

Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Wyoming County Soil & Water Receives Two Ag Non-Point Source Pollution Control Grants

By Bethany Bzduch, Water Quality Technician

In July, the New York State Department of Ag & Markets announced the awards for Round 17 of the Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control program. The funding will cover approximately 75% of the project costs with a 25% landowner match, which can be provided as cash or as in kind services.

Silver Lake/ Genesee River Drinking Water Protection

The Wyoming, Allegany, and Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been awarded \$962,202.50 for agricultural non-point source pollution control projects. This project will include nine farms from the three counties and will address several key non-point source pollution issues and promote water quality protection. This funding will help to implement several silage leachate collection sys-

tems, an agri-chemical mixing facility, an ag waste storage and transfer system, stream channel stabilization, and a waste water treatment strip.

Black and Oatka Creek Watershed Agricultural Sediment Reduction Project

The Monroe, Wyoming, and Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been awarded \$252,509.55 by the NYS Department of Ag and Markets to complete erosion and sediment control projects on agricultural lands in the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds. This project will address erosion issues on three farms in Wyoming County in the Oatka Creek watershed. This funding will allow for the implementation/construction of stream channel stabilization, riparian buffers, grade control structures, and grassed and lined waterways.

North Branch Trout Habitat Restoration Project Complete

By Justin Schoff, Conservation Technician

The Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District worked cooperatively with US Fish and Wildlife Service, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NY State Chapter of Trout Unlimited to complete this project.

Planning and preparation for this project began more than a year ago. Planning consisted of

finding the right areas to place the lunkers, what angle to position them, and where key logs would be needed. Preparation included building of the lunkers, planting of the trees, and soaking/gathering live stakes.

Before any excavation occurred each area was electroshocked and all fish recovered were moved to a safe location upstream.

Continued on Page 2



North Branch Restoration Project Continued:

The excavator then was able to come in clear the banks and dig the channel to the required depth.

Putting the lunkers in place took the use of the excavator, and several individuals to drive the rebar, and place the rock. One by one each lunker was placed, re-barred, stoned, and back filled to the original banks height. Live stakes that consisted of Red Osier Dogwood, Eastern Cottonwood, Black Willow, and Silver Maple were planted to provide the future canopy.



Continued from Page 2:

Straw Jute mesh was then staked down over the lunkers to provide erosion control and to protect critical area seeding. After an area was completed the Wyoming County Highway Department assisted with the hydro seeding of each.

After two weeks of hard work and many helping hands a total of fifty-seven lunkers were installed on eighteen different sites. These lunkers will provide a system of contiguous channels of cover and concealment which will in turn provide a generation of habitat for all species.



Water Quality Improvement Projects

By Bethany Bzduch, Water Quality Technician

Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District features several projects that have been completed or are in construction. Projects that are chosen to be featured each summer are those that demonstrate water quality protection or enhancement. This year, three agricultural best management practices and one stream habitat restoration project have been selected to represent the on going efforts throughout the county to protect and preserve our water resources.

Nickerson Bros. Farm

Nickerson Bros. Farm is located in the Cattaraugus Creek watershed in the Town of Arcade. They have recently completed the construction of an Earthen Manure Storage and Ag Waster Transfer System. The installation of these best management practices will allow the farm to store manure, and reduce the need for frequent spreading, minimizing agricultural run off pollution.

By preventing contaminants from entering nearby streams via runoff, the Nickerson Bros. Farm is doing their part to protect the water resources of Wyoming County. Seventy-five percent of this project was funded through the NYS Agricultural Non Point Source Pollution Control Program; the total cost of the project being \$181,000.00.



Construction of Ag Waste Transfer Area



Construction of the Earthen Manure Storage



Completed Manure Storage

Davis Valley Farm

Davis Valley Farm is located in the Town of Eagle in the East Koy/ Wiscoy watershed. In 2009, a bunk silo leachate management system was completed on the Davis Valley Farm to control silage leachate and prevent it from running off into nearby water sources. This management system collects all leachate that may come from the bunk silo and disperses it into a filter area where it is absorbed and treated. By redirecting the flow of the leachate to a proper filter area, essential water bodies and water resources are preserved and protected.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$60,000.00 with seventy-five percent of the cost provided by the NYS Agricultural Non Point Source Pollution Control Program.



Silage Leachate Screen Separator

Water Quality Improvement Projects

Davis Valley Farm *continued*



Silage Leachate Collection



Vegetated Treatment Area

Maple Grove Dairy

Maple Grove Dairy is located in the Cayuga Creek watershed in the Town of Bennington. They have recently completed the construction of an ag bag storage pad. This BMP replaces two difficult and poorly sited areas adjacent to diversions feeding Cayuga Creek tributaries. The new pad not only prevents contaminants from entering nearby streams via runoff, but also speeds up traffic flow during harvest and maximizes feed recovery from the bags. The new pad will comfortably hold 8-9 9'x200' bags. Sixty-six percent of this project was funded through the NYS Agricultural Non Point Source Pollution Control Program; the total cost of the project being \$40,000.00.



Ag bag storage pad and an integrated perimeter access road maintains traffic flow during harvest



Diversion w/ surface inlet to catch and redirect roof runoff and melting snow drifts



Completed Ag Bag Pad and Diversion

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Ready to Move Forward In Wyoming County and Western New York

By Joan Sinclair Petzen, Agriculture Department Program Leader, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County



Producers who have plastic to recycle should sort it by type, and contact the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District for information on scheduling a time to bale their plastic.

Plastic must be broom clean and dry to be recycled. Markets for recycled plastic films require different types of films be separated prior to baling. So, white bale wrap must be kept separate from the white and black bunker covers. Bunker covers that are reinforced must be kept separate from those that are not reinforced. Twine and net wrap for bales can be recycled too. Again it is best to sort the used plastics by type. Recyclers are not interested in plastic materials that contain debris or that is wet. Debris like soil or plant material and moisture are hard on the equipment that is used to process the plastics for recycling and there-

fore undesirable. Stained or discolored plastic can be recycled.

Some good news is a company has developed a new product from recycled white agricultural plastic film. It is a sidewalk paver that is light weight. When laid it looks just like a concrete sidewalk. This has helped to provide a market for this type of plastic.

The Wyoming County Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program is affiliated with the New York State Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program. Through the program a BigFoot baler was purchased by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to be used locally. The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking the lead on recycling agricultural plastics by operating the baler. Cornell Cooperative Extension is assisting with outreach and the County Highway Department has generously helped by housing the baler.

If you have agricultural plastics to recycle, please contact the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District at 585-786-5070 or wcsxcd@frontiernet.net. This project is gearing up to help local agricultural producers reduce waste by recycling plastics used in agricultural production.

Hayland Management for Wildlife

by Mike Shaw NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

Would you like to see more birds and wildlife in your haylands or grasslands but still get a cutting of hay? Consider delayed haying. Delayed haying is cutting after July 4th as many birds will be able to raise young by this time. This removal of hay will help the field green up in the spring and birds are more likely to use these fields. If forage quality is of primary concern consider an early cut (before May 31st) followed by a 65 day period of rest. This will provide sufficient time for birds to re-nest on cut fields. A third option and best habitat for grassland birds is to delay cutting the fields until after August 1st as this will allow most young to leave the nest and are mobile enough to avoid machinery.

Many grassland birds have been declining in recent decades as farming has become more intensive, agricultural land has reverted to forestland and a growth in housing development over the last few years. Many birds are dependent on open grasslands habitats for nesting and raising young. Some of these common species include Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and American Kestrels as well as rarer species such as the Ringed-Necked Pheasants,

Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper and Henslow Sparrow. Owners of agricultural lands and other open areas can make a real difference in protecting these species by employing wildlife friendly management practices while still harvesting forage.

Federal financial assistance is available for grassland management and interrupted harvest. Our office can provide planning assistance and technical recommendations concerning grassland management and interrupted harvest. Please feel free to contact the NRCS office at (585) 786-5070 to schedule a visit or discuss applying for financial assistance under various programs.



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)



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The mission of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote wise management of our natural resources through a wide variety of quality conservation and educational programs.



Wyoming County SWCD provides technical assistance on soil, water, and related natural resources to municipalities, farmers, and landowners who utilize the information to make sustainable land use decisions and protect water resources.

The Wyoming County SWCD works with many stakeholders to secure cost share funding which is used to complete Best Management Practices on farms, water quality improvement projects, and stream channel restoration.

For more information, visit www.wcswcd.org



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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- Margaret Mead