

FFA'ers Help Repair Streams That Feed Muddy Run

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RONKS (Lancaster Co.) — Johnny Appleseed had his chance with his apple seed scattering of the hit-or-miss variety.

But using tree planters, last week more than 16 Pequea Valley FFA'ers literally pitched in and planted bareroot dogwoods, pine, forsythia, willows, conifers, apples, and cranapples alongside a



Jason Huyett, Pequea Valley junior, left, helps Rich Skubish, Pa. Game Commission, plant trees.



Chad Slusser, Pequea Valley junior, uses a tree transplanter to ready ground for tree species along the stream.



Missy Vandergriff and Tim Dunn, Pequea Valley FFA sophomores, wade through a repaired streambed at the Amos L. and Elam F. Fisher farm near Ronks.

streambed under repair.

The special Building Our American Communities (BOAC) project, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission through the efforts of the Pequea-Mill Creek project, is part of overall repair work on a stream near Rt. 340 in Ronks. The stream feeds the Muddy Run Creek, which in turn flows into the Mill Creek.

During the past year, Pequea Valley FFA students contributed their time and efforts toward fencing the stream from dairy cattle on the Amos L. and Elam F. Fisher farm. Also, work was completed recently on streambed fencing on the Jacob B. Fisher farm nearby.

There is at least a mile of fence installed on both sides, according to Clair Witwer, FFA adviser. More than 30 students are involved, which is the FFA's BOAC project.

The FFA was approached by the conservation district and the Mill Creek project to donate labor and time to helping install the systems.

"We do a lot of environmental studies, so this ties in pretty closely with what we work with," said Witwer.

The students also monitor stream water and complete various tests to see what effect the fencing



Omer Brubaker, SCS, right holds up recycled plastic posts while Terry Worall hammers them in.

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A total of 7½ acres are available for grazing at the Jacob Fisher farm. The posts were provided by the Fishers, and the wiring from Tipper Tye, which also supplied the recyclable plastic posts, according to Dean Brubaker, SCS, pictured here. Seven paddocks are under construction at the farm to help replenish the grasses that have endured heavy grazing.



Dan Geissinger, left and Joel Hoover, both sophomores at Pequea Valley, install permanent fence posts at the Jacob Fisher farm as part of the special paddock project.