

Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District

Spring 2021

2021 Wyoming County Project Spotlight

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**HIGH EFFICIENCY
MICRO-IRRIGATION SYSTEM**

Wyoming County Soil and Water is partnering with Bricdale Farm in Perry to install a high efficiency micro-irrigation system in the farm's high tunnels.

Bricdale Farm will be installing enough irrigation lines to accommodate the 3,500 square feet of land that produces lettuce, microgreens, spinach, and several other vegetables.

For the last decade, the Pike Dam Removal has been a hot topic, and this year it's finally happening!

WCSWCD in conjunction with the Town of Pike, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NYSDEC, Trout Unlimited and LaBella Associates have developed a plan to install a grade control structure in the dam's place.

This will improve fish habitat and public safety in the Wiscoy Creek. Come check it out at the 2021 Wyoming County Fair.



**PIKE DAM REMOVAL - WYOMING COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**



**WYOMING COUNTY
WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

Beginning in July of this year, WCSWCD will be conducting stream assessments on selected sites throughout the county. Sites will be visually assessed for signs of damage, erosion, pollution, and general health along with an assessment of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Macroinvertebrates are small insects that dwell in the organic matter of the stream that can still be seen with the naked eye. These insects are surprisingly accurate indicators of stream health and quality, due to their habitat sensitivity. Certain species presence or absence can indicate whether a stream appears perfectly healthy or significantly degraded. Results of these assessments will provide insight into which water-sheds are in need of more attention and research.

Invasive Species Corner:

Common Name: Dame's Rocket

Scientific Name: *Hesperis matronalis*

What is Dame's Rocket:

Like many invasive plants, dame's rocket forms monocultures that replace native plants in high quality natural areas, which in turn reduces critical food resources for birds, butterflies, and other wild creatures. Dame's rocket is a relative of garlic mustard and often grows with garlic mustard. It has similar growth patterns and can take over habitat of native wildflowers and tree seedlings.



Identification

For easy **identification** of **Dame's Rocket**, look to the bright pink/purple flowers blooming from May to August. **Dame's Rocket** leaves are slightly hairy, oblong, with large teeth (sharp edges). Its stems range from 2-4 feet in length. Western New York does have a native species similar that features five petals instead of four, that is called phlox.

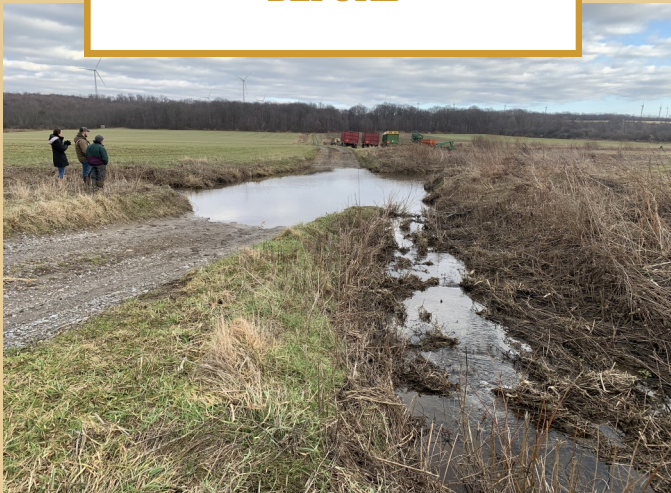
Agricultural Stream Crossing on Sheldon Creek

This spring WCSWCD teamed up with Mest Farms in the Town of Sheldon to complete an agricultural stream crossing on Sheldon Creek. Previously, operators had to drive farm equipment through the creek to access the fields. After some unusual drainage calculations, the best solution for this location was to install two squash pipes and create a driveway sturdy enough to handle equipment.

The end result can be seen in the before and after photos below.

BEFORE

AFTER



AL FAGAN'S WILD GAME RECIPE OF THE MONTH: TURKEY & VEGETABLE CHOWDER


Ingredients:

- 1 Large Turkey Breast (Cubed)
- 1 Cup of Italian Dressing
- 1 Bag Frozen Green Beans
- 1 Bag of Frozen Corn
- 1 Bag of Frozen Peas
- 2 Cans Cream of Mushroom
- 1 Can Cream of Chicken
- 1 Can Cream of Celery
- 1/2 Stick of Butter

Instructions:

1. Marinade turkey breast in Italian dressing overnight
2. The following day, combine all the ingredients in a crockpot that is set to low temperature.
3. Slow cook for 10-12 hours
4. Enjoy!

Pro tip: For optimum enjoyment pair with biscuits after a long day out in the woods.

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