

LIZA LEMIEUX - CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN



Liza Lemieux is serving at the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) for the year. A bulk of her service is now managing the water sampling programs that the District oversees. In conjunction with the La Rosa surface water monitoring program through the state, Liza collects samples from 32 total sites in Franklin county. The Hungerford Brook and Black Creek watersheds contain a bulk of the sites (28 total), thus necessitating the coordination of volunteers for helping to collect samples. Liza also applied for and was accepted to sample four more sites along Deer Brook in Georgia, each of which represents different land uses in the watershed: agriculture, wetland, roads including interstate 89, and an industrial park/developed town center area. These four sites will help determine the impact of the different land uses and guide future conservation efforts to improve the water quality of Deer Brook. Over the winter, Liza assisted with completing a report about water sampling results from La Rosa monitoring sites last year which was shared widely throughout the county's watershed groups and with the tactical basin planner. In addition to all of the La Rosa program sites that Liza is managing, she has also been put in charge of the District's part of a statewide tile drain study - collecting water samples every other week from various farms throughout the county, managing the data and results, and writing quarterly reports which are submitted to the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. Prior to becoming very busy with water sampling, Liza provided invaluable assistance to a local farmer by conducting a feasibility assessment for planting no-till corn on several of his fields. Since she was taking a no-till intensive webinar training at the time, she was able to provide technical advice about soil erosion while also evaluating the cost/benefit of his options along with the environmental impact. In her dealings with this farmer, Liza was able to get him signed up to take a grazing class through the district after he decided to forgo planting corn and improve his grazing strategy instead. In addition to all of Liza's conservation efforts, she organized a world water day celebration in her office by holding a weeklong competition to bring awareness to water consumption. Not only did she have a wonderful time putting this event together, her efforts for world water day were profiled in the Natural Resources Conservation Service monthly leadership newsletter! Liza is developing a display for the conservation district to use at events and will soon be helping the district get ready for their tree sale coming up! Keep up the great service, Liza!

