

## Teaming Was the Key

MARK HELLER  
Manheim  
Landowner



After experiencing heavy erosion along their stream and struggling to move equipment across the property, Mark and his family knew they needed to address a few issues on their farm. They also had goals of improving local habitat for fish and wildlife, which they greatly enjoy seeing on their property, as well as growing a long term source for floral cutting supplies.



*"Teaming with the Penn State Ag & Environment Center was the key to providing the necessary resources to meet the many goals we both set for the stream restoration and riparian buffer project. I was looking for a **partner** to not only help improve the on-site and down-stream water quality, but also to improve the environmental quality of the meadow as well as enhancing the presentation of the farm. We were able to create a plan to address all of our needs and build a foundation for a successful long-term project and farming operation."*

## Partner With Us!

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Dauphin County Conservation District  
Lancaster County Conservation District  
Lancaster Farmland Trust  
Lebanon County Conservation District  
Pennsylvania Soil Health Coalition  
Stroud Water Research Center  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Partner Riparian Buffer Planting  
Lancaster County, PA



*For more information, please contact us!*

Penn State Agriculture & Environment Center  
717-702-3505  
psuaec@psu.edu

## Lower Susquehanna Regional Partnership

*Focusing in  
Dauphin, Lancaster & Lebanon Counties*



**PennState**  
College of  
Agricultural Sciences

Agriculture & Environment Center  
717-702-3505  
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## Who We Are

The Lower Susquehanna Regional Partnership (LSRP) is a local group of conservation partners and farmer advisors helping agricultural landowners meet their conservation and production goals.

Facilitated by the [Penn State Ag & Environment Center](#), the partnership provides tools for farmers to improve soil health, bolster bottom lines, and ensure overall farm health while also protecting local water quality and natural resources.

The partnership can provide planning and technical assistance as well as a wide range of funding opportunities. Since our work is primarily funded through a grant, we will be receiving and reviewing applications on a rolling basis until funds run out.

Take advantage of this opportunity to prepare your farm for a future of financial stability and good land stewardship. To learn more about what we do and how we can support you, reach out with questions.

## How We Partner

- ◆ Contact us to discuss your needs and interests
- ◆ Work with our team to develop a plan and complete an application
- ◆ Apply funds to planning, design, and implementation of a wide range of conservation practices

### Priority Best Management Practices

- ◆ Riparian Buffers
- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Barnyard Improvements
- ◆ No Till Transition
- ◆ Manure Storage
- ◆ Grassed Waterways
- ◆ Grazing Management
- ◆ Heavy Use Area Protection
- ◆ Stream/Wetland Restoration
- ◆ 4Rs (Precision) Nutrient Management

Flexibility for additional approved practices and innovative ideas



*We're working in your area—  
consider partnering with us!*

## Consider the Benefits



**JIM HERSHEY**  
Elizabethtown Farmer  
President, PA No-Till Alliance

*“As President of the PA No-Till Alliance, I have had a **long- standing relationship** with folks from Penn State, **partnering on a number of educational events focusing on No-Till, Cover Crops, and Soil Health.***

*Now as the program is being introduced, I see it as another tool to better monitor operators' practices, goals, and concerns related to improving their **soil health and water quality** in the focus watersheds.*

*No-Till, Cover Crops, and Soil Health have been high priorities for me on our farm for many years. I have never regretted any of the practices I've implemented as BMPs, through EQIP, or for my own on-farm research, including working with Penn State. So, I would encourage farmers to consider how this grant might benefit their operation.”*



### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What organizations do you represent?**

*Penn State is one of many organizations working to collaborate with landowners to improve conservation practices on their land. We collectively work with public and private sector partners with the shared goal of providing resources for successful solutions to landowners through installing best management practices (BMPs). These partners include Conservation Districts, NRCS, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Stroud Water Research Center, Lancaster Farmland Trust, private ag consulting companies, and many others. Penn State provides a coordination role in our priority watersheds so that all these partners can work together on these solutions.*

**2. What is my obligation if I choose to participate?**

*It depends on the path forward you choose with what resources you would like to access. Our program is purely voluntary, and we want you to be comfortable with the path forward that makes the most sense to you. Whether you choose to work with federal, state, local or private partners, the commitment is variable. Penn State can help you to understand what your commitment may look like based on what your needs or interests are. If you agree to work with us, you may pause the partnership if your circumstances change or you change your mind.*

**3. What if I do not want to accept government funding?**

*Penn State works with private partners as an alternative to what you may be more familiar with. This may include a difference in how you apply, what information you share and other commitments you may or may not have to make.*

**4. How does this work?**

*Penn State can work with you to consider what your conservation needs and goals may be and can potentially identify other opportunities you may not have considered. We can connect you with a technical resource or work with your existing technical service provider. Depending upon your interests, we can develop a plan on how to support the planning, designing, permitting, and installation of practices, including options for funding.*

**5. What kind of funding is available from your program?**

*Funds are earned based on the acres of forest riparian buffers implemented on your farm, at \$4,000/acre, capped at \$20,000. New and existing buffers are counted toward your acreage totals. If your farm does not have a stream, we will provide \$10,000. We may allocate funds above these caps for high impact projects. These funds are then used to fund other conservation practices on your farm. Our funds are flexible and can be used for all aspects of a conservation project, including planning, design, or construction. We will work with you and our partners to find other funding sources to make whole farm projects happen. With our extensive partnership, we are often able to get projects fully implemented without any out-of-pocket costs to the farmer.*

**6. What about maintenance related to riparian buffer plantings?**

*We recognize concerns about required maintenance and there are a variety of programs that support establishment of plantings, including post-planting maintenance. We will work with you with you to select a program, outline maintenance needs, and identify partners and programs can support you financially and/or related to labor or equipment.*

**7. What if I am already working with an organization, like the Conservation District or NRCS?**

*We are actively working with many partners, including the Conservation District and NRCS, to support landowners with planning, designing, permitting, and installing BMPs. We've done many projects with NRCS and other partners where we've partnered with existing programs to provide additional resources that can help cover out-of-pocket costs you may have. We can help facilitate any ongoing efforts and identify funding and technical resources if needed, including being available to answer your questions. We'll work directly with your preferred technical assistance provider to make a project happen.*

### **Contact**

Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center

[psuaec@psu.edu](mailto:psuaec@psu.edu) or 717.702.3505