

Landmarks

HIGH POINTS



Funding available for MUNICIPALITIES and OTHERS THAT OWN PUBLIC ROADS



Municipalities and others that own public roads in Westmoreland County can begin applying for funding on September 1 to implement practices that reduce sediment pollution, encourage infiltration, and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

The funding is available for both unpaved and paved roads, and is provided by the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program.

Applications will be accepted until Oct. 31.

More information is available at <http://wcdpa.com/tech-services/dirt-gravel-low-volume-roads/>.

A look at THE FUTURE OF FARMING

Farmers in the future might be doing some interesting new things. Some might spend their days tending microgreens in a warehouse. Or planting fields of industrial hemp. Or working in a commercial kitchen to turn their produce into salsa, jam, and other value-added products.



A recent summit on the future of farming, hosted at the conservation district, drew close to 100 people -- including traditional dairy and livestock farmers who were looking to diversify their operations, and those who have never farmed a day in their life, but always wanted to.



“The purpose of the summit was to give people a look of what farming could be – how it could be done in innovative ways and produce new niche products,” explained Greg Phillips, district manager/CEO. “There are many exciting opportunities on the horizon for agriculture.”

The afternoon event also looked at a number of ways to make new and existing farm operations successful, such as directly connecting farms to local restaurants and other markets, and the use of renewable energy such as solar cells.

“I’m excited about agriculture,” said participant Reid Crosby who does some small-scale farming on his Hempfield Township property. “This summit generated interest and enthusiasm and awareness of local markets. And if we can connect markets and producers, we can create potential.”

Plans for the next future of farming summit, to be held in 2019, are already under way.



Are you in the food business?*

PLEASE TAKE THIS FIVE-MINUTE SURVEY

If you’re in the food business,* we encourage you to click on the following link and complete the survey being conducted by Chatham University’s Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqKH0KgaUWo2vjcOMOpGjV3sGiX0-HlpXoPCnjXl5aStXRw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Information gathered from the survey will be used to bolster the local food economy.

**“Food business” includes

Producers	farmers who operate at a level beyond subsistence (growing product for their own use)
Aggregators, Wholesalers, Cooperatives, Distributors	entities who assist producers in bringing product to market
Processors	entities who buy raw product and increase its value by processing it (butchers, food kitchens, co-packer, food processors)
Food Outlets	CSAs (pick up sites), farmers markets, retailers that buy direct from producers
Agricultural Inputs	entities that sell agricultural inputs to producers (seed, feed, equipment, fertilizer, pesticides)
Service Providers	entities that provide services to producers, aggregators/wholesalers, processors, food outlets (insurance, financial services, education, advocacy), including non-profit organizations that serve the agriculture and food community

Stormwater and Basin Retrofit Videos

The unusually frequent and heavy rains this summer may have you thinking more about stormwater management.

If so, you can view two 16-minute videos created by the district that give the basics of stormwater as well as information on stormwater basin retrofits.

[Stormwater Part 1](#)

[Stormwater Part 2](#)

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Visit our website

