## **Chester County Conservation Honors Group**

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Chester County's conservation district and the HomeBuilders Association of Chester and Delaware counties continued their professional partnership in protecting the environment.

For the third year, the Excellence in Conservation Award went to a project completed by a development group, The Hankin Group, that has worked with the district on a variety of county projects.

This development group helped the district in 1988 in organizing the first training sessions on erosion control.

Dan Greig, district manager, said the 1999 award is given to The Hankin Group for the stream restoration of Lionville Run in West Whiteland Township.

The Hankin Group is developing Chandler Tract. Lionville Run had been rerouted 50 yards or so from its original channel to the perimeter of the property. With assistance from Trout Unlimited and West Chester Fish and Game Association members John Johnson and Carl Dusinberre, The Hankin Group decided to restore the original stream.

West Chester Fish and Game were concerned because Lionville Run flows into West Valley Creek, where the club has a fish nursery. BioHabitats, a stream restoration consulting firm, was contacted to look at the details of the stream and planting.

Stream restoration best management practices include root wad revetments, vortex rock weirs, rock cross vanes, meanders, and riffles. About 1,500 trees, shrubs, and plants were installed to provide bank stabilization and a canopied stream corridor.

Erosion and sediment controls were incorporated into all aspects of the project. Technivate was the excavator for the project. The project, noted the district, withstood the onslaught of Hurricane Floyd with little damage.

FSA Announces Farm Storage Loan Program

YORK (York Co.) – The USDA plans the start of a Farm Storage Facility Loan Program for the 2000 crop year.

The loan program is administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

According to D. Wayne Kurtz, county executive director of the York County FSA Office, "The purpose of this program provides on farm storage resulting in additional marketing options at harvest when prices are usually at their lowest."

Kurtz said "USDA will publish an interim rule as soon as possible seeking comments on program details. Once this interim rule is published any actions by producers on grain storage facilitues to purchase, contracts to purchase, ordering storage structures, drying or handling equipment or site preparation are eligible for loan." Kurtz said, "York County farmers who may be interested in this program should call the office immediately. I remind producers that the current policy only allows loan eligibility for purchase contracts, equipment, or site preparation entered into after the publication of the interim rule."





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Interested farmers can contact the York County FSA Office at (717) 755-2966, ext. 2.

