in his academic and future endeavors.

GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Greene County Nominating Organizations play a vital role in maintaining a strong, diverse, and effective Greene County Conservation District Board of Directors. These organizations provide the Greene County Commissioners with recommendations for potential District Directors, helping ensure that the board reflects a broad range of community perspectives and expertise. All Nominating Organizations are approved by the State Conservation Commission at the District's request.

A wide representation of organizations helps guide the District in making informed decisions on the management, protection, and conservation of Greene County's natural resources.

The District's current approved Nominating Organizations include:

Penn State Extension; USDA Farm Service Agency; Greene County Association of Township Officials; Greene County Bar Association; Greene County Fair Board; Pomona Grange #63; Greene County Farm Bureau; Greene County Farmland Preservation; Greene County Fireman's Association; Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency; Greene County Historical Society; Greene County Planning Commission; Greene County Izaak Walton League; Richhill Agricultural Society; and Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners.

Organizations interested in becoming an approved Nominating Organization are encouraged to contact the District for more information on the approval process.

Community members who wish to serve on the Conservation District Board may request that a Nominating Organization submit their name for consideration. Each September, the Greene County Commissioners distribute nomination forms to all approved Nominating Organizations. Submitted nominees are reviewed, and selected individuals are appointed to four-year terms as District Directors. Individuals not chosen as Directors may still serve the District by being appointed annually as Associate Directors.

GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Greene County joined the movement in 2007 by preserving its first farm in the county. Since 2007, a total of eight farms consisting of ten farm parcels with over 1,015 acres have been preserved and over \$1.48 million dollars of state and county funds have been invested into purchasing these easement rights.

In 2024, the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board encumbered funds for a farm located in Cumberland Township owned by Greg and Cheryl Andrews. The farm consists of 99 acres of crop and pasture ground. It is expected that the easement will be completed in early 2026.

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board is now accepting applications from qualifying landowners for participation in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2026.

The program is designed to help farmers protect their land for future generations by permanently preserving farmland from non-agricultural development. By enrolling in the program, landowners may sell or donate a conservation easement while retaining ownership of their property and continuing agricultural production.

Agricultural conservation easements can serve as an important estate planning tool, allowing families to successfully pass farms on to the next generation. In some cases, landowners may receive financial compensation for a portion of the equity in their land, which can be used for farm expansion, operational improvements, debt repayment, or retirement.



A conservation easement is a legal interest in land that restricts development or use of the property for purposes other than agriculture. Easements may be granted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a county agricultural land preservation program, a local government unit, or a land trust. Once established, the easement restrictions are permanently recorded with the county recorder of deeds.

To be eligible for the program, landowners must meet several criteria, including:

- Enrollment in an approved Agricultural Security Area totaling at least 500 acres
- A minimum of 50 contiguous acres
- At least 50 percent of soils classified as Capability Classes I-IV
- Land available for agricultural production
- The greater of 50 percent or at least 10 acres of harvested cropland, pasture, or grazing land
- Verification of ownership of surface mineral rights on the parcel

Currently, eight Greene County townships have approved Agricultural Security Areas: Center, Cumberland, Franklin, Greene, Jefferson, Morgan, Washington, and Wayne. Landowners in these townships may be eligible for farmland preservation, even if they are not currently enrolled in an Agricultural Security Area.

Landowners outside these townships who are interested in Agricultural Security Areas or Farmland Preservation are encouraged to contact the Conservation District for information on how to begin establishing an Agricultural Security Area in their township.

For more information or to request an application, contact the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278 or orgccd@greencountypa.gov.

GRACE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Greene County Conservation District's GRACE Program marked its ninth year of operation in 2025, continuing its long-standing commitment to supporting agricultural conservation projects across the county. Since the program's inception in 2017, the District's Board of Directors has welcomed 227 farms into the program and invested more than \$1.5 million in GRACE funding. To date, over \$670,000 has been reimbursed to local farmers for completed conservation projects.

During 2025, the District continued to implement GRACE projects previously under contract and reimbursed producers for a wide range of conservation practices. Lime application was completed on 263 acres, totaling \$11,717.39 in reimbursements, while fertilizer was applied to 653 acres with reimbursements totaling \$12,795.34. Livestock watering system improvements accounted for \$27,850 in reimbursements and included system installations and upgrades. Additional conservation practices completed in 2025 included 980 feet of woodlot exclusion fencing totaling \$1,568, one stream crossing reimbursed at \$1,500, and \$51,750 in forestry management practices.

Participation in the GRACE Program increased significantly in 2025, with 26 new applicants added. A total of 73 farmers were accepted during the 2025 application period, resulting in approximately \$274,000 in contracted project funding.

Projects contracted in 2025 include the application of 2,226 tons of lime to improve 1,013 acres of pasture and hay fields, as well as fertilizer applications on 807 acres. Livestock and

pasture infrastructure improvements include 18,250 feet of fencing installed across 11 projects for pasture division, woodlot exclusion, and streambank protection. Water development efforts consist of 26 complete water systems, including two new waterers, ten pipeline projects, and nine trough replacements or repairs. Forestry conservation was also supported through eight forest management planning projects and twelve forest management practice projects.

The GRACE Program is funded through the Pennsylvania Act 13 Unconventional Gas Impact Fee, which is allocated annually through the Public Utility Commission and the State Conservation Commission. This continued investment allows the Conservation District to provide meaningful financial assistance to local producers while promoting long-term soil health, water quality protection, and sustainable agricultural operations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The District would also like to recognize and thank intern Aidan Snider for her valuable assistance with the GRACE Program during the summer. Aidan provided significant support to staff and producers, particularly with soil sampling efforts, and her contributions were instrumental to the program's success.



ACAP PROGRAM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

During 2025, the Greene County Conservation District made significant progress implementing projects through the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP).

One roofed heavy use area project was completed using \$227,322.33 in ACAP funding, leveraged with an additional \$138,920.20 from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

In addition to the completed project, construction began on two additional ACAP-funded projects. Both projects include the installation of roofed heavy use areas and the development of grazing plans to improve livestock management and resource protection. The total value of these two contracts is \$951,000.

These projects help reduce soil erosion, improve manure management, and protect water quality by limiting livestock access to sensitive areas. The Conservation District continues to accept ACAP applications for a wide range of best management practices (BMPs), including roofed heavy use areas, streambank fencing, streambank restoration, and

prescribed grazing plans. Grazing plan projects include fencing installation and assistance with the development of livestock water sources.

Through ACAP, the Greene County Conservation District assists local producers in implementing conservation practices that support long-term agricultural sustainability while leveraging state and federal funding sources.



WANT TO IMPROVE THE SOIL HEALTH IN YOUR PASTURES? RENT OUR DISTRICT OWNED EQUIPMENT

AERATOR RENTAL

In 2025, the Greene County Conservation District added two new pasture aerators to its equipment rental program: the RanchWorx 830SC and the RanchWorx 1036SC. These additions expand the District's ability to support local farmers and landowners in improving pasture and hay ground health.

Pasture aeration is an effective management practice that helps reduce soil compaction, increase water infiltration, improve root development, and enhance overall forage productivity. Aeration can also improve the efficiency of applied nutrients by allowing them to better penetrate the soil profile.

The RanchWorx 830SC requires a minimum 55-horsepower tractor, while the RanchWorx 1036SC requires a minimum 95-horsepower tractor, allowing producers to select equipment that best matches their operation size and available machinery. Both aerators are designed for use in a variety of pasture and hay field conditions.

By offering these aerators through the rental program, the Conservation District provides producers with an affordable option to implement conservation practices without the cost of purchasing specialized equipment. As a result of increased access to pasture aeration equipment, producers are better able to improve soil health, reduce runoff, and protect local water quality while maintaining productive agricultural operations.

LIME SPREADERS AND NO TILL DRILL RENTALS

Maintaining proper soil pH is essential for maximizing crop productivity and nutrient availability. To help Greene County farmers and landowners improve soil health, the Greene County Conservation District offers two wet lime spreaders available for rent.

The District's Stoltzfus 2-Ton Wet Lime Spreader is well suited for smaller operations or farms with limited acreage. This spreader requires a minimum 50-horsepower tractor and is ideal for producers looking to apply lime efficiently while keeping costs manageable.

For larger applications, the District also rents a Stoltzfus 4.5-Ton Wet Lime Spreader, which requires a minimum 75-horsepower tractor. This option allows producers to cover more ground in less time, making it a good choice for larger farms or higher-volume lime applications.

Both spreaders are available to Greene County residents for use within the county only and are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Rental rates are \$3.00 per ton for 100 tons or less and \$2.50 per ton for over 100 tons, with a \$50 deposit required to reserve equipment. Rentals include a three-day, two-night term, and users must provide weigh slips or receipts upon completion.

Participants in the District's GRACE program may use the lime spreaders at no cost, provided the equipment is returned clean and undamaged.

In addition to lime spreaders, the District also rents a Great Plains 7-foot No-Till Drill to support conservation cropping systems. The no-till drill requires a minimum 55-horsepower tractor and features two standard seed boxes and a native grass seed box, making it suitable for a variety of agricultural seeding needs. The drill is intended for agricultural seeding only and may not be used for planting food plots. Rental cost is \$100 for up to 10 acres, with an additional \$10 per acre after 10 acres. A \$100 deposit is required to reserve the drill.

Scheduling early is encouraged, especially during peak application seasons. For rental forms, availability, or additional information, please contact the Greene County Conservation District office.



FALL PASTURE WALK

The Greene County Conservation District hosted a Fall Pasture Walk on October 1, 2025, at the Jim Willis Farm, offering local producers an opportunity to learn practical strategies for improving pasture health and reducing input costs.

The Conservation District provided a live demonstration of the county's new aerator, showcasing how aeration can enhance soil structure, increase water infiltration, and promote healthier, more productive pastures. Attendees were able to observe the equipment in use and ask questions about its benefits and availability.

Justin Brackenrich from Penn State Extension presented on the differences between liquid and pulverized lime, noting that liquid lime is significantly more costly without providing the same long-term value. He also discussed ways producers can save money by customizing fertilizer application rates based on soil test results and individual field needs.

The event welcomed 20 participants, who expressed appreciation for the hands-on demonstrations and practical information shared throughout the afternoon.

The Greene County Conservation District extends its sincere thanks to Jim Willis for hosting the event, as well as to Penn State Extension for their partnership and expertise.



2025 MANURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Greene County Conservation District, in partnership with the Washington and Fayette County Conservation Districts, hosted a Manure Management Workshop on March 20, 2025.

Manure management is a critical conservation practice that helps prevent excess nutrients from entering local waterways. In Pennsylvania, all farms that apply manure to land are required to maintain a written Manure Management Plan in accordance with Title 25, Chapter 91 (§91.36) of the Pennsylvania Code. Manure may be applied mechanically or deposited directly by animals.

In April 2024, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released an updated Manure Management Manual that included several changes, most notably the introduction of a new short-form plan and revisions to the animal worksheet.

To assist local farmers with understanding and implementing these updates, the Conservation Districts of Greene, Fayette, and Washington Counties hosted an informational workshop. A total of 26 local farmers attended the event to learn about the updated requirements and to ask questions related to manure management planning. Conservation District staff are available to write Manure Management Plans for farmers at no cost, and producers are encouraged to ensure they have a current plan in place.



FARMERS' COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

The Greene County Conservation District hosted its 1st Annual Farmers' Community Roundtable on April 7, 2025, at the Greene County Career and Technology Center. The event brought together 72 local producers, agricultural partners, and agency representatives for an evening of education, discussion, and networking.

The purpose of this new event was to create a space where producers could receive timely updates, learn about funding opportunities, and openly share concerns and priorities affecting their operations. District staff provided information on cost-share programs including ACAP and GRACE, highlighting new opportunities for financial and technical assistance.

Dr. Lowell Midla delivered the featured keynote session, "The Top Ten Opportunities for Profit in Beef Cow-Calf Operations." His presentation offered practical, data-driven strategies producers can use to strengthen herd health, improve cash flow, and enhance long-term profitability.

Partner speakers included representatives from:

- Matt Heffner, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Michal Roupe, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Justin Brakenrich, Penn State Extension

These organizations provided updates on federal and state conservation programs, new funding cycles, and technical assistance available to Greene County farms.

Producers were actively engaged throughout the evening—asking questions, sharing experiences, and discussing both challenges and opportunities within Greene County agriculture. The strong turnout and positive feedback demonstrated a clear interest in making the roundtable an annual event.

The event featured a hot meal prepared by Greene County Career and Technology Center culinary students, who were recognized for their excellent work. Tables were filled with producers representing a wide range of local agricultural operations.

Based on its success, the Conservation District plans to continue the Farmers' Community Roundtable as an annual educational and networking opportunity for Greene County's agricultural community.



Justin Brakenrich
Penn State Extension



Dr. Lowell Midla



Matt Heffner
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Michal Roupe
Farm Service Agency (FSA)



TREE SHELTERS FOR GRACE

On December 16, 2025 the district received close to 10,000 tree shelters from Keystone 10 Million Trees program. The tree shelters will be utilized by our many forestry GRACE participants that are in the process of planting trees. Thank you Keystone 10 Million Trees Program.



CARMICHAELS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE WISECARVER

On Thursday, September 18th, Watershed Specialist Tiffany Stewart led a chemical water-testing station at Wisecarver during an environmental field day for students from Mr. Kevin Willis's classes at Carmichaels High School.

The event gave students practical experience in environmental science while highlighting the importance of watershed health and outdoor recreation.

This field day was made possible through the support and collaboration of several partners, including the Fish and Boat Commission's Education Department, the Fish and Boat Commission's Greene County Waterways Conservation Officer, the Greene County Conservation District, and the Carmichaels School District.



Students in grades 9–12 participated in a rotation of five hands-on learning stations:
Chemical water testing | Canoeing | Nature hiking | Macroinvertebrate identification | Fishing

WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

Ag Literacy Week is held the first week in March to promote connecting volunteers from the agricultural community to local classrooms to share the story of agriculture. As part of this week, the watershed specialist read this year's focus book, "The Soil in Jackie's Garden" by Peggy Thomas, to Mrs. Giovanelli's second grade class at Carmichaels elementary school.

LEARNING WITHOUT WALLS CONFERENCE

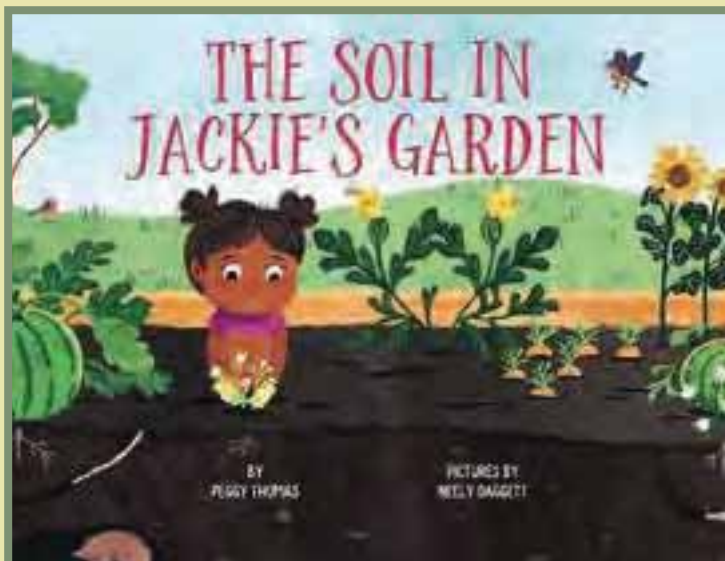
On June 10th, the Watershed Specialist attended the Learning Without Walls Conference as a vendor. The conference focuses on empowering educators in Southwest PA and West Virginia counties with knowledge, tools, and inspiration to integrate environmental literacy and outdoor learning experiences into their teaching practices.

PRIVATE WELL WORKSHOP

On October 15th, the Greene County Conservation District supported Penn State Extension and their Master Watershed Steward program for a private well workshop at the fairgrounds. The Master Watershed Stewards spoke on the importance of regulating, testing and maintaining private wells, especially those used for drinking water. Penn State Extension is hoping to offer this workshop again in the spring of 2026.

DCNR TREE PLANTING

On April 12th, Agricultural Conservation Specialist, Daniel Phillips and Watershed Specialist, Tiffany Stewart assisted DCNR and PA Western Conservancy with a tree planting at the Foelman Farm in Garards Fort. A total of 260 stem trees were planted on the 1.30-acre property. The planting was funded with a C2P2 grant that was awarded to Western PA Conservancy.



"The Soil in Jackie's Garden" by Peggy Thomas



The outreach table from the Learning Without Wall conference that was held at Waynesburg University in June of 2025.



2025 DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads program is funded by two statewide programs, Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code and PA Act 89 of 2013, the PA Transportation Funding Bill. Both programs permit local county conservation districts the necessary funds to address environmental issues and provide maintenance practices that can be implemented on local dirt and gravel roads and low volume roads to correct those problems. Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices encouraged by the program allow the limited man-hour resources of townships to be focused on other issues in the municipality.

Since 1997, the district has participated in the Dirt and Gravel Road Program and has managed to complete 140 projects totaling \$5.762 million. In 2025, the district had 20 projects to manage. The district is grateful for all the interest and is proud to announce that the spending requirements have been met and exceeded. The program is turning out to be a great asset to the municipalities and we hope to ensure that it is utilized to its fullest extent. This program not only assists municipalities with their budgets; but it keeps our local streams free of sediment.

In 2025, the district awarded grants to five municipalities for 8 different projects to implement quality Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices.

Site Type	Contract Amount	Project Participant	Road Name
DGR	\$62,244.08	Dunkard Township	Bald Hill Road T341
DGR	\$54,600	Cumberland Township	Wahula Road T-702
DGR	\$14,488.60	Jackson Township	Keyhole Rd TR 403
DGR	\$6,391.68	Jackson Township	Mt. Zion Road T-432
LVR	\$6,334.50	Jackson Township	Falling Timber Road T-402
DGR	\$11,535.41	Jackson Township	Cottage Hill Rd T437
DGR	\$54,240.54	Dunkard Township	Bald Hill Road T-341
LVR	\$16,369.06	Washington Township	Hemlock Road T-401
Total Award	\$226,203.87		

THE FOLLOWING ROADS WERE COMPLETED DURING 2025:

- Groves Road TR 547, Cumberland Township
- Leslie Road TR 503, Monongahela Township
- Hemlock Road T-401, Washington Township
- Cottage Hill Road T437, Jackson Township
- Bald Hill Road T-341, Dunkard Township
- Walker Road TR 342, Richhill Township
- Falling Timber Road T-402, Jackson Township
- Smokey Row/Camp Resort Road, Richhill Township
- Raymer, Richhill Township
- Durbin Road TR 346, Richhill Township



CREEK ROAD DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Greene Township is moving forward with plans to improve a ¾-mile section of Creek Road using a road repair method called Full Depth Reclamation (FDR). FDR is a cost-effective and environmentally friendly process that reuses the existing road materials by grinding them up, stabilizing them, and rebuilding the road surface in place. This approach reduces waste, minimizes truck traffic, and helps protect nearby waterways like Whiteley Creek.

During early site work, engineers examined the road by digging test pits at several locations and collecting samples of the existing road material. While much of the road was suitable for the FDR process, crews discovered that some areas contain large rocks and cobbles that were added in the past to stabilize the road. These rocks are larger than what standard FDR equipment can properly handle.

Because of this, the project team determined that additional preparation is needed before the FDR process can begin. If the larger rocks are not reduced in size first, the recycled road mixture would not meet state standards and could lead to construction challenges or long-term performance issues.

To address this issue, a specialized piece of equipment called an FAE Crusher was used to break the larger rocks down to the proper size. An FAE Crusher is a heavy-duty machine designed to grind large stones and road material into smaller, uniform pieces suitable for reuse in road construction.

Once this initial processing is completed, the project can move forward with the Full Depth Reclamation work as planned. Taking this extra step now will help ensure a stronger, longer-lasting road and a successful project outcome for the community.

On September 30th the district hosted a demonstration project day for all municipalities in Greene, Fayette and Washington County to see this equipment work. Approximately 30 folks attended the day to learn about the process and equipment. The township is now working through the bidding process to secure a contractor and complete the project in early 2026



EROSION & SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Erosion is a natural process, but when human activity accelerates it, sediment becomes the leading pollutant affecting Pennsylvania’s waterways. To address this, the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S) Program was established in 1972 under the Clean Streams Law. While the program has evolved over the past 53 years, its mission remains the same: protecting soil and water resources.

Under PA Code Title 25, regulations are in place to safeguard streams and wetlands from accelerated erosion. Our district is delegated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to administer Chapter 102 (earth disturbance activities) and Chapter 105 (water obstructions and encroachments). This responsibility includes inspecting permitted sites to ensure compliance with PA DEP and Clean Streams Law standards.

A key part of this work involves the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as silt fence and filter socks, which reduce sediment runoff into waterways. When violations are identified, our office works first to achieve voluntary compliance. If that effort is unsuccessful, PA DEP is notified to pursue mandatory enforcement. Through these efforts, the E&S Program continues to play a vital role in protecting our local water resources.



Wisecarver Park during different stages of construction



Wisecarver Park during different stages of construction



Example of a temporary bridge crossing and removal

THE TABLES BELOW REPRESENT WHAT OUR OFFICE HAS DONE WITH THESE PROGRAMS IN 2025.

2025 CHAPTER 102/105 & NPDES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Plans Received.....	56	NPDES Permits Issued	20
Inspections & Sites Visited	70	E&S Plans Issued	13
Complaints Investigated	5		

GREENE AND WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER 102 & 105 WORKSHOP

On November 5th, our office partnered with the Washington County Conservation District to host a joint Chapter 102 & 105 engineering workshop for consultants working on permitting in Pennsylvania. The workshop provided valuable insight into current permitting requirements, common review issues, and recent updates that impact project planning and compliance.

Representatives from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Waste Management and the Bureau of Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, delivered presentations on frequently encountered permitting scenarios, expectations during permit reviews, and recently updated forms. Their perspectives offered attendees a clearer understanding of regulatory coordination and best practices for successful permit applications.

Staff from both conservation districts also presented on a variety of topics, including important updates to the PAG-02 General Permit. These sessions highlighted recent changes and offered practical guidance to help consultants navigate the evolving regulatory landscape.

The workshop encouraged collaboration, knowledge sharing, and open discussion between agencies and consultants, reinforcing a shared commitment to effective environmental protection and efficient permitting processes.

Chapter 105 Permits Issued

GP-1 – Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures	0
GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps	1
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal	5
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure	1
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing	16
GP-6—Agricultural crossing and ramp	4
GP-7—Minor road crossings	8
GP-8—Temporary road crossings	9
GP-9—Agricultural activities	0
Chapter 102 Fees	\$51,550.00
Chapter 105 Fees	\$8,750.00
Total 102/105 Fees Received:	\$60,300.00
Funds Collected for PADEP Disturbed Acreage Fee ** These Fees go directly to the PADEP and are not kept by the GCCD. **	\$5,000.00



SOME OF THE LARGER PROJECTS THAT WERE APPROVED IN 2025 INCLUDE:

Waynesburg Chipotle & Starbucks – The addition of a new Chipotle and Starbucks in Franklin Township

Waynesburg Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – Upgrades to the sewage treatment plant for Waynesburg Borough.

Hilltop Energy Center – Stormwater control upgrades to the existing power plant electric line.

SOUTH FORK TENMILE CREEK OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PROJECT

In 2023, the Greene County Conservation District received \$65,000 through the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Water Programs Clean Streams Grant to remove a major obstruction in the South Fork Tenmile Creek, located in Jefferson and Morgan Townships. The project also included streambank stabilization to protect the channel from future erosion.

The original bridge, installed in the 1930s to support mining access to nearby railroad infrastructure, had deteriorated significantly over time. Prior to removal, the collapsed structure created an entrapment hazard for recreational kayakers, boaters, anglers, and wildlife. The northern portion of the bridge had completely fractured, leaving concrete debris, metal reinforcements, and rebar scattered across the channel.

During the project, all unstable materials were carefully removed. Clean rubble from the bridge was repurposed to fill the undercut areas and reestablish the natural grade of the creek bottom. Additional clean concrete debris was strategically placed along the southern bank to reinforce the slope and provide long-term stabilization.

With the obstruction removed, water now flows freely through the original stream channel. The stabilized streambank will help reduce ongoing erosion and protect the integrity of the waterway. The project has improved safety for recreational users, enhanced habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and supported the overall health of the South Fork Tenmile Creek.



This pre-construction photo, taken from the northern streambank, shows the collapsed bridge disconnected from the opposite bank. A secondary stream channel had formed to the right, diverting water during high-flow events. When water levels rose, the stream spilled over the remains of the structure, increasing safety risks and contributing to ongoing erosion.



This post-construction photo shows the creek flowing unobstructed through its original channel. Recycled concrete from the removed bridge has been placed along the southern bank to strengthen the slope and prevent future erosion. The site is now safer, more stable, and more ecologically resilient.

NEW CONSERVATION DISTRICT FAIR BUILDING

In 2025 the district completed a renovation to their display building located near the Livestock Building at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Thank you to Wayne Lumber for making a better place for our annual fair display.



2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE Applications being accepted until August 31st, 2026

Conservation District Week

April 26th- May 2nd — Keep your eye out on Facebook for more information

2nd Farmers Dinner - April 8th

- Greene County Career and Technical Center
- Please call the district at (724)-852-5278 to register for the event.
- The cost is \$10 per person, and includes dinner.

Poster Contest - Entries due to the district office by April 15th

- The Greene County Conservation District is holding a poster contest for Greene County students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. Posters may be completed in school or at home. Winning students earn cash prizes of \$100, \$75 or \$50. First place posters also go on to a statewide competition.
- The Theme for this year's contest is, "Soil. Where It All Begins." Taking part in the poster contest increases environmental literacy and fosters interest in science, art and other disciplines.
- Interested parents, teachers and students can find more information, including complete rules and entry forms on the conservation district website or Facebook.

Coloring Contest - Entries due to the district office by April 15th

- Coloring contest is open to all Greene County Pre-K children. The top three entrants will receive new bicycles and helmets as prizes. Please visit our website or Facebook for further information and coloring page.

Tire Clean Up

- Greene County Fairgrounds
- Tentatively first week of June—follow us on Facebook for more details.
- All tires will be required to be passenger tires only and each tire is \$1, max 20 tires per registrant, limited to Greene County residents only.

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More Information!**

facebook 

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2025 WEST NILE VIRUS REPORT

The Conservation District completed its annual mosquito surveillance program for the 2025 season, monitoring activity from May 15th through October 2nd. During this period, mosquito traps were set weekly at 12 locations across the county, and staff also canvassed additional areas for standing water and other potential mosquito breeding habitats.

Over the course of the season, 276 mosquito samples were collected, representing a total of 13,896 mosquitoes. Of these samples, 27 tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Greene County typically averages 3–5 WNV-positive samples per year, making 2025 significantly above average. This increase mirrored trends seen across much of Pennsylvania.

Interns and staff conducted weekly trapping and submitted all adult and larval mosquito samples to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Laboratory in Harrisburg. Adult mosquitoes were tested for three viruses:

- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- St. Louis Encephalitis
- Jamestown Canyon Virus

In Greene County, only West Nile Virus was detected. While these viruses can cause similar flu-like symptoms such as headaches, fever, and fatigue, they differ in potential severity.

Although this year's numbers were higher than normal, it's important to keep the findings in perspective. Even West Nile Virus is typically found in less than 1% of mosquitoes, and approximately 80% of people infected show no symptoms at all.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

The Conservation District will continue its mosquito surveillance program in mid-May through October 2026. Residents are reminded that mosquitoes capable of carrying WNV are most active at dawn and dusk.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Prevention remains the most effective defense against West Nile Virus and mosquito bites:

- Wear long sleeves and protective clothing when outdoors
- Use EPA-approved insect repellent
- Eliminate standing water around your home when possible

If you have questions or concerns about mosquito activity or the surveillance program, please contact our office and ask for Zack Basinger.

2025 TIRE CLEAN-UP EVENT RESULTS

In 2025, our office successfully collected 1,461 tires through two Tire Clean-Up events held on June 11th and November 13th at the Greene County Fairgrounds. These events were made possible through funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), with additional generous support provided by our district board.

Since the Tire Clean-Up program began in 2021, our office has collected approximately 9,688 tires. Our most successful year to date was 2022, when 3,478 tires were collected. Thanks to strong community participation, Greene County led the state in tires collected in both 2022 and 2023.

Planning is already underway for the 2026 Tire Clean-Up event(s). Announcements will be shared on our social media platforms and in future newsletters once dates are officially scheduled. If you are interested in participating, please do not hesitate to contact our office to sign up.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this important effort to keep our community clean and environmentally responsible.



2025 TICK COLLECTION & SURVEILLANCE RESULTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our office conducted tick surveillance from May 15th through August 29th as part of an ongoing effort to monitor tick-borne illnesses in our community. During this period, black-legged (deer) ticks were collected and sent to a laboratory in Harrisburg for testing. Each tick was screened for four common tick-borne diseases:

- Lyme disease
- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Deer Tick Virus (Powassan Virus)

TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES WE MONITOR

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted by black-legged ticks. Symptoms typically appear 3–30 days after a bite and may include flu-like illness and a “bullseye” rash. If left untreated, Lyme disease can lead to serious long-term complications such as joint pain, heart problems, paralysis, and nervous system disorders.

Anaplasmosis

Also spread by black-legged ticks, Anaplasmosis is caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. Early symptoms usually develop within 1–5 days and resemble the flu. Severe, untreated cases may result in respiratory illness, organ failure, or death.

Babesiosis

Babesiosis is caused by a parasite that infects red blood cells and is transmitted by black-legged ticks. Symptoms are often flu-like but can progress to hemolytic anemia, a condition where red blood cells are destroyed faster than the body can replace them. This illness is especially dangerous for individuals without a spleen or those who are immunocompromised.

Deer Tick Virus (Powassan Virus)

Deer Tick Virus, also known as Powassan Virus, is a rare but increasing viral infection spread by black-legged ticks that feed on rodents. Transmission can occur in as little as 15 minutes after attachment. Symptoms may include fever, headache, and fatigue, though many individuals remain asymptomatic.

WHY NYMPH TICKS MATTER

Black-legged ticks go through four life stages: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. Our surveillance focuses primarily on the nymph stage, as these ticks are responsible for spreading most tick-borne illnesses. Nymphs are extremely small, making them difficult to detect, and infections are typically transmitted after the tick has been attached for 24–36 hours.



HOW TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES ARE SPREAD

Ticks locate hosts by sensing body heat, breath, odors, moisture, and vibrations. Because ticks cannot jump or fly, they rely on a behavior known as “questing.” While questing, ticks cling to grasses or leaves with their back legs and extend their front legs to latch onto passing hosts.

Once attached, a tick inserts a feeding tube into the skin and releases saliva with mild anesthetic properties, allowing it to feed undetected. Feeding can last from minutes to several days. If a tick has previously fed on an infected host, it can transmit disease during its next blood meal.

2025 TICK SURVEILLANCE RESULTS

During the 2025 collection season, staff gathered:

- 78 adult black-legged ticks
- 34 nymph ticks
- 78 larval ticks

Larval ticks have not yet taken a blood meal and therefore do not carry tick-borne diseases at that stage.

Among the adult and nymph ticks tested, results showed:

- 15.2% tested positive for Lyme disease
- 15.2% tested positive for Anaplasmosis

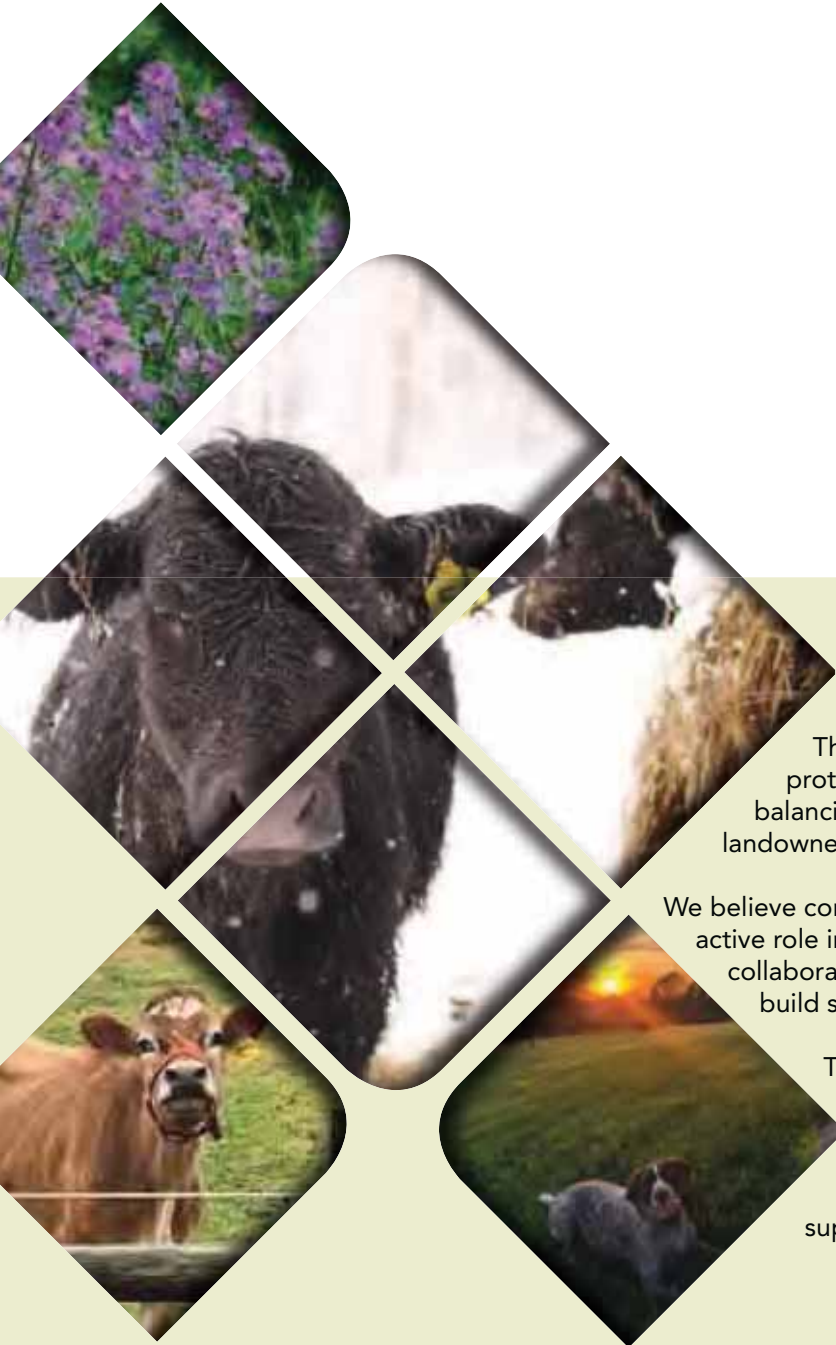
Staying informed and taking preventive measures—such as performing tick checks, using insect repellent, and wearing protective clothing—can significantly reduce the risk of tick-borne illness.



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MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

The Greene County Conservation District is dedicated to protecting and conserving the County's natural resources while balancing environmental responsibility with the needs of local landowners.

We believe conservation works best when community members take an active role in caring for the land and water they depend on. By fostering collaboration and welcoming diverse viewpoints, the District helps build strong partnerships that support sound decision-making.

Through knowledgeable staff and technical expertise, the District provides assistance with permitting, farmland and conservation planning, and a wide range of soil and water resource concerns. We are committed to serving the community with practical solutions, dependable support, and a collaborative approach to conservation.