Berks County Agricultural BMP Implementation

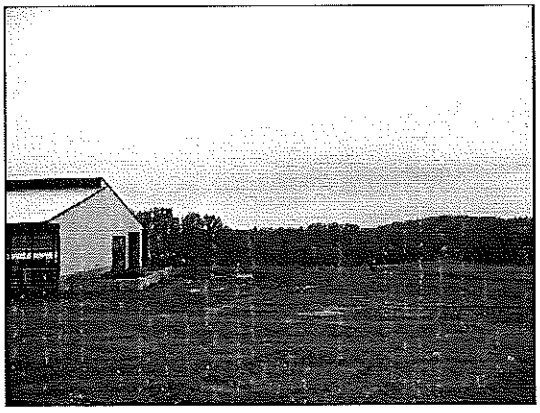
GROWING GREENER PROJECT #SC160031

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) were implemented on a dairy operation in the headwaters of four watersheds located in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The Agricultural BMPs reduced sediment and nutrient pollution to surface waters within the Delaware River Watershed.

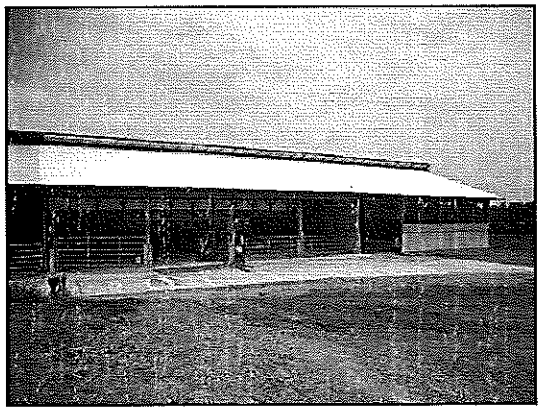
Project Results:

- Construction of a 60' x 40' x 6' dry stack manure storage and 14' x 125' circular concrete storage
- Over 11,300 sq. ft. of heavy use area protection & animal walkway with roofs and cover, curbs, and safety fencing
- Installation of manure scrap-offs and manure transfer lines to divert milk waste water to the liquid manure storage
- Construction of upslope diversion and stormwater basin to divert clean water around barnyards and ACA's
- Installation of 500 ft. of barnyard gutter, downspout, and 500 ft. of underground outlet to keep clean water clean
- Development of an NRCS 590 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for 600 acres
- Conservation Plans and implementation on 588.1 acres of cropland, and 5.6 acres of pasture land

Project Pollutant Load Reductions	Nitrogen (N) lbs./yr.	Phosphorus (P) lbs./yr.	Sediment (S) T/yr.
	21,526.0	5,164.0	1,857.0



[Before] Operation has limited manure storage. Operation daily hauls manure even during winter months.



[After] Completion of Animal Heavy Use Area and 60' x 40 x 6' dry stack manure storage. Storage provides 4-6 mo. Capacity

Project Partners:

Berks County Conservation District (BCCD), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Berks Nature, Shantz Family (Show Top Farms).

Project Cost:

A total of $231,486.00 was allocated by the Growing Greener Grant program, with a $373,619.00 cash match contributed by USDA-NRCS, and additional $7,500.00 from Berks Nature. The total project cost was $616,605.00.

Lesson Learned:

Inter-agency and cooperative partnerships are critical to allocate and leverage funds to implement BMPs in agricultural priority areas. Collaborative efforts expand public funding and ultimately reduce sediment and nutrient pollution to headwater tributaries of four high quality or exception value Delaware River watersheds.