



Who We Are

The Tioga County Conservation District (TCCD) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. TCCD was established in 1946 by the County Commissioners with the initial goal to control and prevent soil erosion. The current goal of the TCCD is to provide education and seek opportunities for natural resource conservation, including soil, water biodiversity, and cultural resources.

Our Mission

The mission of the TCCD is to provide for the conservation of natural resources of Tioga County through leadership, education, and technical assistance.

What We Offer

The TCCD has numerous programs that aim to enhance the quality of natural resources, by creating program specific goals.

Function

The TCCD takes available technical, financial, and educational resources, and focuses or coordinates them so that they meet the needs for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.



Continue reading for program specifics, funding assistance, soil health guidance, and project highlights from 2024.

Soil Health

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SOIL?

What is Healthy Soil?

Healthy soil is soil that can sustain plants, animals, and humans by functioning as a living ecosystem.

Why is Soil Health Important?

Soil health directly impacts environmental quality and food security. Managing soil health ensures the longevity of key functions of soil performance.

Soil Functions:

- Sustain Life
- Cycle Nutrients
- Regulate Water
- Filter Pollutants

DO YOU GROW CROPS FOR PROFIT?

Test Your Soil & Manure

- Increase Yields & Save on Input Costs
- Identify Limiting Nutrients
- Understand Fertilizer Needs
- Prevent Runoff & Leaching of Soil Amendments

If so, we recommend testing your soil & manure groups for operation sustainability:

Soil Test: Identifies where low pH limits the availability of essential nutrients, where deficient nutrient levels are present, and where fertilizer is being over-applied. Acidic soil, caused by low pH and areas with nutrient deficiencies, limits crops from growing to full potential. Identifying the proper amount of fertilizer for application can save money, produce better crops, and prevent excess material from entering streams and groundwater.

Manure Test: A yearly manure test can analyze the average nutrient contents within manure produced from each animal group. Manure tests are key components for the development of a nutrient management plan. They provide total amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and solids within the manure. This test allows for optimal economic crop production with minimal environmental impact. By analyzing the composition of manure, it may be possible to optimize application rates and frequency, resulting in significant savings of both time and resources.

2024 Project Highlights

AGRICULTURE

OVER 150 HEAD BEEF OPERATION PUTS CONSERVATION FIRST!

A beef operation supporting over 150 head recently implemented a series of conservation-focused upgrades to address erosion and nutrient runoff concerns. The construction of a Heavy Use Area (HUA) and a manure stacking facility allowed the operation to have a stabilized high-traffic zone and manage manure more effectively. The manure stacking facility now provides multi-day storage capacity, reducing the risk of nutrient loss and enhancing site safety. Meanwhile, the HUA helps to prevent contaminated runoff by reinforcing frequently used areas, resulting in decreased sediment and nutrient discharges into the environment. To further support runoff control and site resilience the operation also installed several best management practices:

- Stabilized access roads
- Sub-surface drainage systems
- Underground outlets
- Exclusion fencing
- Reseeding of Disturbed Areas

These improvements showcase how targeted conservation practices can deliver long-term environmental benefits while supporting operational efficiency. This project serves as a model for sustainable livestock management and proactive resource protection.



2024 Project Highlights

STREAM RESTORATION

ROUGH CUT LODGE PROJECT

The project was completed to stabilize stream banks, enhance in stream fish structures, prevent erosion and sedimentation, and improve safety. Mudsills were used to stabilize the stream bank and create in-stream fish habitat for over 400 feet. The addition of a 0.22 acre no-mow grass buffer was implemented to help slow erosion. Log deflectors were also implemented to direct flow away from the erosion and sedimentation concern. The completion of this project created a safer and environmentally conscious destination for kayakers, canoers, and anglers.



NORRIS BROOK PROJECT

Norris Brook faced significant streambank erosion, contributing to heavy sedimentation downstream and threatening aquatic habitat. To address these challenges, a suite of fish enhancement structures - including modified mudsills, deflectors, wood structures, and cross vanes - were installed to stabilize banks and improve in-stream habitat. These efforts will reduce sedimentation and enhance conditions for fish populations. Norris Brook is Designated



as a Chapter 93 Existing Use Trout Stocked Fishery and will continue to serve as a popular destination for anglers seeking a quality fishing experience.

2024 Project Highlights

STREAM RESTORATION

LONG RUN PROJECT

Approximately 350 linear feet of stream bank along Long Run within State Game Lands #208, near Gaines PA, needed streambank stabilization. This portion of Long Run is a part of the Long Run Watershed Snapshot completed in 2019, which identified this area as a priority for rehabilitation. Stabilization structures implemented include modified mudsills and toe wood structures consisting of root wads, with added stumps to further protect the banks. These structures not only stabilized the stream bank, but they also enhanced fish habitat within the area.



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