



## McKEAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION TIMES

Fall  
2023

## Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

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Round 3 of accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) to fund agricultural conservation practices is now open until November 15, 2023 with the applications ranked on December 13, 2023.

To be eligible, an applicant must have a conservation plan or agricultural erosion and sediment control plan and a manure or nutrient management plan.

Here are a few of the BMPs that may be implemented through the ACAP program:

- ◆ Agricultural stream accesses
- ◆ Heavy Use Areas with or without a roof
- ◆ Roofed Manure Stacking Pad
- ◆ Exclusionary & Streambank fencing
- ◆ Spring development
- ◆ Streambank Stabilization Structures

The District will work with participating farmers and landowners to help design and implement soil and water conservation practices. These practices are designed to reduce or prevent nutrient and sediment losses from their farms while improving water quality and soil health across the Commonwealth. This funding will be available for all farmers within McKean County.

Pre-application site visits are required for the District to assist the potential program participants to ensure the application they submit is in the best interest of the applicant and the program. Please contact Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist at 814-887-4003 or [accouser@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:accouser@mckeancountypa.org) to schedule a pre-application visit.

# No-Till Drill Available For Rent

The District now has a Great Plains 10' No-Till Drill available for rent by landowners within McKean County. The following rates have been established:

- \$12.00 per acre or \$24.00 per acre if used on conventional tilled ground.
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- Free use of the drill up to 30 acres if planting a non-harvested cover crop.

The District will transport the drill; however, landowners leasing the drill will pay a \$25.00 delivery fee within McKean County.

When completed with the drill, clean all seed and fertilizer from machine. Failure to clean the drill will result in a \$25 clean out fee. Once cleaned contact the District to let them know the equipment is ready to be picked up. An invoice will be mailed out after planting acreage has been determined.

Rental is FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, contact Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist at 814-887-4003 or [accouser@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:accouser@mckeancountypa.org) to schedule your anticipated use TODAY!



## COVER CROP DEMO DAY

**October 24, 2023 11:30 – 2:00 PM**

**McKean County 911 Center  
17175 Route 6  
Smethport, PA 16749**

**Free – includes lunch**

**Topics include:  
Benefits & Selection of Cover Crops  
Meeting NRCS Standards & Program  
Soil Health**

**Call 814-887-4025 by October 17<sup>th</sup> to make a reservation**

**Co-Sponsored by  
McKean County Conservation District and  
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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





# Know This Plant?



Deric Case, DCNR - BOF

## Background:

This plant has many common names: bur chervil, cow parsley, keck and wild chervil. It is originally from Europe and may have been introduced into North America as part of a wild-flower seed mix. It was first noted in Massachusetts in 1919.

## Range:

Wild chervil can be found in most New England states, through the Mid-Atlantic, west through the Great Lake states and also in the Pacific Northwest.

## Description:

This is a biennial or short-lived perennial plant in the carrot family. It grows three to four feet on average but sometimes grows over six feet. Stems are hollow, branched and hairy. Fern-like leaves are nearly hairless and compound. Leaves form a basal rosette the first year.



Brett Pifer, DCNR - BOF

White flowers with five petals are produced in umbrella-like clusters that bloom from late May to early July during the plant's second year. Each flower produces two joined, shiny seed pods that turn from green to brown.

## Habitat:

This plant can be found in open woods, roadsides, pastures and fields, as well as disturbed sites. It prefers rich, moist soil.

## Biology and Spread:

Wild chervil spreads both by seed (moved by birds, human activity, vehicles and water) and lateral budding at the top of the roots. The roots are thick, tuberous and aggressive, spreading rapidly. The taproot can extend over six feet deep.

## Ecological Threat:

Wild chervil competes with native plants for light, water and nutrients. It can shade out surrounding vegetation. It is also a host for a virus that infects carrots, parsnips and celery.



Deric Case, DCNR - BOF

# DSA & Road Maintenance Workshop

The McKean County Conservation District, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies, and the Potter County Conservation District are sponsoring a free DSA and Road Maintenance Workshop for anyone who maintains unpaved roads.

## Focus topics:

- ◆ Dirt and Gravel Programs DSA (driving surface aggregate) requirements.
- ◆ DSA Placement and Maintenance
- ◆ Road Surface Maintenance
- ◆ Ditch Maintenance
- ◆ Invasive Plant Information.
- ◆ Live grading demonstration.

The workshop will be held on Friday, October 13, 2023 at the Kane Fire Department, 50 Poplar Street, Kane from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend and includes lunch.

Municipal attendees will receive additional points towards the ranking of the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road application. Attendees will also earn 4 hours (1 year) for PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) continuing education credits.



This training will be beneficial to municipalities applying for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road funds, personnel from timber operations, contractors, oil & gas companies, and state or national forest staff. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers with expert speakers.

Please contact the McKean County Conservation District at (814) 887-4002 or by email to [ltkrojanowski@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:ltkrojanowski@mckeancountypa.org) no later than October 6, 2023 to register for the workshop.



# 1st Annual Picnic

During our 1st Annual Picnic/Meeting at Kinzua Bridge State Park, we celebrated the service of our dedicated volunteer directors and staff.

Chase Miles, Vice-Chairman and Blaine Puller, past Chairman and farmer director were honored for their 15 years of volunteering for the district. Ken Kane, public director was honored for his 10 years of volunteering for the district. Associate Directors, Charlie Kirkpatrick, Pete Mader and Boyd Fitzsimmons were honored for their 5 years of volunteering for the district. Staff member Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist was honored for 5 years of service.



Pictured above (l-r) Chase Miles, Ken Kane, Jeff Larson, Blaine Puller, and Adam Causer





## Project Spotlight

### **Dirt and Gravel Road Project Sergeant Township, Hutchins Loop Road**

The project, pictured here is located in Sergeant Township on Hutchins Loop Road. The road was severely entrenched with roadside banks up to 5 feet high in some areas. The road was lacking sufficient crosspipes and outlet areas to get water off the road.

The project was designed to break up concentrated run-off to multiple new outlets and keep road water away from the stream. The UNT to Little Sicily was receiving large quantities of sediment pollution due to road water runoff being directed to the stream. This is a wild trout high quality stream and when given the opportunity we try to eliminate as much sediment pollution as possible.

The grant request from the township was \$285,781.60 with an in-kind match of \$6,332.80 for a total project cost of \$292,114.40. The scope of work included placing 8,740 tons of road base/surface material to raise the road profile high enough in some areas to allow for sheet flow. An asphalt apron off of the PennDot road was installed to prevent further erosion from the PennDot roadway. One 36" crosspipe, three 24" crosspipes, two 18" crosspipes, eight 15" crosspipes and 480' of underdrain were also installed as a part of the project. The total project length was 2,800 feet.



Before : Showing eroded roadway



After : Showing stabilized roadway  
with under drain installed



# Erosion & Sedimentation Control in Our Forest

Thursday October 12, 2023 @ 8:00 AM

Tokishi Training Center

124 Nypum Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Workshop for Foresters, Loggers, Logging Contractors, and  
Private Forest Landowners

- Review of fundamentals for erosion control, permitting and stream considerations
- Planning before the harvest: Using the SFI Timber Harvest Checklist to plan a sustainable harvest
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) and common site problems
- Stream Crossings and BMPs
- Question & Answer session



Cost: \$15.00/person,  
includes materials, morning  
refreshments & lunch

Register by October 2, 2023  
through the SFI Website:

[www.sfiopa.org/register](http://www.sfiopa.org/register)

Workshop was made possible through the multi county effort of the Conservation Districts of Tioga, Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean Counties in cooperation with the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee and DCNR, Bureau of Forestry





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### Directors

Jeff Larson - Chairman  
Chase Miles - Vice-Chairman  
Cliff Lane-Commissioner-Secretary/Treasurer  
Kerry Fetter - Public  
Blaine Puller - Farmer  
Ken Kane - Public  
Greg Bell - Public

### Associate Directors

Pete Mader  
Charlie Kirkpatrick  
Boyd Fitzsimmons  
Lori Coffman  
Jeff Holcomb  
John Stratton

### Staff

**Sandy Thompson District Manager**  
814-887-4025  
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**Adam Causer Watershed Specialist**  
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17137 Route 6  
Smethport, PA 16749  
(814) 887-4001

[www.mckeanconservation.com](http://www.mckeanconservation.com)



*The McKean County Conservation District was organized at the request of the County residents. The County was declared a District by the board of County Commissioners on August 19, 1959, according to provisions of the Soil Conservation Law of 1945, Act 217 of the General Assembly, as amended.*

*The primary goal of the District is the development, improvement, and conservation of the County's Soil, water and related resources as well as educating the community in various conservation and environmental practices and methods.*

*The District is administered by a board of seven Directors-three farmer members, three public (non-farmer) members and one County Commissioner. District Directors are appointed by the County Commissioners from a list of names submitted by countywide nominating organizations. The Commissioners also designate one of their members to serve as a Director.*

**Vision:** The Conservation District is the steward of McKean County's natural resource and embraces environmentally responsible decisions.

**Mission:** The Conservation District provides leadership and stewardship to ensure the protection and sustainability of McKean County's natural resources by fostering public and private partnerships.

