Spring Run

Spring Run is a 7.5 square mile watershed in Ayr Township, Fulton County. It is a direct tributary to Big Cove Creek which drains into Licking Creek. Land use consists of approximately 40% forest, 52% agriculture, and 8% developed. In 2002, the mainstem of Spring Run was placed on PADEP's 303(d) list of impaired waters. The aquatic life use was listed as impaired by nutrients and siltation due to grazing related agricultural activities. In 2006, habitat modification was added as a source of impairment to the upper three quarters of the mainstem. In 2008, four tributaries to Spring Run were listed as impaired for siltation due to agriculture.

The Fulton County Conservation District (CCD) has been prioritizing remediation activities in this watershed since 2001. The CCD and landowners have implemented many BMPs including: stream bank fencing, riparian plantings, improved manure storage, barnyard upgrades, etc. Funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Foundation for PA Watersheds was used. Portions of the watershed are showing improvement and could be a candidate for removal from the 303(d) list. Work still needs to be done to address these impairments in other portions of the watershed making Spring Run a good candidate for a TMDL alternative.