

# Greene County CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Newsletter

Vol. 6

Fall Edition 2007



## Hard Working Watershed Groups

RIVERS AND STREAMS — Dunkard Creek, PA and WV  
WATER INFO QUARTERLY

Efforts to restore Dunkard Creek, afflicted by acid mine drainage, toxic chemicals and habitat loss, are proving successful. The Creek, located in southwestern PA and northern WV, is a major tributary of the Monongahela River, draining a rural 235 square mile watershed. The Creek is home to warm water fishing and historically has supported small mouth bass, muskellunge, and sun fish. But, because of the acid mine drainage, no fish can survive in large portions of the Creek.

Restoration of the Creek has been the focus of efforts by the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Dept. of Community and Economic Development, EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant Program, local organizations and businesses.

The Greene County Watershed Alliance, collaborating with Stream Restoration, Inc., is addressing the impacts of acid mine drainage using clean-up technologies, partnership building and hands-on environmental education. The alliance has cleaned up an illegal dump site, formed The Friends of Dunkard and conducted public presentations and educational displays about how treatments such as passive wetlands can improve water quality in acid impacted streams.

The Matthew's Restoration Site is an example of a working passive treatment system, using the latest technology to remove metals such as manganese and other pollutants from abandoned mine discharge. This project tested an innovative vertical/horizontal flow system that works with the standard passive system, allowing the efficacy of different designs to be compared. Monitoring conducted before the project began showed over 200 gallons per minute (gpm) of abandoned mine drainage with pH < 3 has added over 1100 lbs/day of acidity to the Creek. After the innovative passive treatment system was installed, testing shows that the system is treating over 250 gpm with a calculated acid load reduction of about 950 lbs/day. The stream's pH has improved from < 3 to over 5.4, acidity is reduced from 300 to 15 mg/L, and the alkalinity has increased from zero up to 11 mg/L. More improvements to the treatment system are expected to enhance stream health even further.

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/2003/summaries/dunkard.pdf>

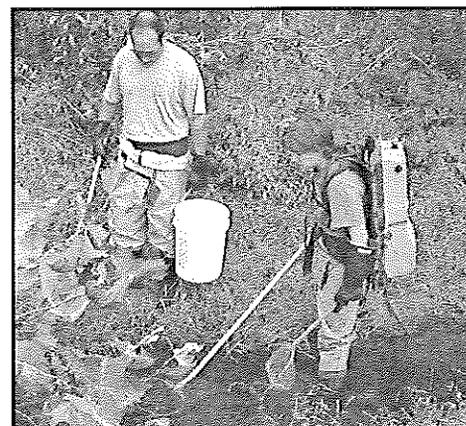
Article obtained from U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Water Info Region 3 Progress in Water Programs.....Quarterly, Volume 1, Issue 4, September 2007

## Greene County Watershed Alliance

On September 28, Professor Janet Paladino and the Waynesburg University Ecology class visited the Ruff Creek stream watershed to participate in a Fish and Macro-invertebrate Identification workshop with the assistance of Chuck Kubasik, DEP California District Office, and Tom Crist, PA Fish & Boat Commission.

Although a little late in the season Chuck was able to collect a diverse collection of macro-invertebrates including a Dobsonfly larvae and an adult Damselfly, and thanks to Tom we were introduced to Marisa Logan, a Fishery Biologist with Civil Environmental Consultants. Marisa, a Waynesburg College alumnus, brought her electro-shocker and with skill and expertise she swept the stream and was able to collect quite an assortment of fish species. Once the stream segment was explored we gathered around Marisa, Tom, and Chuck as they demonstrated how to identify these creatures. The students themselves proved quite knowledgeable in aquatics. We were especially excited to see a hog-nose sucker! It was truly a fun and educational afternoon.

We would like to thank Chuck, Tom, Marisa, Maddie, and Corraean Stewart for their time and effort in helping to cultivate an understanding of stream ecology for our future leaders and educators. We hope in the future to have this opportunity again to do this worthwhile workshop.



# PENNSYLVANIA AG PRODUCERS URGED TO APPLY NOW FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Harrisburg, PA, September 11, 2007– Pennsylvania farmers and landowners interested in receiving financial assistance through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), should apply by October 31st to be considered in the first round of ranking for fiscal year 2008 funding. There will also be two additional cutoff dates of November 30, 2007 and February 1, 2008, if any funds are not allocated after the October 31st ranking period.

NRCS conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat and restore and enhance wetlands. The programs are voluntary and provide incentives such as technical and cost-sharing assistance for the planning, design and implementation of conservation systems. Examples of practices that can be funded through these programs include nutrient management, cover crops, no-till, manure storage, meadow seedings and stream fencing.

To qualify for conservation programs, the applicant must have control of the land for the life of the proposed contract. For EQIP, eligibility is limited to farmers and producers engaged in agricultural production on eligible agricultural land. All applications will be evaluated and ranked according to environmental benefits and cost effectiveness. In most projects NRCS does not cover all the costs of installation practices; participants must pay a portion.

Landowners and producers interested in learning more about these conservation programs should contact Suzy at the local USDA NRCS office at 724-627-5821, or visit <http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov>.

## Extension Granted for Dry Hydrant Installation

There are hydrants left at the local RC&D Council. They will be distributed on first come first serve basis and there is no limit per county. Deadline to have installation and NRCS design approval is August 2008. Design and site preparation needs to be completed as soon as possible so that work can be preformed. Please contact our office as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made and scheduled.

Landowners, Fire departments, and townships are to coordinate the areas there are installed and work to be completed for installation and hopefully the township and Fire Company can take on maintenance of the device and parking area.

Each participant is provided with a dry hydrant kit which consists of a head, strainer, and sign. All grant monies that we are expending, including the purchase of the kit, must be earned at a 1:1 ratio. This means that the participants first \$202 of expense must be used to earn the "free" kit. Then after the kit is earned, we can match additional expenses on a 1:1 basis up to a maximum of \$300. So, basically, to earn the maximum \$300 reimbursement, a participant must show at least \$802 worth of expenses or in-kind services provided toward the dry hydrant project. Who the reimbursement goes to is up to the group or groups that are installing the hydrant (fire department, township, etc.).

### Requirements

1. Landowners must sign a right-of-way agreement in conjunction with the township/borough.
2. Landowner must sign a Water Usage Agreement with the local township/borough.
3. Township or Fire Department must agree to install the hydrant.
4. Each site must be inspected prior to authorization of installation by the Greene County Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service.
5. Site must be easily accessible for a fire truck year round and located near a pond or stream.
6. Sites must be rural and have no public water lines with hydrants.

## Wetlands (for what it's worth)

by Martin Niverth

This view of an artificially created wetlands was provided by Kyle Hallam of the Greene County Assessment Office. It was taken at a State Game Lands near the Kirby exit of I-79 from an observation



deck built through the efforts of the Harry Enstrom (Greene County) Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. For those interested in such things, it is a treasure trove of indigenous flora and fauna that require or prefer a wet environment in which to thrive.

Why deliberately create a wetlands? True, it's not the best place to build a shopping mall, a residential subdivision, or a ball field. Farming is also out of the question, as Greene County, PA has never been in danger of becoming America's rice production center. What, then, are the benefits of such a thing? How about the following:

1) This is a source of water, arguably our most valuable natural resource. This is water for animals to drink; water that some species need for protection from predation; water that supports the growth and development of the life that represents the beginning of the food chain; water that is constantly being cleaned and purified as it passes through and is influenced by the plants living in the wetlands; and, water that slowly and constantly percolates through the ground to recharge our valuable subterranean aquifers.

2) This is balance, and balance is Nature's way. No one can tell you how the presence of a wetland affects a predominately "dry" ecosystem because no one knows exactly. We know bits and pieces of the interrelationship and that is all. Therefore, to pursue a policy dedicated to the removal of ecosystems of this type is short-sighted, scientifically unsound, and probably economically unsound as well. This "man-made" wetland has undoubtedly replaced wetlands destroyed as victims of "progress". Not a bad idea.

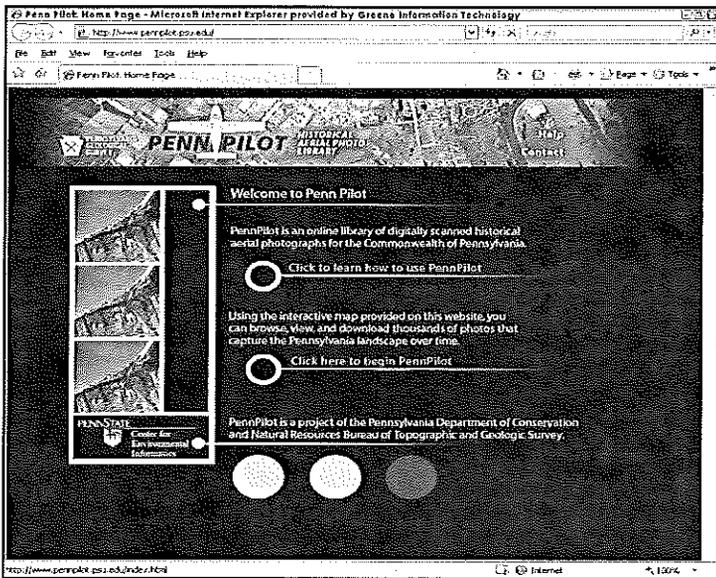
3) It is aesthetically appealing. The beauty of Nature lies in Her variety. Who would compare a pulp tree farm to a national forest? Nature, at Her healthiest, displays a few examples of many species as opposed to many examples of a few species. Like people, Nature looks a lot better to the eye when She's healthy.

Next time you see a wetland, try to look at the positives because a wetland has many to offer. If we are to have a successful future in our environment, we need to accommodate it every bit as much as we need to dominate or modify it.

# Tools You Can Use

The next tool in the Conservation District Arsenal for site reconnaissance is aerial imagery. Our sources come from a number of different places such as hard copy USDA flights from the 50's and 60's, internet sources, and in-house county specific GIS databases. For ease of explanation and instruction we'll focus on one site and track its changes, as well as the advances in aerial imagery. For familiarity's sake, let's see what the Greene County Fairgrounds looked like in 1939.

Open up your internet browser and go to: <http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu/>.



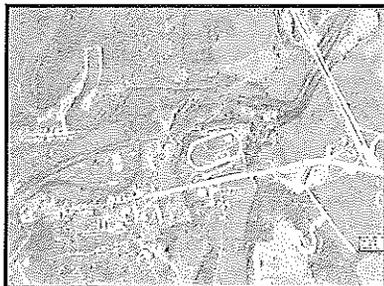
The first link on the page is "Learn How to use Pennpilot" so rather than waste words use the link and learn.



In 1939 the fairgrounds was in fact there obviously. The race track is glaringly apparent in the photo, and it appears to have the same general location that it does currently. That is what is now SR 21 running just south of the fairgrounds, but slightly east it takes an odd little turn.

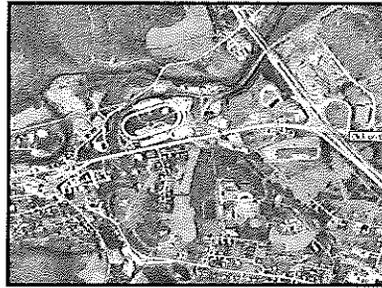
Then, wham, the entire Greene Plaza development is a farmhouse surrounded by acres and acres of fields, and what we think of as SR 21 simply wanders off in the wrong direction.

There is a large gap in what is digitally available through public resources. For aerial photography up between 1939 and 1967 come in to the District office and look at the hard copies. We can make copies of the aerials, but the quality won't be as good.



The above photo from 1967 you can see things are starting to take the shape of what they are today. There's a giant dirt road that is going to be I-79, Greene Plaza is still missing, but you can see that the land WCHS is built on is starting to be developed. We have

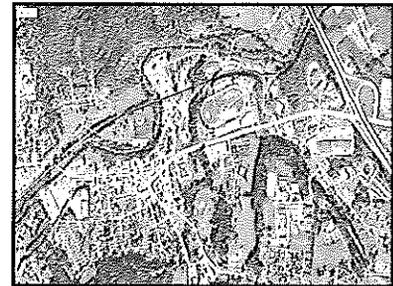
exhausted PennPilot's resources so we head off to Terraserver at <http://terraserver.microsoft.com/> and enter the address you want to see.



This image is from 1993, and as you can see it's essentially how the area is laid out today. There's been a couple of additions and subtractions compared to what you see out the window when you drive by, but it's very recognizable. Terraserver is a nice tool because you can switch

between the USGS topo map and the aerial imagery. Navigating with Terraserver is jumpy and it's sometimes hard to judge exactly what you're looking at, the topo layer contains road and stream names that can help you zero in on your preferred location.

The best and newest aerial imagery you apt to find is on MSN maps. This is the same aerial imagery or newer that our county GIS system uses and it's easier to navigate. The road maps also have the topographic information rendered into 3-D, allowing you to see the hills instead



having to interpret isolines on a topo map. The only drawback is the inability to use the GIS databases in conjunction with the imagery online. Go to <http://maps.live.com>



You can't tell in this publication, but this is a full color image from 2007. It's easy to navigate and with color you can really see the contrast of what is there. It is also possible to zoom in to the point where you can distinguish cars from pickup trucks. But the really neat

feature of this is the oblique imagery. This means that it's shot from an angle instead of straight down like traditional aerial photos.

Obviously this photo is a bit older than the overhead photo, however, the detail and clarity is very impressive. In certain parts of the county you can choose from four different oblique angles, North, South, East, and West. All areas have at least one angle to look at.

The historical implications of this data are vast, as well as the concerns of privacy and security advocates. Google's land imaging software, which is essentially worthless in Greene County due to the low detail, is creating 3-D models of cities using this imagery that would allow you for instance to explore New York City without ever having to experience the awfulness that is LaGuardia Airport, or having to worry about getting mugged.

In private sector environmental consulting, aerial imagery is one of the most important tools used for a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, the topic of my next article.

# “Healthy” Streams

by Ashley C. Lenig – Soil Conservationist, NRCS

So, just what is a healthy stream anyway? Humans have impacted so many watersheds, it is hard to imagine what was here before we paved the roads, plowed the fields, and built the malls. Pennsylvania means Penn’s woods and at one time the state was wooded. The natural condition for our streams is for them to have a wooded riparian (streamside) zone. Why is the presence of trees along a stream important? Trees actually provide many services to the stream.

1. Tree roots hold the stream banks together. This keeps the streambanks from eroding and causing sedimentation downstream. When the cobble and gravel substrate is covered by fine sediments, the macroinvertebrates and fish that hide under them lose their habitat and/or are smothered by the small particles.
2. Trees provide shading which keeps the water temperature cool. Coldwater fish species such as trout need low water temperatures and high levels of dissolved oxygen. Cold water can hold more oxygen than warm water.
3. Trees provide CPOM (coarse particulate organic matter) in the form of leaves which provide an energy source to the stream. The leaves are eaten by macroinvertebrates which are eaten by fish.
4. Trees also die and fall in the stream providing habitat for fish and other organisms as well as a food source for macroinvertebrates.
5. Trees and other vegetation along the stream comprise a buffer to protect the stream from human influences. This buffer can filter out sediments, chemicals such as herbicides, and pesticides, and organic pollution like manure. Buffers along streams help to limit our impacts on our water supply and the wildlife around us. Streambank fencing is a popular technique to keep cattle from trampling the stream, to allow riparian vegetation to grow, and to allow trees and shrubs to stabilize the streambanks. It must be kept in mind that streams are always changing so an adequate distance should be allowed on each side of the stream. By not encroaching on the stream the landowner will not have to worry about the stream cutting under the fence and the possibility of animals falling down between the fence and the streambank. Also, the landowner will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the stream, and the peace of mind that (s)he is a good steward of the land.

## Pond Management

Do you own a pond and are having trouble with filamentous algae growth (long stringy algae)? Many folks suggest that you use barley straw to curb the growth in ponds. Penn State Extension has an enormous amount of information concerning ponds that is very useful for landowners that have specific questions about pond management, construction, stocking, water quality and much more. You can find the information on their website <http://water.cas.psu.edu/ponds.htm>. Here is an article dealing with barley straw use in ponds that might be useful. In talking with Bryan Swistock, in the few years since he wrote this fact sheet he has been keeping track of the success folks have been having with its use. He has noticed that pond owners that have used the straw properly have seen some control of the filamentous algae. About 40% have seen no effect and about 10% have seen the algae get worse. He is not sure why folks are having differing experiences with the barley, but thinks that it could be related to the species of algae they are trying to control and the water quality conditions of the ponds. So do your research before using barley straw.

### ***Barley Straw***

Bryan Swistock, Extension Associate, School of Forest Resources

### ***The problem***

Excessive algae growth is one of the most common problems occurring in ponds in Pennsylvania. Traditional mechanical and chemical control methods are not always efficient or economical. In recent years, the use of barley straw has become more common as an alternative method for controlling excessive algae growth. This method has been extensively studied by Dr. Jonathan Newman at the Centre for Aquatic Plant Management in Great Britain. This fact sheet summarizes the use of barley straw based upon Dr. Newman’s work and our experiences in PA. When applied at the proper time and rate, barley straw has been a very successful algae control technique in Pennsylvania ponds.

### ***How does it work?***

Barley straw does NOT kill existing algae but it inhibits the new growth of algae. The exact mechanism is poorly understood but it seems that barley straw, when exposed to sunlight and in the presence of oxygen, produces a chemical that inhibits algae growth. Barley straw does NOT reduce the growth of other aquatic plants. In fact, in some cases aquatic plant growth has increased after barley straw applications because algae are no longer present to compete with the aquatic plants.

### ***When should it be applied?***

Barley straw is most effective when applied early in the year prior to the appearance of algae (fall through early spring). When applied to cold water less than 50°F, it may take six to eight weeks for the straw to begin producing the active chemicals that inhibit algae growth. If the straw is applied to warmer water above 70°F, it may become effective in as little as one to two weeks. In any case, barley straw remains effective for approximately six months after application.

### ***How much straw?***

The most common application is about two to three bales per surface acre of pond (or about 10 to 25 grams of straw per square meter of pond area). The depth of water in the pond is not important. In ponds that are frequently muddy or those that have a history of heavy algae growth, two or three times this recommended dose may be required for the initial treatment. However, overdosing the pond with barley straw may cause fish kills because the straw deoxygenates the water as it decays. This is especially a problem if the pond is overdosed with straw during a prolonged warm spell.

### ***How to apply the straw?***

The straw is most effective when applied loosely in cages or netting. It is best to anchor the straw packages to the bottom but provide a float to keep the straw near the surface of the pond where sunlight and oxygen are more prevalent. It is best to apply the straw at several locations around the pond and especially near the water source if a spring or stream feeds the pond. In small garden ponds, small nets or nylon stockings can be used to hold the small amounts of straw needed.

### ***Where can I get barley straw?***

Finding a local supplier of barley straw can sometimes be difficult. You might consult with private and government agencies that work with local farmers, like farm supply companies, Cooperative Extension offices and Conservation District offices, to determine if barley straw is locally available. In addition, there are several suppliers available on-line (just type “barley straw” in your favorite search engine).

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce

# Composting on a small scale

By Laurel Rush, Agricultural Manager

Composting has been described as more of an art than a science. And to be successful requires quality “ingredients” in the right proportion, proper bin selection, regular maintenance and a dry site.

## *What is Compost?*

Composting is a process through which microorganisms break down plant and animal materials into more stable and available forms of nutrients, which then can be applied to the soil. It is produced by mixing an initial Carbon: Nitrogen ration of between 25:1 to 40:1 depending upon the type of ingredients you are trying to break down.

## *Why Compost?*

Besides being an excellent nutrient management tool, composting livestock manure provides you with a free source of nutrients for your crops, pastures or garden. Many times this source of nutrients is unaccounted for when applying fertilizers. Balancing nutrients for crop removal rates is a key soil management tool for maximizing production.

Plants benefit from the slow release of nutrients, and animals from the reduction of flies, and mud in confinement areas due to regular collection of manure. Our noses benefit in the reduction of odor. Compost reduces the possibility of parasite re-infestation and sterilizes weed seeds. This happens when the system is working and the pile is maintaining a temperature of between 130 F to 170 F for a minimum of 15 days.

## *How many and what kind of bins?*

Depending on the amount of “ingredients” that you have and your equipment limitations (i.e. are you turning by hand or with a tractor), the size of your bins will vary. But I would recommend having at least two bins for active composting and possibly another for storage of raw materials. There are many different types of composting facilities; wood or concrete are most common for big facilities but it could be as simple as used pallets or snow fence on a smaller scale. Maintaining good airflow through your bins keeps your system aerobic.

## *Where should I put my bin?*

Site selection is very important; you should find a high level, moderately sunny area to place your compost. Do not place it in low lying areas, and especially stay away from drainage ways, wetlands or other bodies of water. For larger facilities check with your local municipality to see if there are regulations on where you can place your composter. For your convenience you should try to place your composter close to your manure source.

Composted manure is a great way to build soil fertility especially in an organic system. It also offers a natural way to cycle plant and animal nutrients on your farm creating a sustainable nutrient management system.

Sources: <http://www.ota.com/organic/foodsafety/manure.html>  
[http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/rp\\_ss\\_composting.pdf](http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/rp_ss_composting.pdf)

# Study Shows Cinnamon Better Than DEET

## **In killing mosquito larvae: from Garden Center Monthly**

Terri Davin, West Nile Virus Surveillance Monitor

Cinnamon oil is more effective in killing mosquito larvae than DEET, according to the American Chemical Society in a July issue of *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry*.

Mosquitoes are an issue for gardeners since government officials are concerned about increasing mosquito populations, a source of the West Nile virus. Government officials have discouraged and placed fear in the public about having water gardens. As officials encourage the use of different repellants such as DEET, the public is growing more troubled with the growing use of the chemicals. “These problems have highlighted the need for new strategies for mosquito larval control,” said Peter Shang-Tzen Chang, a natural products chemist and professor in the School of Forestry and Resource Conservation at National Taiwan University.

Chang has lead research studies on 11 compounds in cinnamon leaf oil for their ability to kill emerging larvae of the yellow fever mosquito. Four of these compounds show strong activity in 24 hours of testing, and researchers expect similar results to larvae of other mosquito species.

Other common essential oils, such as catnip, have shown similar promise in fighting off mosquitoes, but this is the first time researchers have demonstrated cinnamon’s potential as a safe and effective pesticide, Chang reported to the American Chemical Society.

Cinnamaldehyde is main ingredient in cinnamon leaf oil and is used worldwide as a food additive and flavoring agent. A formulation using the compound could be sprayed just like pesticide, but without the potential for adverse health, effects that are a concern with DEET.

In further studies, researchers plan to test cinnamon oil against other types of mosquitoes as well as different commercial pesticides. “We think that cinnamon oil might also affect adult mosquitoes as a repellant,” reported Chang.

For more information, contact the Chemical Society, [www.chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org) or 1-800-227-5558.

# A Risk Management Agency Fact Sheet

Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Pilot Insurance Programs  
Program aid number 1896

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) now offers two new pilot Group Risk Protection risk management programs for pasture, rangeland, and forage (PRF). These innovative pilot programs are based on vegetation greenness and rainfall indices and were developed to provide livestock producers the ability to purchase insurance protection for losses of forage produced for grazing or harvested for hay.

These programs were developed to become a risk management tool for the 588 million acres of U.S. pastureland and the 61.5 million acres of hayland. Beginning with the 2007 crop year, the pilot programs were available for testing in selected States. The sales closing date for PRF is November 30. PRF insurance policies use innovative technology to assess losses in forage production across diverse range and pasture environments.

In order to test each index in various climates, soils, and weather conditions, the programs are made available in six regions across the country: The warm and humid Southeast, the cool and humid northeast, the Northern Great Plains, the Southern Great Plains, the semi-arid Southwest, and the intermountain region of the Northwest. The Rainfall Index and the Vegetation Index programs will be tested in select counties and States. A list of counties and States to be tested can be found at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/>.

The Rainfall Index is based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data and uses an approximate 12 x 12 mile grid. Producers must select at least two, 2-month time periods in which precipitation is important during the growth and production of the forage species. These time periods are called index intervals. Insurance payments to a producer suffering a loss are calculated based on the deviation from normal precipitation within the grid and index interval(s) selected. This insurance coverage is for a single peril—lack of precipitation.

Precipitation data utilized by the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program is developed and maintained by NOAA and is utilized by many government agencies and private parties for various purposes. This data does not directly reflect the precipitation amounts measured at a specific weather station within a given grid. Rather, it is validated and reflects a smoothed result of nearby weather station estimates in order to return an estimate for the grid. The dataset is the “Unified Rain Gauge Dataset (URD)” and goes through a vigorous set of quality control checks, including checks for extreme values, comparisons of observed amounts among nearby stations, and comparisons to NEXRAD weather radar system data. The outcome is a composite value for the entire grid that cannot be traced to a single point.

These methods and processes were developed and are maintained by NOAA and a more detailed description can be viewed at: [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outreach/research\\_papers/ncep\\_cpc\\_atlas/7/toc.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outreach/research_papers/ncep_cpc_atlas/7/toc.html)

The Vegetation Index uses Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data from the U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science data center. The NDVI is a measure of vegetation greenness and correlates to forage condition and productive capacity in approximately 4.8 x 4.8 mile grids. In general, the healthier the plants in a given grid, the higher the NDVI value. With this plan of insurance, producers may select one or more 3-month time period(s) that represent a producer’s forage species production. These time periods are called index intervals. As with the Rainfall Index, the losses calculated using the Vegetation Index are indemnified based on the deviation from normal within the grid and index interval(s) selected.

The lengthy process of developing these products included discovering the value of forage for grazing and haying for each county in the program. RMA and the contractor used USDA Farm Service Agency Grassland Reserve Program prices for grazing land, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service State hayland rates, and U.S. Geological Survey land-cover estimates, and expertly determined regional forage and hayland values to establish a county base value for each location.

In developing these new insurance products, conditions taken into consideration included public land versus private land, warm- and cool-season plants, different grazing patterns, and various forage species representing a wide range of relative feed values. These products were designed to allow maximum flexibility for the producer. Producers are not required to insure all acres, but cannot exceed the total number of grazing or haying acres they operate. This allows a producer to insure only those acres that are important to his or her grazing program or hay operation. By selecting a Productivity Factor, a producer can establish a value between 60 and 150 percent of the County Base Value and match the amount of protection to the value of forage that best represents the specific grazing or hay operation, as well as the productive capacity of the land.

The producer is asked to make several choices when insuring grazingland or hayland production, including coverage level, index intervals, productivity factor, and number of acres. Producers work with their crop insurance agents to view the map and index grids for their area, and assign acreage to one or more grids based on the location and use of the acreage that is to be insured.

More detailed information about these two pilot programs is available on the RMA Web site, at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage>. Or call John Scott, Department of Ag. Regional Director at 724-443-1585 or email [johscott@state.pa.us](mailto:johscott@state.pa.us).

## Schedule of Events

**Greene County Conservation  
District Board Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday of each month

**Equine Grazing Seminar**  
November 3rd  
Registration deadline October 26th  
Beaver County Conservation District  
(724) 857-1043  
Producers \$25.00  
Agency \$30.00

**Penn State Value-Added  
Marketing Workshops**  
\$30.00 Registration  
Harrisburg, PA  
November 7th & 8th  
(814) 863-6361  
farmbusiness.psu.edu

## Services

**USGS Topographic Maps**  
For sale at the District  
Cost: \$6.00/quad  
\$2.50 postage and handling

**Information Available for Weed Control**  
Please contact the Conservation District at  
(724) 852-5278 if you would like a copy of  
of of the following informational sheets:

*Managing Japanese Knotweed*  
*Managing Purple Loosestrife*  
*Managing Multiflora Rose*  
*Managing Canada Thistle*  
*Wildlife Habitat Face Sheet*  
*Landowners Guide to Buffer Success*

### *From Becky's Recipe Box* *Iced Pumpkin Cookies*

*"Wonderful spicy iced pumpkin cookies that both kids and adults love!"*

Submitted by: Gina  
Rated 5 out of 5 by 623 members

Prep Time: 20 minutes      Ready In: 1 hour 20 minutes  
Cook Time: 20 minutes      Yields: 36 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1 cup canned pumpkin pureed
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg	1 egg
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt	

#### Glaze:

2 cups confectioners' sugar	1 tablespoon melted butter
3 tablespoons milk	1 teaspoon melted butter
	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, ground cloves, and salt; set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, cream together the 1/2 cup of butter and white sugar. Add pumpkin, egg, and 1 teaspoon vanilla to butter mixture, and beat until creamy. Mix in dry ingredients. Drop on cookie sheet by tablespoonsfuls; flatten slightly.
3. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool cookies, then drizzle glaze with fork.
4. To make glaze: combine confectioners' sugar, milk, 1 teaspoon melted butter, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add milk as needed, to achieve drizzling consistency.

This recipe appears in the Allrecipes "Tried & True Favorites" cookbook. Buy it online at [www.shopallrecipes.com](http://www.shopallrecipes.com).

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pam Snyder, Commissioner Chairman  
Dave Coder, Commissioner  
Judith Gardner, Commissioner

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## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

William Wentzel  
Robert Andrew  
Greg Hopkins  
Tom Willis

## STAFF

Martin A. Niverth, Jr., District Manager  
Lisa Snider, Assistant District Manager/  
Watershed Specialist  
Todd Klaner, Resource Specialist  
Terri Davin, WNV Surveillance Monitor  
Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer  
Mary Jane Kent, Administrative Assistant to  
Program Support  
Laurel Rush, Agriculture Manager

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
Susan Funka-Petery, Supervisory District  
Conservationist

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Ralph Campbell, Service Forester

PA DEP Field Representative  
Chuck Kubasik