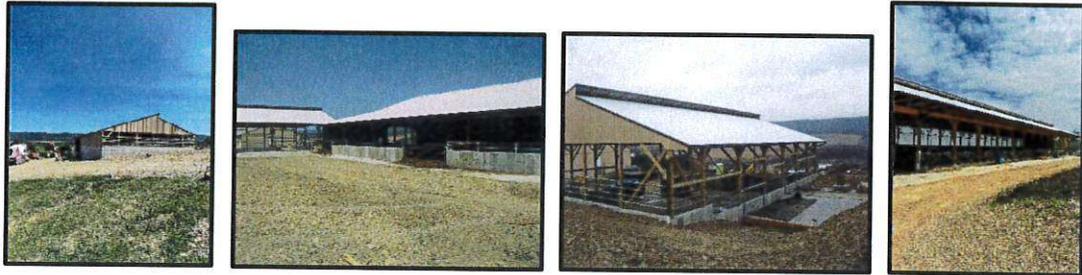


Mahantango High Farms BMPs Project GGG Summary Report

The Mahantango High Farms BMPs Project installed nutrient and sediment load reducing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on a livestock, poultry, swine, forage and cash grain farm located in the Little Mahantango Creek watershed in Schuylkill County, PA. High Farms, owned and operated by brothers Merlin and Glendon High, is a 425 acre livestock, poultry and grain operation located in the Pitman Valley. Approximately 54,000 layers, 75 beef cattle, and 1200 naturally grown non-GMO pigs are raised annually on the farm. Crops grown are corn, soybeans, wheat, sunflowers, sorghum, and hay.

Merlin and Glendon currently participate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement the Conservation Plan and Comprehensive 590 Nutrient Management Plan for the operation. The plans identified an extensive list of BMPs to address resource concerns on the farming operation. Since engaging in an NRCS EQIP contract and receiving a Growing Greener Grant in 2021, the High brothers have installed numerous best management practices (BMPs) on the farm in a relatively short period of time (2021 – 2024). Completed BMPs include: stormwater management practices, two roofed manure stacking facilities, streambank restoration, roofed beef bedded pack facility with manure stacking, heavy use area protection, decommissioning of three outdated manure storages and a pasture management system. The installed BMPs advance the operation closer to full implementation of the farm's Conservation and NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Plans. These BMPs provide a valuable beneficial impact in addressing environmental resource concerns on the farm by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff, keeping clean water clean, enable the farmer to store and utilize available nutrients in manure for proper application, and to better manage available pasture acres.

Manure Storage and Heavy Use Areas



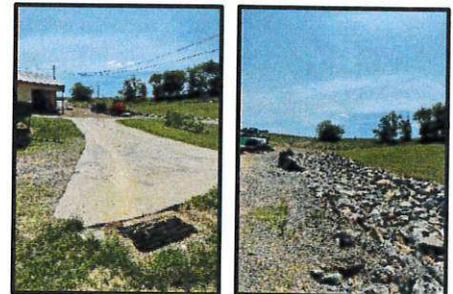
Decommission Outdated and Nonfunctioning BMP's



Pasture Management and Streambank Restoration



Stormwater Management



Project goals and BMP practices installed:

- Stormwater management system - dropboxes and underground outlet pipes
- 50' x 80' roofed manure stacking storage - beef manure
- 180' x 52' roofed heavy use area with manure stacking storage for beef
- 46' x 72' roofed manure stacking storage – swine manure
- Heavy Use Area protection: Improvements to ACA (animal concentration area) to contain manure and prevent runoff.
- Roof runoff management systems on all new construction – roof gutters, downspouts and outlet pipes

- Decommission 3 outdated manure storage systems
- Replace unsafe dilapidated chainlink fence on existing inground manure storage with new chainlink safety fence
- Streambank stabilization – aquatic organism passage
- Diversion, rocklined waterway and piping
- Pasture improvements – 1,533ft (streambank, walkway and pasture) watering facility and seeding

Total Growing Greener Grant Amount:	\$750,500.00
Allocated Construction:	\$750,000.00
Allocated Administration:	\$500.00
Total Growing Greener Funds Requested:	\$628,141.50
Construction:	\$627,641.50
Administrative:	\$500.00

MATCH – Total Match:	\$300,800.57	
NRCS EQIP for construction:		\$274,605.26
Schuylkill CD (salaries & benefits):		\$16,769.69
Schuylkill CD (administrative):		\$5,925.42
NMP Plan (contractual):		\$3,500.00

Total Construction Cost All installed BMPs: \$902,246.76 (Growing Greener and EQIP funding)
Does not include landowner contributions towards non-costshared items and installation labor

According to estimates provided by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Mahantango High Farms BMPs Project will save an estimated 17,844 pounds of nitrogen, and 15,600 pounds of phosphorous each year from entering the Mahantango Creek Watershed. These reductions in nutrient and sediment loading will aid the Schuylkill Conservation District in their mission to improve water quality in local watersheds and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Partners involved: Chesapeake Bay Engineer (Dauphin CD), NRCS (Pottsville field office staff and Lebanon Technical Center staff)
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