Project Description:

Growing Greener Funding was to be used to construct spring development animal watering systems thereby reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading in local waters.

Project Goals:

The goal was to provide off stream watering systems 6 farms in a priority watershed in Susquehanna County. This was to be broken down into six deliverables — one deliverable for each farm. Each deliverable was to be similar in that they included excavation, installation of water collection pipes, water pipeline and watering troughs with a gravel skirt around them to protect the ground from animal traffic as well as support maintenance activities. By watering animals off of streams, there will be a reduction in erosion, sedimentation and nutrient runoff reaching streams in pastures. The completion of these BMPs would substantially reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient pollution reaching local waterways through the headwaters of the Susquehanna River.

Project Results:

Deliverable #1 Kelly Spring Development

This project implemented the construction of a watering system in a pasture of 45.79 acres.

Deliverable #2 Karp Well System

This project implemented the construction of a watering system in a pasture of 16.93 acres.

Deliverable #3 Spencer Spring Development

This project implemented the construction of a watering system in a pasture of 15.43 acres.

Project Costs:

Kelly Spring Development: \$3,988.00

Karp Well: \$4060.00

Spencer Spring Development: \$ 10,230.15

Lessons Learned: Through the implementation of this grant the need for good communication between the operators and new district staff was crucial to the design process of projects that would meet the needs of the operators as well as met the goals of the grant. It was also learned that district staff overseeing the application development project should not consider themselves as a potential recipient of grant funded projects.

Partners:

The successful implementation of these projects was possible through the collaborative efforts of NRCS Engineering Staff, Lackawanna County Conservation District Staff who helps inspect through construction and to the Watershed Manger who helped with the process of change of scope when the well system was identified as a better option to achieve and off stream watering system at the Karp operation.