

Montgomery County Farms To Show Water Quality Improvements

PENNSBURG (Montgomery Co.) — Spring Mountain Farm and Pointe of View Farm in Montgomery County will open their farms Saturday, April 26, to show changes they made to improve their farm operations and to protect the headwaters of the Perkiomen Creek Watershed.

Farmers and other interested individuals are invited to visit both farms and to see first hand the improvements made that will result in cleaner water for the region.

This agricultural-oriented tour offers several benefits to

attendees. First, to see examples of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used on livestock farms that can improve a farmer's livestock operation while also protecting streams, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas from nutrient and sediment pollution. Second, to provide an opportunity to meet the organizations and agencies that assisted these farmers and would be available to assist with similar projects on other farms in the region. Another is to learn about Pennsylvania's Nutrient

Management Law.

Finally, to hear about cost-sharing opportunities to assist with the installation of these BMPs.

The tour will begin at 9:15 a.m. at Spring Mountain Farm just outside of Gilbertsville. Spring Mountain Farm is owned and operated by Charlie Warnick and his family. It is a 60-acre preserved farm specializing in beef cattle and horses.

Visitors will be able to see the improvements made to the barnyard area to provide for better handling and control-

ling of animal manure. Previously manure was stockpiled on an earthen area just outside the barn. From the piles, nutrient laden water ran directly into a small stream. Also a stabilized stream crossing was installed at the farm. The crossing now allows the animals to cross the soft mud bottomed stream without getting stuck and protects the stream-bank vegetation.

At 10:30 a.m., the tour will proceed to Pointe of View Farm in East Greenville. Tour participants will meet with Rob and Val Myers who operate a 55-acre farm, which is also permanently preserved. The Myers raise beef cattle and sheep.

To protect the soil and water resources on their farm, the Myers installed a gravity fed watering system and a stone-stabilized stream crossing for their animals. Previously the animals concentrated

grazing to one area and stayed close to the house because of limited access to drinking water. By providing drinking water in the pasture fields, the animals will now graze more of the pasture fields, be more efficient in grazing, and will have adequate water available for their drinking needs.

Spring Mountain Farm and Pointe of View Farm both benefited from funding received by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development (SEPA RC&D) Council. SEPA RC&D was able to help Spring Mountain Farm with the barnyard improvement because of generous funding received from the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Program. The funding received by SEPA RC&D is targeted specifically to improve water quality around livestock barnyards.

SEPA RC&D was also able to assist both farms with their stabilized stream crossings because of funding received from PA DEP through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act that is administered by the US EPA. The 319 funds were also used to assist Point of View Farm with their livestock watering system.

Ducks Unlimited, another project partner, aided Point of View Farm by providing and installing the fencing along the stream banks.

While both farms will benefit from the improvements made on their farm, so too will thousands of people and businesses in the region that will have cleaner water available for a variety of uses. Both farms are located on small tributaries to the Perkiomen

Creek, which flows into the Green Lane Reservoir and into the Schuylkill River. The Philadelphia Suburban Water Company and the Philadelphia Water Department also benefit because they rely on the reservoir and river to provide drinking water to their customers.

At the tour, April 26, attendees will be able to meet with representatives from a variety of agencies and organizations. In attendance will be David Schaffer of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who assisted both farmers by providing engineering services and overseeing the installation of the Best Management Practices; Andrew Frankenfield of the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service, who assisted the farmers by providing information on proper pasture management and livestock grazing; and Bill Domenico of the Montgomery County Conservation District, who assists farmers with meeting the current Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law.

Also attending will be Elizabeth Emlen, who is the administrator for the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program and John Metrick, who assisted the farmers with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council project funding efforts.

For more information about the tour and driving directions to the farms, please contact Andrew Frankenfield of the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension at (610) 489-4315.

New 1250 Series

New 1250 Forage Box Line

New Outfeed Conveyor Extension

Badger

Open Top • Truck Mount • Front, Rear & Front/Rear Combo • High Lift Dump Boxes

Legendairy Quality
SEE YOUR AUTHORIZED BADGER DEALER

Anncville BHM Farm Equipment 717-867-2211	Everett C. Paul Ford & Son, Inc. 814-652-0095	Troy Fallbrook Fabrication 570-297-3802
Carlisle CFS 717-243-4419	Lancaster Show-Ease Stall Co. 717-299-2536	Watsonstown Rovendale Ag & Barn Equip 570-538-9564
Chambersburg CFS 717-264-3533	Oley Pikeville Equipment 610-987-6277	

www.badgerfarmequipment.com

Lancaster Farming's Classified Ads Get Results!

One of our favorite times of year is just around the corner: **June Dairy Month!**

And what a treat we have for *Lancaster Farming* readers in our June Dairy Issue scheduled June 7. Included will be family farm features, breed and association news and highlights, and other great reading for our dairy families.

Keystone Fence Supplies LLC
1820 West Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522
717-738-0923

High-Tensile Wire
200,000 PSI 12 1/2 gauge

WARNING! ELECTRIC FENCE

Full Line of High Tensile Fence Supplies and Treated Round Posts

Solid-Lock High-Tensile Field Fence