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Winter 2022-2023



Lebanon County  
Conservation District

# Rooted in Conservation

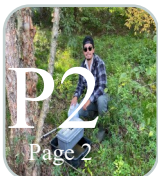
## Ag Project Funding Available!



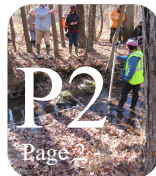
The Lebanon Countywide Action Plan (CAP) is a dynamic and adaptive plan summarizing approaches and tracking implementation efforts for local water quality improvements. Lebanon County Conservation District works with local land owners and agricultural producers to accomplish cohesive water goals, by preserving and implementing best management practices (BMP's) that assist in our goals of restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Lebanon County is taking steps to carefully plan for the most cost-effective projects that will provide benefits to us locally as well as our neighboring communities. More than half of Lebanon Counties waterways are impaired, making us a perfect candidate to implement restoration and conservation efforts to improve and maintain our clean water.

If you or someone you know is looking for financial support in completing watershed or agricultural projects, please contact [Johanna.willieme@lccd.org](mailto:Johanna.willieme@lccd.org) or call 717-277-5275 ext.150.



**WEST NILE VIRUS**  
Recap of the 2022  
mosquito season



**DIRT, GRAVEL &  
LOW VOLUME  
ROADS**  
Hands-on stream  
crossing training



**AGRICULTURAL  
LAND  
PRESERVATION**  
Celebrating 30 years of  
preserving prime  
farmland



**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**  
Meet our newest members  
of the team



# WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON UPDATE

The 2022 West Nile virus season was quite busy. We set a total of 103 BG sentinel traps and 929 gravid traps, and dipped for immature mosquitoes 1,107 times across both Lancaster and Lebanon County. From our robust surveillance efforts, we captured 33,953 adult and 1,107 immature mosquitoes in Lancaster and 37,380 adult and 641 immature mosquitoes in Lebanon. Compared to the 2021 season, we had a 477% increase in West Nile virus positive in mosquito pools in Lebanon and a 163% increase in Lancaster. Due to this high viral activity, we had 65 adult mosquito control events including 10 truck sprays and 554 larval mosquito control events across the 2 counties. In Lebanon, we also collected 94 ticks from various public wooded areas. We captured the first documented Gulf Coast Tick in Lebanon, which may have dropped off a migratory bird. Additional surveillance is needed to assess

whether it is a migratory bird established in Lebanon. In regards to mosquito habitat reduction events, we collected over 3,000 tires in Lebanon County and over 500 tires in Lancaster County. Additionally, our program posts TikTok videos to show the public how we conduct mosquito and tick surveillance; some of our [videos reached 34,800 views!](#)



MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATOR ANTONIO ALVARADO SETTING UP A GRAVITY TRAP.

## DIRT, GRAVEL & LOW VOLUME ROADS UPDATE

Emily Collins and Karl Kerchner participated in a 26-hour fluvial geomorphology/stream crossing certification training program required as part of the district's dirt, gravel, and low-volume road program. Fluvial geomorphology is the study of stream-related landforms and corresponding impacts due to stream manipulation. Removing, replacing, or adding a new stream crossing has the potential to upset a stream's natural dynamic system. Installing a stream crossing without proper consideration of the potential stream impacts can lead to such things as a lack of habitat for aquatic organisms, lack of passage for aquatic organisms, stream system instability, structure instability, channel migration, sediment deposition, and increased flooding.

One of the program's major goals of stream crossing replacements is to ensure that structures funded by the dirt, gravel, and low-volume road program are designed and implemented to achieve stream continuity under the roadway. Stream continuity refers to the connectivity and continuation of typical streambed features (profile, slope, width, composition, grade controls, pools) upstream, downstream, and through a road crossing structure. Such projects often reconnect segments of stream that have been disconnected and vertically offset by undersized road crossings. New structures funded by the program must be wider than bankfull to allow for the construction of a functional stream channel through the crossing. The reconstruction of a low-flow channel, bank margins, grade controls, and other stream features are required as part of the program. Construction of a bankfull-width stream channel through a wider than bankfull-width structure will accommodate hydraulic capacity as well as improve flood resiliency, sediment and debris transport, and aquatic organism passage.

To determine the eligibility of a stream crossing for funding, the district is tasked with performing a longitudinal profile survey for a minimum distance of 150' upstream and downstream of the crossing. In doing so, bankfull-width and grade control features such as existing structure inverts, sediment wedges, riffle crests, natural pool depths, scour pool dimensions etc. are documented. From this information, adequate tie-in points on either side of the structure can be determined and the task of designing the stream for continuity between those tie-in points may begin.





# Agricultural Land Preservation:

## 5 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

# 1

The Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved **20,201** acres since its inception

# 2

There are currently **181** Agricultural Easements in Lebanon County

# 3

In 2022, six farms were preserved for a total of **748.76** acres

# 4

There are five farms in-process to be preserved for a total of **587** acres

# 5

It costs **six cents** to protect a square foot of Lebanon County agricultural land forever



## FARMLAND PRESERVATION'S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### Lebanon County Celebrates 20,000 Acres of Farmland Preserved Over 30 Years.

It was a cloudy day, but the storm held off for the approximately 100 attendees who recently gathered to celebrate the 20,000 acres of farmland preserved in Lebanon County over 30 years through the County program.

The September 30<sup>th</sup> event was held at the 114.25 acre Millcreek & Heidelberg Township farm of Donald & Sharon Bollinger, who are in process of selling their property's development rights to the Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. In doing so, the Bollinger family is assuring their farm will remain in agricultural use in perpetuity, forever and a day.

The Bollingers will join 179 other farm owners who have preserved their Lebanon County farms, totaling 19,995.88 acres during the first 30 years of the Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board's program. This places Lebanon in the top ten of all Pennsylvania counties in total preserved farmland acres, which is significant due to Pennsylvania's status as the state with the most preserved acres in the United States. Lebanon County preserved its first farm in May 1992, when the 90 acre Bucher farm in Heidelberg Township sold its development rights.

Paul Bametzreider, the current chair of the County farmland preservation board, served as master of ceremonies for the 20,000 acres/30 year anniversary ceremony. The event was held under a large tent overlooking a scenic pasture and corn field on the Bollinger farm, located along State Route 419. Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture Bureau of Farmland Preservation Director, Doug Wolfgang, was in attendance and made remarks praising Lebanon County's efforts in helping fund the preservation of farmland.

Local funds contributed by the Lebanon County Commissioners, several county municipalities, and private donors have been leveraged over the years with state and federal monies to fund the continued interest in farmland preservation. There are currently 28 farms on the county's waiting list to be preserved.

Other speakers included Lebanon County's Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, Pennsylvania Representatives Russ Diamond and Frank Ryan, and Randall Leisure, Chairman of the Lebanon County Conservation District, which administers the farmland preservation program for Lebanon County.

Among the highlights of the celebration was the showing of the updated video produced by David Sollenberger for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, a professional videographer and owner of a preserved farm in South Annville Township. Sollenberger interviewed numerous preserved farm owners to feature in his video. A silent auction was held, raising \$375 for use in helping to preserve other farms. Casimir the horse, owned by Denise Barnes, was also in attendance dressed as cupid to give hugs to attendees, raising an additional \$60 for farmland preservation.

The day's activities concluded with a luncheon, treating attendees to a pig donated by Weiler Farms and prepared by Tyler Heagy. It was served with Amish potato salad, mac & cheese, and coleslaw all from Dutch-Way. Dessert consisted of two sheet cakes from Country Fare Restaurant.

Thank you sponsors: Agrarian Associates, Inc., Brian D. Pedrick; Blue Bird Inn; Charles Wertz; Country Trail Soy Candles; David Sollenberger of Lahman/Sollenberger Video; Donald & Sharon Bollinger Family; Dutch-Way Farm Market; Elizabeth Farms; First Citizens Community Bank; Fulton Bank; Gold Tip Painting; Horizon Farm Credit; Lebanon County Farm Bureau; Northern Lebanon FFA; Patches Family Creamery; Patrick Kreiser; Rotunda Brewing; Swiss Premium Dairy; Tyler Heagy; and Weiler Farms.

# MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS



Originally from Allentown, **Antonio “Tony” Alvarado** earned his bachelor’s degree in public health with a focus in infectious diseases. He did his internship with New York City’s Vector-borne Disease Program, then applied to graduate school at Cornell University to work under the esteemed medical entomologist, Dr. Laura Harrington. Working with Harrington, he researched kissing bugs and Chagas disease risk in the southwestern national parks. His research was published in the Journal of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Ever since he was a young kid, he was always interested in science – especially anything to do with animals and infectious diseases, but he HATED bugs. That loathing for bugs turned into a fascination for them. Working with vector-borne diseases, every day is a new adventure; one day you could be collecting ticks in remote game lands, while the next day you could be setting a mosquito trap in a crowded city. His favorite part of the job is educating the public on the West Nile Virus program.



**Katie Hollen** is a recent graduate of Elizabethtown College, where she received her B.S. in Environmental Science. She was raised in Lebanon County and is excited to be joining the LCCD team. As the Watershed Specialist, she is looking forward to helping improve the county’s waterways and getting local communities involved in their watershed. Outside of work, Katie enjoys tennis, playing her guitar, and spending time with family.



A previous Lebanon County Dairy Farmer, **Maranda Smith** has joined the team as an Agricultural Conservation Specialist. Maranda and her husband, Dan, have four children that are laying roots in Eastern Lebanon after moving off farm. In her spare time, she enjoys helping the local FFA chapters, raising meat rabbits, and power lifting. She will be using her strong background in Agriculture to assist Lebanon farmers to reach their conservation goals and seek potential conservation projects to improve our environment.



**Johanna Willieme** is the new CAP Coordinator since the beginning of September. She graduated from Messiah University last December with honors studying Sustainability with a concentration in Conservation and Agriculture. Her favorite part about college was the real conservation projects her professor implemented in his classes requiring extensive data collection and fieldwork. Her interest in conservation started in sixth grade when attending a school that had a unique watershed program, consisting of spending the whole year focusing on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The year consisted of water testing, gardening, and raising and releasing Brook Trout, etc. Johanna is originally from Fairfax, VA, which is just outside of DC. She has two older brothers, one works in solar energy, and the other is a carpenter. Johanna enjoys watching movies, hiking, working out, and food. For the past four summers, Johanna has lived and worked at a small, organic exotic fruit and berry farm. She currently lives in Mechanicsburg with her cat, Bean.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR DISTRICT

### DIRECTORS

### CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Katie Doster: District Manager  
 Karl Kerchner: Asst. District Manager  
 Beth Yeager: Ag Team Leader  
 Antonio Alvarado: Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Coordinator  
 Emily Collins: Ag Conservation Specialist  
 Katie Hollen: Watershed Specialist

Maranda Smith: Ag Conservation Specialist  
 Taylor Wade: Administrative Assistant  
 Nate Weaver: E&S Pollution Control Technician  
 Johanna Willieme: Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator  
 Craig Zemitis: Ag Preservation Specialist



Randall Leisure, Chairperson  
 Brent Kaylor, Vice Chairperson  
 Robert Arnold, Treasurer  
 Jo Ellen Litz, Commissioner  
 Jennifer Albright  
 Kristen Grumbine  
 Calvin Miller  
 John Poff  
 Donald Krall  
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