

**Covered Bridge Meadow Agricultural BMPs - Grant #SW160095**  
**Washington County Conservation District**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed during this project were streambank fencing, animal crossings, animal trail, and barn drains. The project was completed between 2016 and 2020 during one phase. This project is part of a larger push by WCCD to install agricultural BMPs in the Raccoon Creek Watershed.

**PROJECT GOALS:** Purpose of this project was to install agricultural BMPs on a farm in Washington County to improve the quality of the unnamed headwater tributary to Raccoon Creek. Water quality would be improved by excluding or limiting animal access to the stream through stream bank fencing and animal crossing installation. The BMPs would allow a vegetative area to be established that would allow the absorption of nutrients and reduce the quantity of sediment reaching the stream.

**PROJECT RESULTS:** The Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed for this project included 2,567 ft of streambank fencing, 2 animal crossings, 3,300 ft<sup>2</sup> of stabilized animal trail, and barn drain installation. These BMPs resulted in a reduction in sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus in the headwater stream.

Parameter	Before	After	Load Reduction
Total Dissolved Solids	269 mg/L	261 mg/L	
Nitrate	0.68 mg/L	0.47 mg/L	
Sediment	199,976 lbs/year	192,556 lbs/year	3.7 %
Total Nitrogen	962 lbs/year	908 lbs/year	5.7%
Total Phosphorus	423 lbs/year	412 lbs/year	2.6%

**PICTURES**



**Before Project**



**After Project**

**PROJECT COSTS:** Total Project Cost \$34998.00 of which \$27,546.00 was from Growing Greener Grant program and \$7,452.00 was provided as match.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** We encountered two problems with this project. First, was not addressing the roof runoff outfall. This outlet discharged into the barn yard and was causing erosion issues. We were able to address this issue through the grant. The second issue we had was making sure the number of strands of fence was installed to the correct height. The landowner forgot that at times sheep and cows used the pasture, and this requires different heights of fence.

**PARTNERS:** Partners for Fish & Wildlife (California University of Pennsylvania)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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