



August 2010

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SWCD Calendar

- September 6 - Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 20 - SWCD Board Meeting
- October 11 - Columbus Day, Office Closed
- October 18 - SWCD Board Meeting
- October 21 - WRCC & RC&D Meeting
- November 11 - Veterans Day, Office Closed.
- November 15 - SWCD Board Meeting.

Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION DOESN'T COST, IT PAYS!

Van Slyke Farm Wins State AEM Award

NYS Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker recognized Van Slyke's Dairy Farm, LLC of Pike as the recipients of the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award. The Van Slykes, sponsored by the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, were honored during the Agricultural Leadership Luncheon ceremonies at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls.

The AEM Award is presented annually to a farm family that practices sound agricultural stewardship by incorporating the AEM program into the operation of their farm business.

The Van Slykes have been farming since 1832. Currently operated by the sixth and seventh generation, today the farm milks 1,200 Holstein cows and crop approximately 2,000 acres of owned and rented land – mainly corn for silage and clear-seeded alfalfa for haylage.

Van Slyke's Dairy Farm and the Wyoming County Conservation District were selected for the 2010 AEM Award because of their demonstrated commitment to enhancing, protecting and managing natural resources. The farm has developed and implemented a comprehensive nutrient management plan, which is a site-specific plan to help protect water quality, conserve soil, recycle nutrients and manage their farm business in harmony with the environment.

With the help and dedication of the Conservation District, the Van Slykes have implemented numerous conservation practices both on the farmstead and in the fields including: a silage



Left to Right: Greg VanSlyke, Tammy Andrews, Matt Andrews, Kyle VanSlyke, Gary VanSlyke and Ken VanSlyke

leachate collection system, a nutrient management system consisting of a covered manure storage to prevent rainwater and snow melt from entering the system, pathogen management, conservation tillage, cover cropping, strip cropping, installing streamside vegetative buffers and streambank stabilization, and utilize Integrated Crop Management and Integrated Pest Management systems.

With over 12,000 farms participating, New York's AEM program serves as a national model of how a voluntary, incentive-based approach can successfully protect the State's natural resources, while meeting the economic needs of our diverse agricultural community. The AEM partnership of local, state and federal agencies, environmental groups, businesses and farmers, provides the technical, educational and financial assistance to develop and implement sound farm conservation plans.

The 17th Annual Agricultural Environmental Management Award is jointly sponsored by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, American Agriculturist Magazine and the Empire State Potato Growers.

What is a Wetland *By Bethany Klein, Water Quality Technician*

When you hear the word ‘wetland’ what do you think of? Typically, most people think of a swampy area with cattails, broken/dead trees, murky water, lots vegetation, and is wet all year round. In fact, what was described is only somewhat true. There are many different types of wetlands, and most are NOT wet all year round. The term ‘wetland’ is used when describing different types of areas “where the land is wet for some period of time each year but not necessarily permanently wet” (Audubon.org, 1999). The location or presence of wetlands is primarily determined by the types of soil present. Hydric soils are found in wetland areas. Hydric soils can be defined as “soils that are saturated long enough during the growing season to create an anaerobic (low oxygen) state in the soil” (The Wonders of Wetlands, 2006). When there is little oxygen in the soil it creates distinctive characteristics such as a rotten egg smell, dark gray or black color, or a wet feel to the soil when touched. Wetlands are also often filled with many different types of ‘hydrophytic’ or water loving plants. These types of plants are adapted to living in wet areas and need a lot of water to thrive (The Wonders of Wetlands, 2006). These plants often use up so much of the water, that there may not be standing water on the surface. Types of plants commonly found in wetlands are cattails, sedges, duckweed, water lilies, willow trees, red and silver maple trees, ash trees, and elm trees (Wetland Habitat). The type of vegetation varies slightly with different types of wetlands. There are five main types of wetlands; they are: freshwater wetlands, marshes, swamps, bogs, and fens. Each have individual characteristics, but maintain the fact that they are wet for some period of time all year, but not necessarily permanently wet.

Now that you know what a wetland is, you might be wondering, “Why are they so important?” “Why is it so crucial to protect them?” Wetlands perform a variety of different functions that are critical to preventing environmental contamination and degradation. Some of the main functions are (The Wonders of Wetland, 2006):

Flood Control/Storm Buffers: Wetlands act as natural flood barriers and buffers. They will trap and store excess water and release it slowly

back into the environment reducing the effects of the flood or storm event. They protect areas located within a flood plain or on a coastline.

Pollution Traps: Wetlands are nature’s sponge. They soak up and trap any pollutants (sediments, excess nutrients, chemicals, etc.) that may be present in the water. They will store these pollutants and the vegetation in the wetland will help to treat and remove them from the soil. Any toxic substances are usually trapped and neutralized in the wetland soils.

Biological Production and Habitat: Wetlands also serve as vital nesting grounds and migratory stops for several types of plants, fish, insects, and migratory birds. They provide an ideal environment for feeding, spawning, and producing thriving yields of vegetation.

When it comes to classifying wetlands, there are two different types of classes: State and Federal. Both State and Federal wetlands are determined by soil types, vegetation, and hydrography (how water flows through the wetland). However, both (State and Federal Agencies) use slightly different methods and have different size requirements. It is important to determine if one or both types of wetlands are present on your site before converting the land. Disturbing wetlands without any authorization or proper consultation can result in heavy fines and/or loss of agricultural benefits. So, before you begin to develop or work a new piece of land be sure to contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS to determine if there are wetlands on your property.

<http://www.audubon.org/campaign/wetland/ecosystem.html>

http://www.hamiltonnature.org/habitats/wetland/wetland_plants.htm

Wow! The Wonders of Wetlands, Environmental Concern Inc. & Project WET International Foundation, 2006.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Don't Risk Your USDA Benefits!

By Mia Halter, District Conservationist

What is Conservation Compliance?

The **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance** provisions are required in the Farm Bill to participate in USDA programs. The purpose of these provisions is to protect highly erodible land from excessive soil erosion and to protect wetlands.

Protect Highly Erodible Land

Find out if any fields are designated as Highly Erodible Land (HEL). Fields designated as highly erodible must be protected from excessive soil erosion when used to produce agricultural commodities by applying an approved conservation system.

Get a Wetland Determination

Participants must certify that crops have not been planted on land that was converted from a wetland to cropland between December 23, 1985 and November 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits in any year an ag commodity was planted). Participants must also certify that a wetland has not been converted to cropland after November 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits until the wetland is restored or re-created in another location).

What activities could put me at risk?

Activities that could affect HEL/Wetland compliance need to be evaluated by NRCS. Examples are: **land clearing, filling, leveling, excavation, dredging, stump removal, or creating new drainage systems.**

To initiate the process visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and fill out an AD-1026 form. FSA will forward the request to NRCS for evaluation.

USDA Benefits That Can Be Affected

Non-compliance with the HEL/Wetland Conversion provisions may affect the following USDA program benefits. Violations could affect your ability to rent or sell the land in the future.

Commodity Programs:

- Direct and Counter Cyclical Program
- Deficiency Payments
- Consolidated Farm and Rural Development

- Act farm operating loans
- Dairy Marketing Assistance Program
- Non-insured Assisted Program (fruit and vegetable producers)
- Emergency Feed Program
- Wool and Mohair Programs
- Farm Storage Loans (HEL only)
- Crop Disaster Program

Conservation Programs:

- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Security Program & Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act payments or loan assistance
- Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Variations and exemptions to the provisions may be granted under some conditions.

A certified wetland determination/delineation is conducted for the purpose of implementing the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. The determination/delineation may not be valid for identifying the extent of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE's) Clean Water Act jurisdiction for this site. If you intend to conduct any activity that constitutes a discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands or other waters, you should request a jurisdictional determination from the local office of the COE prior to starting the work.

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service field office if you have any questions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's [TARGET Center](#) at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Water Quality Tour *By Bethany Klein, Water Quality Technician*



Silage Leachate Management System at Friendly Acres in Attica, NY.



Culvert Replacement and Bank Stabilization on Cascade Rd. in Attica, NY.



Attica Water Treatment Plant Bank Stabilization Dunbar Rd. in Attica, NY.



Carousel Milking Parlor at Baker Brook Dairy in Attica, NY.



Baker Brook Dairy in Attica NY.

On July 15th, the Wyoming County Water Resources Coordinating Committee (WRCC) with the Seneca Trail RC & D hosted the 2010 Annual Water Quality Tour. Each year the tour focuses on different projects throughout the county that address and/or improve water quality. This year, the focus of the tour was the Tonawanda Creek Watershed. Tour stops included: Friendly Acres Dairy Farm - Attica, NY, Cascade Rd. - Attica, NY, Attica Water Treatment Plant - Attica, NY, Hydroseeding Demonstration on Prospect St. - Attica, NY and Baker Brook Dairy - Attica, NY. The Wyoming County WRCC would like to thank everyone who helped to make the tour a success!

New Equipment for Wyoming County SWCD

The Wyoming County SWCD has recently purchased a new 2010 Finn T-90 hydroseeder. The cost of the seeder was \$42,750.00 and was purchased with water quality funding from the New York State DEC to the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance. It will be utilized primarily to complete erosion control and stabilization projects for municipalities throughout the county. The hydroseeder is used on soil that has been disturbed during construction or remediation projects to evenly distribute a mix of seed, mulch, and fertilizer. This helps to reestablish vegetation to prevent soil erosion during storm or runoff events. The Wyoming County SWCD works cooperatively with the Wyoming County Highway Department to operate and maintain the equipment. This equipment is an asset for the county and will help to protect water quality, streambank ero-

sion, and soil loss from roadside ditches. Please contact the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District for more information.



Hydroseeding demonstration on
Prospect St in Attica NY



BUFFALO NIAGARA RIVERKEEPER®

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER is the project manager for a regional, community based initiative to develop a Niagara River watershed plan that focuses on action steps to protect and restore ecosystem water resources in your community and the watershed. Financial support for the development of the plan is being provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District and by the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

In New York State the Buffalo Niagara Rivers watershed is approximately 1,270 square miles or 970,268 acres, and consists of nine tributary watersheds in Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans counties. These tributary watersheds are the Buffalo River, Eighteen Mile Creek, Cayuga Creek, Gill

Creek, Grand Island tributaries, Upper and Lower Niagara River, Scajaquada Creek, Smokes Creek, and Tonawanda Creek.

The first phase of the watershed planning process will include a review of existing data and information; an inventory and summary of existing watershed physical, biological and ecological conditions; and identification of problems and opportunities. A final report will be prepared to provide watershed stakeholders and citizens with current information on the health of the watershed, recommend what could be done to improve water quality, and inform citizens as to how they can be involved in watershed protection and restoration. The final report is expected to be completed by the summer of 2012.

Background information about the Niagara River watershed is available at Riverkeeper's web site at <http://bnriverkeeper.org/programs/habitat/niagara-habitat-study/>. For more information regarding watershed planning in New York State, go to the Department of State's website at www.nyswaterfronts.com/

Funding Secured *by Tim Terry, Engineering Technician*

The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District recently secured funding for three projects under the Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. This is a competitive program in which over eighty other applications were considered.

This funding makes it possible for thirteen agricultural landowners to install thirty-two water quality promoting Best Management Practices (BMP) in three Wyoming County watersheds. Without this financial assistance, the installation of the BMP's would have been delayed, dismissed, or present a financial hardship to the landowner. Furthermore, these grants allow the District to provide the

specific technical assistance necessary to get these conservation practices on the ground at no additional cost to the landowner.

The watersheds and the associated funding are as follows: Buffalo & Cayuga Creeks - \$387,350; Upper Tonawanda Creek - \$50,510; and Silver Lake / Genesee River - \$296,515.

The BMP's planned in these projects include silage leachate collection, ag waste storage, barnyard runoff and a prescribed grazing management program. Once completed, both landowner and non-farm watershed resident will benefit from this program.

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|---|--|---|
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| <p>E.J. Freyburger & Sons Earth Moving</p>  <p>Est. 1946 4769 Whaley Rd. Java Village, NY 14083 (585) 457-9975</p> <p>Erwin, Kenny & Mike Representatives</p> | <p>Donald G. Butler Construction, Inc. Excavating * Hauling * Paving * Septic Systems 7429 Burke Hill Rd Perry NY 14530 Phone: 585-237-3364 Fax 585-237-0424</p> | <p>D & H EXCAVATING, INC.</p>  <p>11939 Rt. 98 South Arcade, New York 14009</p> <p>ELDON KING "Gift of Experience"</p> <p>(716) 492-4956 Fax: 492-4951</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basements • Driveways • Septics • Ponds • Trucking Gravel & Topsoil |
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| <p>RL Jeffres & Sons Inc.</p>  <p>510 Wyoming Rd. • Wyoming, NY 14591</p> <p>Custom Harvesting</p> <p>Tom Jeffres 585-746-0916 cell tjeffres@rljeffres.com 585-584-3110 office</p> <p>Jim Jeffres 585-746-0917 cell info@rljeffres.com 585-584-3264 fax</p> | <p>Eastwood Industries, Inc.</p> <p>Jane E. Rozborski President</p> <p>P.O. Box 305 North Boston, NY 14110</p> <p>716-941-7420 716-941-5884 Fax</p> <p>NYS DBE/WBE</p> | <p>JOHN F. GILLEN Land Surveyor</p> <p>GILLEN & WELLMAN Land Surveyors</p> <p>7 Perry Avenue New York 14569 786-3960</p> <p>Warsaw Telephone: 585- 858-786-2933</p> |

The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District was granted \$55,314 for the North Branch Wiscoy Creek Restoration. The District will work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and the DEC to improve habitat for the North Branch of the Wiscoy Creek fishery by restoring pool and riffle habitat within the stream, which will provide cover for aquatic species.

This project will further protect and restore the Wiscoy through plantings of native vegetation streamside, which will provide much-needed shade and buffer stretches of the creek. These efforts will provide additional high-quality cool water habitat for temperature sensitive species of fish, including trout, dace and darters.

In cooperation with the Cornell University Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP) and

Cooperative Extension, the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that we will be taking delivery of a new BF300 Agricultural Plastic Baler for use on the Wyoming County farms later this fall. This equipment is for farms and horticultural operations that have not found a satisfactory way of disposing of agricultural plastics.

With the recent changes to NYS laws that make burning plastic materials illegal, we hope to offer an alternative to farms to make better use of the recyclable materials with as little effort as possible. At this time, we are still developing details of the program; however, our ultimate goal is to work with producers to recycle plastics materials in an environmentally safe and economical manner. Stay tuned for further updates.

|  <p>Auctioneers, Appraisers & RE Brokers PO Box 58 Stafford, NY 14143 585-343-5449 www.williamkentinc.com</p> |  <p>TSP, CPESC & NICET Certified Rod & Marlene Sengel 6749 Maples Road, P.O. Box 235 Ellicottville, NY 14731-0235 Sediment & Erosion Control Plans, Topo mapping, Wetland Delineations, Gravel Pit Permits, Pond/Lake Designs, Streambank Stabilization, Ag Waste Facilities Phone: (716) 699-8519 Fax: (716) 699-8519 email: rmsengel@verizon.net</p> |  <p>Dana M. Donnell President 11800 Rt. 20A Wales Center New York 14169 phone 716.652.3768 fax 716.655.1141 web- site: www.bflocreek.com e-mail ddonnelly@buffalocreekinc.com</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|-------|-----------|----------------|------------|--|---------|--|--|
| <p>R.W. TAYLOR Trucking & Excavating, LLC</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Residential</th> <th>Agricultural</th> <th>Commercial</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Site Work</td> <td>Foundations</td> <td>Tiling Stone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water & Sewer Lines</td> <td>Excavating</td> <td>Ditches Sand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ponds</td> <td>Driveways</td> <td>Hauling Gravel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Demolition</td> <td></td> <td>Topsoil</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Wayne Taylor Owner 482 Pavilion - Warsaw Road, Wyoming p: 585.584.3491 f: 585.584.8453 c: 585.259.5213</p> | Residential | Agricultural | Commercial | Site Work | Foundations | Tiling Stone | Water & Sewer Lines | Excavating | Ditches Sand | Ponds | Driveways | Hauling Gravel | Demolition | | Topsoil |  <p>KEN'S TREE SERVICE Kenneth F. Murtha 6109 Rt. 20A Warsaw, NY 14569 Ph: (585) 786-5600</p> | <p>PAVILION DRAINAGE SUPPLY CO., INC. Your Corrugated Metal & Plastic Pipe Headquarters Phillip Plossl, Pres. Pavilion, NY 14525 (585) 584-3261</p> |
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| WETLAND | CATTAIL | NATURAL |
| WATERSHED | WATERLILY | HYDRIC |
| SWAMP | TURTLE | HYDROPHYTIC |
| MARSH | GOOSE | DUCKWEED |
| BOG | DELINEATION | WILLOW |

Wyoming County Soil & Water
Conservation District
31 Duncan Street Extension
Warsaw, NY 14569



This publication is the quarterly newsletter of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to all District cooperators, all interested landowners and land users, and to the general public. To receive this newsletter, simply send your complete mailing address to our office.

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