



JEFFERSON COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Agriculture Newsletter *Summer 2016*



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July 17 – 23, 2016 is the Jefferson County Fair in Brookville. Come and join the fun and festivities. Be sure to stop by the Jefferson Conservation District's booth!

Grazing Field Day



Friday, July 8, 2016

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

At Annabelle Grazing Farm

757 Patton Road Mayport, PA 16240

This field day will take a look into the benefits of rotational grazing on a beef operation & the potential uses of biochar on the farm.

Please see the enclosed brochure for more details. Free to attend; lunch will be provided to the first 50 registrants.

To register, please contact the Jefferson Conservation District by July 5th at (814) 849 – 7463

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Ag Progress Days



August 16 – 18, 2016

Tuesday (16th): 9am – 5pm

Wednesday (17th): 9am – 8pm

Thursday (18th): 9am – 4pm

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

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, Ag Progress Days features:

Demonstrations

- Field machinery and crops
- Horse training and health
- Home and farm safety
- Gardening and beekeeping
- Cooking and nutrition
- Grazing and pasture management

Interactive Events and Activities

- Pasto Agricultural Museum and silent auction
- 4-H program opportunities
- Health screenings and safety
- Healthy meals and cooking demonstrations
- FFA activities

Educational Presentations and Tours

- Dairy, livestock, poultry, and equine
- Field and forage
- Energy and environmental resources
- Horticulture and landscaping
- Forest stewardship and wildlife management

- Soybean and crop management

Youth and Family Fun

- Friendly bugs, butterflies, bunnies, and wildlife
- Penn State Passport program
- A-Maze-N Corn
- Pedal Go-Kart Derby
- Kids' Tree Climb

Admission and parking are free. Visit www.apd.psu.edu for more information.

Adaptive Grazing/Soil Health Field Day



Saturday, July 30, 2016

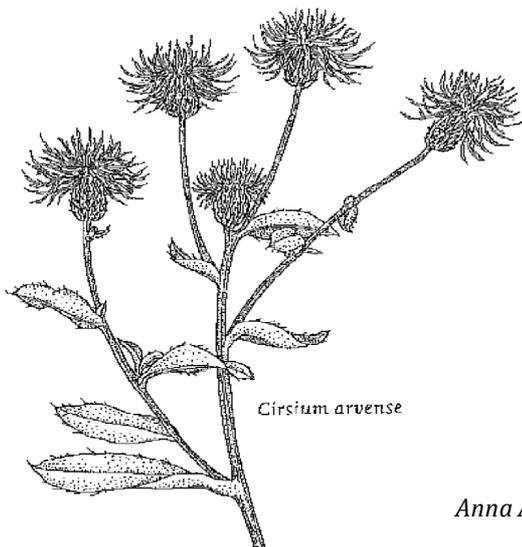
8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Darlington, PA (Beaver County)

Learn how to manage resources to improve profitability and reduce inputs at two beef operations; the Carreon Grain & Livestock Farm and the Patton Farm. Cost is \$25.00 to attend and includes a light breakfast and a hot lunch. A bus will depart to the two farms from the Darlington Township Municipal Building (3590 Darlington Rd. Darlington, PA 16115).

Contact Jeff Leindecker at the Beaver County Conservation District for more information and/or to register at: (724) 378-1701. Registration is required by July 22.

Controlling Canada Thistle



Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), native to Europe and Asia, is a highly aggressive herbaceous plant listed as a noxious weed in PA. A perennial growing 1.5 – 5 feet tall, the leaves are spine-tipped, smooth above, and can have small white hairs underneath. Pink to purple flowers appear in June, and are no more than 1" in diameter. Stems are smooth. It can spread by wind dispersal or through the plant's vast root system which is rhizomatous; having creeping roots in which new stems can arise. A patch of Canada Thistle can spread up to 10' in width in a single season; easily overtaking pastures, hayfields, crop fields, and other land. Listed on the following page are several ways to control this plant on your farm. Using more than one method of control is recommended to effectively eradicate the plant.

Mechanical Control

- Scout your fields regularly for smaller plants and uproot them by hand before they become a larger problem.

- Mow before the seed head appears. Cutting frequently will help weaken and ultimately destroy the root system.

Biological Control

- Goats will eat Canada Thistle – allow a few to browse the problematic areas.
- Train your cattle to eat Canada Thistle. If you missed the 19th Annual Northwestern PA Grazing Conference this year with Kathy Voth, visit her website for more details and contact information on how to train your cattle to eat weeds:

www.livestockforlandscapes.com

Chemical Control

- Fall is the most opportunistic time to control Canadian Thistle as the plant is revitalizing it's root system for next year's growth. Herbicides with aminopyralid (Milestone, Forefront) are considered highly effective.

Be sure to follow the instructions carefully on the label of any herbicide to avoid over application and runoff into waterways.

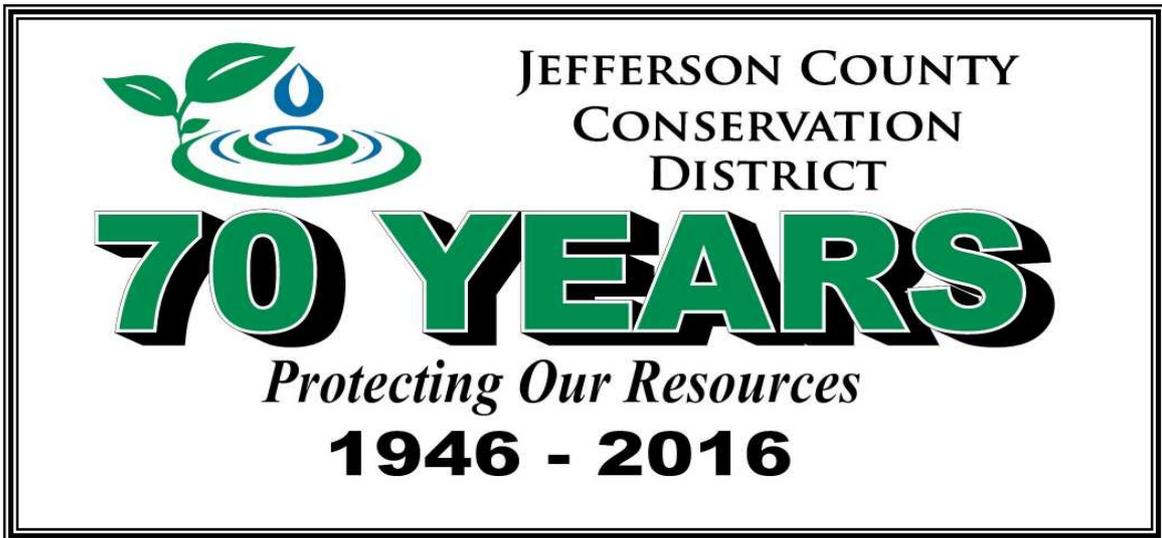
Resources

- *Managing Canada Thistle: Penn State Fact Sheet 1*
- *The Plants of Pennsylvania* by Ann Fowler Rhoads & Timothy A. Block. 2nd edition, 2007.
- *Visual Guide to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weeds*



Weed Identification Assistance

If you would like to know what kind of noxious and invasive plant species you have on your farm, contact me (Megan Whitlatch) at the district. I can help you identify them and provide information on how to control them.



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