

**Project Description** - These projects are part of the Schuylkill Conservation District's ongoing efforts to reduce nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed portion of the county and it is needed to protect the Pine Creek Watershed. This grant provided financial support for Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in the Schuylkill County Chesapeake Bay Implementation Plan. Agriculture is a major factor in the health of the watershed, and agricultural operations make up a very large portion of the Pine Creek Watershed. Proper nutrient and manure management is an important part of reducing the impairments caused by agriculture. The successful installation of this manure storage on the Hegins Valley Farm will result in immediate nutrient reduction in the Pine Creek Watershed.

**Project Timeframe** – December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2022

**Project Goals** - Hegins Valley Farm exports all manure generated on the operation through a certified broker. There are times when the importing operations are unable to utilize the manure right away, requiring it to be temporarily stockpiled. This project would provide a designated place to safely store the manure until it can be removed from the generating operation. This will also help to minimize the impacts of nutrient runoff on the receiving farms, as they will be able to better time when the manure arrives on their operation so the manure is not spread or stockpiled in unfavorable conditions. Hegins Valley Farm also had planned to use the proposed manure storage facility as a composting area should their operation suffer a mass mortality event. Having the manure storage facility available as an alternative means of handling a mass mortality event would provide a more environmentally safe means of disposal.

**Pictures –**



**Project Results** - This project included the construction of an 8ftdeep x 40 ft x 96ft roofed slatted storage with confinement housing for 60 heifers having average weights range 350-1250 lbs. 20 oldest animals will be fully confined. Younger ones will have access to pasture as available. Assume 50-60% of manure captured. Landowner's goal is 6 months of storage for all animals. In addition to liquid storage, a roofed 42ft x 45ft x 6ft solid stacking manure storage for 10 horses (1500lbs) in bedded stalls and bedpack manure from the heifers in the new facility was constructed at one end of the building. Roof runoff water is directed through 284 ft of roof gutters and downspouts to stabilized outlets. 10 draft horses have access to a lot where the surface was stabilized. A stabilized rock reinforced with a nongrade surface walkway was installed to connect the horse exercise lot and existing facilities. A road culvert that outlets upslope of the horse lot had caused a gully through the pasture. A concrete inlet box was installed with a 15" pipe that extends and extend downslope of the stabilized horse lot and grassed waterway.

**Project Costs** - \$275,110.00 Growing Greener plus an additional \$907,539.36 in match funds.