

## Agriculture Newsletter Fall 2021



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## **Soil & Manure Testing**

If you are interested in testing your soil and/or manure to determine nutrient levels, the District keeps a stock of manure and soil sample kits on hand from the Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory (AASL, Penn State University Lab). We are available to take soil samples free of charge, and help you utilize the results from the samples to fine-tune nutrient management on the farm.

### ***What data will the tests provide?***

#### **Soil Test**

A standard soil test from AASL includes pH, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Magnesium levels. Nutrient and liming recommendations for crops you plan to grow over the next 3 years will be provided based on the levels you have. (Nitrogen recommendations will be provided as well, but they are based on what the crops will require for anticipated yields. This is due to Nitrogen's unstable nature within the soil). The standard test costs \$9.00 (occasionally we have free ones available).

#### **Manure Test**

A standard manure analysis report from AASL provides you with Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potash levels in addition to the % solids. The basic test costs \$32.00. The nutrient content of your farm's manure can vary significantly from the average nutrient content of manures used in determining maximum manure application rates for a specific animal type found in DEP's manure management manual. Taking samples can help you utilize your farm's free nutrients more efficiently.





## 2021-2022 REAP Applications Available

The State Conservation Commission is accepting REAP applications for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Through the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program, farmers, landowners, and businesses earn tax credits for implementing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources.

The 2021-22 REAP program has \$13 million of PA income tax credits available for eligible water quality projects. Note that in this round, the time period in which BMPs are eligible for REAP tax credits has been shortened to 3 years from the date of completion/certification of the project (date of purchase for equipment). Maintenance requirements for REAP BMPs remain the same, but applicants must apply for REAP tax credits within 3 years to be eligible.

### ***Eligibility Requirements***

1. Current Plans. Agricultural operations must have a current and up-to-date:

- Conservation Plan or Agricultural E&S Plan on all acres that are under managerial control at the time of the application.
- Nutrient Management Plan (for a CAO or CAFO) or Manure Management Plan – required of all operations that have animals or utilize manure.
- The written plans must be on-schedule for full implementation in order to be considered “current”.

***Note: The Jefferson Conservation District will develop/update Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Plans and Manure Management Plans free of charge!***

2. Properly Protected Barnyards. BMPs necessary to control nutrient and sediment runoff from ACAs must be fully implemented AND/OR the implementation of these BMPs must be included in the application.

3. On-schedule for Full Implementation of Crop Field and other NM BMPs. An agricultural operation with uncompleted BMPs required in an Conservation/Ag E&S Plan and/or a Nutrient Management/Manure Management Plan must be following the schedule for full implementation listed in those plans.

### ***Eligible BMPs***

Best management practices eligible under the REAP program include no-till equipment, manure storages, fencing, livestock watering systems, cover crop plantings, and many more.

Contact the District or visit the website [www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov) and click on the search icon  and type “REAP” for more information.



## Save the Date: Western PA Grazing Conference

The Western PA Grazing Conference Committee is in the process of planning a one-day Grazing Conference for next year on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA. More information regarding the conference will be available in the Winter 2022 Ag Newsletter.





## Penn State Extension Webinars

Listed below are just a few of the many free webinars available on the Penn State Extension website. Visit <https://extension.psu.edu/shopby/webinars> for more information.

- **Winter Crop Yields and Purchasing Corn Silage Alternatives** (10/15/21, 1pm-2pm) *Topics include strategies for purchasing corn silage alternatives if yields were low based on quality, storage space, & availability, what to look for when purchasing feeds to ensure quality & farm appropriateness, and cropping mgmt. strategies for growing and harvesting winter annual crops (i.e., winter rye, winter wheat, & triticale)*
- **LEED For Dairy and Livestock Facilities** (recorded): *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a green building certification program used extensively in office buildings, museums, and other buildings in urban areas. This webinar will discuss how LEED principals can be applied to dairy and livestock facilities.*
- **Grazing Warm-Season Annuals** (recorded): *This webinar discusses integrating warm season annuals into cool season perennial grazing systems and reviews the environmental factors influencing plant growth.*
- **Grazing and Water Quality** (recorded): *This webinar is geared toward dairy producers, employees and agribusiness professionals.*
- **Feed Management Effects on Watersheds** (recorded): *This webinar highlights how properly balancing phosphorus levels in dairy and beef rations relates to and effects manure phosphorus excretion levels. It also discusses when feed management is coupled with cropping strategies and implementation of no-till, soil health is improved and beneficial effects on water quality can be realized.*

## Spreader Rental Interest Survey

The Jefferson County Conservation District is considering purchasing a spreader to allow Jefferson County farmers to rent to spread materials including lime, fertilizer, and compost (litter) depending on farmer interest. If this is something you might be interested in, please respond to the survey below in one of 3 ways:

Email: [megan@jeffersonconservation.com](mailto:megan@jeffersonconservation.com), Mail: 1514 Route 28 Brookville PA 15825, Phone: 814-849-7463.



### Spreader Rental Interest Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What materials would you be interested in spreading?
- 2) How many acres would you utilize it on?
- 3) Any suggestions?

# 2021 Jefferson County Conservation District Annual Bird Seed Sale

*The Jefferson County Conservation District is again offering high quality bird seed to our customers. This sale serves a major fundraising activity supporting our environmental education programs. We appreciate your continued support of this fundraiser!*

**Pick-up Places/Times**

*Brookville Pick-up:* District Office on Friday, October 22, 2021 (8am-4pm)

*Punxsutawney Pick-up:* VFW Building on Friday, October 22, 2021 (9am-11am)



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PICK-UP (CIRCLE ONE) Brookville or Punxsutawney

	Size	Price (Tax included)	# Bags	Total
<b>Wild Bird Seed Mix</b> (Red & White Millet, Milo, Wheat & Sunflower Seeds)	50 lb. bags	\$31.00 / bag	_____	\$_____
<b>Wild Bird "Banquet"</b> <i>"Our Best Seller"</i> (55% Sunflower, Red & White Millet, Safflower & Peanut Pieces)	35 lb. bags	\$26.00 / bag	_____	\$_____
<b>Oil Sunflower Seeds</b> Favorite of smaller-beaked birds!	25 lb. bags	\$17.00 / bag	_____	\$_____
		TOTAL	_____	\$_____

**Please make check payable to: Jefferson Conservation District and mail to: 1514 Route 28, Brookville, PA 15825  
(814) 849-7463**