



## Cover Crop Incentive Program 2022–2023

Here are the figures from the CCIP Applications received by the District this past fall for the 2022-2023 crop year:

**661 acres in Tier 1**—a minimum of five (or more) species seed mix planted between August 1 and September 15. Rate paid is \$70 per acre, equaling \$46,270.00 in funding.

**420 acres in Tier 2**— a minimum of three species seed mix planted between September 15 and October 30. Rate paid is \$50 per acre, equaling \$21,000.00 in funding.

**2,137 acres in Tier 3**— a single species winter small grain planted anytime after August 1. Rate paid is \$30 per acre, equaling \$64,110.00 in funding.

**3,218 acres were enrolled overall, worth a grand total of \$131,380.00 in County-wide Action Plan funding.**

Verification will take place during late March, farmers are reminded that cover crops cannot be terminated prior to April 1. Soil cover (via crop residue and live cover crop) must reach 50% during that time. Incentive payments will be distributed accordingly.

The District plans to offer this program for another one-year term during the 2023-2024 crop year. Applications will be due by July 14, 2023. Those interested in participating are asked to contact the District in the spring for updated application documents for new enrollments or re-enrollments. Funding allotments will be based on participation numbers overall.

For more information, please contact Ag Resource Specialist Lauren Leinbach at 717-594-3003 or [lleinbach@perryco.org](mailto:lleinbach@perryco.org)



**Penn State Extension  
Crops Day– February 2,  
Perry Mennonite Reception  
Center in Ellittsburg**

**Baken Creek Live-staking Demo  
— mid March (To Be Announced)**

**Annual District Tree Sale—April 13**

**Annual Tree Seedling Sale  
Order Now Through March 22**

We are offering a selection of tree species including Eastern White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Sugar Maple, Sawtooth Oak, and American Plum. The native shrub species being offered are American Hazelnut and Witch-hazel. All plants will arrive as bareroot. Wildflower seed varieties and other habitat enhancers will also be offered. Those on our mailing list will receive brochures. Paper copies are also available in our office. The digital brochure will also be accessible and printable from our website at [www.perrycd.org](http://www.perrycd.org) after January 27.

**Tree Sale Day & Order Pick-up is  
scheduled for April 13th from  
10a.m. to 6p.m.**



**~Proceeds go towards District  
Environmental Education Programs~**

**Contact Us** [www.perrycd.org](http://www.perrycd.org)

**Perry Conservation District  
31 West Main Street, P.O. Box 36  
New Bloomfield, PA 17068  
#717-582-8988 ext. 4**

**Also 'Like Us' on Facebook for News and  
Updates! Perry County Conservation  
District (New Bloomfield, Pa)**



**New District Website Coming Soon!**



PERRY COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

*Interested in going paperless?  
Contact us to receive the  
newsletter by email!*

# Winter 2023 Newsletter

## What's On Your Wish List?

If you have projects on your 'wish list' we would like to hear about them!



Are you in need of any Best Management Practices (BMPs)? Financial support might be more readily available in 2023 through 2025 from new and existing funding streams.

BMP examples include, but are not limited to: Manure Storages both liquid round tanks and solid stacking pads, Heavy Use Areas, Diversions & Grassed Waterways, Watering Troughs, Division Fencing, Pipelines, Livestock Walkways and Stream Crossings, etc. Please contact the District for more information.

## Employee Updates

The District is currently in the hiring process for the Ag Resource Specialist position. Please stay tuned as we get back up to being fully staffed.



In November of 2022, Neil Imes departed from his position as the District's Resource Specialist to join the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in the Bureau of Farmland Preservation. Neil will be missed, having served 15 years with the District, but we wish him well with his new promotion!

Ben Smith, one of the District's Ag Technicians, departed in January to join the Conservation District team in Adams County as it is closer to his hometown. Ben was with the District since March of 2019 and enjoyed running the No-till Drill Rental Program and helping out with the Juniata River Clean-up.



## No-Till Drill Rental Updates

The County now rents one **new** 12ft wide Esch 5612 no-till drill, one 10ft wide John Deere 1590 no-till drill, one **new** 10ft wide Pro-series John Deere 1590 drill, and one 6ft wide Land Pride 606NT drill. The Esch and John Deere drills are suitable for planting small grains, soybeans, forages, cover crops, and large pastures. A minimum of 100 HP and 2 hydraulic valves are required for the Esch drill. A minimum of 85 HP tractor and 1 remote hydraulic valve are required for the John Deere drills. The Land Pride 606NT is commonly used for native grasses and smaller pastures as well as small grains, hay, soybeans, and cover crops. The 606NT requires a minimum of 40 HP tractor and 1 remote hydraulic valve.

The Esch 5612 drill is unique in that it has the ability to fold down to a narrow 8.5ft transport width and has a row spacing of 5.5 inches. This drill is great for achieving maximum vegetative cover on crop ground and large pastures. Due to the narrow row spacing of this drill, it is recommended to mow corn stubble and to allow fields to adequately dry prior to planting.

The Pro-series John Deere 1590 drill is different since it has a few enhanced features including: narrow seed boots to reduce soil disturbance, narrow press wheels to improve seed to soil contact, spoked gauge wheels to reduce mud packing in the wetter months, and toothed closing wheels to improve seed furrow coverage in dry/hard soil conditions.

**The County drills are for use in no-till systems only** and not in vertical tillage or conventional tillage systems. In 2022, the John Deere drills were used to plant a total of 1,170 acres, the Esch was used to plant a total of 289.1 acres, and the Land Pride was used to plant a total of 110.95 acres.

### Rental Program Information for 2023:

A per diem fee of \$25 will be charged, beginning on the morning of the third day that the District's no-till drill is in possession of the renter. At 9am on the third day, the fee will be charged daily until the renter notifies the District that the no-till drill is ready for pick up.

Rental rates for the Esch drill, John Deere drills, and Land Pride drill are a flat rate of \$10/acre for ANY seed type planted. A drop fee of \$25 will be applied to renters that plant 5 acres or less.

Seed rate calibration is available as an additional service for a fee of \$30.

For drill availability, please call 717-275-5111.

## A Friendly Reminder About Winter Spreading...

Under DEP's Nutrient Management Act 38 & Manure Management programs, winter is defined as December 15 through February 28 **OR** anytime the ground is frozen to at least 4 inches **OR** anytime the ground is covered in snow. Act 38 operations should follow their plan for winter spreading, and have their plan updated before spreading if changes are necessary. Operations with Manure Management Plans will follow MMP guidelines for winter spreading in the Land Application of Manure manual. Criteria includes: The maximum application rate of 5,000 gallons of liquid manure or 20 tons of dry non-poultry manure or 3 tons of dry poultry manure per acre. A setback of 100ft from an above ground inlet to an agricultural drainage system where surface water flow is toward the above ground inlet. All fields must have at least 25% crop residue at the time of application or an established cover crop. No application on fields with slopes greater than 15%. An application setback of 100ft from surface water such as springs, ponds, lakes, streams, and drinking wells.

### **Live-staking Demo Planned for Baken Creek Watershed in March**

First of all, what is live-staking? It is the practice of harvesting branch cuttings from certain mature wetland trees and shrubs that can be replanted along streams to help stabilize banks, decrease sediment erosion and runoff, filter nutrients and pollutants, and provide shade and food for aquatic organisms and other wildlife. Plant species such as Willow varieties, Dogwood varieties, Elderberry, and Buttonbush do the best under the harvesting conditions which have to take place during the middle of March just before spring growth begins. These varieties are also fast growing, which makes them a necessary tool to solve erosion problems quickly. Live-stakes themselves are also easy to harvest and install, all you need are a pair of garden loppers, a 5-gallon bucket, a hammer, and some elbow grease. Those interested in learning more or attending the demo can contact Watershed Specialist Kristie Smith at [ksmith@perryco.org](mailto:ksmith@perryco.org) or 717-582-5138 before the end of February.

### **NRCS Announcement: New Funding Available for Minor Soil Erosion**



Brand new for 2023, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has established a new funding code for EQIP this year specifically for **Minor Soil Erosion**. The purpose of this code is to address gully erosion projects. Sometimes these small projects were not being funded in the Cropland Fund Code because of national ranking questions. There is an allocation cap of \$30,000 for this Minor Soil Erosion fund code and the practices that can be applied to this category are limited to erosion control practices such as Grassed Waterways, Diversions, Terraces, Contour Buffer Strips, Rock Aprons, Rock-lined Waterways, Underground Outlets, Strip Cropping, Contour Farming, etc. This is a great opportunity to address gully and rill erosion in cropland. Please contact Kevin Morgan or Samantha DiLorenzo at the NRCS Perry County Field Office 717-594-3010 if you are interesting applying.

### **Spotted Lanternflies...What to Expect in Springtime**

According to the PA Department of Ag and Penn State Extension, the spotted lanternfly numbers in this area will be significant for the next two years until their populations move westward, leading to a drop-off in reproducing adults in this area. There is no control at this point, only management techniques. Consider surveying the trees on your property for eggs masses before spring thaw. Scrape casings into a plastic bag and then destroy to prevent any further population explosions.

Please visit <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-guide> for information.

