



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY
Conservation District



201



2010 Annual Report

From the Manager's Desk...



There is an ancient proverb that says, “May you live in interesting times”. When I started with the Conservation District in 2002, I learned very quickly my time here would be the most interesting of times I’ve ever experienced. My first day in the office I received a phone call from someone wanting to know how to import gold into the United States. My first thoughts were, “What did I get myself into?”

What I find even more interesting is our history. Sometimes to see how far we’ve come, we have to look at where we’ve been, and how did we get here? In 1931, a severe drought hit the Midwestern and Southern Plains. As the crops died, the “black blizzard” officially began. Dust from the over-plowed and over-grazed land began to blow. In December of 1934, the “Yearbook of Agriculture” announced that “Approximately 35 million acres of formerly cultivated land have essentially been destroyed for crop production.... 100 million acres now in crops have lost all or most of the topsoil; 125 million acres of land now in crops are rapidly losing topsoil...”. Approximately 1 year after the Soil Conservation Service was created, the SCS published a soil conservation district law. One of the few grassroots organizations set up by the New Deal still in operation today, the soil conservation district program recognized that new farming methods needed to be accepted and enforced by the farmers on the land rather than bureaucrats in Washington. In 1937, the very first District, the Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District, was created in Wadesboro, North Carolina. In the fall of 1939, the rain finally came bringing an end to the drought. Six years later, in 1945, Potter County Conservation District in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, the first Conservation District in Pennsylvania, was created.



Today we continue to create history. Although every district in the nation has evolved differently, we realize the core reason we exist – conservation at the local level. As we forge ahead into 2011, we also realize we have many challenges ahead of us. Although we have much to accomplish, we must never forget how far we’ve come. We are still in the unique position to offer assistance at the local level, and will continue to work hard at achieving our purpose: to promote the protection, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of the land, water, and other natural resources.

Yours In Conservation,

Judy Becker

About Us...



2010 Directors

John Kopp
Chairman, Farmer Director
Since 2004

Leon Wertz
Vice-Chairman, Farmer Director
Since 2000

Kurt Masser
Commissioner Director
Since 2004

John Pfleegor
Farmer Director
Since 2005

Dave Crowl
Public Director
Since 2006

Cyril Shaffer
Farmer Director
Since 2007

Michael Erdley
Public Director
Since 2008

Staff

Judy Becker
District Manager

Jaci Lucas
Environmental Education Coordinator

Amy Tull
Chesapeake Bay/Nutrient Management
Technician

Shirley Snyder
Administrative Assistant

Jaci Harner
Watershed Specialist

Michael McCleary
Erosion and Sediment Technician

Associate Directors

Dave Swank
Since 1976

Dr. Blair Carbaugh
Retired Professor, Lockhaven University
Former NCCD Board Member
Since 2006

Albert Mabus
Manager of Geology/Environment,
Eastern Industries, Inc.
Former NCCD Board Member
Former Board Chairman
Since 2008

Bruce Tetkoskie
Environmental Consultant, Tetkoskie
Environmental Consulting Services
Since 2010

Ted Carodiskey
Little Shamokin Creek Watershed
Association, Secretary
Since 2010

2010 Board of Directors

*Top Row: Kurt
Masser, John
Pfleegor, Mike
Erdley; Bottom
Row: Cyril
Shaffer, John
Kopp, Leon
Wertz, Dave
Crowl*



Agricultural Programs



The Chesapeake Bay Program

The Chesapeake Bay Program was organized in 1983 with a focus on reducing sediment and nutrient loading by assisting landowners with the installations of Best Management Practices (BMP's). These BMP's can include manure storage facilities, storm water runoff controls, walkway stabilizations, stream bank fencing, stream crossings and spring developments.

In 2010, through Bay Special Project Funds, the NCCD distributed cost share of \$22,998 to landowners and assisted with the installation of roof gutters, as well as fish habitat structures for streambank stabilization. Also, a Growing Greener Grant was used for the installation of manure storage facilities.

The Executive Order released in 2010 by the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay, and the resulting Watershed Implementation Plan pushed several items into action in our office. We reviewed our County Implementation Plan and created a 5 year action plan approved by our Board of Directors. Our Chesapeake Bay Technician sent out surveys to all our agriculture operators for input on BMP's put into place. Finally, in cooperation with Columbia and Montour counties, we received a Bay Special Projects grant for a series of meetings to assist individuals with the implementation of Manure Management Plans.



Installation of roof gutters on the Tom Rebeck farm in Dornsife, May 2010



Log veins placed for streambank stabilization on the Tim Landis property in Herndon

Agricultural Programs



Nutrient Management Program (Act 38)

Act 38 of 2005 is the result of the Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment (ACRE) program unveiled by former Governor Rendell at the 2004 Ag Progress Days. The main purposes of the Act are to: a. Ensure that local governments enact ordinances regulating normal agricultural operations that are consistent with authority given them by the laws of this Commonwealth to protect citizens' health, safety, and welfare; b. Provide timely review of potentially unauthorized local ordinances; c. Replace the Nutrient Management Act (Act 6) by retaining most of the current law and regulations and adding manure setback and buffer requirements; and d. Require certain farms to develop odor management plans.

A nutrient management plan written according to program requirements is subject to a 2-step review and action process. A farmer seeking approval of a nutrient management plan must submit a complete plan to the county conservation district office in the county the operation exists. Conservation district staff will then review the nutrient management plan to determine if it meets NMA program requirements and will advise the plan writer and farmer on any necessary changes to the plan. Once the nutrient management plan has been properly reviewed, the conservation district will either approve or disapprove the plan at a public meeting. The farmer is then contacted in writing of the district's action on the nutrient management plan. Northumberland County has approximately 57 NMPs, 18 are CAO's, and 39 are volunteers.

Agricultural Land Preservation

The Northumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was formed by a resolution of the Northumberland County Commissioners on September 3, 1991, and was approved by the State Board on July 16, 1992. The first easement purchase took place in 1994. In 1997, the Northumberland County Conservation District began administering the program. In 2010, the first tract of a three tract 350 acre farm, the Ileen Ranck farm in Watsontown, became the 16th farm to be preserved, totaling 1,917 acres. Currently there are 53 farms on a waiting list waiting to be preserved in Northumberland County.

Erosion & Sedimentation



The conservation district continues to serve as the authorized inspection agency for the erosion and sediment control program for Northumberland County. On November 19, 2010, changes to Title 25, Chapter 102 went into effect. NPDES permits are now required for earth disturbance over 1 acre, regardless of a point or non-point source discharge.

In 2010, NCCD approved 57 plans/permits, performed 108 inspections, and provided technical assistance to 165 individuals.

Dirt & Gravel Roads

Pennsylvania's Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Program provides dedicated and earmarked funding to eliminate stream pollution caused by dust and sediment from unpaved roads. The program and its annual \$4M apportionment for "environmentally sound maintenance" was enacted into law in April 1997, as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code. Each year, the State Conservation Commission allocates program monies to county conservation districts based on identified need. Townships and other road-owning entities, after successful completion of a required 2-day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training, are eligible to apply to their county conservation district for maintenance funds to address identified pollution problems using environmentally sound practices.

Since the programs inception, the conservation district has assisted with the installation of over \$400,000.00 worth of practices within the county. In 2010, we did projects on Lahr and Fir Roads in Shamokin Township, as well as Little Mountain Road in Lower Augusta Township.



Installation of French Mattress

Watershed Protection



The watershed group movement in Northumberland County started in the late 1970's. During the early years, prior to any volunteer groups being formed, the majority of the work being done focused on abandoned mine reclamation projects. As conservation awareness began to increase the factors effecting stream water quality began to broaden. What was once mine reclamation based has expanded to include additional activities such as enhancing fish habitat, stream bank stabilization, stormwater management, and water quality awareness.

Are There Water Problems in Northumberland County?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The majority of the streams in the county are affected by non-point source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is pollution whose source cannot be traced back to a single point of origin as opposed to point source (PS) pollution, which usually originates from a pipe, culvert or other specific source. Some types of NPS pollution include: Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), Nutrient runoff from farm lots and fields, Sediment from construction, logging, mining, farming and other disturbances; Stormwater runoff; Improper disposal of human and chemical wastes.

2010 was a very busy year for our local watershed groups. The Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) is currently having a feasibility study done on Quaker Run thanks to a Growing Greener grant. The purpose of the study is to develop the feasibility of treating significant quantities of AMD to improve the region's ecological environment and to supply water to new and existing production facilities, thereby increasing the number of jobs and boosting the local economy. The study is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2011. In addition, our Watershed Specialist has been working closely with the group to develop the Qualified Hydrological Unit Plan required to apply for Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) funds for future projects to clean up the watershed.

The Little Shamokin Creek Watershed Association received an anonymous donation to purchase a 27 acre tract of land outside of Sunbury to use for environmental education and showcasing of streambank stabilization projects. In addition, the group held a Watershed Tour in May, which in turn provided some great exposure to the group and their projects.

Watershed Protection

Our Watershed Specialist also received a DEP Environmental Education grant to work with Line Mountain High School on performing watershed assessments, as well as educational activities. She also received a Meaningful Watershed Experience grant to work with Milton Area High School on Limestone Run. Project activities for this grant included classroom lessons, time practicing using water test kits in the classroom laboratory, water testing out in the field, collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates, a tour of the Kelly Township Sewer Plant, a tour of a water test laboratory at Lycoming College, and a lecture on watersheds/factors influencing water quality by Dr. Mel Zimmerman of Lycoming College.

A grant from the Northcentral PA Conservancy provided funds to do 6 streambank stabilization projects in Northumberland County.



Students from Line Mountain HS perform water testing.

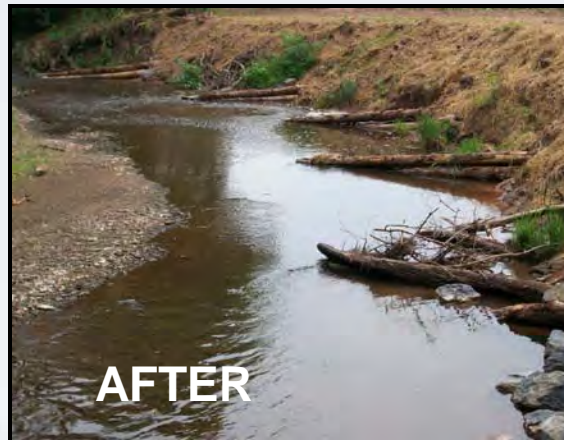


VISTA Volunteers

SCRA and NCCD were fortunate to have two VISTA Volunteers work with us in 2010. Lisa Goodell, originally of Vermont, spent a little over a year with us and Dana James of Northumberland, PA spent the summer of 2010 with us. They both worked with the local watershed groups, as well as NCCD on projects and activities. Both of their terms have ended, but we will remember their time here at the District.



BEFORE



AFTER



Leanne Bjorklund, SCRA, Jaci Harner, Watershed Specialist, Lisa Goodell, Dana James

Environmental Education



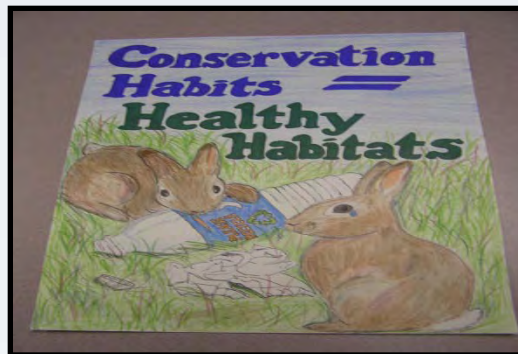
Environmental education has always been and continues to be one of the highest priorities for the conservation district. Each and every one of the staff members strive to include education as one of the main goals of their daily business.

The educational programs sponsored by the district have grown immensely since the creation of the district. What was once a mainly agricultural-based educational effort, has expanded to include such things as the benefits of recycling, abandoned mine drainage effects, and forestry issues. Just a few of the longer standing and very effective efforts are the Susquehanna Valley Envirothon, Annual Farmers Winter Conference and Twilight Meetings, Plant a Tree, Poster Contest, and Soil Stewardship which is an outreach to our county's churches. A variety of classroom presentations in area schools are also given each year. These, along with occasional teacher workshops, are aligned to the Academic Standards for Environment & Ecology as set by the PA Department of Education. Some of the newer programs at the NCCD include Women In Agriculture, and our summer youth programs, YAC (Youth, Ag, Conservation), and Ag-Citement.

Aside of the formal workshops and classroom presentations, much of the education takes place on a very informal one-on-one basis. Whether the topic of discussions are the advantages of no-till farming, installation of erosion control practices or the benefits of abandoned mine land reclamation, all are key to the conservation of the natural resources of Northumberland County.

2010 Highlights

The District held the annual Poster Contest with the theme: "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats". The contest was sponsored by the Central Susquehanna Chapter of Pheasants Forever and Furmano's in Northumberland. Christa Beveridge of St. Monica's School won 1st Place in the state contest in the 7-9th grades category.



NCCD distributed Soil Stewardship materials to 19 churches in Northumberland County at no charge.

On Arbor Day, NCCD distributed 687 Norway Spruce seedlings to third graders thanks to the following sponsors: Clark's Ag Center, Knoebel Lumber, former County Commissioner Kurt Masser, and Blair and Mary Carbaugh of Danville.

Environmental Education



2010 Highlights

In May of 2010 a scholarship for the Penn State Conservation Leadership School was awarded to Molly Gutelius, a junior at Sunbury Christian Academy. The Scholarship was made possible by NCCD and the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy.

The Susquehanna Valley High School Envirothon took place May 4, 2010 with 44 teams totaling 220 students. Sunbury Christian Academy was the overall winner of the event.

The Susquehanna Valley Middle School Envirothon took place May 18, 2010 with approximately 120 students.

A \$5,000 grant was received from Cherokee Pharmaceuticals to continue updates to our Environmental Education Center. The funds were used to update computers and supplies in the EE Center.



AgCitement attendees at Maurer's Dairy

YAC! (Youth Agriculture Conservation) Camp was held July 13-15 for students ages 7-12 in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension. On the last date students were treated to a visit at the Shikellamy State Park.



High School Envirothon winners – Sunbury Christian Academy

Ag-Citement! Camp was held July 27-29 for grades K-2 in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension. On the last day the students were treated to a visit at Maurer's Dairy in Shamokin.



YAC attendees at Shikellamy State Park

We received a \$3,000 environmental education grant from DEP to continue work at the COALS (Center for Outdoor Area Learning Site) project located near the Northumberland County Career Technical Center. Funds were used for signage, supplies, and a Nature Photography Teacher Workshop held on November 3rd.

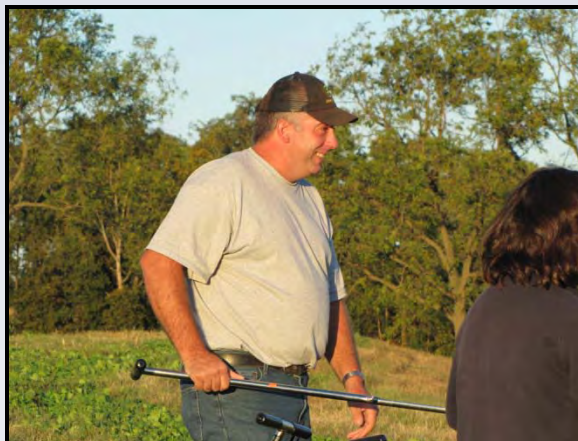
Meetings



2010 Highlights

Winter Conference – February 24, 2010 at the Crossroads Church, Milton. The keynote speaker was Russell Reading, PA Secretary of Agriculture. Topics included Corn Genetics & Insects, Exploding Poly Tanks, Manure Hauling & Broker, Crop Insurance Update, and a Farm Service Agency Update. The District received a PACD Mini-Grant to help fund this meeting.

No-Till Meeting – March 11, 2010 at the Lewisburg Diner, Lewisburg. Topics included Manure Management in No-Till Systems, Residue Management, and a Manure Spill Response Training was provided outdoors. The District received funds from Pocono Northeast RC&D to help fund this meeting.



Tim Landis speaks at the fall Twilight Meeting.

Twilight Meetings – September 16, 2010 at the McEwensville Community Park, McEwensville. Topics included an overview of a conservation project completed nearby, Safety on the Road, Vine Crop Diseases, and Herbicide Carryover and Drift. The District received a PACD Mini-Grant to help fund this meeting.

No-till meeting attendees practice a manure spill response.



Women In Agriculture – June 25, 2010 at the Sunbury Social Club, Sunbury. Topics included Women's Health and the Farm, a Roundtable Discussion regarding Farm Stress, Self-Care, and Words of Wisdom, a Conservation Program Update, and ended with a Motivational Talk. Sponsorships from Ag Choice Farm Credit, South Mountain Insurance Services, Inc., and IRA Middleswarth & Son, Inc. made this meeting possible.

Twilight Meetings – September 14, 2010 at the Landis Farm, Herndon. Topics included an overview of a conservation project completed on the Landis Farm, Soil Testing and Manure Management, Bt Corn and Herbicide Resistance Updates, and Pesticide Container Recycling/Disposal. The District received a PACD Mini-Grant to help fund this meeting.

Awards



2010 Highlights

Environmental Educator of the Year

Winner: Mark Hoffman, Grace S. Beck Elementary School, Sunbury

About the award: Each year, the Northumberland County Conservation District honors a teacher who demonstrates leadership in environmental education through their class work and involvement in community activities.

About the winner: During the past school year, Mark Hoffman's students accomplished many environmental activities. The most notable is the creation of the Grace Beck Initiative, which was created to bring awareness to the school and district of the important need to conserve our natural resources. This past year, the Grace Beck Initiative held its first ever Science Fair to celebrate Earth Day's 40th anniversary. 4th and 5th grade students were asked to create something new from used materials. 75 of 80 students participated. Also, students involved with the initiative presented information to the school board on how to improve efforts with recycling and using water and electricity. To give his students some real world experience regarding waste, tours were provided by the Sunbury Transfer and Sewage Treatment Facilities, as well as the Lycoming County Landfill. Bucknell Greenhouse also presented a tour of their various ecosystems within their greenhouse. Mr. Hoffman has also worked to further his education regarding natural resources by taking courses through the CSIU and Susquehanna University regarding the integration of math and science into teaching about nature. He stated his hope is to greatly increase the initiative's efforts to educate not only our school, but their community also. This is why he has been selected as environmental educator of the year for 2010.

Dave Crowl, Public Director, presents award to Mark Hoffman, Environmental Educator of the Year



Awards



Don Cotner, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Winner: Cynthia Anchor, New Columbia

About the award: We are proud to present this scholarship for a second year, which is sponsored by Don Cotner, Jr. in memory of his father. The award is given to a senior pursuing a degree in agriculture or an environmentally related field in the fall 2010 semester. Don Cotner, Sr. was a director for the Northumberland County Conservation District from 1960-1979. Cotner Farms began implementing a soil conservation program in the mid-1930s and has been actively conducting and promoting soil conservation practices ever since. In 1936, Cotner Farms, Inc. became one of the first farms in central Pennsylvania to implement 'contour' farming. In recognition of over 50 years of practicing soil conservation, Don Cotner Sr. was named Pennsylvania Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1988. Mr. Cotner was a top ten finalist for the National Conservation Farmer that same year. Soil conservation continues at Cotner Farms, Inc. today. All acreage is still farmed using no-till methods, cover crops are planted each fall, and diversion ditches, waterways, and terraces are maintained and improved upon annually. Employees of the farm routinely participate in soil conservation meetings and panels which provide information to legislators.

About the winner: Our second annual award winner of this scholarship is Cynthia Anchor of New Columbia, a senior this year at Milton Area High School. She is the daughter of Joe and Evelyn Anchor. Cynthia has been accepted into California University of Pennsylvania for the Fall of 2010 and plans to earn at least a Master's degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in wildlife and fisheries biology. Her extracurricular activities include Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Link Crew, and she participated in the Envirothon.



Dean James of Cotner Farms, Inc., presents award to Cynthia Anchor, Scholarship Winner

Awards



Raymond D. and Mable E. Shaffer Scholarship

Winner: Jacklyn Schroeder, Shamokin

About the award: The Raymond D. and Mable E. Shaffer Scholarship is provided every year by the Shaffer Insurance Agency in Dalmatia to a Line Mountain High School senior who will attend college in the fall and pursue a career in an agricultural or environmental field. It was instituted in 1996 in memory of Raymond and Mable Shaffer, who were among the founders of the Northumberland County Conservation District. Raymond was on the original steering committee and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Conservation District in 1955.

About the winner: The 2010 winner of this scholarship is Jacklyn Schroeder of Shamokin, the daughter of John and Michele Schroeder. Jacklyn is a member of Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Sun Area FFA, 4-H County Council, and 4-H Development Council. She has been described as being the “go-to” student for any agriculture/FFA related function. She also does volunteer work at the Ronald McDonald house. She plans on attending Delaware Valley College this fall with a major in Ag Education and a minor in Equine Science.



Michael Erdley, Public Director, presents award to Jacklyn Schroeder, Scholarship Winner

Swank Outstanding Conservation Youth Organization Award

Winner: Himmel's Church Youth Group, Rebuck

About the award: This award is sponsored annually by David and Judy Swank of Elysburg. It is presented to an outstanding conservation youth organization in the county which has done exceptional conservation related work. This year's award is being presented in honor of Shelby Palmer, the Swank's granddaughter.

About the winner: Himmel's Church Youth Group from Himmel's Church in Rebuck has approximately 10 high school and middle school members. Two of the group's service projects for the past year included participation in PennDot's litter removal program for a four mile area of state route 3010 from the village of Red Cross to the village of Rebuck. The group also collects and recycles aluminum cans from the congregation. The group has participated in these activities for many years and is proud to continue the tradition of litter clean-up and recycling as a part of their activities. The group's leader is Matthew Rebuck of Millersburg.

Awards



Conservation District Patch

Winner: Jonathan Lunger, Troop #331, Sunbury (Leader: Larry Beck)

About the award: Northumberland County boy scouts and girl scouts are eligible to receive the Conservation District Patch by earning at least three scout merit badges in conservation. In addition, they must participate in one or more conservation projects, such as tree planting, recycling, wildlife management, litter removal, etc

About the winners: Jonathan Lunger earned the Fish and Wildlife Management, Environmental Science, and Geology badges. He has participated in recycling and litter removal with the Boy Scout troop. Jonathan is the son of Mark Lunger of Sunbury.



Leon Wertz, Vice-Chairman, presents the Conservation District Patch to Jonathan Lunger



The Northumberland County Conservation District patch

Outreach



Northumberland County Conservation District

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for Home, About, Programs, Publications, Events, and Get Involved. Below the menu is a banner with the Northumberland County Conservation District logo and a background image of industrial silos. Contact information is provided: 441 Plum Creek Road, Sunbury, PA 17801 • Phone: (570) 286-7114 ext. 4 • FAX: (570) 988-4488. Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Links for Directions, County Implementation Plan, and Goals & Objectives are also present. A paragraph describes the NCCD's formation in 1943 and its purpose. Below this are three columns: Programs, News, and Get Involved, each with a representative image. The Programs section lists various services like erosion control and environmental education. The News section contains several announcements, including a poster contest, a Women in Ag event, award applications, a YACI camp, and an Ag-Opement! event. The Get Involved section describes ways to participate and mentions the NCCD's history since 1943.

Visit our website:
www.nccdpa.org.

Our website is
updated regularly!

We are also on youtube!
Go to www.youtube.com
and type in
“Northumberland County
Conservation District” and
enjoy!



Financial



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2010*

	ACTIVITIES
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$251,449
Other Current Assets	151
TOTAL ASSETS	\$251,600
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Tax Withholdings Payable	\$3,965
Good Faith Deposits	1,050
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,015
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	246,585
TOTAL NET ASSETS	246,585
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$251,600

**financial statement is presented pending 2010 audit*



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY
Conservation District



Thank you for a great year!