



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Agricultural Conservation Practices for Nitrates

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

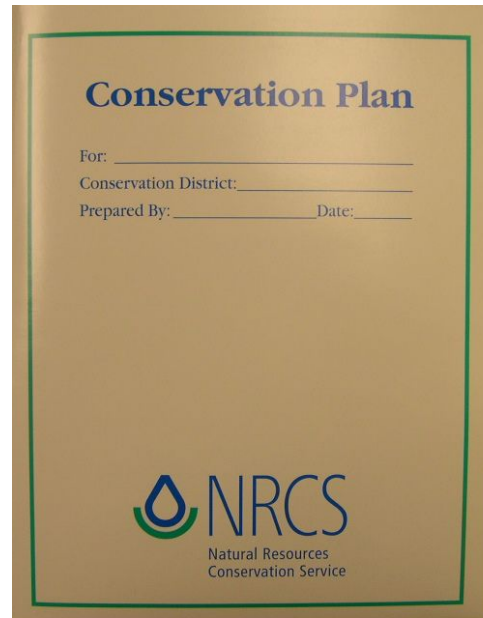
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- County Stats:
 - 944 Sq. Miles
 - Population of 530,000
 - 68% of the land or 425,400 acres is farmed
 - 5,462 Farms
 - 1,400 miles of Streams
 - About 89% impaired



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- **Conservation Plans**
- State law
 - Chapter 102 (Clean Streams Law)
 - All plowing and tilling operations must have an Erosion & Sedimentation (E&S) or approved equal (Conservation Plan)



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- **Nutrient Management Plans**
- Another tool to help manage farm resources
- Nutrient management plan for any farm that deals with manure
- All are “regulated”, depends on operation size and animal numbers (Manure Mgmt. plan, CAO, CAFO)



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What are some
Conservation Plan &
Nutrient Management Plan
Best Management
Practice's (BMP's) that
can reduce Nitrates (in
groundwater & surface
waters)



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COVER CROPS

- Assist in nutrient uptake
- Protect/Cover the soil
- Can be harvested
- Relatively low cost BMP



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MANURE STORAGE

- Creates a handling system for manure
- Can reduce winter spreading
- Allows for better nutrient management



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ROOFED STACKING AREAS

- Allows manure to dry out which makes it easier to handle
- Roof reduces excess loss of nutrients and runoff controls
- Relatively lower cost BMP



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HEAVY USE AREA **CONTROLS**

- Assists in controlling excess nutrient runoff
- Directs runoff to designated area (clean to clean, dirty to dirty)
- Can easily be incorporated to manure storage or roof stacking area BMP's



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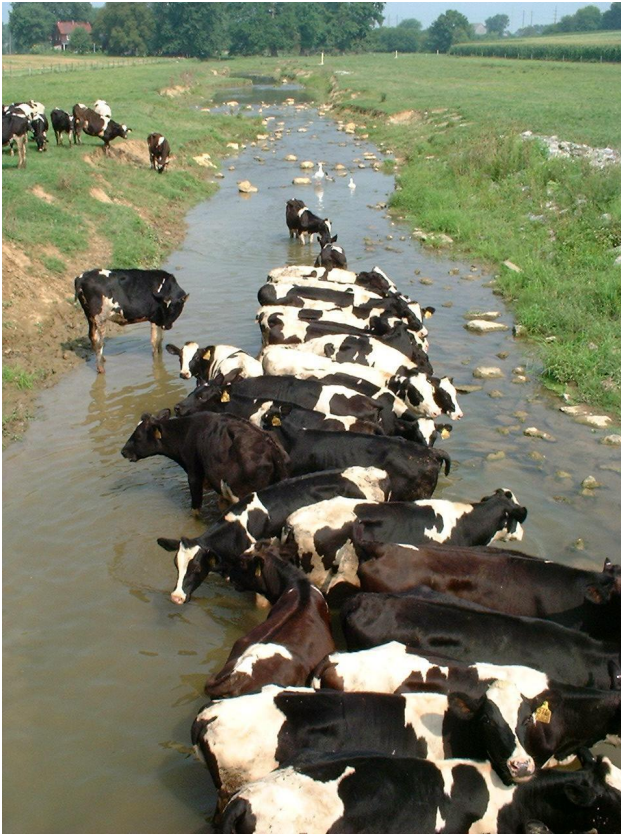
New Possibilities:

MANURE INJECTION

- Puts nutrients in the ground where crops can use them
- Reduces runoff potential
- Requires good management in getting just the right amount to the crops
- More to come



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Streamside BMP's



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STREAMBANK FENCING **& RIPARIAN BUFFERS**

- Reduces livestock access to stream
- Buffers adjacent crop and pasture land runoff
- Allows for more nutrient uptake with wider buffers
- Better herd health and water quality benefits



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