Hello partners for water quality!

sediment pollution and improve water quality in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. For the state leaders, complete plan document, and more details on the Phase 3 Watershed

We have much news to share on progress by state, local, and sector partners to reduce nutrient and

February / March 2022

Implementation Plan, visit the Phase 3 WIP website. For a broader educational look at nutrient and

sediment pollution in local streams, rivers, and lakes in the watershed, including tips and success stories, visit <u>Healthy Waters</u>, <u>Healthy Communities</u>. Please consider how you might join in or help support this work. Anyone interested in their county's Phase 3 WIP County Wide Action plan can sign up to get involved. And help spread the word! Share

this newsletter or the subscribe page. — DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Programs and Projects by State Partners

DEP Awards roughly \$10.2 million for Watershed Restoration and Protection in Pennsylvania Portion of Chesapeake Bay Watershed In December 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded approximately \$18.2 million for 65 total watershed restoration and protection projects across Pennsylvania through DEP's Growing Greener Plus Grants Program. Within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay

Watershed, DEP awarded 25 grants totaling approximately \$10.2 million. Growing Greener Plus 2021 <u>awards</u> have been published to the <u>DEP Growing Greener website</u>.

Growing Greener awardees help keep Pennsylvania clean. It is imperative that communities in Pennsylvania receive the necessary funding

to reduce pollutants in area waterways. DEP SECRETARY PATRICK MCDONNELL Pennsylvania Preserves 6,000th Farm: 600,000-Plus Prime Acres Now

Protected In February, Pennsylvania protected 1,969 acres on 26 farms in 12 counties from future development, investing more than \$6.4 million in state, county and township dollars. These approved farm purchases bring the state total to 6,004 farms and 608,091 acres of prime farmland that will be forever protected from commercial, industrial or residential development. The 26 farms preserved today are in Berks, Blair, Chester, Dauphin, Fayette, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Northampton, Schuylkill and York counties.

Governor Wolf Builds on Commitment of a Lead-Free PA, Announces \$168

In January, the <u>PENNVEST Board of Directors approved funding for three drinking water and four</u> sewer projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed totaling \$39,713,463 in low interest loans and \$12,974,826 in grants. Funded projects include the resolution of malfunctioning on-lot systems to reduce the pollution and nutrient load to the receiving streams, ultraviolet disinfection reduces chemicals used and elimination inflow and infiltration reduces the impact of treatment facility

Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 13 Counties

Drinking Water: · Galeton Borough Authority Hazleton City Authority Curryville Water Authority

Sewer: Halifax Area Water and Sewer Authority Moshannon Valley Joint Sewer Authority Lewis Township (Union County) Northern Blair County Regional Sewer Authority

Thirty-four Projects Funded by the Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution

Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts were awarded over \$60,000 through the NPS Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program. With this funding, 34 pollution reduction projects will

Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program

take place in 25 counties. These projects promote water pollution prevention activities and will take place through May 2023. Projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed include: • Bradford, Bradford County Outreach and Education Project, \$2,000 Clearfield, Cover Crop and Nutrient Management Field Day, \$2,000 Clinton, Manure Management Plan Workshop, \$1,500 Columbia, NPS Pollution Prevention for Homeowners, \$2,000 • Cumberland, Upper Allen Township Rain Garden, Phase 2, \$2,000 • Dauphin, Stormwater Management Strategies for Homeowners Workshop, \$2,000 Franklin, Ag Education Event- Conservation Farm Tour or Ag BMP Meeting, \$2,000 Juniata, What's At Stake Field Day, \$1,215

• Lancaster, Erosion & Sediment Control Plan (E&S Plan) for Small Projects Development Guide,

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial poultry flock in New Castle County, Delaware. APHIS is working closely with state animal health officials in Delaware on a joint incident response. State officials quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the property will be depopulated to

• Lebanon, Conservation on the Ground Field Day: Equine Edition, \$1,500

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirms highly pathogenic avian

Snyder, 2023 Farmers Winter Meeting, \$1,000

\$2,000

influenza

farmers.

Program

projects.

and Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP.

Climate-Smart Commodities

Mitigation, and Recreation Grants

DEP's Impaired Waters list.

remediation projects.

venting projects.

These applications are for:

overflows.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from the flock will not enter the food system.

Services Available to PA Farm Families Agriculture professionals who work directly with Pennsylvania livestock producers are invited to attend any of six free mental health workshops happening statewide throughout March and April. The

other ag industry professionals or farm family members," Fenton added.

www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/workshops or call 717-346-0849.

planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

To register for one of the free mental health workshops, visit

interactive workshops will provide information on stressors that are specific to the agriculture industry and provide hands-on training to help navigate mental health issues in the farm community. "The goal of these workshops is to help prepare ag industry professionals to recognize stressful situations and to be better equipped to provide tools and resources to share with farmers in times of need," said Ginger Fenton, PhD, Dairy Extension Educator at Penn State Extension.

During each workshop, attendees will learn about the stressors that are specific to the ag industry and how to recognize signs of stress. They will also be trained on how to assess, approach, and offer assistance to farmers who are at risk and learn about the variety of tools and resources available for

"These workshops are ideal for anyone who is in contact with livestock producers and is concerned about their mental wellness and overall well-being. This might include lenders, ag agency personnel, nutritionists, inspectors and regulatory staff, veterinarians, educators, consultants, agronomists, and

Funding Available Now!

NFWF Now Accepting Proposals for the 2022 Small Watershed Grants

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental

Agriculture Secretary Announces AgriStress Helpline, Free Mental Health

Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is now soliciting proposals through the 2022 Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Applications are due April 21, 2022. NFWF will award funding through two distinct opportunities: SWG Implementation (SWG-I) grants of \$75,000-\$500,000 will be awarded for projects that result in direct, on-the-ground actions to protect

and restore water quality, species, and habitats in the Bay watershed; and SWG Planning and Technical Assistance (SWG-PTA) grants up to \$75,000 will be awarded for projects that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions through community-based assessment,

This year, for both funding opportunities, non-federal matching funds are encouraged but not required and NFWF anticipates record program funding available. NFWF is also pleased to announce the most expansive set of SWG program priorities ever, while strengthening its commitment to better advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice outcomes from funded

Questions can be directed to Stephanie Heidbreder at stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org. NFWF accepting 2022 PA Most Effective Basins grants program applications The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with EPA and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is accepting proposals under the Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins (PA-MEB) grants program for projects that accelerate implementation of cost-effective

agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in selected basins of the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Pennsylvania. The intent of the PA-MEB program is to assist Pennsylvania in achieving its 2025 water quality goals for the agricultural sector under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

NFWF will award grants of up to \$1,000,000 for projects that result in the direct implementation of eligible agricultural BMPs. Technical assistance costs associated with conservation planning, the

request. Match is encouraged but not required for the PA-MEB program.

Stephanie Heidbreder at stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org.

design and engineering of eligible practices, and management of practice implementation are eligible costs under the program, though technical assistance costs may not exceed 10% of the total funding

Full Proposal Due Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 by 11:59pm ET. Questions can be directed to

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Announces Partnerships for

USDA announced details of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity on February 7, 2022. Through this new program, USDA will finance partnerships to support the

production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects lasting one to five years. Pilots will provide technical and financial assistance to producers who implement climate-smart

practices on a voluntary basis on working lands; pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and market the resulting climate-smart commodities. Applicants should refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for full details on application requirements. Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) is Accepting Applications for Act 13 Watershed Restoration, Mine Reclamation, Sewage, Flood

The <u>CFA</u> will be accepting applications for grants funded by Act 13 drilling impact through **May 31**.

<u>Watershed Restoration</u>: The overall goal of the Watershed Restoration and Protection

Program is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from

Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment: Projects that involve the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Well(s), construction of a new AMD site, remediation and repair of existing AMD project sites, operation and maintenance maintaining current AMD remediation sites, establishment of trust fund to ensure ongoing maintenance is achieved, and monitoring of water quality to track or continue to trace nonpoint source load reductions resulting from AMD

· Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program: Projects that involve the cleaning out and

• Baseline Water Quality Data: Projects that involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies. • Sewage Facilities Program: Costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537

plugging of abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells; stray gas mitigation systems; and well

(NRCS) or identified by a local government for flood mitigation are eligible for the program. • <u>Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program</u>: Projects that involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails and river conservation. Applicants are urged to contact their House and Senate member and request an endorsement of their application. For more information and instructions on how to apply, visit the CFA Act 13

- PA American Water Accepting Applications For 2022 Environmental Grant company's 2022 Environmental Grant Program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31. The program offers funding for innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore or protect the watersheds, surface water and groundwater supplies in local communities. · Located within the Pennsylvania American Water service area
- **DEP Chesapeake Bay Office** Chesapeake Bay Office's Bay Accountability Section Updates Roles and Responsibilities Following the success of working with all 34 Bay counties and supporting local efforts in developing Countywide Action Plans (CAPs), the Chesapeake Bay Office Bay Accountability Team is continuing

To kick off the new year, Bay Accountability section and its facilitator held a team building and

coordination meeting for both the section, the Chesapeake Bay Office director, and Chesapeake Bay

The purpose of the meeting was to strategically evaluate how the Bay Accountability Team is set up to meet its goals and support county partners in 2022 by identifying specific individual and collective roles and responsibilities in the most effective and efficient manner going forward. The meeting resulted in a strong plan for each team member that will provide clear direction to internal and

external partners, specific Chesapeake Bay Office Project Advisors/Coordinators for each county and

Moving into the new year, all 34 counties who have developed CAPs are gearing up for a year of implementation. The Chesapeake Bay Office and DEP Regional Office staff have been assisting the

Tier 3 and 4 counties prepare for this new phase in the CAP process by holding workshops to

implementation. Using the knowledge and experience they have gained, many of these eight

counties plan to narrow their focus on top priority watersheds identified in their CAP to concentrate

DEP CBO Coordinators and

DEP Region CAP Support Teams

Cumberland

Franklin

Lancaster

Sullivan

Columbia

Lebanon

Lancaster

Montou

Snyder

The Pilot and Tier 2 counties are now moving into their third and second years of CAP

their implementation efforts and maximize nutrient reductions to their local waterways.

its work with counties to implement those plans with partners and projects.

The DEP Chesapeake Bay Office technical team is collaborating with SRBC to provide technical support for Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP and evaluation of the draft CAST-21. SRBC is an integral partner with expertise in creating unique CAST modeling scenarios and reports. SRBC has worked closely with DEP to create a step-by-step technical procedure and to answer questions for EPA in their technical review of the amended Phase 3 WIP. Additionally, DEP Chesapeake Bay Office continues to meet with and provide written responses to EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

River Basin Commission (SRBC)

regarding 2021 numeric progress.

Office's technical and grant staff members.

develop implementation strategies.

pennsylvania

enhanced technical and grant support and oversight.

CBO supporting counties in implementation

DEP CBO Coordinators DEP Region CAP Support Teams Mortheast Erin P North-Central Shane G Kate B South-Central pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION **CAP Implementation Grant Project Advisors** February 2022 Bradford Tioga

Centre

Franklin

■ Erin P ■ Shane G ■ Kate B ■ Natahnee M

This map displays the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office's Phase 3 WIP Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Grant Project Advisors. The Project Advisors will be each county's DEP point of contact for all grant-related items. Grant-related questions should be sent to the CAP grant email account: RA-EPCAPGRANTS@pa.gov and the Project Advisor for that county. Grant invoicing and other related documents should be sent to RA-EPCBOCAP12@pa.gov (for Pilot and Tier 2 counties) and RA-EPCBOCAP34@pa.gov (for Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties), and to the Project Advisor for that county.

Huntingdon

Mifflin Juniata

Cumberland

Adams

Clearfield

Bedford

Counties in Action Adams County is Expanding Outreach Adams County recently published a "Wrap on the CAP" newsletter that was sent to a variety of local conservation partners. The newsletter discussed ongoing projects such as the Advanced Nutrient Management Program and numerous stream restoration projects. The newsletter also reminded everyone that funding and other assistance is available. The conservation district also published an article in the local newspaper discussing the Advanced Nutrient Management program, using that as a recruiting venue. The district is also preparing to attend and present at the annual Fruit Growers conference in Biglerville in February. Adams County is excited about these new outreach opportunities.

- Pennsylvania is home to some of the most fertile,
- PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding as Pennsylvania Preserves 6,000th Farm Clean water: **Great for PA**

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non-irrigated soil in the nation, and we have been the most successful of any state in at protecting our prime farmland.

f) 💟 🖸 🗇 in

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400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA | 17101 US This email was sent to .

Sewage Facilities Act. • Flood Mitigation: Projects authorized by a flood protection authority, DEP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service <u>Programs webpage</u>. Questions should be directed to 717-787-6245. Grant Funding Available to Improve York and Lancaster County **Watersheds** The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has announced that grant funding opportunities are available to address habitat improvement and sediment reduction projects in York and Lancaster counties. Funding for the grant program is being provided by Exelon Generation Company as part of its 2014 water quality certification from DEP to operate the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, an electric generation facility located along the Susquehanna River in Peach Bottom Township, York County, and Fulton and Dunmore townships, Lancaster County. As part of the agreement, Exelon will mitigate impacts to aquatic resources by providing \$100,000 per year to the PFBC for as long as the Peach Bottom facility remains in operation. To be eligible, projects must be in York or Lancaster counties and be a habitat improvement or a sediment reduction project. Projects may include stream improvement, agricultural best management practices, and small dam removal projects. Project applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and must use the application form specified in the grant application package. Project applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2022. This round of projects is expected to be announced in July. For more information about applying for this grant program, contact Tyler Neimond, Chief, PFBC Division of Habitat Management, at 814-359-5185 or by email at tneimond@pa.gov. **Program** On February 1, PA American Water announced applications are now being accepted for the To qualify, proposed projects must be: Completed between May and November of the grant funding year · Be a new, innovative community initiative or serve as a significant expansion to an existing program • Be carried out by a formal or informal partnership between two or more organizations • Provide evidence of sustainability (continued existence after the grant monies are utilized) Information and applications can be found on the PA American Water Environmental Grant Program webpage or send an email to: pa.communityrelations@amwater.com. **Getting Credit for Our Work** DEP Chesapeake Bay Office continues to collaborate with Susquehanna

Juniata County Plan Workshop The Juniata County Conservation District is offering a free, one-day workshop to send producers home with the required manure or nutrient management plan. The workshop will take place on March 8, 2022, at the Juniata County USDA Ag Service Center. To register, please contact the Juniata County Conservation district at 717.436.8953 ext. 5 or email brent-leach@juniataccd.org. Lancaster County Project on Ephrata Cattle Farm Reduces Nutrient and **Sediment Pollution** This month, an implementation project was completed on a cattle farm in Ephrata that will reduce

nutrient and sediment pollution. The project used CAP Implementation grant funding to improve the

practices included in Lancaster's CAP. The expected reduction for the HUA of approximately 0.16

The Perry County Conservation District rents three 10-foot-wide John Deere 1590 no-till drills and one 6 foot wide Land Pride 606NT drill. The John Deere drills are suitable for planting small grains, soybeans, forages, cover crops, and large pastures. The Land Pride 606NT is commonly used for native grasses and smaller pastures as well as small grains, hay, soybeans, and cover crops. The county drills are for use in no-till systems, not in vertical tillage or conventional tillage systems. In 2021, the John Deere drills were used to plant a total of 1,705 acres and the Land Pride was used to plant a total of 157.9 acres. For drill availability, please contact Perry County Ag Resource Specialist

The Snyder County Conservation District is hosting two Manure Management Plan (MMP) workshops

Does this apply to you? If you can answer "yes" to one of the following questions below, then you are

To register for the workshop, contact Snyder County Conservation District's Ag Tech, Barry Spangler,

Shell Energy has provided a grant to the Tioga County Conservation District to help mitigate the cost of streambank stabilization projects. This grant allows the Conservation District to provide technical

Snyder County to Host Manure Management Plan Workshops

on March 22, 2022, for farmers, livestock and horse owners, and crop farmers.

Do you land apply manure at your operation or on rented ground?

Tioga County Offers Cost-share Stream Protection Program

heavy use area (HUA) and plant a six-acre streamside forest buffer, both best management

acres of area are 84.7 pounds/year of nitrogen, 3.6 pounds/year of phosphorus and 741.35 pounds/year of sediments. In the spring, the grading and seeding around the building will be

finalized.

Before

After

Perry County is Renting No-till Drills

required to at least have a Manure Management Plan.

Do you have pastured livestock?

by calling 570-837-3000 ext. 5.

· Do you import manure from another operation?

Ben Smith at 717-275-5111.

assistance and pay 50% of the total project cost. The conservation district has been working with Trout Unlimited, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, the PFBC, NFWF, DEP, and local groups to secure streambanks and prevent sediment pollution. This program is designed for smaller projects in the \$2,000-\$10,000 range and requires 50% matching funds or materials from the landowner. The funds are very limited, and matching contributions help to increase the number of people helped. If you are interested in Tioga County Stream Protection Cost-Share Program and want to help your local streams, you can find an application at the conservation district office or on the district's Facebook page. The deadline to apply is March 6. For more information, contact Tyler Upham at tupham@tiogacountypa.us or call 570-724-1801 ex. 1304.



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Good for the Bay Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

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