

2013 Conservation Farmer of the Year – Helen Clevenger and Rick and Mary Duncan

Location: Derry Township

Financial Assistance: Growing Greener II, USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service, EQIP

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Roof gutter systems, diversion ditches, underground pipe drainage and other best management practices helped restore a muddy pasture and develop a water trough system for livestock.

Conservation Features

Natural underground springs and seeps made for wet conditions at this 100+ year old beef cattle farm. Sloped areas allowed surface water carrying mud and manure to rush toward a tributary of Stony Run. Roof gutters and downspouts with sub-surface drainage were installed and along with new diversion ditches and underground piping, water is collected and redirected away from areas where the cattle access. A new large open-sided, roofed building was built which provides a sheltered, paved place where the herd can stay in inclement weather and where manure can be stored. Access roads for people and equipment and an animal walkway were added to reduce erosion. Spring development with water troughs were installed to provide livestock with fresh water. A 3,250 foot long vegetated buffer was planted along the stream.



This animal walkway helps reduce erosion.



A vegetated buffer protects a stream on the property.

Benefits

Improvement in animal health and simplified maintenance. Sediment and nutrients are now kept out of the path of flowing water.