



National Association of Conservation Districts



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDED GRANT FOR URBAN AG CONSERVATION

Collegeville, July 22, 2016 – Montgomery County Conservation District (MCCD) was awarded \$26,400 to build technical assistance capacity for urban agriculture conservation projects on Sunday, July 17, by the National Association of Conservation Districts. NACD granted a total of \$2 million to MCCD and 41 other districts across 25 states.

“I’d like to congratulate these conservation districts on their outstanding leadership and continued commitment to improving and protecting our natural resources on urban landscapes,” NACD President Lee McDaniel said. “NACD is exceedingly proud of these districts’ work to strengthen agriculture conservation efforts in communities that are typically underserved, and in many cases, considered food deserts.”

MCCD submitted a proposal earlier this summer to NACD’s Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative. The initiative, in partnership with the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, aims to increase and stabilize technical assistance capacity where the land is predominantly urban or urbanizing. The 2016 urban grants announced Sunday will allow districts to help urban farmers, community gardens, and other local agricultural partnerships implement conservation practices that support local food production, provide opportunities for education and stewardship, and protect natural resources.

“NACD is proud to award and support these districts for embracing the opportunity and responsibility that comes with expanding our support of locally-led conservation,” McDaniel said. “Our ability to put conservation on the ground is growing every day, and projects like these make all the difference.”

MCCD will use its \$26,400 grant to establish the framework for an urban agriculture conservation initiative to be utilized and implemented in two target areas of Montgomery County within the first year; Norristown and Pottstown. The framework will include the creation of an electronic Urban Agricultural Conservation Resource Guide (eUACRG) to be utilized in the

development, execution and sustainability of urban agricultural sites, the production of a documentary video to demonstrate and disseminate project results, as well as the creation of a partnership network to support and provide technical assistance for the expansion of urban agriculture into communities.

For more information on the program, contact Jessica Moldofsky, Ag Conservation Specialist, at the Montgomery County Conservation District, 610-489-4506 x14.

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