

## 2012 Conservation Farmer of the Year – The Yuris Family

**Location:** Derry Township

**Financial Assistance:** Growing Greener and EQIP

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*A vegetated buffer helps protect a stream from erosion on the Yuris property.*



*Streambank fencing keeps animals out of the stream.*



*An animal crossing helps protect the stream on the Yuris property.*

### Conservation Features

This model dairy farm has been working on a variety of conservation practices since the 1980s. The Yuris family purchased a no-till corn planter to eliminate plowing and reduce erosion. They also further reduce soil loss by practicing contour farming. The Yuris family practices rotational grazing, which allows animals to graze in only one area of the pasture while the other areas are rested. They also installed animal walkways from the barn to the pasture to minimize erosion.

The Yuris family also installed fencing and created a healthy forested buffer along a stream that runs

through their property and empties into the Conemaugh River.

The Yuris family has a nutrient management plan for their property and are recognized as a Dairy of Distinction. Their farm is preserved under the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

### Benefits

Reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, and farmland preservation for future generations.