



CONSERVATION UPDATE

January 2013



On Saturday, January 26, eighty farmers attended a Manure Management workshop sponsored by the Centre County Conservation District. The purpose of the workshop, held at the Lions Club in Centre Hall, was to assist farmers in writing a Manure Management Plan for their farming operation.

A written Manure Management Plan describes how a landowner is safely applying manure and managing pasture to prevent any excess manure or nutrients from entering streams, wells or other sensitive areas. Many landowners are good stewards of their land and apply manure safely. However, Pennsylvania Law requires a written Plan in order to document the farmer's existing methods of protecting water quality. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for enforcing this law.

Representatives from DEP are visiting farms in Centre County now and they are asking to see the written Manure Management Plan on any property that has livestock or that applies manure to the land. If a landowner cannot show the written Manure Management Plan, the landowner will receive a Notice of Violation. They will be expected to obtain a written Plan in a prescribed period of time.

At the workshop each landowner received a "fill in the blank" Plan Workbook which, when completed, becomes the Manure Management Plan. Agricultural technicians taught participants how to complete the entire Plan, section by section.

CCCD plans to hold another Manure Management workshop later in the spring, the date undetermined at this time. Please e-mail amdonova@co.centre.pa if you would like further details.