

Agriculture Newsletter
Fall 2022



Conservation Seminar

A Conservation Seminar will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Jefferson County Conservation District Office (1514 Route 28 Brookville, PA 15825). This seminar is for the general public to learn about conservation efforts at the District. There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be provided.

Topics of discussion will include:

Erosion & Sedimentation Control

Act 167 Stormwater

Permitting

Basic Wetland Identification

Agricultural Services

To register, contact Dana Hannibal at the District by phone at 814-849-7463, or email at dana@jeffersonconservation.com

Note: Space will be limited to 30 people, so please RSVP by the end of the business day October 21, 2022.

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## Field Day at Wilson Land & Cattle Co.

Russ Wilson of Wilson Land & Cattle Co. is hosting a field day, *Improving Land While Lowering Costs*, at his operation (1417 Stitzinger Rd. Tionesta PA 16353) on **Friday, October 14, 2022** from 8:30am—3:30pm. Russ will provide a field tour highlighting methods and results of intensive rotational grazing, and ways to lower costs. Other speakers include Bonnie McGill, Brett Chedzoy, Fay Bension, and Matt Havens with topics of discussion including soil health, silvopasturing and alley cropping. Registration is required by October 7th. To register, contact the Clarion Conservation District at 814-393-6147 or [www.clarionconservation.com](http://www.clarionconservation.com). Cost is \$15.00 to attend with lunch provided.



## Western PA Grazing Conference

Save the Date! The 25th Annual Western PA Grazing Conference will be held on **Thursday, March 16, 2023**, at the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA with Troy Bishop, *“The Grass Whisperer”* (<https://thegrasswhisperer.com>) as the keynote speaker. Stay tuned for more details in the Winter Ag Newsletter to come out early next year.



## Ag Plan Reimbursement Program

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts was awarded a \$500,000 Growing Greener Grant from DEP to offer an Ag Plan Reimbursement Program for Conservation Districts to administer from 2022-2024. Applications will be accepted in an ongoing, first come, first served basis. The application deadline is June 30, 2024 or until all funds are spent, whichever comes first. This program will be most beneficial to Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in the county as the District cannot write Nutrient Management Plans for CAOs. The District is permitted however to write other state required plans free of charge (including Manure Management Plans and Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans). The maximum reimbursement per plan is \$1,500 or 80% of the cost of the plan, whichever is lower. A 20% match will be required from the participating landowner/operator. To apply, contact the District.



## Is My Operation a CAO?

A Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) is a farm with more than 2.0 Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs) per acre suitable for the application of manure<sup>1</sup> and has at least 8 AEUs<sup>2</sup>. An animal density calculation is used to determine if your operation falls under this category.

<sup>1</sup>Suitable acres for manure application include fields in a crop, hay or pasture that are under your management control.

<sup>2</sup>An AEU is equal to 1,000 lbs. of animal weight on an annualized basis.

CAOs are regulated by the PA State Conservation Commission under PA's Nutrient Management Act (Act 38). CAOs are required to have a Nutrient Management Plan written by a certified Nutrient Management Plan Specialist. The District can help you determine if you are a CAO, and steer you in the right direction to get a NMP developed.





## 2022-2023 REAP Program

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) is accepting REAP applications for the 2022-23 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 2022-23 REAP program has \$13 million of PA income tax credits available for eligible water quality projects. Note that in this round, the allocated amount is expected to be exhausted quicker than usual as there were over 150 eligible applications that were rolled-over from the previous round of the REAP Program. The SCC was unable to fund them last round because all of the 2021-22 REAP funding was allocated prior to their submittal to the Commission. Therefore, the sooner you get your application in, the better!

### ***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".

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), click on the search icon and type "REAP" for more information.

# 2022 Jefferson County Conservation District Annual Bird Seed Sale

*The District is again offering high quality bird seed to our customers. This sale serves a fundraising activity supporting our environmental education programs. All orders must be received by October 21, 2022. Thank you!*

**Pick-up Places/Times**

*Brookville Pick-up:* District Office on  
Friday, November 4, 2022 (8am-4pm)

*Punxsutawney Pick-up:* VFW Building on  
Friday, November 4, 2022 (9am-11am)



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

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

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

PICK-UP (CIRCLE ONE) Brookville or Punxsutawney

|                                                                                                                          | Size        | Price         | # Bags | Total   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| <b>Wild Bird Seed Mix</b><br>(Red & White Millet, Milo, Wheat & Sunflower Seeds)                                         | 50 lb. bags | \$31.00 / bag | _____  | \$_____ |
| <b>Wild Bird "Banquet"</b><br><i>"Our Best Seller"</i><br>(55% Sunflower, Red & White Millet, Safflower & Peanut Pieces) | 35 lb. bags | \$27.00 / bag | _____  | \$_____ |
| <b>Oil Sunflower Seeds</b><br>Favorite of smaller-beaked birds!                                                          | 25 lb. bags | \$19.00 / bag | _____  | \$_____ |
|                                                                                                                          |             | TOTAL         | _____  | \$_____ |

*Please make check payable to: Jefferson Conservation District and mail to: 1514 Route 28, Brookville, PA 15825*

**(814) 849-7463**