

Ag BMP Implementation in HQ Kittatinny-Pine Creek Watershed

Growing Greener Plus Grant Project # C990002469

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) and its partners USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Berks Nature implemented agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on three livestock operations in the Pine Creek Watershed, a High Quality designated watershed in the Kittatinny Ridge-Hawk Mountain Natural Heritage Area.

Project Results:

- Implemented two roof manure storages providing up to 6 months of storage capacity for beef and dairy operations.
- Constructed Animal Heavy Use Areas (AHUA) totaling ~13,500 sq. ft. of stabilized area to confine livestock during poor weather and soil conditions.
- Implemented a comprehensive pasture management plan that included a stream crossing, 1200 ft. of streambank and pasture fencing, 350 ft. of animal walkway, 22 acres of cropland conversion, a well with a solar powered pump, and two livestock watering facilities.
- Completed stormwater runoff controls that included 5 sediment basins, 8 structures for water control, 1400 ft. of underground pipeline to convey clean water away from heavily eroded areas and discharge to downslope filtration.
- Provided roof gutters and downspouts totaling 560 ft. on farmstead structures to keep clean water clean and direct storm water away from areas heavily used by livestock.

Project Pollutant Load Reductions

Nitrogen (N) lbs./yr.
1,781.1

Phosphorus (P) lbs./yr.
279.9

Sediment (S) T/yr.
24.1



BEFORE: A lack of over wintering space for livestock leads to large scale animal concentrated areas and critical runoff issues.



AFTER: A roofed heavy use area for heifers provides a stable area for wintering and confinement when soil conditions are not suitable for grazing.

Project Partners:

Berks County Conservation District (BCCD), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Berks Nature, Keith Hoppes (Farm Owner), Joshua Hemsley (Farm Manager), and Jason Rice (Farm Manager)

Project Cost:

Growing Greener Plus Grant contributed \$381,494.00 to Ag BMP Implementation in HQ Kittatinny-Pine Creek Watershed projects Furthermore, a total of \$302,272.23 was contributed to the project as a cash match from the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Lesson Learned:

Inter-agency and cooperative partnerships are critical to allocate and leverage funds to implement BMPs to enhance and protect healthy watersheds. Collaborative efforts expand public funding and ultimately reduce sediment and nutrient pollution to Pennsylvania's waterways.

