



JUNIATA COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Conversation

A newsletter from the
Juniata County Conservation District
146 Stoney Creek Drive, Suite 4
Mifflintown, PA 17059
717-997-8001
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Volume #2026, No. #2
April 2026

2026 WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Looking Towards the Future



On February 26, 2026, the Juniata County Conservation District in partnership with Juniata Valley Bank, held its second annual Women in Agriculture Event at The Garlind in Mifflintown, PA. The event hosted 96 participants, including members of the public, agency representatives, and sponsors!

Participants learned about Marketing Strategies from Lindsay Hutchinson, People's Provisions, LLC; Invasive Plant Control from John Schwatzer, PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources; Financial

Partnerships with the Juniata Valley Bank team; Manure Management from Melanie Barkley with Penn State Extension; and Native Bees from Sarah Kania from Penn State University!

Educational table displays included Juniata County Assessment, Penn State Extension Livestock Team & Master Gardeners, State Conservation Commission & Center for Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Special thank you to our sponsors! We couldn't have this event without you!

This event's sponsorships were provided by: the Juniata Valley Bank; Maple Lawn Associates; Pennian Bank; Farm Credit; First National Bank of Pennsylvania; Team Ag, Inc.; Versant Strategies, LLC; HRG Inc.; Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Land Pro, and The Agronomy Center! Door prizes were donated from the above sponsorships, as well as Honey in the Hollow & Seed Consultants. Honey candy in the table favors were donation by Sandy & Wayne Rickenbaugh.

Special guests included Juniata High School FFA, Representative Stambaugh and Representative Rowe's offices.

Thank you for attending the 2026 Women in Agriculture: Looking Towards the Future event! We look

forward seeing you at the 2027's Women in Agriculture Event! Planning details will be forthcoming in November 2026.



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Construction season only took a small break before it started back up again. Three (3) projects have continued construction and are underway again. Concrete manure reception tanks have been poured in place (right) and the roof has been added to a heavy use area (below). Routine construction checks were completed to ensure that the projects are progressing, and work is being done correctly.



JCCD received 10 applications for ACAP funding in the winter of

2026. 6 applications were funded for a total of \$619,539.50.

JCCD is excited to have these projects implemented and to help the environment in the process. If you would like to learn more about the ACAP program, please contact Maria Rickenbaugh at (717) 997-8003 or maria-rickenbaugh@juniataccd.org.

DIRT & GRAVEL ROADS

The Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road program helps local municipalities fund road improvement projects, at the same time reducing erosion and sedimentation to local tributaries. The Conservation District receives annual allocations from the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to help fund these projects. The Conservation District also receives technical assistance from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road studies program from Penn State in State College.

The Juniata County Conservation District completed the 2026 application round in February and are pleased to have received 4 applications for 2026. Applications include the following:

Lack Township: Pine Ridge Road/ DSA,2A aggregate/ Total Grant requested funds = \$140,000.00

Greenwood Township: Deer Ridge and Orchard Road intersection/ Cross pipes, infiltration basin, 2A aggregate, DSA/ Total Grant requested funds = \$114,000.00

Monroe Township: Paige Valley Road/ cross pipes, underdrain, stream crossing, road base improvements/ Total Grant requested funds = \$36,878.00

Monroe Township: Little Evendale Road/ cross pipes, underdrain, road base improvements, road bank stability/ Total Grant requested funds = 9,697.00.

The Juniata County Conservation District will hold the annual Quality Assurance Board (QAB) meeting on June first with help from NRCS, as well as the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Those with questions regarding the program or the upcoming QAB meeting should reach out to:

Garrett Berry

Resource Conservation Technician

Phone: (717)-997-8004

Email: garrett-berry@juniataccd.org

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM

So far in 2026, the E&S Program has conducted 25 inspections on 12 permitted sites, approved one PAG-02 NPDES permit, one Individual NPDES permit, one E&S Plan, and one Notice of Termination (NOT) on an active PAG-02 NPDES permit. JCCD has one PAG-02 NPDES permit application currently in review.

The weather has swung between winter's freeze and the rising temperatures of springtime creating a challenging time for active projects. As we battle the mud that comes with the winter thaw, please keep best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control to keep the disturbed area from losing its soil until the projects are stabilized.

If you are considering or planning a project that will impact over 5,000 square feet of ground, please contact us at JCCD. We'll go over the options for erosion and sediment control BMPs suited to your site that will best help protect the waterways closest to you. Start your construction projects off on the right foot this spring.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

As we enter Spring 2026 with the increased costs of fertilizer we should be considering utilizing Nutrient Management planning as a tool to utilize our manure more efficiently to maximize its value and help mitigate the increased costs of producing a crop.

Please contact Brent L. Leach at the Juniata County Conservation District to learn more and get a Plan writers list for planners in your area to write your plan or for technical assistance on your operation! It's a great time to pull soil tests and a get a manure analysis, valuable information when developing a plan specific to your operation.



WATERSHED

Throughout Winter 2026, JCCD has been planning their 2026 Watershed restoration projects! Planned for 2026 is a 2,000 linear feet stream restoration on Willow Run in State Game Lands 215 along with 2 lawn conversion/tree planting projects on two private properties totaling ~2 acres. Additionally, JCCD is planning to contract work to support the stream restoration work completed on East Licking Creek at Guss Park and Zooks Dam.

On Saturday, March 21st, 2026, JCCD in partnership with Western PA Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay hosted the Riparian Buffer Workshop for Juniata County residents. The workshop showcased a local riparian buffer at Zooks Dam along East Licking Creek and taught attendees the importance of buffers and how to plant trees. With 7 total attendees, we planted 65 trees to support the Zooks Dam buffer!



If you have questions about stream restoration, lawn conversion, or other watershed projects/workshops, reach out to JCCD Watershed Specialist, Nick Smith, at (717) 997-8007 or nicholas-smith@juniataccd.org!

UPDATES / FUTURE EVENTS

←←←← **KIDS**
ENVIRO
CAMP →→→→



Snyder & Juniata Co. Students
Entering 1st - 4th Grade

JUNE 17TH & 18TH

🕒 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

📍 **Basom Memorial Park**
6972 Heister Valley Rd
Richfield, PA 17086

Scan to Register:



Event hosted by the Snyder and Juniata County Conservation Districts
For Questions: 570-837-3000 or 717-997-8007

Juniata County Conservation District
Recycling Events Calendar for 2026

Electronics Recycling Event
Saturday, April 18th, 2026
Juniata County Fairgrounds – Ag Barn
308 West 8th Street, Port Royal, PA 17082
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **(or until trucks are full)**

Tire Recycling Event
Saturday, September 19th, 2026
Juniata County Fairgrounds
308 West 8th Street, Port Royal, PA 17082
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **(or until trucks are full)**

Household Hazardous Waste Event
Saturday, September 19th, 2026
Juniata County Fairgrounds
308 West 8th Street, Port Royal, PA 17082
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM **(or until trucks are full)**

Have questions?? Call Juniata County Conservation District @ (717) 997-8001!

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