



# WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WARSAW, NY

Summer 2026

## Employee Spotlights



### Welcoming Larissa Hyman as our 2026 Summer Intern

Larissa Hyman joined the district as a summer intern May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Larissa is currently studying Sustainable Resource Management at SUNY Morrisville and will be graduating next spring. Growing up helping on her family's small dairy farm in Java Center, being active in the Wyoming County 4-H program and leading her FFA chapter has given Larissa experience working in the agricultural field. This, combined with her love of the outdoors and the knowledge she has gained during her studies, has inspired Larissa to want to continue in this line of work. We asked Larissa, "Why do you love Wyoming County?" She replied, "The Fair!"

**Come visit us at the Wyoming County Fair!**

## Meet Our New District Technician

Wesley Radford was hired as a full-time technician on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Wesley graduated from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in December 2025 with a Master of Science degree in environmental and forest biology where his thesis focused on developing restoration plans to benefit sugar pine survival around the Lake Tahoe Basin of California. Experience here has given Wesley skills in GIS, restoration planning and implementation, and has fueled his overall passion for conservation.



Working with Wyoming County Soil and Water, Wesley aims to increase professional skills in conservation while forming lasting relationships with the community. Having family history and personal experience with various farming practices, he is excited to employ the technical experience he has gained during school to help Wyoming County residents, and learn from the collected experience of his colleagues at the district.



## 2026 Trailside Envirothon



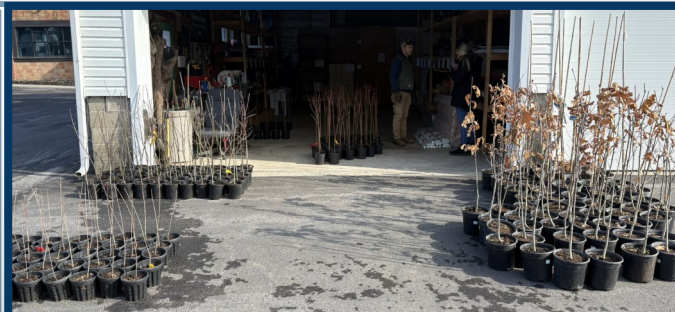
This May, students from Allegany and Wyoming County High Schools participated in the Trailside Envirothon at Letchworth State Park. Students were tested on their knowledge of the environment in five main areas including: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Current Issues. (Wildlife station pictured below.)

Students from Letchworth, Warsaw, and Attica represented Wyoming County to compete in the event. There was a record breaking 17 teams and 100 students that participated. Special congratulations to Letchworth Central School for placing first in the competition and moving on to the State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland. (Letchworth Team pictured above.)



## Part B Project: Native Tree & Shrub Distribution Program

2026 marked the second year of the Wyoming County Native Tree Distribution Program. This program was able to award Wyoming County Residents up to 10 trees at no cost. This year 240 trees were distributed to 27 landowners across the county with the goal of bringing awareness to residents of the environmental benefits of planting trees.



Landowners were requested to provide a form that outlined an identified need for the native trees on their property, their responses for included:

- \* Replacing Old Trees that were Removed
- \* Providing Shade and Reducing Erosion
- \* Reducing Carbon Footprints
- \* Restoring, Enhancing, and Developing Wildlife Habitat
- \* Replacing Trees Lost to the Emerald Ash Borer



## Silver Lake – State of the Lake Meeting



On Saturday June 6th, landowners, community partners, municipal leaders within the Silver Lake Watershed gathered at the State of the Lake Meeting. District Manager, Al Fagan, gave a presentation explaining the purpose of Soil and Water Districts, examples of completed projects in the watershed, mission and vision for future projects and opportunities for landowners and farms to contribute to a cleaner lake and a healthier watershed. The message was well received by the attendees and served as an excellent education and outreach opportunity in the community.

### **If you own property in the Silver Lake watershed, what can you do?**

- \* Properly Dispose of Organic Materials such as Grass Clippings and Leaves, through composting or traditional garbage removal
- \* Implementing Native Plant Buffers along Ditches, Tributaries and the Lakefront to Filter Runoff
- \* Assess and Prevent Erosion Concerns
- \* Avoid Overuse of Fertilizers, Herbicides, and Pesticides, especially before Rain Events



## Soil and Water Family has Grown

On April 23rd, 2026 our Soil and Water Conservation District family grew by one! Al Fagan and Emelyn Fagan welcomed Sophie Joan into the world as the newest conservationist, future hiking buddy, and aspiring turkey hunter. We can't be happier for them and this new chapter!

Welcome to the gang Sophie!





## District Board of Directors & Staff

Chairman, At-Large Member - Daryl Heiby

County Supervisor - James Brick

County Supervisor - Mark Merrill

Farm Bureau Representative - Walt Faryna

Grange Representative - Ronald McCormick

District Manager - Allen Fagan

Secretary/Treasurer - Sharon Boyd

Conservation Technician - Rebecca Campbell

Conservation Technician - Emelyn Fagan

Conservation Technician—Hannah Hamilton

Conservation Technician—Wesley Radford

Intern—Larissa Hyman



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