



JUNIATA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 Annual Report

In This Report

History.....	2
Purpose.....	2
Ag Land Preservation.....	3
Nutrient Management.....	3
Erosion & Sedimentation Control	4
Permits.....	4
Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads	4,5
ESM Training Schedule.....	5
Countywide Action Plans.....	6
Watershed Protections.....	6
Juniata Watershed Alliance.....	6
Riparian Rangers.....	6
Conservation Sales.....	7
Grants.....	8
Recycling.....	8
Summer Intern.....	8
Educational Activities.....	9
Envirothon.....	10
Ag Conservation Assistance Program.....	11
Mark Your Calendar.....	12
Partnering Agencies.....	12
Contact Information.....	12

2024 Board of Directors:

- Eric Brubaker – Chairman of the Board
- David Clark – Vice-Chairman
- Todd Graybill – Commissioner-Director
- Jeff Frymoyer – Director
- D. Richard Hackenberger-Director
- Chad Reinford –Director
- Jay Cheran – Director
- Jerry Trout – Director
- Jay Finkbinder – Associate Director

2024 District Staff:

- Lori Glace – District Manager
- Debra Dressler – Administrative Assistant
- Brent Leach – Resource Conservation Technician
- Hannah Hunsberger – Resource Conservation Technician
- Maria Rickenbaugh – Resource Conservation Technician
- Nick Smith – Resource Conservation Technician
- Garrett Berry – Resource Conservation Technician
- Sarah Hershey – Resource Conservation Summer Intern

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Juniata County Conservation District (JCCD) is to preserve and promote the effective use of the county’s natural resources through the provision of timely, coordinated, and professional guidance and technical assistance to the landowners, land managers, and residents of Juniata County. In doing so, it is our goal to ensure that Juniata County’s future is characterized by a healthy environment, an informed public, a commonsense regulatory climate, and a coordinated menu of services, information, and regulations.

HISTORY

The Juniata County Conservation District was organized in 1957 as a legal subdivision of local and state government and is responsible under state law for conservation work within the county's boundary lines.

The purpose of the district is to: resolve land and water related resource problems through voluntary compliance with landowners, enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that contribute to accomplishing the district goals, and educate all citizens on the inter-relationships between human activities and the natural environment.

A board of local citizens attuned to local issues manages the district. Juniata County is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of four (4) farmer directors, three (3) public directors and a county commissioner director. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month; January through October at 7:00 p.m. No meeting is conducted in November, and the December meeting is conducted at 1:30 pm in conjunction with an annual directors' banquet. Meetings are held at the Ag Service Center located off the Arch Rock Exit of 322 in Mifflintown. The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend these meetings.

The district's effectiveness lies in our ability to network with local, state, and federal agencies to solve local environmental problems. In most cases, the district's obligations to each agency are outlined through delegation agreements or through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which clearly states the role of each party.

Common concerns and activities of conservation districts include: cooperation between agencies for developing conservation plans for landowners, installation of conservation practices, financial cost-share for water quality programs, timber management, wildlife management, conservation education, promotional events, erosion and sedimentation controls, floodplain management, nutrient management issues involving the state's Act 38 Nutrient Management Law, and Ag Land Preservation.



JCCD Staff and RRS, LLC Staff at the 2024 Electronics Recycling Day

PURPOSE

- Assist landowners and managers with the technical information and guidance they need to address the natural resources management decisions they confront
 - Ensure environmental regulations and objectives are achieved in a user friendly, practical, and, to the extent possible, voluntary manner
- Provide educational workshops and information to ensure that landowners, managers, and residents in the county understand, appreciate, conserve, and protect the county's unique natural resources
 - Encourage the effective and timely coordination and dissemination of information and resources among the public agencies and non-profit organizations providing services to the public or creating / enforcing environmental policy related objectives
 - Promote the conservation and effective use of Juniata County's land, waters, forests, soils, wildlife, air, and other natural resources
- Collect and distribute relevant local, county, regional, and state data and information as appropriate
 - Ensure citizens, land managers and owners, and municipal officials are well informed of their responsibilities regarding the effective conservation and use of the county's natural resources
 - Provide, as appropriate, project-specific financial assistance to landowners and managers to ensure the county's and state's environmental goals and objectives are met
 - Ensure the continued professional and fiscal viability of a fully staffed conservation district office
 - Explore evolving needs and opportunities for helping the county and its residents meet their environmental stewardship goals and objectives.

Juniata County Conservation District Programs

Ag Land Preservation Program

Since 2008, JCCD has administered the Juniata County Ag Land Preservation Program under the direction of the Juniata County Agricultural Land Preservation Board on behalf of the Juniata County Commissioners. The 2024 fiscal year funding levels were \$77,817 in state funding and \$15,000 in county funding.

The board received 14 applications in 2024. Two (2) farms were selected and are in process of easement. The first farm is a 56.14-acre dairy/crop farm located in Milford Township. The second farm is an 80.85-acre crop farm in Milford Township. The next application cycle will be December 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026.

The Juniata County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has preserved 26 farms to date with permanent easements; consisting of 22 purchased easements and five (5) donated easements totaling 3,225.34 acres. All preserved farms are inspected bi-annually to ensure compliance with the Agricultural Conservation Easement requirements.

Nutrient Management Programming

Pennsylvania's current nutrient management law, ACT 38, went into effect on October 1, 2006, for the protection of soil and water quality through the development of nutrient management plans and agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on production operations. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) oversees the county conservation districts' administration of the program to regulate nitrogen, phosphorous, and odor management.

All farmers are encouraged to participate; however, livestock operations defined as a concentrated animal operation (CAO) must comply. A CAO is defined as an operation with eight (8) or more animal equivalent units (AEUs) of total animal units (AUs) on the farm and has two (2) or more AEUs per acre available for manure application.

In 2024, JCCD wrote six (6) manure management plans (MMPs), reviewed and approved seventeen (17) ACT 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs), and six (6) ACT 49 Balance Sheet Reviews. The district's staff conducted 48 annual status reviews comprised of 36 CAOs, 12 CAFOs and five (5) VAO/ Manure Management plans, and verified six (6) Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) applications. Three (3) Manure Hauler II exam were also proctored for certification.

Manure Management Plans

Manure management workshops are offered twice annually at the Ag Service Center. There were no attendees registered for the workshops held in 2024. Two workshops were scheduled for February 5th and 12th of 2025.



Nutrient management is the science and practice directed to link soil, crop, weather, and hydrologic factors with cultural irrigation, and soil and water conservation practices to achieve optimal nutrient use efficiency, crop yields, crop quality, and economic returns, while reducing off-site transport of nutrients (fertilizer) that may impact the environment. Delgado and Lemunyon. "Nutrient Management." In Encyclopedia of Soil Science (Vol 2). Ed. Rattan Lal. CRC Press, 2006. pp 1157-1160.

How do I know which plan is needed?

- My operation has less than 2 AEU/acre so a manure management plan is required.
- My operation has 2-299 AEU/acre so it is a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) and requires an ACT 38 plan.
- My operation has 300 or more AEU/acre so it is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) and requires an ACT 38 plan.

AEUs for each type of animal = [(average number of animals on a typical day that the animals are there) x (animal weight (lb)) ÷ 1,000] x [(number of days the animals are on the operation per year) ÷ 365]



Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Program

Juniata County Conservation District maintains a Level II delegation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law for Juniata County. The district reviews E&S Control Plans for permitted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and non-permitted sites.



In 2024, the district authorized a total of 22 NPDES permits encompassing 858 acres; of which 667 acres were or will be disturbed. As NPDES PAG-02 permits expired on December 7th, 2024, the district issued 17 renewals to existing permits that applied to maintain coverage under the new NPDES PAG-02 expiring in 2029. The district reviewed and approved two (2) E&S plan for non-permitted site of less than one (1) acre. Additionally, the district is responsible for inspecting earth disturbance sites for adequate E&S control implementation. Fifty-four (54) inspections were performed on 21 sites in 2024. JCCD technicians were available to provide technical assistance to 217 participants.

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program



Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program provides funding to eliminate stream pollution caused by runoff and sediment from the state's comprehensive network of unpaved and low volume public paved roads. The program was enacted into law in April 1997 as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code, with \$5 million in annual

funding for "environmentally sensitive road maintenance" for unpaved roads. The goal of the program is to create a more environmentally and economically sustainable low volume road network through education, outreach, and project funding. The program has grown to award \$28 million statewide and added the low volume, paved road program in 2013.

JCCD receives annual allocations from the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to administer the program locally which includes technical assistance, project development, application reviews, project ranking, and construction oversight. Applications are reviewed by



Planning to Build?



Are you planning to build a home, add a garage, construct an outbuilding, or expand parking at your business? Construction activities require a permit or an approved plan.

JCCD can assist you in the building process. Any project involving 5,000 sq. feet of earth disturbance requires an erosion and sedimentation (E&S) plan to be followed and kept at the worksite.

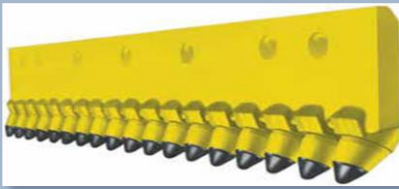
When the earth disturbance reaches one (1) acre or more, an NPDES permit is required and must be submitted for review to the conservation district.

Your local municipality may have additional regulations for building projects.

For more information or assistance, contact JCCD at 717-997-8001. We are happy to work with you to ensure your project is the best it can be!

ESM Practices

- Headwalls & Endwalls
- Cross Pipes / Shallow Cross Pipes
- French Mattress
- Under drains
- High Water Bypass
- Stream Culverts – Flood Resiliency
- Driving Surface Aggregate
- Crown & Cross Slope
- Broad Based Dips/ Waterbars
- Bank Benches
- “Through the Bank” pipes



**CARBIDE TIPPED GRADER
BLADE RENTAL**

The JCCD Grader Blade is eligible for municipalities located in Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, Perry, and Huntingdon Counties. The district borrowing the blade will be intermediary and will be responsible for getting and returning the blade to the JCCD office. To obtain the blade, notify JCCD to schedule. The blade can be reserved for no more than five (5) consecutive workdays at a time if another municipality has also requested its use. Reservations are on a first-come, first served basis.

RENTAL FEE: \$10 per day

2025 ESM TRAININGS

- March 19-20 (Snyder County)
- April 15-16 (Fayette County)
- May 14-15 (Mercer County)
- May 28-29 (Huntingdon County)
- June 4-5 (Adams County)
- July 9-10 (Luzerne County)
- July 30-31 (Butler County)
- August 13-14 (Tioga County)
- August 27-28 (Erie County)
- September 3-4 (Washington County)
- October 7-8 (Berks County)
- October 28-29 (Monroe County)

the Quality Assurance Board (QAB), comprised of partners from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Projects are awarded by the JCCD Board of Directors. JCCD works closely with the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies for technical assistance and training opportunities.

JCCD met on August 7th, 2024 with program staff from the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Center for Dirt & Gravel, Low Volume Road Studies for Round 5 of the Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC). JCCD received “Meets Expectations” for Financial Review, “Exceeds Expectations” for Administration / Functionality, and “Meets Expectations” for Project Sites Review.

DGLVR Project Funding Summary 2024					
Program	Road Name	Municipality	Project Funding Spent	Township Match	Project Total
LVR	Cider Press	Beale	\$7,798.80	\$591.81	\$8,390.61
LVR	Maze	Delaware	\$66,514.94	\$63,883.82	\$130,398.76
DGR	Light	Susquehanna	-	-	
DGR	Shope Hill	Susquehanna	-	-	
LVR	Goldie Hollow	Greenwood	-	-	
LVR	Old Butchershop	Fermanagh	\$24,152.55	0	\$24,152.55
		Total:	\$98,466.29	\$64,475.63	\$162,941.92

DGLVR funding spent in 2024 - projects highlighted in gray were completed in 2024

DGLVR construction season included projects in five (5) townships accounting for six (6) of the six (6) contracted projects. Three (3) projects were completed in 2024 in Fermanagh Township, Beale Township, and Delaware Township. A summary is provided above.



Top center: Old Butchershop Road, Fermanagh Township. 3 cross pipes and 333 feet of underdrain.
Page 4 left: Maze Road, Delaware Township. 3 turn outs, 12 cross pipes, 1,281 feet of geo fabric, and 769 feet of underdrain
Page 4 right: Cider Press Road, Beale Township. 1 new cross pipe to better improved drainage.

Applications for FY 24/25 funding round closed in March 2025 for both Dirt & Gravel Road and Low Volume Roads Programs. For assistance, please contact Garrett Berry at the District for a site meeting to go over program guidelines and offer technical assistance for drainage improvements.

Watershed Protections

Countywide Action Plan Governor Shapiro awarded \$19.3 million grant funding to improve local water quality for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed through the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Grants. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission was awarded \$1,397,663 for Dauphin, Perry, Juniata and Mifflin Counties to improve the health of local streams, rivers, and lakes by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution. JCCD has secured \$298,317 of that total to implement stream restoration projects on Lost Creek and Delaware Creek, as well as wetland restoration at the Lion's Club Park on East Licking Creek. Other implementation projects include a 2.9-acre lawn to wildflower / upland tree planting project in Monroe Township, planned for construction in 2025.

Additionally, Lancaster Farmland Trust visited 100 farms in the lower Tuscarora Watershed to talk with farmers about conservation programs that included planning for manure application and erosion and sediment control, best management practices (BMP) opportunities that could include practices like heavy use areas, riparian buffers, and manure stack pads. The goal of these visits are one-on-one assistance to talk about programs and assistance that is available to Juniata County's farming community. Funding provided through the CAP Implementation Grant and a Growing Greener Grant through the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

How does this benefit Juniata County? Community planning ensures the individualized needs of each county are met using available resources. CAP is not establishing new regulations but working to empower localities to lead in identifying pollution and flood reduction solutions and identifying grant funding and cost-share opportunities for the improvement of local water quality.

Mark A.'s Property (Lost Creek) & AMVETS Post 122 (Delaware Creek)

were two stream restoration projects completed in July 2024 through the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Grant funding, through the Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) overseen by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Partners involved with the project included PA Fish & Boat Commission, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Rowland Herbert & Grubic (HRG) Inc., & Resource Restoration Group, LLC. The projects restored 2,500 linear feet of streams by constructing best management practices (BMPs). The BMPs constructed includes modified mudsills, log & stone deflectors, log-framed cross vanes, and random boulders. The stream restoration work completed will provide in-stream habitat for aquatic life while combatting streambank erosion and reducing sedimentation effects in Juniata County streams.



Volunteer Opportunities!



Juniata Watershed Alliance

JWA is a non-profit volunteer organization committed to conserving, enhancing, and promoting the Watersheds of Juniata County!

JWA always welcomes new members! Learn how you can become a local impact by visiting JWA's Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/juniatawatershedalliance>

Or reach out to JWA's President, Julie Hurst, at: juniatawatershedalliance@gmail.com

JCCD would like to extend a huge thank you to all of JWA's leaders & volunteers!



Riparian Rangers

Riparian buffers in Juniata County on public land are cared for by amazing volunteers through the Riparian Ranger Program, supported by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

JCCD would like to thank our current Riparian Ranger Volunteers!

If you are interested in learning more about Riparian Rangers, contact the

District or visit <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/project/riparian-rangers/>.

Training and equipment are free, and scheduling is flexible. Volunteers must be 18-years or older and have their own transportation.

Conservation Sales!

Locally handcrafted items are available for purchase at the conservation district.

Available for sale are the following items (taxes included):

- Bluebird Box \$21.20
- Bat House \$26.50
- Wood Duck Box \$45.00
- Rain Barrel \$45.00

*prices subject to change



In 2024, one (1) rain barrel, one (1) bat box, nine (9) bluebird boxes, and two (2) duck boxes were sold. One (1) rain barrel was also donated to the Master Gardeners for the Juniata County Library Kids Garden.



Recycling Bin Rentals: JCCD has six (6) 32-gallon recycling bins with single stream lids available for use by Juniata County agencies and residents hosting public events. The agency or event representative is responsible for the delivery and expense of recycling, but the use of bins is free. Contact the recycling coordinator (Nick Smith) at JCCD to reserve bins!

Non-point Source Pollution Mini Grant: Hellbender Event

was held on October 1st, 2024, at the Port Royal Lions Club Park. Thirteen (13) attendees learned about non-point source pollution and prevention strategies through a presentation by JCCD staff. Afterwards, Eric Chapman with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy presented on Eastern Hellbender research



and shared on the importance of good water quality and improving habitat for aquatic life information to assist in the survival of indicator species. Attendees knowledge of non-point source pollution prevention strategies, the concept of “We All Live Downstream”, & importance of good water quality for keeping watersheds healthy improved immensely as a result of the event.



Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Grate Expectations:

Continuing the amazing 2023 work completed in Mifflintown Borough by Ms. Towsey’s Juniata High School science students, the science students stenciled “No Dumping, Drains to River” along street storm drains in Port Royal Borough. The stencils remind everyone that dumping unwanted things in local storm drains will eventually drain to the Juniata River, delivering unwanted pollutants and harming aquatic life. In total, thirteen (13) students stenciled ~60 storm drains throughout Port Royal Borough in May 2024.



Financial and other support for this project has been provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protections 2023 Environmental Education Grants Program.

CREP Mini-Grant: JCCD in partnership with USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service held a Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) field day that showcased three (3) riparian buffers that were installed in Juniata County through the CREP program. Participants were able to talk with landowners about their experiences planting the buffers, their motivation for planting buffers, and the benefits the buffer provide. The sites visited included planting ages of less than 2 years, about 5 years, and more than 20 years. Funding for the event was sponsored by Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts CREP mini-grant program.



Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Recycling

JCCD administers the Juniata County Recycling Program. Since 2014, JCCD has collected Juniata County municipal and business recycling reports for submission of mandated annual reporting to the Department of Environmental Protection. Based on the rate of recycling conducted by municipalities and businesses, the county is reimbursed by the state. Those funds support events such as Electronics Recycling and Tire Recycling, along with other recycling events.

In addition to reporting, the recycling coordinator provides resources and support to businesses, individuals, and municipalities seeking recycling program opportunities and information. JCCD holds membership with Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) and works closely with Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority and local recycling service providers.

Electronic Recycling Event was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Juniata County Fairgrounds. Residents were invited to bring their unwanted electronics to be recycled and repurposed by Responsible Recycling Services LLC, of Kutztown, PA. Electronics Recycling Day drew an estimated 71 Juniata County households representing 14 of 17 townships/boroughs resulting in 11,377 pounds of electronics recycled!



Tire Recycling Challenge was held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at the Juniata County Fairgrounds. Residents were invited to bring unwanted tires to be recycled by Mahantango Enterprises of Liverpool, PA. JCCD Staff and Juniata High School FFA volunteers helped Juniata County Residents recycle 734 tires, ranging in size from tractor trailer tires to golf cart tires. 40 households represented 13 of 17 townships/boroughs!

Many thanks are extended to all who participated in JCCD recycling events, volunteers, and the Juniata County Ag Society for the use of the fairgrounds!



Adopt-A-Highway Program JCCD adopted a two-mile strip of Old Route 22, starting off the Arch Rock exit and extending towards Mifflintown Borough. District Staff usually participates in a Spring and Fall Cleanup. On November 12th, 2024, four (4) JCCD staff cleared 13 bags of roadside trash from the Old Route 22.



JCCD Summer Internship

My name is Sarah Hershey and I'm this year's summer intern. I'm from Mifflintown, PA and I've lived here my entire life. I finished two years at HACC and I'm transferring to Delaware Valley University this fall. I'll graduate in the spring of 2026 with a degree in agribusiness. I've been surrounded by agriculture ever since I was little. I started showing animals with 4-H at age eight. In my high school years, I continued my agricultural interests with FFA, and am still active in my FFA chapter today.

I was drawn to interning at the Juniata County Conservation District because I enjoy helping farmers be successful. I believe that it's important to integrate good conservation practices to be good stewards of the land that we have. I've been eager to contribute to promoting responsible land use and management practices. Beyond my experiences and interests I have been learning everything that the conservation district has to offer, such as seeing two stream restoration projects unfold. My internship is split with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). I have been learning a lot from them and the district!





From August 29th, 2024 – July 7th, 2024, JCCD staff interacted with visitors to the Juniata County fair! Staff shared information on all programs JCCD offers and assists with in conserving the natural resources of our beautiful county. Visitors to JCCD’s booth also learned about different watersheds throughout Juniata County, sharing with staff which watershed they live in.

JCCD also shared wildflower seeds to those stopping by our booth. The seeds are used to promote the growth of native PA wildflower species!

Look for JCCD at the upcoming Juniata County fair in the summer 2025!



Educational Events

Juniata County Fourth Grade Ag Day

JCCD, Juniata School’s Parent/Teacher Organization, Penn State Extension, & Millworks Farms hosted the 4th grade ag day, an ag career awareness day for over 200 Juniata County 4th graders. Students roated through 13 stations covering an array of ag topics including manure, crops, soils, veterinarian, animal housing, and many others! Volunteers from local businesses, local ag representatives, and local ag agencies participated in educating the students. Be on the lookout for the next installment of the 4th grade ag day coming fall 2025!



Snyder/Juniata Envirocamp

For three evenings in June 2024, Juniata County Conservation District partnered with Snyder County Conservation District to host the annual Envirocamp! Envirocamp teaches students grades 1st through 4th about multiple topics regarding conservation. 2024 topics included stream studies, fly fishing, hellbenders, pollution in watersheds, forestry,



water safety, and trout raising! 2024’s Envirocamp also had a live bear trapped by PA Game Commission where students learned about PA black bears and how the PA Game Commission collects species data before releasing bears back into the wild! Be on the lookout for Envirocamp coming Summer 2025!

Tuscarora Junior High School, Great Outdoors Club’s Trout Release Day

JCCD Staff joined several local partners at the Port Royal Lions Club Park to celebrate releasing rainbow trout from the Trout in the Classroom Program (PA Fish and Boat Commission, Trout Unlimited). The Great Outdoors Club at TJHS students range from 6-8th grade and learn about conservation practices, which includes the Trout in the Classroom Project. Watershed Specialist, Nick Smith, hosted a station explaining stream restoration practices and the benefits of fish habitat structures. This site is a 2023 stream restoration project completed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Countywide Action Plan Implementation Program. Other partners involved with the event included: Penns Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who taught students about aquatic macroinvertebrates and fly-fishing techniques and Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Service Forester, Luke Book, who planted a tree with each student group and explained importance of trees along streams. Lunch was sponsored by the Port Royal Lion’s Club and Mr. Clark.



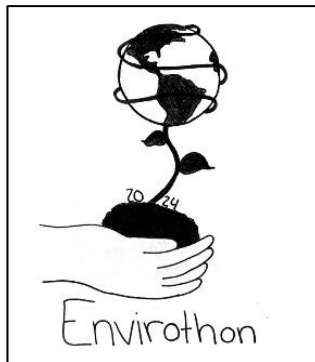
Envirothon

Every year, JCCD partners with Mifflin County Conservation District to hold the Mifflin/Juniata Envirothon. The Envirothon is an environmental education competition where students grades 9-12 compete on a number of topics. Teams are comprised of five (5) students with the winning team advancing to compete at the PA State Envirothon! Envirothon tests students' knowledge on five (5) environmental topics, including: wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics, and a current issue topic. In



Eargle's Eaglets then went on to place 21st at the PA State Envirothon competing against all other 63 PA counties!

Juniata Envirothon T-Shirt Design Contest Every year, high school students submit their Envirothon T-shirt designs to be showcased on Envirothon T-shirts. In 2024, JCCD received 53 t-shirt designs with the winning design coming from Grace Reinhold of Juniata High School! Grace's design was featured on all t-shirts issued to Juniata County Envirothon teams, advisors, & Envirothon volunteers.



Envirothon Study Sessions Juniata High School team advisors invited JCCD and Envirothon station leaders to host Envirothon study workshops after school in preparation for the Mifflin-Juniata Envirothon.

Thank You JCCD would like to thank **Fayette Township** for the use of Lost Creek Community Park and to the Fayette Township Supervisors for digging the 2024 Soils Pit. Thank you to the local businesses that sponsored the 2024 Envirothon, including: **Buttonwood Campground; Blue Valley Industries, Inc.; Hooper Inc; Juniata Valley Bank; and Route 333 Supplies!**

Envirothon Photos



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ACAP)

ACAP Field Day Tour

On Friday, November 8th, the Juniata County Conservation District held an Agriculture Best Management Tour, that highlighted projects completed through the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Participants of the event learned about the impact of nonpoint source pollution and how it related to agriculture and about the partnerships that made these projects possible.

Partners include: State Conservation Commission, Juniata County Conservation District, National Resource Conservation Service, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the Center for Agricultural Conservation Assistance Training.

Participants visited 3 farms within Juniata County that have utilized ACAP funding to minimize the impact of Nonpoint



Created through the Clean Stream Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Budget and introduced in 2023, the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth.

In 2023, the State Conservation Commission (SCC) awarded JCCD with \$1.94 million to install agricultural conservation practices in Juniata County. In 2024, three (3) projects, that were contracted in 2023, were fully completed in 2024. Additionally, one (1) project, also contracted in 2023, is currently under active construction. During 2024, four (4) new projects were contracted for a total cost-share of \$990,692, which will be constructed in 2025. Constructed best management practices (BMP's) included: roofed animal heavy use areas, roofed waste storage facilities, trails and walkways, grassed waterways and riparian buffer plantings. All projects have been in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS provided initial inventory and evaluation, project scope, project design and plans, construction oversight and management of the projects. Additional partners include the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Land O'Lakes Co-Op.

At the end of 2024, JCCD was awarded with \$508,200 to continue installing agricultural conservation practices. JCCD will be accepting applications in the new year.



BEFORE: Brown congregation feeding lot with uncontained sediment and manure. **AFTER:** Completed heavy use area (HUA) and waste storage facility with roof.



BEFORE: congregation area with uncontained manure. **AFTER:** One of two roofed heavy use areas (HUA) to contain manure and separate stormwater from animals and manure. The two HUAs replaced the metal fenced area in before photo.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Cooperating Agency Contacts

Juniata County Government

- Alice J. Gray, Commissioner, Chairperson 717-436-7703
- Todd A. Graybill, Commissioner, Vice-Chairperson 717-436-7701
- Mark R. Partner, Commissioner, Secretary 717-436-7702
- S. James Bahorik, County Administrator 717-436-7704

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- BobbiJo Zimmerman, CED 717-436-4008

Farm Loan Program

- Sarah Porch, Farm Loan Officer 717-436-4029

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Melissa Erdman, District Conservationist 717-436-4010

Penn State Extension

- Jeff Hackenberg, Client Relationship Manager 814-409-7977

Juniata Watershed Alliance

- Julie Hurst, President 717-808-8020

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

- Lucas Book, Service Forester 717-536-3191

PA Fish and Boat Commission

- Seth Strawser, Waterways Conservation Officer 717-486-7087

PA Game Commission

- South Central Region 814-643-1831

Farm Bureau

- Dave Graybill, Juniata County President 717-363-0706

Contact Us

146 Stoney Creek Drive, Suite 4
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717)-997-8001

Email:

juniataccd@juniataccd.org

Website:

<http://juniataccd.org/>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/juniataccd>



Mark Your Calendar

- ❖ **Ag Land Preservation Application Opening:**
 - December 1, 2025- January 31, 2026
- ❖ **Rain Barrel Workshop**
 - April 1, 2025
- ❖ **Women in Agriculture Event: Growing Flavors of Spring**
 - April 9, 2025
- ❖ **Ag Agency Breakfast**
 - April 16, 2025
 - October 15, 2025
- ❖ **Mifflin - Juniata Envirothon**
 - April 23, 2025
- ❖ **Electronics Recycling Day**
 - April 26, 2025
- ❖ **Snyder - Juniata Kids' Enviro Camp**
 - June 11-13, 2025
- ❖ **Juniata County Fair**
 - August 29, 2025
- ❖ **Tire Recycling Challenge**
 - September 20, 2025
- ❖ **Annual Board Banquet & December Board Meeting**
 - December 9, 2025