

Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

Situation Overview:

- A. *How does this farm view their environmental responsibilities for both the farm and land? Please describe.* We take this responsibility very seriously. We care for the land so it will provide a living for our family. Our farm was purchased in 1981 in Bradford County. Prior to 1981, our family farmed in Lycoming County.
- B. *The following conservation and environmental best management practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into this farm plan that last 5-10 years.*
- Crop residue management
 - No-till practices
 - Contour farming
 - Conservation buffers
 - Stream bank protection
 - Water (manure) storages/Manure Stacking (Lagoon for the Transformation Team project)
 - Roof runoff management
 - Precision feeding/Feed management
- C. *Does the farm have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Manure Management Plan? Yes. Did this project change the way the farm handles animal manure? Please describe.* We have a daily haul plan, and with the new lagoon, we developed a new manure management plan.
- D. *Is manure applied in the winter months (generally December – February)? Yes. Is the manure applied in winter due to not enough storage or for other reasons such as timing, field conditions in spring, etc.? [if yes, for what particular reason(s):]* We maintain contour strips and practice crop rotation. Our highly erodible fields stay in a sod with two years of corn rotation. We also have erosion ditches for contour water.
- E. *Does the farm have a conservation plan or an agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan? If yes, what are the key components?* Yes, the farm has a conservation plan. Crop rotation and riparian buffers for our creeks are included with our nutrient management plan.
- F. *If this project included new conservation or environmental changes, how did they impact farm profitability? Please describe.* We built a manure storage facility for the new barn. The lagoon has reduced labor costs associated with manure management, improving our profitability.

Conservation and Environmental Stewardship...continued

G. *Can the farm quantify the environmental impact of the project? Please describe.* Our building project probably contributed to losing approximately five acres of field land that are no longer dedicated to our crops.

This is the first winter that we didn't need to haul daily manure. During a harsh winter, it's easy to see the environmental benefit of not spreading manure, when you recognize the challenges associated with manure run off.

H. *What is the most significant environmental/conservation improvement made on this operation within the last 5 years, and what improvement(s) did it result in?* For our family, the biggest improvement is the lagoon. We utilize the nutrients better, and don't have associated run-off in the winter.

Prior to lagoon construction, the riparian buffers were a significant improvement.

