

Partner Programs: An Overview & Relationships

State Conservation Commission & Conservation Districts

District Manager Orientation
June 18, 2019



State Conservation Commission Programs

- Act 38 Nutrient Management Program
- Act 38 Odor Management Program
- Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
- Conservation District Fund Allocation Program
 - Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance
 - Special Projects



Nutrient Management Program

- Enabling legislation & purpose

- Act 38 of 2005 (origin - Act 6 of 1993)
- Requires ag operations of certain animal density to develop a nutrient management plan for water quality protection according to criteria established by the State Conservation Commission

- Funding :

- Annual appropriation to the Nutrient Management Fund. (~\$2.71M)
- Supports SCC and conservation district activities

- Active partners:

- State Conservation Commission (SCC)
- Conservation District (District),
- Pa Department of Agriculture (PDA)
- Pa Department on Environmental Protection (DEP),
- Penn State Extension,
- USDA NRCS.



Nutrient Management Program

- 'Partner' Program Responsibilities:
 - **SCC** – establish program regulations, policies & planning standards for NMPs; annual allocation of funds; conduct program evaluations.
 - **PDA** – implementation of education and certification programs for commercial plan writers and conservation district plan reviewers.
 - **DEP** – assists the SCC in delegation agreement admin – reporting – data collection & management.
 - **PS Extension & NRCS:** provide educational & technical assistance.
 - **Conservation District:**
 - Primary roles:
 - Education of regulated & volunteer agricultural operations
 - Review of NMPs submitted by Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) for action.
 - Provide technical assistance to farmers in plan implementation.
 - Conduct annual status reviews and compliance activities of CAOs

Nutrient Management Program

- Partnership vehicle

- Multi-year (5) delegation agreement between SCC & Conservation District

- Conveys authority for local program implementation on behalf of the Commission.

- Establishes Required Output Measures (deliverables) for completion.

- Requires a district employ personnel who have obtained the appropriate certification to carryout certain delegated duties.

- Encourage participation of regulated agricultural operations in their county

- Assist farm operators with implementing nutrient management program

- Provide the lead role in evaluating nutrient management plans

- Assist PDA in the review of Nutrient Balance Sheets submitted by commercial manure brokers.

Nutrient Management Program

- Partnership vehicle (cont.)
 - Provides funding through an annual allocation at levels established by the SCC.
 - Covers cost to employ a technician or
 - Covers a portion of administrative costs
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures
 - Report of Activities – consistent with ROMs defined in the delegation agreement.
 - Data collection and reporting

Odor Management Program

- Enabling legislation & purpose

- Act 38 of 2005
- Requires ag operations of certain animal density to develop an odor management plan to mitigate transfer of odors from animal housing or waste management systems according to criteria established by the SCC.

- Funding:

- Included in 'Nutrient Management Program'
- Supports SCC activities

- Active partners:

- SCC,
- PDA,
- Penn State Extension,
- Conservation Districts (limited)



Odor Management Program

- Program responsibilities:

- **SCC** – establish program regulations, policies & planning standards for OMPs; review & approval of OMPs; implementation compliance.
- **PDA** – implementation of education and certification programs for commercial plan writers.
- **PS Extension:** provides technical assistance for planning standards.
- **Conservation District:** local education.
 - Education of regulated agricultural operations (CAOs & CAFOs) in odor management planning regulatory requirements

Odor Management Program

- Partnership vehicle:

- Multi-year (5) delegation agreement between SCC & conservation district (NM delegation ROMs)

- Establishes Education Required Output Measures (deliverables).

E.g. - The District will provide information on the Odor Management Program to all identified CAOs and CAFOs, on the requirement for an Odor Management Plan for the new or expanded construction of animal housing or manure storage facilities.

Resource Enhancement & Protection(REAP)

- Enabling legislation & purpose

- Act 55 of 2007 (amendment to the Tax Reform Code)
- Provides for the distribution of tax credits to farms and businesses in exchange for the implementation of Best Management Practices and equipment purchases on agricultural operations to enhance farm production and protect natural resources.

- Resources:

- Annual appropriation under the state Revenue Code (\$10.0 million in tax credits)
- Distributed by the Pa Department of Revenue in cooperation with the SCC.



REAP

- Active Partners:
 - SCC
 - Pa Department of Revenue
 - Conservation district
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** – establishes policies and program parameters for program implementation.
 - **Pa Department of Revenue** – issuance of approved tax credits as determined by the SCC.
 - **Conservation District** – assistance in the verification of portions of a REAP application submitted by an agricultural producer.
 - E.g.. – existence and implementation status of an Ag E & S Plan, a nutrient management plan
- Partnership vehicle
 - None

Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)

- Enabling legislation, policy & purpose
 - Conservation District Law – Act 217 of 1945 (Amended Act 75 of 2005)
 - Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy (Amended Nov. 2014)
 - Provides for the receipt and distribution funds dedicated to conservation districts for support of:
 - General district programs & operations (Administrative Assistance)
 - Staff employment costs (District Management, Technicians)
 - Special Projects, Reserve Accounts
- Funding:
 - Annual appropriation to the Conservation District Fund (~ \$3.375)
 - Annual transfer of funds dedicated in the Unconventional Gas Well Fund. (~ \$3.875M – FY2018)

CDFAP

- Active Partners:

- SCC
- DEP & PDA
- Conservation Districts

- 'Partner' Program responsibilities

- **SCC** - establishes program policies and parameters for district oversight and support (financial & policy/administrative), annual allocations and distribution of funds.
- **DEP & PDA** – administrative management of fund distribution and reporting.



CDFAP

- 'Partner' Program responsibilities (cont.)
 - **Conservation District** - implementation of SCC supported program activities and fund management of allocations at the local level.
 - Agricultural Conservation Technicians (PDA) – local implementation of agricultural support programs.
 - (E.g.. – Agricultural Preservation, general technical assistance)
 - Special projects (PDA & DEP) – implementation of projects meeting CDFAP parameters and guidelines.
 - E.g. – education projects; BMP implementation projects
 - Reserve Accounts – long term management of dedicated funds for admin or program functions of the district.
 - E.g. - employee separation costs, building/capital improvement projects/scholarship programs

CDFAP

- Partnership vehicle:
 - ACT Program - multi-year (5) agreement between SCC & conservation district.
 - Provides conduit for the distribution of program funds
 - E.g.. – ACT funding covers salary & salary related costs of the technician.
 - Special Projects – annual agreement between SCC & Conservation District.
 - Provides funding for approved project activities performed by the conservation district.
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures.
 - Report of Activities – consistent with guidelines and approved activities in the agreement.

Leadership Development Program

- “Building for Tomorrow” Leadership Development Program
 - Collaborative effort of Pennsylvania’s Conservation Partnership
 - State Conservation Commission,
 - Pa. Department of Environmental Protection,
 - Pa. Department of Agriculture,
 - USDA NRCS,
 - PACD & county conservation district
 - Professional development program for conservation district directors and staff.



Leadership Development Program

- Resources available to directors and staff to effectively develop and manage conservation district activities and programs.
 - Strategic Planning Grants
 - Annual training opportunities:
 - Staff & District Management conferences
 - Regional Training for Chairman and Treasurers (new)
 - Director Training and Management Training (new)
 - Products & tools ('on-line' <https://paleadership.org/>)
 - Training Modules
 - Lending Library
 - Director Resources
 - White papers, IDPs
 - District Self-evaluation

Questions?

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