

## **LACKAWANNA COUNTY: BAY AGRICULTURAL OUTREACH PLAN**

The purpose of this plan is to identify how the Lackawanna County Conservation District will meet the goals set by PA DEP for the Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Outreach/Educational Site Visits Initiative. According to the 2007 USDA National Agricultural Census there are 417 agricultural operations in the county. This number takes into account any individual who listed themselves as an agricultural operation for tax purposes. For this reason, many of the 417 may not be active agricultural operations. With this in mind, along with the notion that the farming community is an every changing dynamic, a feasible goal for Lackawanna County would be to conduct 250 farm visits. All farm visits completed as part of this initiative will be conducted by the District's Chesapeake Bay Technician.

During the first year of the District's involvement in the program, the goal was to conduct 100 farm visits. Due to the retirement of Bay Technician Mr. Charlie Miller, only 68 of the 100 planned visits were completed during the years 2011-2012. These visits focused primarily on operations with a history of involvement in conservation programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Program, Farmland Preservation, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, etc. A list of farm visits completed by the District in 2011-2012 is attached.

With the hiring of a new Bay Technician Mr. Eric Johnson in August 2012, the District will continue towards the goals of the PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Outreach/Educational Site Visits Initiative. For Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the District's goal is to conduct 100 farm visits, bringing the two year total for Lackawanna County to 168 farms visited by June 30, 2013. The farms visited in this time period will be primarily those farms identified as past program participants and in addition, operations located through the use of satellite imagery, word-of-mouth information, and extensive travel throughout Lackawanna County. In addition, at least one workshop will be held on the topic of no-till/cover crops with the possibility of a second workshop on equine/pasture management. Both workshops may provide additional prospects. To date, there have been

50 farms visited in the County for 2012-2013. A list of farms visited so far this year is attached.

For 2013-2014, the District's goal is to continue at the pace set from the first two years of the program with 100 additional farm visits planned. This goal would bring the 3 year total for Lackawanna County to 268 farms visited, which meets the target of 250 minimum farms. As we approach 250 farms, locating farms will become more difficult and also, we may exhaust all active county farms, especially those requiring the Manure Management Manual and/or Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Plan. Despite this, the District is committed to locating and visiting as many farms as possible. As in years past, the basis for farm visits will be past program participants and those farms identified through satellite imagery, word-of mouth information, etc. With increased difficulty, several additional methods such as workshops on no-till, soil health, pasture management, Ag-business management, etc. may allow the Bay Technician to identify and meet with operators not previously visited. At the time when all farms are visited, the District will dedicate our efforts to assisting farmers with meeting their requirements and perform follow up with our farmers and landowners.

After June 30, 2014, the District will evaluate its progress in relation to the aforementioned goals. Depending on the need of the County, the District will either shift its focus should the scope of the initiative change or work to develop a plan moving forward should additional outreach visits be required as part of the PA DEP program. Until that time, the Lackawanna County Conservation District will remain committed to spreading the message of the Initiative and ensuring that Lackawanna County farmers are doing their part to protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

<b>Farm Visits 2011-2012</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Township</b>
George Spedding	Greenfield
Tim Matechak	Scott
Tom Milewski	Jefferson
Ron Kochmer	Newton
Sandy Mantanye	Glenburn
Erin Kane	North Abington
Travis Landseidel	Newton
Mark Phillips	Ransom
Sam Buranich	Newton
Margaret Hull	North Abington
Howard Darling	LaPlume
Frank & Susan Colombo	Newton
Francis Opeil	Greenfield
Sheryl Lolacono	Benton
Mike Hillebrand	Scott
Nick Chaykosky	Scott
Tom Mroczka	Scott
John Edwards	Benton
Jim Cours	West Abington
Susie Morgan	West Abington
Tom Wright	Greenfield
Tom Gawel	Newton
A. Edward Swartz	LaPlume
Mark A. Phillips Sr.	Newton
Dewight LaCoe	Ransom
Dale Klipple	Ransom
Fred Richards	Covington
Sharon Voelkner	Ransom
James Shirg	West Abington
Carl Noakes	Ransom
Chuck Shenko	Springbrook
Kenneth Ayers	Ransom
Randy Freeman	Benton
George Yedinak	Madison
Peter Mazaleski	Newton
John Fron	Scott
Lori Koerner	Ransom
Greg Wright	Benton
John Roba	North Abington
Daniel White	Greenfield
Trudy Race	South Abington
Tom Opeil	Greenfield
Robert A. Graves	South Abington
Hal Jerauld	LaPlume
Clay LaCoe	Ransom
Brian Pallman	South Abington
Keith Eckel	Newton
Walter Wilmot	Newton

<b>Farm Visits 2012-2013</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Township</b>
Joe Majaika	Benton
Stanley Majaika	Benton
Lisa Barber-Vasky	Benton
Beth Rozelle	Benton
LaVerne Rozelle	Benton
Jack Sarnoski	North Abington
Paul & Pam Hricko	Benton
Jeff Vanduzer	Benton
Boris & Tricia Telep	Greenfield
Willie Wells	Benton
Paul Darling	Benton
Dennis Johnson	Benton
Beth Weidow	Benton
Albert Hajos	Benton
Andrew Mizerak	Greenfield
Bernard Naniewicz	Benton
Daniel Naylor	Benton
Raymond Popovich	Scott
Marie Popovich	Scott
Joseph Simyan	Jefferson
Brian Tranovich	Greenfield
Ernest Duda	Benton
Tina Seamans	Benton
Mary C. Stuble (Tina)	Benton
David Ankiewicz	Benton
Will Keating	Jefferson
John Lally	Greenfield
Eric Holzman	Greenfield
Dennis Coroniti	Greenfield
Jerry Opeil	Greenfield
Edward Bonczkiewicz	Greenfield
Lori Bilinsky	Greenfield
Carl Rosiak	Benton
Beth Seymour (Larry)	Benton
Stan Wierzbicki	Greenfield
Bonnie Hunt	Benton
Jim Townsend	Benton
Kyla Lally	Greenfield
Megan Polcha	Greenfield
Paul & Diane Sheypuk	Benton
Robert Schneider	Benton
Larry Fron	Scott
Jim Ritter	Jefferson
Paul Simyan	Jefferson
Phil Gaughan	Greenfield
Lorraine Staples	Scott
Steve Pavelski	Greenfield
Paul and Jane Mallonee	Benton

Horace Davies	Ransom
Leonard Keller	Newton
Neil Bartholme	Newton
Dennis Petty	Ransom
Douglas Johnson	Benton
Jeff Nogan	Scott
John Howanitz	Scott
Lee Courtright	Ransom
Todd Dickson	Newton
Dan Chilewski	Benton
Lewis Peregrim	Scott
Mark Darling	Benton
Mike Sheruda	Benton
Richard Fron	Scott
Allen Miller	Scott
Dave Peck	Greenfield
Paul Manning	North Abington
Richard Tratthen	Scott
James Corselius	Newton
Gordon Miller	LaPlume

Heidi Stephens	Greenfield
Ava Shayka	Scott