

## ECONOMIC COSTS TO THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT THE LEBANON CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Contractors, farmers & local governments lose time and money trying to secure Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Plan Review Approvals, Chapter 105 Stream Encroachment Permits, Nonpoint Source Discharge Elimination System Permits, Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan Approvals, and Municipal Animal Waste Storage Permit Technical Approvals normally provided by the Lebanon County Conservation District.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions in delayed construction ranging from poultry and swine houses to industrial parks and housing developments. Customers forced to try to get these services from out of town offices of the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture, PA State Conservation Commission and private consulting firms where they are not a priority.**

- Homeowners & water treatment plants pay higher costs to remove sediment and nutrients from sewage and drinking water without the efforts of the LCCD in erosion control and nutrient mgt.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, as 128,000 Lebanon Countians pay a minimum of 25 cents a day\* for their water. That is more than \$11.5 million annually NOT circulated into the local economy.**

\*[EPA.GOV/Safewater/Kids/water\\_trivia\\_facts.html](http://EPA.GOV/Safewater/Kids/water_trivia_facts.html)

- Homeowners forced to hire at higher cost, private consultants to have their forested residences assessed and sprayed during cyclical gypsy moth infestations if they are not served by the LCCD.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions in lost property value due to mature tree loss, increased energy costs for cooling due to lost tree canopy, tree removal and salvage, removal of encroaching invasive species, lost person days of recreation for two months at local campgrounds and outdoor eating establishments.**

- Farmers cannot get agricultural loans to expand operations without nutrient management plans, conservation plans, and technical approvals for designs offered by the LCCD.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, as time is money, and 1 dairy cow generates \$4,215, 1 hog generates \$268 and one beef animal generates \$1,160 a year for a farm family.\*

\*Penn State Extension Contribution of Agriculture to Lebanon County-Statistical Summary 5/14/2010

- Economic losses to everyone due to increased flooding and need for flood insurance from storm water and sediment loading to waterways, increased wetlands exploitation and fewer alternative greener storm water techniques without the efforts of the LCCD.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Through June 2010 there has been an average damage payout in Pennsylvania counties of \$11 million in flood losses.\* Thousands of Lebanon County home-owners pay out an average of \$500 annually for flood insurance that could otherwise be circulated elsewhere in the local economy. Flood damages to commercial/recreational trout fishery at Limestone Springs cost est. \$30,000 in losses with each flood prior to being corrected through free technical assistance offered through the Lebanon County Cons. Dist.#

\*<http://bsa.nfipstat.com/reports/1040.htm> #- Bob Miller, March 6, 2008

- Decreased recreational opportunities and quality of life from sediment and nutrient loading in ponds, lakes and waterways. Increased public safety hazard in fighting rural fires with loss in pond and lake capacity and fewer dry hydrants installed without conservation district assistance (i.e. –East Hanover Township).

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions incurred by local communities to remove sediment from Stoever's Dam, Lake Strauss, the Jonestown intake on the Swatara Creek. Losses of Rexamont Dams and Lake Duffy to fisherman and sources for rural fire fighting.

- Economic losses due to an increasing number of fines and associated lost productivity when there is no “common sense buffer” of the Lebanon County Conservation District to seek voluntary compliance on behalf of residents and businesses encumbered in enforcement cases with state and federal environmental agencies.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars as more Lebanon County property owners and businesses wind up missing work and income because of the need to attend enforcement hearings in Harrisburg or elsewhere without the voluntary compliance approach of the Lebanon County Conservation District.

- Increased costs for local governments and taxpayers to maintain dirt and gravel roads.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Potentially tens of thousands of dollars spent several times a year to reshape and redress rural gravel roads, and clean sediment out of shoulder swales, culvert pipes and receiving streams without the proper technical design and maintenance expertise offered through the Lebanon County Conservation District via the Center For Dirt and Gravel Roads.

- Loss of community health and productivity and agricultural profit for people negatively impacted by livestock in streams which the LCCD works hard to mitigate.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Potentially millions, as it costs a minimum of \$120,000 a year to wrap 1 hoof on each of our 20,000 dairy cows a year for hoof rot. \* Costly nitrate removal systems and/or reduced milk productivity for majority of Lebanon County where most streams are listed as impaired by agriculture. Emerging contaminants from pharmaceuticals taken by people and livestock leading to intersexing of fish and increased estrogen levels in people. #

\*Calvin Miller, Swatara Twp. Dairy Farmer, 9/2010. #-University of Pittsburgh

- **Lost/reduced community economic opportunity due to an over-exploited, non-recharged water table without alternative approaches encouraged by LCCD to infiltrate rainfall on farms and in towns via best management practices ranging from no-till to pervious paving.**  
**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, as businesses look at the overall environmental health of a community in making a decision to locate there and attract/retain an educated workforce. A community without a water budget cannot succeed in attracting jobs such as those offered by Tenaska, or be able to sustain a vibrant agriculture (i.e. a cow drinks 30 to 40 gallons of water a day). Negative climate change impacts in surrounding counties put pressure on Lebanon County's water supply.\***

**\*[http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/watersustainability/Pennsylvania\\_With\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/watersustainability/Pennsylvania_With_Climate_Change.pdf)**

- **More nutrient pollution in soils and water from agriculture due to a likely decrease in soil testing, over application of animal manures and commercial fertilizers all mitigated by local delivery of the state's nutrient management law by the Lebanon County Conservation Dist.**  
**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, without nutrient management planning literacy farmers will likely overapply nitrogen and phosphorus. Commercial fertilizer is extremely expensive\* and even more expensive for water treatment plants to remove from the water supply.**  
**Income spent on these nutrients and their removal are lost to the overall economy.**

**\*The average 100 acre farm in Lebanon County spends \$3,000 for commercial N fertilizer, Del Voight, PS Ext. 9/2010**

- Less or no agricultural land protected by the Lebanon County Conservation District for food, energy, watershed recharge, green space recreation and quality of life, drives up costs for non-local food, non-green energy, less and dirtier water, and taxes to fund services for people on non-agricultural land.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, as more and more Lebanon Countians purchase their food and energy from abroad in less sustainable fashion. Increased residential development costs more in tax dollars for services than the agricultural land it replaces\* . Covering up land with more impervious surfaces degrades water supplies and quality. Without an affordable supply of clean water there is littler economic growth. States with the most vibrant agricultural economies have the lowest unemployment levels. #**

**\*American Farmland Trust and Penn State .**

**#<http://finance.yahoo.com/tech-ticker/10-states-with-ridiculously-low-unemplo>**

- Loss of \$3.3 million in grants passed directly to the local economy by the Lebanon County Conservation District.  
**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Millions, please reference attached Economic Impact Summary of the Lebanon County Conservation District.**
- Loss of quality of life due to increased environmental degradation from likely decrease in environmental literacy among the population because of a reduction in those exposed to environmental and watershed education programs by the Lebanon County Conservation District. An agriculturally and environmentally illiterate constituency in the future will not likely recognize the need for agriculture and the environment to be protected and thrive, threatening maintenance or improvement in our overall quality of life. For thousands and thousands of county school students, the Lebanon County Conservation District has been there only source of exposure to environmental education.  
**ECONOMIC IMPACT: Priceless.**