



Berkshire Conservation District

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Thomas Anderson, Executive Secretary
Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

October 4, 2024

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the Berkshire Conservation District (BCD), I respectfully submit this quarterly report to serve as an update on our activities for the months of July, August and September 2024.

Since our last report on July 9, 2024 the District Board of Supervisors has met monthly, through the use of Zoom on-line and hybrid meetings and in-person planning meetings. As always, we continue the search for additional Supervisors to add to our Board. The District Administrator continues to work remotely, stopping in the office regularly to process mail and meet with NRCS staff.

This time period focused mainly on planning for our annual plant sale and increasing accessibility to our no-till seeder drills.

No-Till Program

Our Program Manager continued to reach out to farmers in the region, collecting data on their needs and promoting the no-till subsidy program. There have been 7 rentals from July through September, representing 3 new renters and 4 repeat renters. As of September 30, 2024, the drill has seeded approximately 156 acres. In August the District purchased a smaller no-till seeder to assist farmers with less acreage and lower horsepower equipment. It has been a welcome addition to the farming community and the District has received positive feedback such as *"It is truly a game changer in enabling small-medium scale farms to get this work done. I think I may be making a lot more use of it! I will certainly recommend it to other farmers."*

Native Plant Sale

Our annual native plant sale was a success once again! Relying on established and trusted local native plant nurseries, we were able to offer 44 new species this year to support pollination, erosion control as well as flood tolerant species to help landowners address specific needs. As a result of print and social media posts, the District has had many new subscribers to our newsletter.

I have attached an anticipated timeline for our next steps from now until our next report in January. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Grippaldi
District Administrator