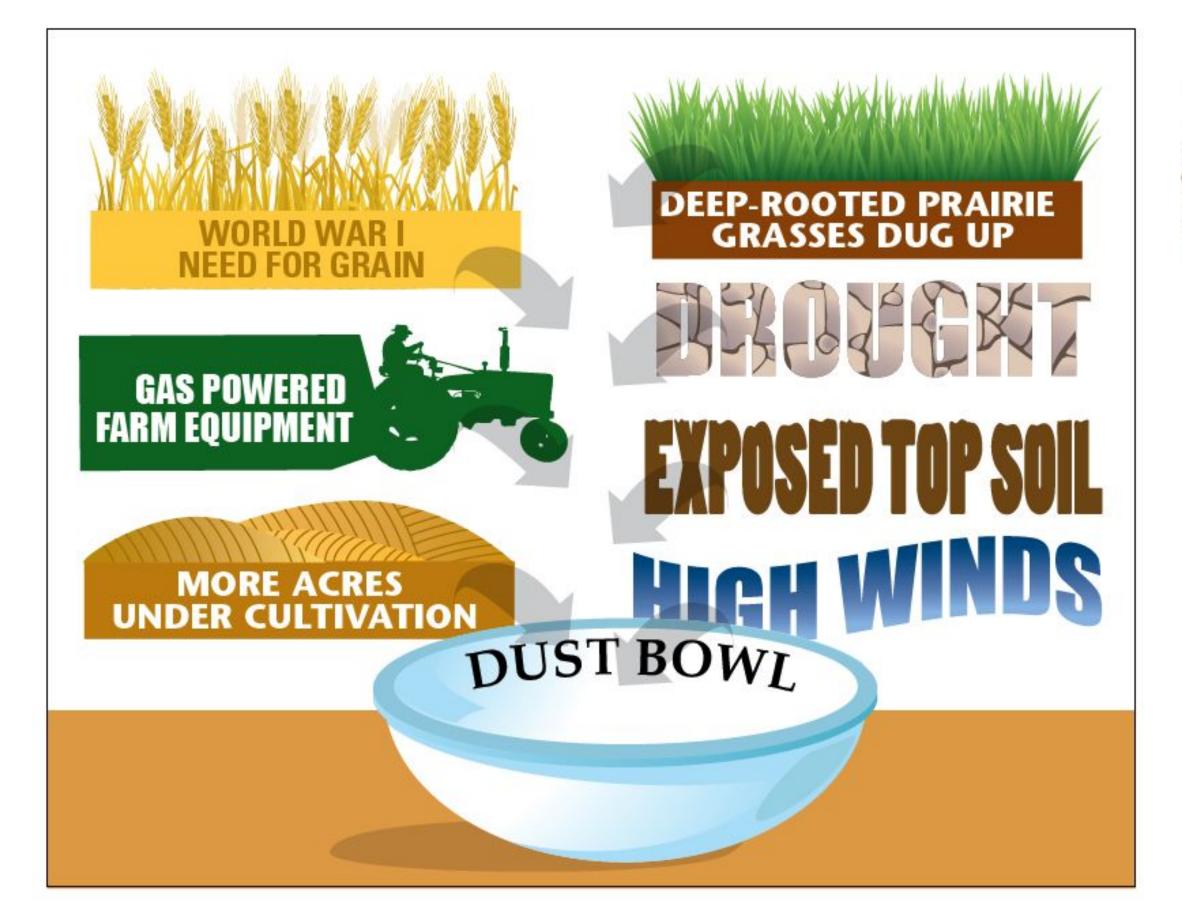


### Hourglass Foundation March 7, 2025

# • LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District

### Where, Why, and How Did **Conservation Districts Form?**





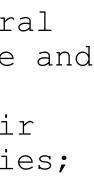






### PA passed Act 217 in May 1945

Relating to the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources and land use practices contributing to soil wastage and soil erosion; providing for the organization of the various counties into conservation districts; the appointment of their officers and employees; and prescribing their powers and duties; creating the State Conservation Commission



### Introduction





### Introduction

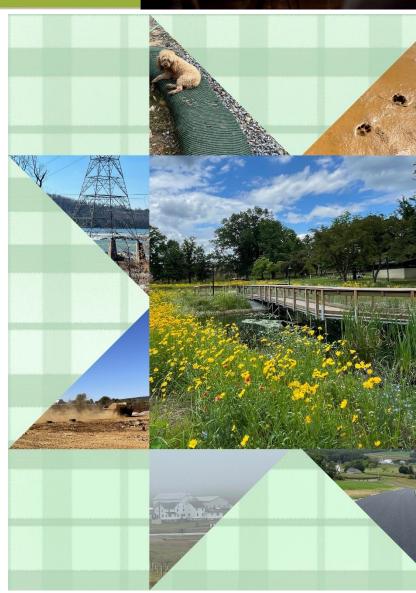




















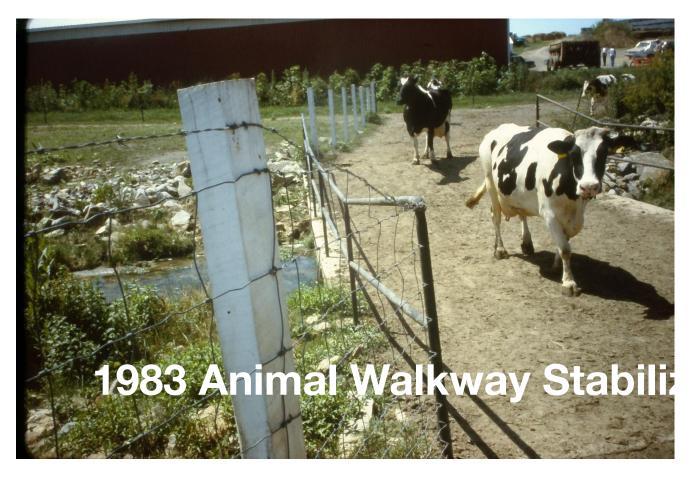
## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Lancaster County Conservation District 75 years in 2025

- Lancaster County leading the way for over 75 years
- Assisting farmers since 1938
- Resolution countywide 1950
- 1st District employee in 1965 Nancy Burkhart
- E&S Program started in 1972
- 1st Tree Sale 1975
- 1st Youth Conservation School 1978









**1980s: Development** moves from road sign to inland construction.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Lancaster County Conservation District 75 years in 2025

- Chesapeake Bay Program starts 1985
- County Envirothon Program 1984
- Watershed Program starts 1995
- Plain Sect Outreach starts 2007
- Today a budget over \$15 million
- Staff of over 40 (largest in state)
- Diamond Jubilee Gala Sept 25th









## Water Quality





### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

Includes over 100K streams, creeks, and rivers

Covers 64,000 square miles

Has a population of over 18.5 million people

Home to over 3,600 species of plants and animals PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

NEW

MARYLAND

DC

VIRGINIA

Annapolis

Richmond

VIRGINIA

### 1,176 Stream Miles (79%) are Impaired for Aquatic Life



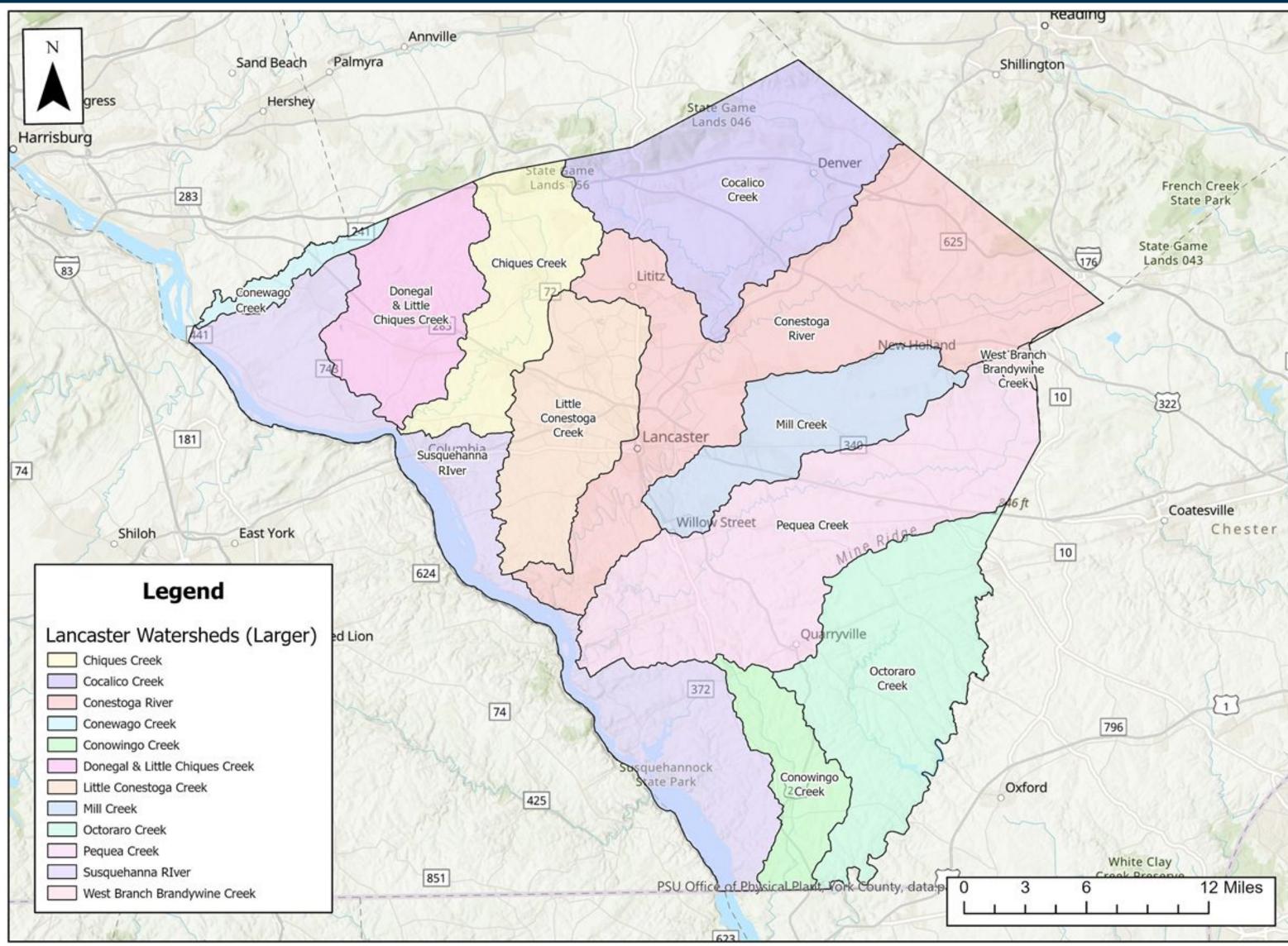








## What's Your Watershed?







## Programs & Services

# LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District

## Watershed

### **Program Overview**

- Stream Restoration Projects & Riparian Buffers
- Water Quality Monitoring
  - O Volunteer Program
  - In-Stream Sensors (Sondes)
- Outreach & Technical Assistance







## Watershed

### **County Goals & Connections**

- Landowner Technical Assistance
  - § Focus areas: Mill Creek, Pequea Creek, Conowingo Creek, Conewago Creek
- Countywide Watershed Planning
- Support Local Grassroots Efforts
- Project collaborations with townships, non-profits, and government agencies





## Watershed Projects





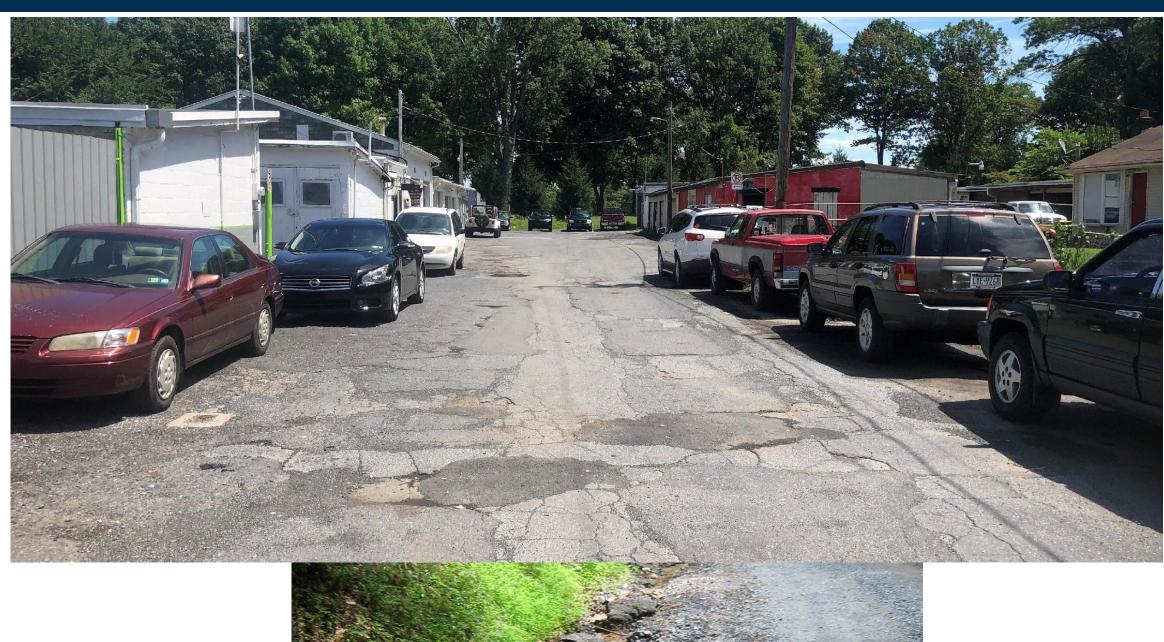


## Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads

### **Program Purpose**

- Pay to fix/maintain roads that may get overlooked
- Reduce pollution to Lancaster's waterways
- Reduce maintenance costs for Townships
  DG vs LVR
- DG: Unbound surface, no traffic count
- LVR: Paved, <500 vehicles per day







### **Erosion & Sedimentation** (E&S)

### What do we do?

- Chapter 102.4(b) all earth disturbance activities except agriculture
- Review of plans and permits
- Inspection of construction sites
- Investigation of earth disturbance complaints





### What do they have to do?



### **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

## E&S BNPS



### Compost Filter Sock





### Sediment Basin

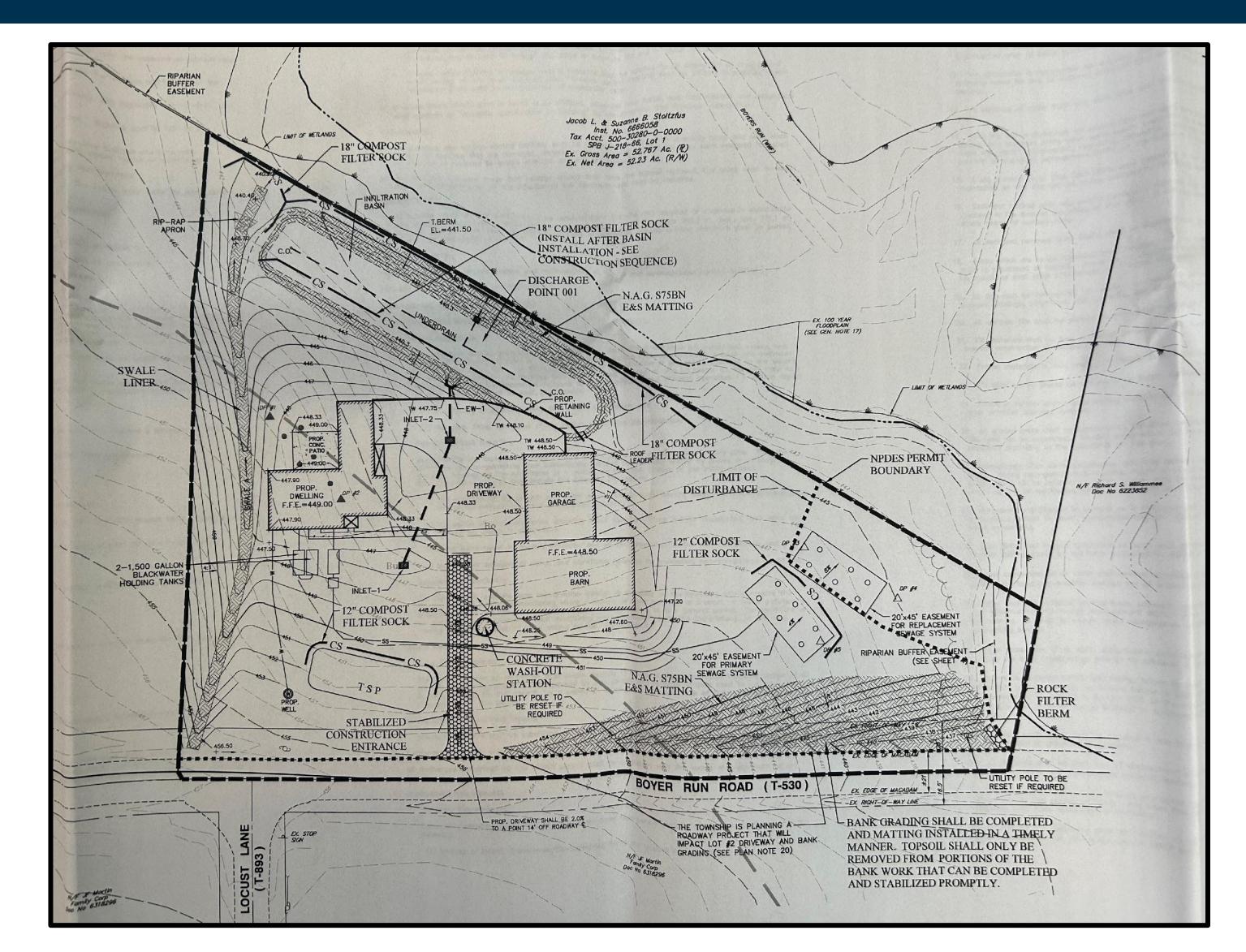


### What do they have to do?

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- E&S Plan 5,000 sq. ft. or more



### E&S Plan







### What do they have to do?

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- E&S Plan 5,000 sq. ft. or more



### • National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit – 1.0 acre or more

## Stormwater Management





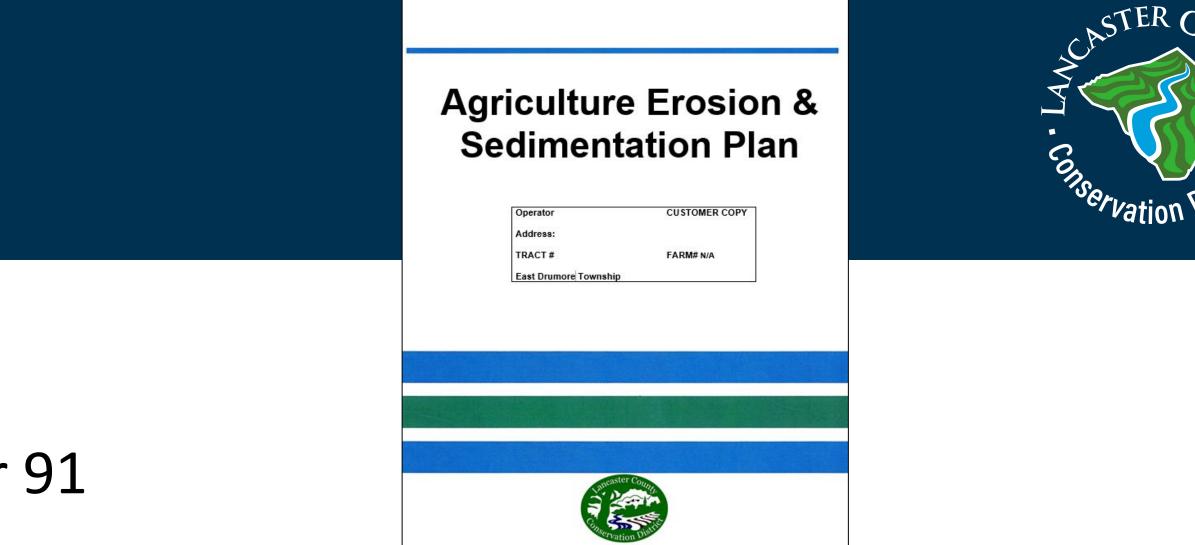
## Agriculture

### What do we do?

- Act 38 Nutrient Management & Chapter 91 Management Programs
- Chapter 102.4(a) Ag Erosion & Sediment Control
- Technical Assistance engineering funding













## Agriculture

- Nutrient & Sediment Pollution Complaints
- Plain Sect Outreach
- Ag Conservation educational materials



### Help turn this....





### **Into THIS!**

## Education and Outreach

### PA Ombudsman - Conflict management related to agriculture

### Education - Learning experiences to engage and ignite local understanding

### O Natural Resources

### O Human Impact











## Education

### Programs

- Teacher professional development







### Lancaster County Envirothon program – grades 3-12, school teams of 5

## Data & Analysis

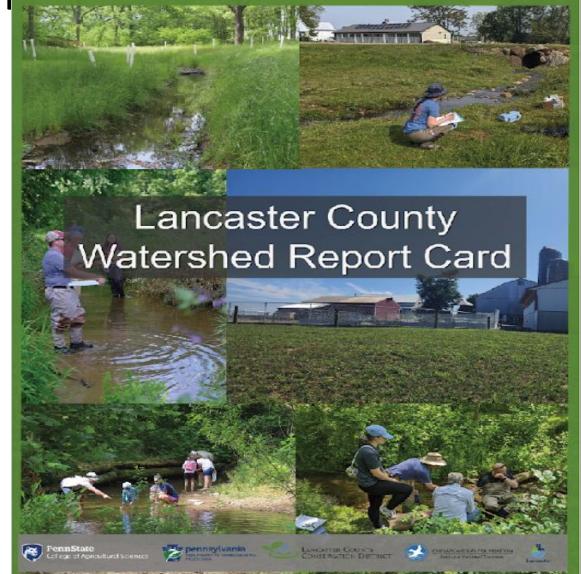
### **New District Department started in 2023**

•Started with a Grants Coordinator in the summer of 2022

•A Data Coordinator position in late 2022









Roof Runoff Structure - NRCS Code 558



Why? Gutters that are not connected to downspout provide no stormwater control as runoff is intended to be routed to an appropriate outlet.



## Ways We Assist

# LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District

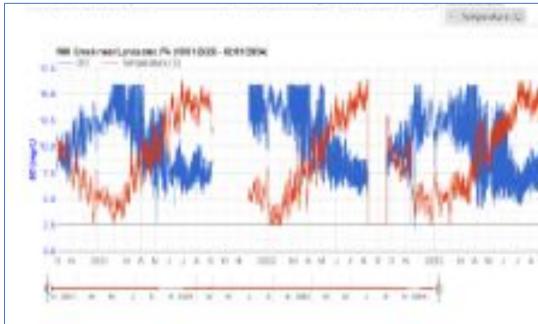
### Data, WQ, and Partnerships

### **How We Assist**

- GIS Datasets for Best Management Practices (PracticeKeeper)
- Water Quality data; <u>www.lancasterwatersheds.org</u>
- Currently creating a County-Wide Data Dashboard
- Municipal Coordination MOU
- Ag Plan Verification Program







### payife Canductivity

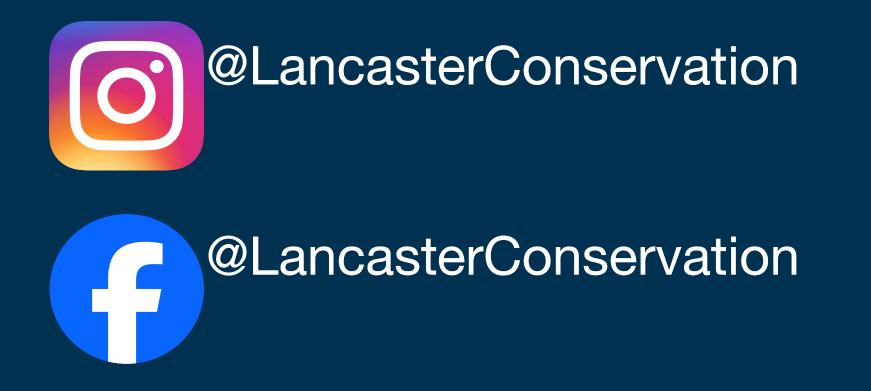








### Thank You! 717-299-5361 ext. 5 www.lancasterconservation.org



### LANCASTER COUNTY Conservation District