

Adams County Wrap on the CAP

Dear Conservation Partners:

As the Adams County Countywide Action Plan Coordinator, it is with great excitement that I am sharing with you the first **Wrap on the CAP** Newsletter. The intention of this newsletter is to keep the local community informed on all the incredible work and progress that is being accomplished by the Adams County Conservation District (Conservation District), local landowners, and its partners in relation to the Adams County Countywide Action Plan (CAP). For those not yet familiar with the CAP, the CAP is a plan that outlines the best management practices that could be implemented to achieve the nitrogen and phosphorus reductions that Pennsylvania allocated to Adams County, which is part of Pennsylvania's obligation to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Successful implementation of these practices involves the engagement of government agencies, local municipalities, farmers, local business, non-profit groups, and landowners. One of the biggest pieces of the CAP is community engagement and our goals cannot be accomplished without it. In this newsletter, you will read about some of the examples of great things being done and how you can get involved.

Balanced Nutrient Management

The Conservation District has contracted with Rosetree Consulting to assist local farmers with implementing 5,000 acres of Split Nitrogen Application and Adaptive Nitrogen Management on Adams County farms. By evaluating farm conditions, crop rotations, and crop needs (adaptive management) and applying nitrogen at the most beneficial times (split application), farmers apply nitrogen at the right time and rate to maximize their fertilizer efficiency and reduce their fertilizer costs. This efficient use of nitrogen also reduces the amount of nitrogen potentially making it to local streams. Participants saw an average yield increase from a split application of 17.6 bushels/acre, and an 11% increase in fertilizer use efficiency by split-applying nitrogen fertilizer, this led to a 5-10% reduction in per bushel fertilizer costs. This project worked exclusively with corn fields. The Conservation District is looking to expand this program in 2022, so if you are interested, please contact Vy Trinh by March 15th at vtrinh@adamscounty.us or by calling 717-334-0636.



Eric Rosenbaum, of Rosetree Consulting doing in field data collection as part of Adams County's Advanced Nutrient Management Project

Stream Restoration Projects

The Conservation District is currently working with a few partners on many different stream restoration projects throughout Adams County. These projects vary in size, location, and design but they all have a similar purpose, to restore eroding stream banks and preventing sediment and nutrients from running off into streams. We are currently working with local businesses, private landowners, and public entities to get these restoration projects implemented. Some projects include stream side plantings, in-stream devices like deflectors and cross vanes, while others will involve completely re-grading the banks to protect



Stream Restoration project site on Toms Creek



Stream Restoration project site at GVM Inc. in Biglerville PA

them against erosion. Some of these projects are still in design phase, while others are merely waiting on funding, which will come from a variety of sources, including PA Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and private funding. A restoration project was recently completed on Knouse Foods Cooperative property. This project involved buffer plantings at four different Knouse owned sites. These buffer plantings totaled 2.77 acres of trees and 12.83 acres of Lawn to Meadow Conversion.

Community Engagement

To make the CAP implementation practical, Advisory Teams have been created and are comprised of members who are well versed in specific topics. Thus far, we have held meetings with an Urban Advisory Team discussing ways to install BMPs in urban areas and public land throughout the county. We also met with the Cover Crops Advisory Team, where the members suggested that a funding source, preferably permanent, would be needed to raise the acreage of cover crops in Adams County.

Available Funding

There are numerous funding opportunities available to assist with CAP implementation from a wide variety of sources. In 2021, the Conservation District and partners applied for or were awarded more than \$400,000 through Growing Greener, CAP Implementation grant, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to implement CAP projects. For more information or to discuss funding opportunities for a potential project, please contact Ricky Whitmore.

I have been the CAP Coordinator for over a year now, and what a year it has been. We have already formed many great relationships with partners and connected them with money and assistance to get projects on the ground. I am proud of the progress the County has made so far and am excited to see what the future holds. There is plenty of opportunity in the County to install more BMPs. If you'd like more information about the CAP, please contact me at rwhitmore@adamscounty.us or by calling: 717-334-0636.



For more information:

Adams County CAP:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/GetInvolved/Pages/Countywide-Action-Plans.aspx>

Adams County Conservation District:

<http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Conservation/Pages/default.aspx>

Pa. DEP: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>