

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Safe Drinking Water Workshop

Wednesday June 24, 2026

Tree Sale

Fall 2026

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO:

Envirothon

On Tuesday, April 28, 171 students from Greenwood, Susquenita, West Perry, and Newport gathered at Big Spring State Park to test their environmental knowledge across five

categories: wildlife, aquatics, soils and land use, current issues, and forestry. Congratulations to this year's



Envirothon overall winners, the Majestic Mergansers from West Perry High School! This team includes Carson Krone, Christian Reeder, Reece Kline, Ava Wagner, and Ariana Alvarado-Schroder, advised by Ayla Miller and John Hines. They'll represent Perry County at the state competition later this month. Also, congratulations to Blake Brofee from Greenwood High School for winning the 2026 t-shirt design contest! Thank you to Big Spring State Park, our hard-working staff and volunteers, and the teachers who dedicate so much time to their students! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Keep Perry County Beautiful

This spring, Keep Perry County Beautiful (KPCB) has hosted and supported numerous events across the county! This program is an affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Cleanup events held in the spring and fall are eligible for free supplies like gloves, vests, and trash bags. KPCB has recently partnered with the Perry County Economic Development Authority to support cleanup efforts under their Main Street ambassador program. KPCB is excited for this partnership to expand on projects that work towards a clean and beautiful Perry County! Looking ahead, we are happy to bring back the annual River Cleanup event towards the end of this summer, as well as continue to host the Tire Wars collection event this fall. Keep an eye out on our website, social media pages, and email notifications for more information on these future events.



Electronic Recycling

On Saturday, April 18, the Perry County Conservation District and Keep Perry County Beautiful hosted the annual Electronics Recycling Event. We collected hundreds of items totaling to 9.9 tons of recycling! Thank you to everyone who participated and chose to responsibly recycle your household hazardous waste (HHW)! A special thank you to our KPCB volunteers who dedicated time and effort towards this event. Also, this event would not have been possible without the generous donations from municipalities. HHW collection events are an important part of keeping our environment clean and safe. These collections require extensive planning and funding. We look forward to hosting more HHW events in the future!



MEET OUR NEW STAFF:



Rylee Fuller, Ag Resource Specialist

I started my career working on a dairy farm, where I completed a Registered Herd Manager Apprenticeship and gained hands-on experience in dairy operations. I also have experience assisting with

Nutrient and Manure Management planning. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, going on hikes, and raising beef cattle.



Courtney Tharp, Ag Resource Specialist

I graduated from Penn State with a master's degree in Plant Biology, where I studied the soil microbiome and published the article "[Soil Microbiome: Functions of a Community](#)" with Penn

State Extension. I am thrilled to be embarking on a career in soil and resource conservation! In my free time I enjoy camping, contradancing, making sourdough bread, and learning to play the fiddle!



Giana Leiva, Resource Specialist

I recently graduated from Susquehanna University with a bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences. My background has given me experience in public service through work as a public safety telecommunicator and

internships with PennDOT, which along with my education helped prepare me for supporting local conservation efforts. I'm excited to work in communities close to home, as I have a strong connection to the people and natural spaces of central Pennsylvania. Spending time outdoors exploring local forests and waterways has inspired my passion for conservation and protecting these resources.



Farren Rossman, Watershed Specialist

I graduated from Hollins University with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Since then, my career has focused on environmental education and natural resources management. I have a keen interest in habitat restoration and

citizen science initiatives. In my free time, I take tap dance lessons and enjoy hiking to find rare plants!

Safe Drinking Water Clinic – June 24, 2025

Presented by Andy Yencha

Penn State Extension Educator

Location: Perry County Extension Office,
Conference Room

8 S. Carlisle Street, New Bloomfield, PA 17068

Time: 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM (choose one session)

Cost: Free of charge

Registration Deadline: June 22, 2025

Limit: One free water test per household

(must follow water collection instructions on website)

More than one million Pennsylvania homes rely on private wells and springs for drinking water. This free clinic is designed to help homeowners better understand how to protect their water supply. Topics include groundwater basics, well construction, system maintenance, water testing, and treatment options. Participants may screen their water for bacteria, pH, total dissolved solids, and nitrate nitrogen. These screenings are for educational use and can help determine if certified lab testing is needed. Penn State recommends testing for bacteria annually and for pH and TDS every three years.

This two-hour workshop is open to all private well, spring, or cistern users. Space is limited and preregistration is required.

For more information or to register, visit

www.perryccd.org or contact

Farren Rossman at 717-636-2282 or

frossman@perryco.org.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

2026 Tree Sale

The PCCD Tree Sale will return this year! Due to changes in supplier, the tree sale has been moved to the fall. We expect to have an availability list from the nursery midsummer and begin advertising shortly after.

If you are on the Tree Sale email notification list, you will receive an email with the advertising. Updates will also be shared on our website and social media pages.

For more information contact Farren Rossman at 717-636-2282 or frossman@perryco.org.

Staff



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Resource Specialist: Giana Leiva
gleiva@perryco.org or 717-636-1854

NO-TILL DRILL:

The No-Till Drill Rental Program is in full swing as planting season and warmer weather approaches. This year, we have four drills available:

- Two 10-foot John Deere Drills
- One 12-foot Esch Drill
- One 6-foot Land Pride Drill

Drills are rented on a first-come, first-served basis and must be picked up by the renter.

717-562-4560 OR rfuller@perryco.org

CAP:

The CAP (County-Wide Action Plan) supports the ongoing implementation of projects to improve the County's waterways! Through the CAP Implementation Block grant, we have coordinated and funded various projects including our Cover Crop Incentive Program (CCIP).

Currently the CAP Grant is supporting **7 active projects**.

Many of these projects are being completed in partnership with other agencies to ensure success and efficiency. The projects include installations of:

- 1 Riparian Buffer
- 1 Watering System
- 2 Silvopastures
- 2 Streambank Restorations
- 2 Lawn to Meadow Conversions



To learn more about this program, please give us a call.

717-636-2282 OR frossman@perryco.org

Cover Crop Incentive Program

The 2025–2026 Cover Crop Incentive Program is being finalized and field verifications have been taking place over the past few weeks. This program offers tiered payments to farmers who plant cover crops and support healthy soil practices. Looking ahead, the 2026/27 program is just around the corner! Applications are due at the District by **July 10th**. To learn more about this program or to get an application form, please visit our website or give us a call.

717-562-4560 OR rfuller@perryco.org

ACAP:

The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is continuing to gain momentum, with **9 active projects** currently underway! Many of these efforts are in partnership with other agencies to help get important Best Management Practices on the ground and working for our farms.

Currently, the following projects include:

- 8 Waste Storage Facilities
- 2 Grazing Systems
- 7 Animal Heavy Use Areas
- Rain Gutters to protect those heavy use areas
- Streambank Fencing and Stream Crossings

More plans are developing to implement agricultural Best Management Practices in Perry County. If you're facing resource concerns on your farm, give us a call—we'd be happy to see if ACAP can help!

717-582-8988 OR tcollier@perryco.org

