



## Winter/Spring Newsletter



**724-852-5278**

[gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us)

[www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd](http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd)

22 West High Street, Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

# Board Members

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Mike Belding, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Commissioner Mike Belding, Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Treasurer
- William Wentzel, Secretary
- Glodenna Halstead, Director
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Melissa Adamson, Director

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Gay Thistle       | • Joel Folman       |
| • Glodenna Halstead | • Carol Adamson     |
| • William Cree, Jr. | • Spencer Johnson   |
| • Jerry Day         | • Raymond Stockdale |
| • Jim Willis        | • George Scull      |
| • Dominick Barbetta | • Keith Golden      |
| • Rebecca Salosky   | • Mickey Lemley     |
| • Lance Kerr        | • Charles Kubasik   |

## DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Manager
- Lindsay Kozlowski, Asst. Mgr; Environmental Program Specialist
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Program Specialist
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- April Morris, Fiscal Officer
- Sara Hlatky, Conservation Technician
- Benjamin Schweiger, Conservation Technician

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development  
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA DEP Field Representative  
Vacant
- PA Fish and Boat Commission  
Eric Davis, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Tom Beresnyak, Area 6 Client Relations Manager
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency  
Michal Roup, CED

## DISTRICT LOCATION

2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at  
22 West High Street, Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Phone: 724-852-5278

[gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us)

Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

*The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conservation District Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building.*

## 2020 Conservation District Poster Contest Opens

The Greene County Conservation District is pleased to announce the 2020 Conservation Poster Contest that is open to Greene County students from Kindergarten to the Eighth Grade. The theme for this year's contest is, "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"

Winners will be selected in several grade-based and categories and will win cash prizes of between \$50-\$100. Additionally, the first-place winners in each category will compete in a statewide competition held by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

To enter, a student must complete a poster promoting awareness of pollinator conservation and including the theme phrase. The deadline for entries is April 17th but students may complete and submit their posters any time until then. For more information about the contest, entry forms and complete contest rules, please contact the conservation district at 724-852-5278.



## Women's Leadership Conference

### Greene County to Host Woman's Leadership Conference

The Greene County Woman's Farm Bureau is hosting a Woman's Leadership Conference, with the theme of *Embracing the Past – Focusing on the Future*. This is the first time that this event will be held in Greene County.

Agribusinesses and local farms will be featured at this one-day event. Various counties from Western Pennsylvania, as well as participants from Greene County will spend the day learning more about the County's agriculture.

**When:** Wednesday, July 8th, 2020

**Where:** Valley View Farm, 108 Orndorff Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370

**Time:** 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

**Guest Speakers:** Suzanne Malausky, author of *Stiletto Standards: What Every Woman Needs to Know to Live the Life of Her Own Design*, Corbly & Caitlin Orndorff of Valley View Farm, Lena Galing of Lippincott Alpacas and Jamie Thistlethwaite of Thistlethwaite Vineyards.

**Registration Fee:** \$16.00 includes breakfast, lunch and other fun events. Deadline for registration is June 5th and forms are available by contacting Janice Morris by phone at 724-627-6315 (H) or 724-998-1888 (C) or by email at [cjmorris2171990@gmail.com](mailto:cjmorris2171990@gmail.com)



## Envirothon Giving

The Pennsylvania Envirothon enriches the lives of thousands of middle- and high- school students each year. It helps to equip these young people for success in their lives by instilling the value of teamwork and teaching leadership. Further, it instills a sense of civic responsibility and the importance of stewardship of our natural resources.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc. coordinates with various state agencies and Conservation Districts to organize the annual event. This takes a lot of time and funding to make happen each year. They are working on a new funding initiative to ensure the valuable contribution of the Pennsylvania Envirothon continues into the future.

“The Pennsylvania Envirothon is embarking on an endowment-building initiative to help fund the Envirothon in perpetuity. The vision is to support the Envirothon through state and federal support along with private philanthropic support creating a “public/private partnership to ensure the contribution of this natural resource education program for years to come.

Endowment gifts can be given in remembrance or honor of someone through a gift of cash, stock, securities, property and directed through estates. Contributions can also be made through charitable bequests by listing the Pennsylvania Envirothon as a beneficiary in your will.

An endowment gift is a gift in perpetuity. It leaves a lasting impression and demonstrates your personal value and support for the Envirothon. When you give the Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment Fund, you help maintain the longevity of the program. Since only a portion of the fund is used, what you give grows, and what grows sustains our long-term goal of being self-supporting.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment Fund was established in 2018 with annual earnings provided to the organization for its own uses and purposes. Its purpose is to offer support for the Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc., which provides students with knowledge and tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges facing today's world.

The long-term goal of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc. is to be supported entirely by its endowment fund.

The endowment fund is in an initial growth phase to raise capital. Endowments protect the principal gift placed in the fund with only the interest made available to spend. Once the goal of being self-sustaining has been reached, the objective is to continue to grow the fund while providing support for the program as identified by the Endowment Fund Committee.

Pennsylvania Envirothon is incorporated as 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and any contribution is tax deductible in the U.S. The endowment fund will be maintained by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

For more information or to discuss a gift of any size, please contact us at (814) 310-3271 or visit [www.envirothonpa.org/join-give/](http://www.envirothonpa.org/join-give/)”



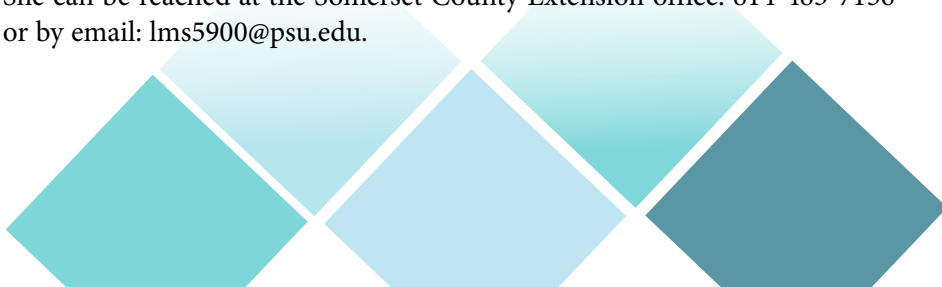
## Penn State Extension in Somerset County welcomes new Field and Forage Crops educator, Leanna Duppstadt.



Leanna grew up in Bedford County, PA and earned her B.S. in Animal Science and M.S. in Agronomy, both from Penn State. During her graduate work at the Haller cow-calf research farm she focused on the effects of grazing management and monensin as well as weed populations in diverse pasture systems.

Along with her research, Leanna was a guest lecturer for beef production and equine production courses which included both classroom and pasture walk discussions, focusing on pasture and grazing management. She has also had several speaking engagements with Penn State Extension, Conservation Districts, and AFGC to present her research and talk about extending the grazing season.

Leanna is excited to begin working with producers in the area while also pursuing her interests in pasture and grazing management and conservation. She can be reached at the Somerset County Extension office: 814-483-7156 or by email: [lms5900@psu.edu](mailto:lms5900@psu.edu).



## Forestry

### Who Helps Forest Landowners in Greene County?

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry works to, “...(E)nsure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth’s forests and to conserve native wild plants.” When you visit one of our state forests and engage in recreational opportunities, you are benefitting from their work in managing these areas. Even if those activities aren’t something you engage in, you benefit from their work in preventing and suppressing wildfires, controlling destructive insects and diseases and promoting community forestry.

The Bureau’s Forbes Forest District consists of Greene, Washington, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette and Somerset Counties. In 2019, staff in the Forbes Forest District conducted forestry-related programs, workshops and outreach to more than 2,000 people. They provided guidance to nineteen municipalities on how to manage their urban trees. Five communities worked with Bureau staff to conduct tree inventories and develop management plans.

Additionally, the Forbes Forest District helped nearly 400 private landowners make informed forest management decisions. Working with individual landowners is an important part of what Bureau staff do. Across the Commonwealth, about 70% of forested land is privately owned. Here in Greene County, forested land is the most common land cover and much of that is privately owned. Russ Gibbs, service forester for the Forbes Forest District, is a valuable resource for landowners that would like to properly manage their forested land. Working with Russ and other Bureau personnel is a great way to ensure that your forested lands are healthy and profitable.

For more information about the Forbes Forest District or help with forest management practices, contact the district office by phone at 724-238-1200 or at by email at [FD04@pa.gov](mailto:FD04@pa.gov).

## West Greene FFA Students Earn Jackets and Degrees at PA Farm Show

Each year the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni awards FFA Jackets to first-year members after donations from gracious sponsors and supports of the FFA. This year 419 students received their very first FFA Jacket after a competitive application process.

Four first year members of the West Greene FFA Chapter at West Greene High School earned their first FFA Jacket this year. Members were awarded their signature FFA Jacket at the PA Farm Show on January 6th, 2020.

Three members of the West Greene FFA Chapter at West Greene High School earned their Keystone Degree this year. Members were awarded their Keystone Degree at the PA Farm Show.

Benjamin Archer, a junior and son of Mr. and Mrs. David and Robin Archer of West Finely, earned his degree with entrepreneurship projects on Market Steers, and Beef Breeding. Emily Cooke, also a junior and daughter of Ms. Katie Cooke of Sycamore, earned her degree with entrepreneurship projects on Market Swine, Steer, and Rabbits. Kenneth (DJ) Jones, a senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Kimberly Jones of Wind Ridge, earned his degree with entrepreneurship projects on Market Swine and Market lambs.

405 FFA members from across the state received Keystone Degrees at the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Only high school juniors and seniors or graduates in their third year of membership are eligible to apply for the Keystone Degree. The candidates must have demonstrated leadership abilities and earned or productively invested at least \$1,000 and/or worked at least 300 hours in a supervised agricultural experience program. Just 3 percent of the more-than 8,000 Pennsylvania FFA members qualify each year for a Keystone Degree.



From Left to Right are Daren Orndoff, Brandon Cooke, and Neil Lemmon. Not pictured but also receiving a jacket is Stephanie Ward.



From left to right are: Benjamin Archer, Emily Cooke and Kenneth (DJ) Jones



## Now Accepting Applications: Greene County Farmland Preservation

Are you wanting to improve your farm? Are you looking to ensure your property is farmed for future generations? Have you have thought about enrolling in Farmland Preservation and selling an easement for help with projects on your farm as well as ensuring future farming?

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board is now accepting applications from qualifying landowners for the agricultural conservation easement program.

The agricultural conservation easement can permanently protect a family's farmland from being lost to future non-agricultural development. It may be used as an estate planning tool to help landowners successfully pass farms on to the next generation. Or landowners may receive cash for some of the equity tied up in their land for expansion or improving farm operation, debt repayment or retirement while retaining ownership of their land.

The easement is an interest in land, which represents the right to prevent development or improvement of a parcel for any purpose other than agricultural production. The easement may be granted by a farmland owner to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a county agricultural land preservation program, a local government unit or a local land trust.

Easements may be sold or donated with the restrictions recorded in the recorder of deeds office in the county where the easement is located.

For eligibility, a landowner must: be enrolled in an approved agricultural security area consisting of at least 500 acres; have at least 50 contiguous acres; have at least 50% of the soils on the parcel under consideration in soil capability classes I to IV (as defined by the web Soil Survey), be available for agricultural production, and contain the greater of 50% or at least ten acres of harvested cropland, pasture or grazing land. The landowner will also need to provide ownership verification to the surface mineral rights on the parcel being considered.

Currently in Greene County, there are eight townships with approved agricultural security areas: Center, Cumberland, Franklin, Greene, Jefferson, Morgan, Washington and Wayne. If your land is in one of these townships, you may be eligible for Farmland Preservation – even if you are not yet in the Agricultural Security program. If you are not, but you are interested in Agricultural Security Areas or Farmland Preservation, please call us to find out more information about beginning an Agricultural Security Area in your township!

For more information, please contact Ben Schweiger from the Greene County Conservation District office at 724-852-5278 or [bschweiger@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:bschweiger@co.greene.pa.us).



## Now Accepting Applications: GRACE Program

The Conservation District Board of Directors are now accepting applications for the 2020 GRACE program. Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program designed to enhance soil health within the agriculture community.

The program offers guidance to farmers and forest landowners through technical assistance and cost share to help promote soil and water conservation practices by improving soil health in pastures and woodlands. This leads to better animal and crop production and healthier forest stands. Conservation practices include livestock conservation fencing, lime, fertilizer, water development projects and forestry practices. When conservation practices are implemented correctly, value and profit is added to the land.

"It is the goal of the district to offer a program that is easy to navigate and has a quick turnaround," Lisa Snider, district manager said. "and is beneficial in the long run to the operator."

GRACE does have some simple requirements. For example, anyone wishing to apply for GRACE must become a cooperator with the Conservation District. Also, if a landowner is interested in assistance with lime or fertilizer, they must obtain a soil test kit from Penn State Extension that Conservation District staff will administer during a farm visit. The District urges applicants to keep this in mind if they are planning on submitting an application, some time will be needed to conduct the farm visit and to get the information back needed for applications.

The final requirement is for appropriate farm conservation-based planning, that could include manure management plans at a minimum and in some cases conservation plans. The Conservation District will work with first-time applicants to offer assistance in plan development so that they may continue in the program. Returning applicants are required to have plans in place at the time of application. For forestry conservation practices, the landowner must have a forest management stewardship plan, American tree farm plan or CAP 106 plan in place at the time of application.

Funds for the program are a direct result of PA Act 13 which the district receives annually to foster conservation efforts within Greene County. Snider emphasized, "these funds are obtained through an 'impact' fee and the district believes that the money received should be used on the ground where the impacts were made."

Applications must be submitted by August 31st. Application approvals are made in September and approved practices must be completed the following year by July 31st.

For more information or to apply, call the District at 724-852-5278, e-mail [gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us), or visit during office hours at 22 West High Street, Waynesburg. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## Managing Manure is Important for an Efficient Farm

Manure is a cost-efficient and valuable fertilizer. It contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients needed by crops. Properly managed manure will improve crop yields, soil health and reduce the risk of runoff to surface waters. Too little manure utilized as a fertilizer will result in inefficiency, as will excess use. A manure management plan (MMP) is a useful tool for operators and will help guide the use of manure to improve yield. MMPs will identify manure application rates and times, environmentally sensitive areas, winter applications, manure storage and stockpiling locations, pasture management and animal concentration areas. Additionally, a plan includes farm maps and useful record keeping documents. MMP workbooks are available online at the PennState Extension website at no cost. These plans can be written by the operator and/or assistance is available at the district.





# Republic Food Enterprise Center



## WHAT WE DO

Located in Republic, PA, the Republic Food Enterprise Center serves as a comprehensive center for the development of sustainable food products across Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, and Eastern Maryland. We work to bridge the gap from farm to table.

## HOW WE DO IT

We respond to the economic, environmental and nutritional needs of the Appalachian Region by stimulating agricultural production, producing value-added products, distributing local produce, and developing retail outlets within food deserts throughout the region.

We buy from local farmers and make fresh produce available to under-served populations, we provide extensive support to local entrepreneurs and we stimulate the economy by creating jobs and markets for agricultural production and sustainability.

## CHECK US OUT!

Joseph M. Ambrose Jr.  
General Manager  
[jambrose@fccaa.org](mailto:jambrose@fccaa.org)

40 Legion Street  
Republic, PA 15475  
724.246.1536

[www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org](http://www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org)

Republic Food Enterprise Center is a social enterprise of Fayette County Community Action Agency and supported by the USDA, the PA Department of Agriculture and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

We are an An Equal Opportunity Employer.



*Promoting the economical, physical, and environmental health of our community*

724.246.1536

[www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org](http://www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org)

Open Monday through Friday  
8:30am-4:30pm



## MOBILE MARKETS

Our mobile markets travel to various locations throughout Fayette County and beyond. Find us out and about throughout the county and Southwestern Pennsylvania. We ensure areas that are considered “Food Deserts” have access to fresh local produce” and that local farmers and artisans’ produce and products are marketed throughout the area.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an alternative, locally based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. As a member, you pay for shares at the onset of the growing season. Purchasing shares not only gives you access to fresh, local produce, but you will know where your food is coming from. Additionally, investing in the local economy and supporting local farmers makes our communities ones where individuals, families and businesses can thrive.

## OUR KITCHEN

Are you a baker, caterer, specialty food producer, personal chef, cart vendor, or food truck owner looking for a low cost licensed kitchen to grow or expand your business? Our shared use kitchen is a fully licensed commercial grade kitchen available for rent to local entrepreneurs.

Additionally, we use this space to process produce from local farmers as we work to extend the shelf life of local fruits and vegetables and create additional jobs and revenue for the community.

## CATERING

Our fresh focused catering menu offers healthy and delicious meal options that emphasize the local flavors of our region. We source only the freshest, local ingredients for our catering events. Our menu highlights our most popular options however, we are happy to create custom menus tailored to your event and the seasonal availability of local products.





22 West High Street  
Suite 204  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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Permit No.108



## Our Mission

*It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.*

*It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.*