

Are you concerned about environmental regulations?

Are you interested in minimizing regulatory problems for your farm, while bringing fish and wildlife back to your stream?

Pennsylvania farmers have improved the quality of our land and water (non-farmers are now required to do more also). Farmers want to meet clean water regulations, but low commodity prices limit options.

The Buffer-Bonus program offers a new option for Plain Sect farms in Lancaster and Chester Counties. Better income is available to landowners who fence cattle away from streams *and* plant trees to create buffers of forests along the stream. 35 feet per side is the minimum width for this program.



Cows and streams — Healthier apart!

For more information on the Buffer-Bonus program and eligible BMPs please call any of the following people:

Chester County Conservation District
688 Unionville Road, Suite 200
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610.925.4920 ext. 119 for Dan Miller

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
614 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-234-5550 ext. 212 for Lamonte Garber
299-5361 ext 127 for Ashley Spotts (CREP)

Comprehensive Land Services, Inc.
1911 Barren Road , Oxford PA 19363
610.564.5222 for Pat Fasano

Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board
150 N. Queen Street, Suite 325
Lancaster PA 17603
717.299.8355 for Matt Knepper

Lancaster County Conservation District
1383 Arcadia Road, Room 200
Lancaster, PA 17601
717.299.5361 ext 155 for Dennis Eby

Lancaster Farmland Trust
125 Lancaster Avenue
Strasburg, PA 17579
717.687.8484 for Darren Shenk

Red Barn, Inc.
1383 Arcadia Road, Suite 001
Lancaster PA, 17601
717.393.2176 for Peter Hughes

TeamAg, Inc.
120 Lake Street
Ephrata, PA 17522
717.721.6795 for Chris Frame



Stream Buffers Now Earn More Money For Local Landowners



The Buffer-Bonus Program for Plain Sect Farms

In Lancaster and Chester Counties (Chesapeake Bay Watershed) Plain Sect farmers who install forested stream buffers at least 35 feet wide per side can earn additional cash payments to help pay for other conservation projects on their farms.

Buffers help you and your stream. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and a new Bonus Payment make buffers a good deal.



Streams need trees. Their roots, leaves, and shade are essential for fish populations and cleaner water.

Streamside trees also generate income through CREP which pays for all or most project costs plus annual rental income. Now the benefits are even better: a new program typically pays \$4,000 for every acre of buffer that Plain Sect landowners establish along their streams. These funds are to be used for other conservation practices on the farm.

Interested?

Start by contacting anyone listed on the back. Participants need a conservation plan and a manure management plan. Bonus payments can then help pay for practices and equipment like barnyard upgrades, no-till, etc. If you need a conservation plan, we can help you get one for free or reduced cost and help with implementation costs.

Quality buffers that work

Landowners plant thousands of acres of buffers through CREP. *Why?*

- CREP pays 90-140% of installation costs, plus annual rental payments
- High quality fencing, crossings and watering systems are covered
- Post-planting care is paid
- Contracts are 10 to 15 years. Rent payments are typically \$2,000 to \$4,000 per acre over 15 years
- Cows are healthier if they do not contact muddy water.



Weed and pest control mean healthy trees.

Neighbors working together

Human activity takes a toll on fish and other stream life. When landowners restore buffers in a small watershed, fish can come back.

Through this program, cooperating neighbors can qualify their stream for construction of structures that attract trout, bass, and other fish.

Basic stream assessments

provided by the program show cooperating landowners how their farms are making a difference.



A "mud sill" protects the stream bank and provides cover for fish.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and others provide financial assistance for this project.



Photo credits: This page: aerial buffer: USDA-NRCS; Rows of trees: David Wise; Stream structure: CBF; Opposite: Feeding cows: Kelly O'Neill; Tree tubes and stream: Steve Smith; Small fish: Matt Kofroth; Cows in pasture: USDA-NRCS