Agricultural BMPs in Huntingdon County

Growing Greener Project # C990000655 Sponsor: Huntingdon County Conservation District

<u>Project Description</u>: Agricultural Best Management Practices were installed on 6 farms in Huntingdon County. Construction was completed over the course of 7 years and included Standing Stone Creek, Shaver's Creek, Herod Run, Spring Creek, and Robinson Run watersheds.

<u>Goals</u>: This project sought to reduce excess nutrient and sediment runoff from participating farms by protecting streambanks from unrestricted cattle access, constructing a cattle watering system, installing a silage leachate collection system, and other agricultural Best Management Practices.

<u>Results</u>: Pollutant reductions included 1,772.59 lbs./year nitrogen, 404.80 lbs./year phosphorus, and 286,250.07 lbs./year sediment reduced. The project included construction of:

- 18,988 feet of fencing (including both streambank fence and a rotational grazing system)
- 11,200 square foot cattle walkway to reduce runoff to a tributary to Shaver's Creek
- 1 silage leachate system & 1 new watering facility
- 1,200 feet rock-lined waterway & 105 feet underground outlet

Photos:



Before: The cattle walkway was unstablized and led to excess sediment runoff.

After: A stabilized cattle walkway prevents excess erosion into Shaver's Creek.







From left: fencing in a rotational grazing system, a new cattle watering facility, and a silage leachate collection system.

<u>Costs</u>: \$129,707 in Growing Greener grant funding, with \$56,909 in matching funds. <u>Lessons Learned</u>: Construction cost increases posed challenges for the participating farmers. <u>Partners</u>: The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), US Fish and Wildlife Service, farmers of Huntingdon County

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