



BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

NRCS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kate Parsons

Below is a summary of the major NRCS activities and accomplishments from 2006.

- Land users were aided in planning approximately 2614 acres of crop land and 264 acres of grazing land.

- Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) were developed for 2 farms.

Nutrient management and waste utilization plans were implemented on 852 acres.

- Land users were aided in implementing grazing practices on approximately 244 acres.

- Soil erosion was reduced by approximately 2069 tons on 302 acres of cropland.

Technical and financial assistance was provided to 2 landowners with the construction of 2 waste storage facilities and 1 barnyard pad.

9 EQIP applications were accepted, planned and ranked against others across the state.

8 EQIP applications were funded. These contracts address water and soil quality and plant production resource concerns and include practices such as comprehensive nutrient management plans, nutrient management, waste utilization, waste storage, animal trail and walkway, prescribed grazing, pasture and hayland planting, fencing, irrigation water management, pest management and invasive species control.

10 WHIP applications were accepted, planned and ranked against others across the state.

9 WHIP applications were funded. These contracts include invasive species control, early successional habitat restoration and fish passage.

- Invasive species control was implemented on 28.4 acres of wetland and 25.4 acres of upland shrub habitat and early successional habitat was improved on 9.8 acres under 3 separate WHIP contracts.

- A workshop was held in conjunction with the Berkshire Conservation District and MA Wildlife on "Managing Wetlands, Fields, and Forest for Wildlife and Diversity" at the Moran Wildlife Management Area in Windsor, MA on September 2006.

- USDA through the Farmland and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP), in cooperation with the State of Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' (MDAR) Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, permanently preserved 478 acres of farmland on two different farms.

5 Berkshire county farmers with land totaling 550 acres were rewarded for following good stewardship of the land under their CSP contracts.

Financial assistance was contracted under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to 3 towns to correct erosion and sedimentation problems causing a threat to human life or property, resulting from the October 2005 flooding event.

Assistance was provided to the towns of Montague and Deerfield by Edward Drake and Paul Benjamin, respectively, with the implementation of streambank erosion control measures under EWP.

Brief technical assistance was provided to approximately 140 individuals, consisting of soils information, aerial photographs, hay stand evaluations, seeding recommendations, soil samples, erosion evaluation and recommendations and EWP site evaluations.

Assistance was provided to the New Jersey Plant Materials Center with native plant propagation through the volunteer detail by Edward Drake.

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

Congratulations to 4-H Bristol County, the overall first place winner, of the 2006 Massachusetts Envirothon.

Nearly 300 Bay State high school students from 40 public and private schools across the commonwealth, along with nearly 200 coaches, judges and volunteers, converged on the Blackstone River Canal and Heritage State Park in Uxbridge today for the 19th annual Massachusetts Envirothon, a statewide competition that tests students’ knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and environmental issues. This year’s topic was “Acting Locally for Climate Protection.”

Berkshire Community College
2006 Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Michael Gromacki, this year’s recipient of the \$250 Berkshire Conservation District Environmental Science Scholarship at Berkshire Community College. Guidelines for this scholarship require that the student be a second year environmental studies student, pursuing studies at BCC that will lead to a career in natural resources.

ANNUAL SALES 

The Berkshire County Conservation District sold 7450 seedlings at our annual spring sale and 834 packages of bulbs at last year’s annual fall bulb sale. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make our fundraisers successful. Customers can now charge their orders by making their purchases online through PayPal on our website. The 2007 spring sale brochure will be mailed out by February 2007. Proceeds from these sales go towards providing technical assistance to landowners, workshops, the BCC scholarship and environmental educational materials to schools in Berkshire County.

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