

# Farm Conservation A Wise Investment

Farm conservation practices — those that save and improve soil and manage fertilizer and animal waste — are good for water quality and good for farm businesses.

In fact, farms have the greatest potential to improve water quality dollar for dollar. Dollars spent per pound of nitrogen pollution reduced is only \$1.20 - \$11 using agricultural conservation practices. Comparatively, wastewater treatment improvements cost \$8.56 - \$79 and urban stormwater retrofits cost \$90 - \$500 per pound of nitrogen reduction.

Farm operations benefit as well through more productive soils and healthier livestock.

Pennsylvania farmers manage nearly a full quarter of the state's 29 million acres of land. Clearly, providing funding to help improve and add to agricultural best management practices is a wise public investment toward clean water.

Funding and technical assistance can make a difference in your farm's future. Learn more at [www.cwqe.org](http://www.cwqe.org).

## HEADQUARTERS

430 Walnut Street, Suite 303  
Columbia, PA 17512

A PENNVEST FUNDED INITIATIVE

## Bang-for-the-Buck Conservation Practices

Some conservation practices are big winners in terms of cleaning up local waterways, and they often score higher under funders' ranking criteria for financial assistance.

Top practices include:

- streamside buffers and fencing
- cover crops
- minimum tillage/ no-till
- improvements to barn yards and other heavy animal use areas
- manure storage

Use CWQE as your coach to organize funding strategies, find partnerships, and build proposals around program criteria to create a win-win solution.

Contact us for free support

Phone: 855-227-1202

Email: [support@cwqe.org](mailto:support@cwqe.org)

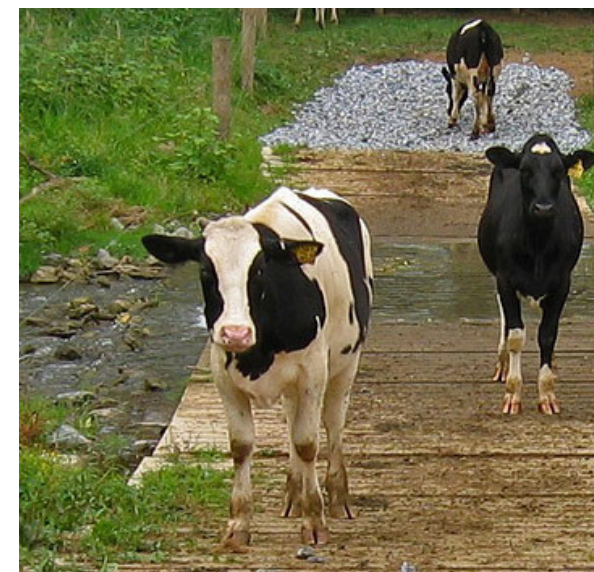
Support Hub: <https://support.CWQE.org>



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# Think you can't afford to put your farm conservation plan to work?

## Think again.



Explore CWQE Services

[www.CWQE.org](http://www.CWQE.org)

# Meeting the Funding Challenge.

Farm conservation practices are smart investments. They are not only good for water quality, they are good for your farm's bottom line.

Still, you may have yet to develop a conservation plan or implement improvements on your farm. Perhaps the universe of public funding programs is too confusing. Maybe you're interested in learning about financing tools that offer greater flexibility, new tax benefits, or options to start small with just a few improvements.

*We can help you move to the next level.*

## WHO WE ARE

Pennsylvania's Center for Water Quality Excellence (CWQE) exists to help farm landowners make sense of the grant, loan, and public-private partnership programs that support agricultural conservation best practices and clean water in Pennsylvania.



The CWQE offers staff to assist agricultural landowners

and tenant farmers evaluate what conservation practices are possible and practical. We can support you in evaluating relevant solutions and strategies for financial and technical assistance to get conservation practices implemented on your property. A PENNVEST initiative, the CWQE will be operating as a pilot in York and Lancaster counties and is free to customers seeking assistance.

Landowners requesting help receive support from specialists or "coaches," who provide one-on-one guidance on implementation and funding strategies. We shine light on what has worked well for other farms like yours. Making customer service a priority, the Center will offer in-person and phone support to best suit your schedule.

An important goal of the Center is to promote existing programs and partnerships. CWQE staff will make connections for you to relevant organizations who provide technical expertise and administer funding for BMPs at the local level.

There are a growing number of assistance programs for farm BMPs. Now is the time to take advantage of programs and initiatives that fit your needs. Think of us as your resource coach and reach out to the CWQE when you see a need for a tune-up or just simply have a question that needs an answer.

**FREE ASSISTANCE** CWQE customer support is provided through in-person consultations and a web-based interactive Support Hub.

### VIRTUAL SUPPORT HUB

An online self-service support portal available 24/7 ([support.CWQE.org](http://support.CWQE.org)) allows customers to ask questions, request support and search a digital library of conservation resources.

**Knowledge Base Library** – Intuitive SEARCH tool directs you to helpful articles, funding alerts, program profiles, CWQE newsletter, subject matter overviews, and links to high quality resources.

**Personalized Assistance** – One-on-one support is provided to requests made via the CWQE Support Hub. Making a request is easy – just start a conversation – and briefly describe what you are looking for. CWQE staff will help move you on an implementation path, whether it's planning, design, or construction.

### CWQE STOREFRONT

The CWQE has a storefront location for walk-in customers, scheduled one-on-one consultations, and workshops or events.

Partnering organizations and agencies will be invited to present on hot topics. Located in Columbia Borough, the storefront will open for business in mid-August 2021.

### MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

The CWQE mobile education center takes storefront services on the road. Operating like a "food truck," the specially equipped van brings educational resources and direct assistance to selected events and locations.