

# Codurus Creek receives \$12,000 in conservation funding

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YORK — York County's South Branch watershed of the Codurus Creek has the dubious honor of being selected one of the state's top ten erosion-prone areas.

The watershed's flooding and washproblems have garnered state interest in the creek's drainage area, in the form of a \$12,000 allotment from the state ASCS

committee, to be used toward erosion control measures.

However, that amount is nowhere near the estimated \$167,000 cost that a statewide Soil Conservation Service study says is needed to do a thorough erosion control on the flood-prone South Branch.

"We hope the project will attract additional funding," says Peggyann Carnill, head of the

York Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

An estimated 375 farms are included in the total 44,000 acres of the watershed, which runs south and west of Interstate 83. Water from the springs in the rolling hills and creek valleys feed into the water supplies of the York Water Company, with its approximately 100,000 customers in York City and surrounding urban areas.

Several objectives are listed as goals for the erosion-control project including increased overall farm income due to reduced soil losses within the watershed crop land. Non-point pollution would be reduced to more permissible levels, water quality and ground water levels would be improved, and the area would become a prime conservation example.

Funds are being handled through the York County ASCS offices.

Farmers from within the South Branch Codurus watershed will be invited in the near future to apply for up to 50 to 60 percent of the costs of runoff-control improvements such as diversion terraces and manure holding pits, with a total fund limit per farm of \$3,500.

A similar study is now underway for the watershed area of the Conewago Creek in northern York County.



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