



Agriculture Newsletter *Summer 2014*



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Growing Greener Grants

The PA DEP is now accepting Growing Greener Grant applications for projects that improve and/or protect water quality. Because the Conservation District is eligible to apply for funding, we are soliciting interested farmers to provide input for a grant application to be submitted.

Agricultural projects eligible for funding include the following:

- Access Roads (ramps, stream crossings for equipment, access lanes)
- Structures for Water Control (spring development, underground outlets, watering systems, troughs, cisterns)
- Heavy Use Areas Protection (stone or concrete feeding pads, bale storage, pads around farm structures)
- Runoff Management System (gutters, downspouts, underground outlets, culverts, diversions)
- Streambank protection
- Fencing

If your farm and watershed could benefit through the installation of these practices or others that could improve/protect water quality, please contact Megan Whitlatch at the



District by **June 20th** at 814-849-7463 or mmwhitlatch@windstream.net. All projects proposed will be considered for inclusion in the grant application. Project selection will be based upon the proximity of the operation to an impaired waterway, the severity of agricultural pollution problems, and farmer willingness/ability to adequately address problems found, and farmer willingness/ability to maintain best management practices once installed. More information about Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Program can be found at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> (click on the "Grants, Loans, and Rebates" tab).

- Feasibility studies (except those funded by a federal grant)
- Business plans & technical reports
- Retrofitting
- Replace an existing facility if an energy audit shows it would be more energy efficient than improving the existing facility.
- Purchase land (Guaranteed Loan Only)
- Working Capital (Guaranteed Loan Only)

For more information, contact USDA, Rural Development State Office at (717) 237 – 2189 or visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> (click on the "Energy" tab).

Rural Energy for America Program

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the nation's critical energy needs. Through REAP, USDA, Rural Development provides grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems, flexible fuel pumps and/or make energy efficiency improvements. In addition to the Energy Grant Program, Rural Development administers a Loan Guarantee Program for this purpose.

Eligible Project Costs

- Post application purchase & installation of equipment
- Post application construction or improvement
- Energy audit & assessments (except those funded by a federal grant)
- Permit & license fees
- Professional service fees



Resource Enhancement and Protection Program

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) is anticipated to be available for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Administered by the State Conservation Commission, the program allows farmers and businesses to earn PA state tax credits in exchange for implementing best management practices on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. Contact the district for an application.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV), is a highly contagious disease infecting only pigs; it does not infect other livestock or humans. 79 cases of the virus have been confirmed in PA as of April 2014. The virus is characterized by vomiting, severe diarrhea, and a nearly 100% mortality rate of pre-weaned pigs. It is transmitted by contact with feces contaminated with PEDV, and takes only 12-24 hours for symptoms to appear.

To prevent the spread of PEDV, avoid cross-contamination with any pig feces suspected to carry the virus by following biosecurity measures, including the following:

- Marking a *Line of Separation* - "The line between the area that is to be used by the transporter and the area to be used by farm or market personnel."
- Wearing clean boots/coveralls/gloves when crossing a *Line of Separation*.
- Disinfect any contaminated areas/supplies/vehicles. Effective disinfectants include strong iodophors in phosphoric acid, formalin, sodium carbonate, and lipid solvents.

Visit the American Association of Swine Veterinarians at <http://www.aasv.org> for the latest information on PEDV.



Ag Progress Days

Where: Russell Larson Research & Education Center, 2710 West Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865 (9 miles Southwest of State College, PA)

When: August 12 – 14, 2014
Tuesday (12th): 9am – 5pm
Wednesday (13th): 9am – 8pm
Thursday (14th): 9am – 4pm

Hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State, Ag Progress Days features:

- ~500 Ag exhibitors, field machinery and this year's NEW field demonstration will show case Planters, Drills & Air Seeders
- Information on ag and renewable energy and the latest on dairy, livestock, equine and crop production
- Farm safety exhibits and demonstrations
- Lawn, landscape, and garden advice
- Horse exhibitions and clinics
- Family-living/4H programs with interactive activities for children
- Research, conservation, & forestry tours
- Free and for-sale publications on many topics, along with information on majors and careers in the agricultural sciences
- Antique tractors and Pasto Agricultural Museum
- Variety of food booths and educational fun for everyone

Admission and parking are free. Visit <http://agsci.psu.edu/apd> for more information.

Agronomic Field Diagnostic Clinic

Where: Penn State Agronomy Research Farm,
1796 W. Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania
Furnace, PA 16865

When: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 *or* Thursday,
July 24, 2014 from 9am – 4:30pm

These one-day field clinics are designed to improve the agronomic management skills of industry personnel, extension and public agents, crop consultants, and producers. Specialists from Penn State and the agricultural realm will provide hands-on diagnosis training in crop production, pest management, soil fertility, and soil and water conservation. Participants will be involved in a variety of topics and have ample opportunity to diagnose, solve, and discuss crop management problems and situations, and evaluate new and alternative management strategies. Practical information about interacting factors (nutrients, pests, environmental stress) that affect crop management and are unique to Northeastern agriculture can be discussed.

To attend this event, contact Extension Registration Support at 1-877-489-1398 or visit www.extension.psu.edu and click on 'Upcoming Events'. Registration is required by Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

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