



PennState Extension

THE CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE TRAINING (CACAT)

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MISSION

To help Pennsylvania farmers, agricultural landowners, and conservation professionals implement best practices, ensure the health of land and water in communities, and leverage funding and partnerships.



Photos credits: Erin Trouba and Jesse Bussard
Equipment Demonstration Day 2024; NRCS Boot Camp; Macroinvertebrate Identification Training; NRCS Boot Camp; ACAP Annual Conference Field Trip



ESTABLISHING THE CENTER

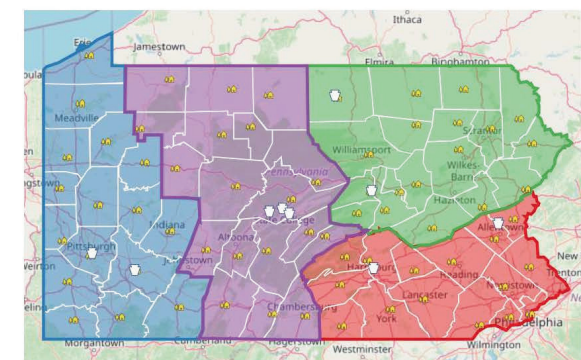


The Center was formed in January 2023 along with partners at the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Pennsylvania State Office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The vision for the Center began to take form in 2016 when a group of partners convened at a conference called "PA in the Balance," in which they discussed barriers and innovative solutions for promoting both environmental goals and profitable agriculture in Pennsylvania. A major barrier that surfaced repeatedly was the lack of technical assistance available to implement agricultural best management practice (BMP) projects for available funding programs.

In 2022, through legislative action called the Clean Streams Fund, the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) formed and allowed for a portion of its funds to be delegated to Penn State to create the Center. In July 2024, ACAP was approved as a dedicated line of state funding.

STAFFING

The Center has a team of staff across the Commonwealth that work with partners at SCC, county conservation districts, NGOs, and within the private sector to implement ACAP.



GET IN TOUCH

You can reach out to us at our general email account cacat@psu.edu. Sign up for our monthly newsletter to get the latest in ag conservation news along with information on publications, videos, and online and in-person events.