

Water Quality Conservation: Benefits Beyond the Environment

Stakeholder type (municipality, farm, business, or other landowner):

Cattle farming operation

Project name and location:

Sherman Beef Cattle

575 Brouse Road

Montgomery, Pa 17752

Project owner name and contact information:

Michael Sherman

570-447-0866

michael@shermanbeefcattle.com

Willing to talk to others about the project and benefits? Yes



Testimonial about the non-environmental benefits gained, up to 200 words:

“It’s just as important to optimize the environment where cattle are produced as it is to strengthen their genetic makeup. Investing in conservation measures to improve the environment enables cattle to express their true genetic potential, and this has enhanced the overall profitability and sustainability of our farming operation. What’s good for the land is good for the cattle. What’s good for the cattle is good for our farm. And I take pride in knowing we do our part to enhance water quality.”

Community and economic (non-environmental) benefits:

- Decreased veterinary expenses.
- Cleaner drinking water for livestock from off-stream watering system.
- Reduced injuries to cattle, especially leg injuries previously caused by walking on unstable streambed/banks.
- Reduced illnesses, such as foot rot, udder issues, and pinkeye.
- Cattle put on weight faster by spending more time on pasture.
- Grass-fed beef label adds market value to product.
- Cleaner stream benefits recreational users and downstream farm operators.

Environmental benefits:

- A native brook trout stream was restored from previously from dead condition.
- Two-acre riparian buffer became wildlife corridor for diverse species.
- Increased profitability helps preserve farmland vs. selling farm for development.
- Increased water infiltration has reduced stormwater and manure runoff.

Conservation projects installed:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| • Riparian buffer | • Roof gutter rainwater transfer system |
| • Streambank fencing | • Manure stacking area |
| • Off-stream watering system | • Roofed heavy use area |
| • Conveyor belt diverters | • Rotational grazing system |
| • Animal trail and walkways | • Pollinator habitats |
| • Cropland conversion | • Animal trail and walkway |
| • Stabilized heavy use area | • Purchased development rights - farm preserved |
| • Waste water filtration system | |

Partners: Lycoming County Conservation District, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Funding assistance:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative
- Conservation Stewardship Program

Photo of project/project owner: See attached for more