

Agriculture Newsletter
Winter 2022



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**Conservation Workshop**

Thursday, February 17th

9:30am—12:30pm

**At the Jefferson Conservation District Office**

Located 1/4 mile North of Exit 81 of I-80 on Route 28 in front of the Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds

Speakers from the Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will discuss topics including Watersheds, Wetlands, Riparian Buffers, Invasive Plants, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.



To register, contact the Jefferson County Conservation District by Feb. 14th at (814) 849 - 7463 or [megan@jeffersonconservation.com](mailto:megan@jeffersonconservation.com)

**Free to Attend, Lunch Provided  
Free Soil Test Kits Available**

Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office Mini-grant Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from

USDA-NRCS.





# Frost Seeding Considerations

Frost seeding into your fields is a cost-effective means of improving soil fertility and increasing yields. Whether you are looking to rejuvenate pasture fields or just want to add a nitrogen-fixing cover crop into your standing winter grains for the crop that follows, below are a few considerations to increase your chances of a successful establishment.

- 1. Timing:** Generally in late February through March, broadcast seed during the early morning hours when the soil is frozen and temperatures are expected to rise enough to cause the soil to thaw later in the day. The freeze-thaw succession along with spring rains aid in adequate seed-to-soil contact.
- 2. Soil Type:** Frost seeding is suitable on soils that retain water such as clays and loams. Sandy soils on the other hand are not suitable since they dry out easily as water drains quickly through them.
- 3. Species:** For pasture restoration, clovers (red, yellow sweet, white), birdsfoot trefoil, and ryegrass work well (you'll want to inoculate the legumes with the correct rhizobium to ensure nitrogen fixation can occur). Red clover and yellow sweet clover do well in small grains.
- 4. Soil Testing:** Take soil samples to determine current pH and nutrient levels. Follow the recommended guidance from the tests to achieve optimum results.
- 5. Seeding Rates:** Below is a table derived from Penn State Extension that provides a guide in seeding rates for different species (pure stands, lbs/A) for frost seeding in pastures and in small grain stands.

| Species                      | In small grain | Pasture renovation |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Red clover                   | 10-15          | 4-8                |
| Yellow blossom sweet clover  | 15-20          | 5-10               |
| White, ladino clover         | NR             | 2-3                |
| Birdsfoot trefoil            | NR             | 4-6                |
| Perennial or annual ryegrass | NR             | 4-6                |

### Resources

- <https://extension.psu.edu/frost-seeding-time-is-here>
- <https://www.seedway.com/agronomy/successful-frost-seeding-tips/>
- <https://kingsagriseeds.com/frost-seeding-time-is-here-again/>

*Note: NR = Not Recommended.*



## Agri-Link Program

The AgriLink Program provides \$25 million in low-interest loans to assist farmers in implementation of best management practices listed in approved Act 38 nutrient management plans, Chapter 91 manure management plans, Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans (Ag E&S), or Conservation Plans. It is not the intention of the AgriLink Program to replace other loan programs currently available at lending institutions. This program is intended to supplement the portfolio of loan programs that are available at lending institutions. Agri-Link loans cannot exceed \$250,000 for individual projects. The maximum loan term is (12) years and may be structured as a construction loan. Interest rates are currently targeted at three percent (3%) below current market rates. Visit <https://www.agriculture.pa.gov> for more details on the program. *Note: For more information on state required plans, visit the PA Nutrient Management Program website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management> or if you need help with plan development, please contact the district.*





## 2022 Western PA Grazing Conference

The 24th Annual Western PA Grazing Conference will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the Trinity Point Church of God in Clarion, PA (180 W. Trinity Drive Clarion PA 16214) from 8:30am –5:00pm (doors open at 7:30am) Cost to attend is \$45.00 payable to the Jefferson County Conservation District and includes a continental breakfast and a hot lunch. Dr. Greg Halich, an Agricultural Economist at the University of Kentucky, is the keynote speaker this year, and will discuss topics including *Grazing Myths*, *Bale Grazing: Feeding Hay the Rotational Grazing Way*, and *Most Profitable Hay Feeding Days and the Consequences of Overstocking*. Other topics of discussion will include *Farm Succession Planning*, *Marginal Ground Grazing*, *Toxic Plants for Horses*, *Pasture Management in your Watershed*, and more. To register, contact the Jefferson County Conservation District at (814) 849-7463. Registration deadline is March 10th. The conference is presented by the Western PA Grazing Conference Committee.

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



## CHEMSWEEP Program

Jefferson County is among the 19 counties in 2022 in which agricultural businesses and pesticide applicators can dispose of unwanted pesticides safely and easily through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's CHEMSWEEP Program.

Each pesticide inventory received from farmers or other licensed applicators will be verified by a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) inspector. PDA will then work with a waste disposal contractor to schedule the collections, which usually take place from July through October. CHEMSWEEP will cover the cost of the first 2,000 pounds per participant.

Only pesticide products that are or have been registered for sale or use in the Commonwealth will be accepted in this program. These materials are classified as Universal Waste Pesticides and will be collected, packaged, transported and disposed of in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. The PDA contractor will become the generator of record for your waste pesticides at the time of collection.

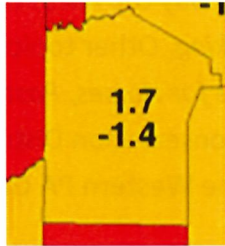
### How to Participate:

Complete the CHEMSWEEP registration form and return to the address shown on the form by **February 28, 2022**. Registration forms can be accessed through <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov>, or contact the District at (814) 849 - 7463. For more information on the CHEMSWEEP program, contact James Cunningham at (717) 772 - 5210 or [jgcunningh@pa.gov](mailto:jgcunningh@pa.gov).

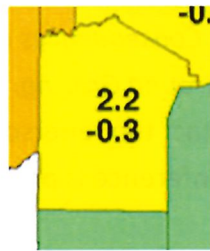


# 2021 Rainfall Review

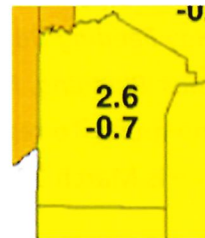
The data below was extracted from the National Weather Service Website ([https://www.weather.gov/marfc/Precipitation\\_Departures](https://www.weather.gov/marfc/Precipitation_Departures)). The data shows month to month mean areal precipitation (top #) and the departure from average (bottom #) in inches for Jefferson County in 2021 (Data sets are for general information only). *Note: December 2021 precipitation was unavailable; check back for any updates.*



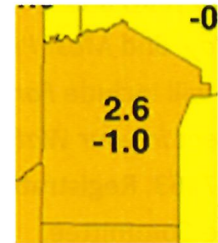
January  
01/01/21 - 01/31/21



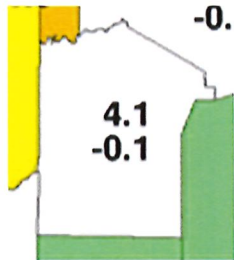
February  
02/01/21 - 02/28/21



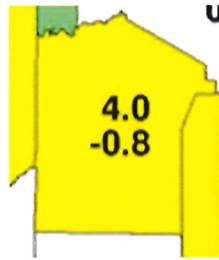
March  
03/01/21 - 03/31/21



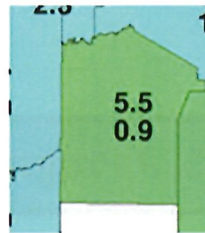
April  
04/01/21 - 04/30/21



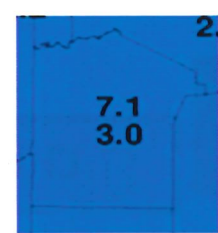
May  
05/01/21 - 05/31/21



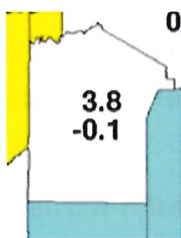
June  
06/01/21 - 06/30/21



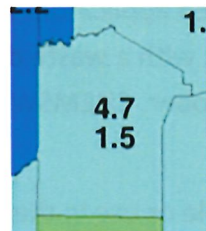
July  
07/01/21 - 07/31/21



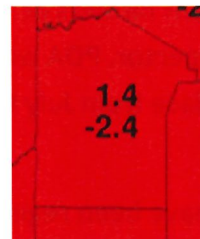
August  
08/01/21 - 08/31/21



September  
09/01/21 - 09/30/21



October  
10/01/21 - 10/31/21



November  
11/01/21 - 11/30/21

