



# WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2021's Big Reveal: The Pike Mills Dam Removal Project



*Pike Mills Dam Before Construction*



*Contractor carefully placing rock to better improve fish habitat and upstream connectivity*



**Engineered Rock-Riffle Grade Control Structure**

### One of Wyoming County Soil and Water's Biggest Accomplishments in 2021 ...

was the participation, and execution of this dam removal and grade control installation project.

The goal for this project was to remove the dysfunctional "dam" from 1901 and replace it with a more environmentally friendly and safe rock riffle structure. The structure is built to mimic a natural stream riffle which has resting areas for trout and allows them to swim upstream for spawning.

Additionally, the carefully constructed riffle will preserve the plunge pool for the local anglers. Check it out next time you're in Pike!

This project was also made possible with help from our partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Trout Unlimited, JB's Excavation Services, and the Town of Pike.

## Climate Resilient Farming — Pingrey Farm Pond Expansion Project



This summer, Wyoming County SWCD through the Climate Resilient Farming Program helped the Dan Pingrey Farm in Strykersville expand their water supply pond from 2.29 MG to 4.2 MG. Due to the ever changing unpredictability of weather in Western New York, several times the pond has run dry forcing the farm to haul water. Going forward, this pond expansion will not only ensure that the farm has a stable water supply, but also it will reduce carbon emissions and truck traffic previously expended for hauling. Despite the common belief that fresh water is an infinite resource, many local farms have struggled to maintain an adequate supply in recent years. Now more than ever, fresh water is a resource to be protected and preserved for the years to come.

## Partnering to Protect Clean Water in the Genesee River Watershed

Wyoming County SWCD and American Farmland Trust (AFT) have partnered this fall to promote a unique cover cropping opportunity. Through this program, 10 farms in the Genesee River Watershed in Wyoming County were enlisted to cover crop at least 80 acres of *rented* land.

Additionally, the opportunity was given priority if the rented land was woman-owned. The goal for the project was to encourage farms to not only cover crop their ground, but also improve good stewardship on rented land. AFT data states:

“Nearly 284 million acres of U.S. land—or 31

percent of the nation’s land in farms—are owned and rented out by landowners who do not farm, or “non-operating” landowners—many of whom are women..” WCSWCD was glad to implement this program and play an important role as a liaison between farmers & landowners.



## 2021's Construction Season Highlight: West Flat's Dairy Waste Storage



West Flats Dairy recently completed a manure storage and transfer system project in the Tonawanda Creek Watershed. The project was funded through Round 22 of the NYS Ag & Markets Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program, a cost-share grant program that provides funding to address and prevent potential water quality issues that stem from farming activities.

The farm began by working with a professional engineer to design a waste storage and transfer system that would be tailored to fit their needs.

Once a design was developed and approved the farm bid the project out to regional contractors who worked together to complete the project in multiple stages. The project included a 3-million-gallon waste storage, a reception pit/pump house, transfer line and a gutter cleaner within the barn to help with manure management. The site itself posed some challenges as the soil was exceptionally sandy, however the site contractor was able to work around the problems and prepare the site for the concrete contractor. Once the site was prepared and the floor and walls were poured, the backfill of the tank, installation of the manure reception pit, transfer line and other various details could commence. The project was a complete success, providing over winter manure storage to a farm that had previously been daily applying manure.

*\*This project was unique because of it's ramp down into the storage, that allows the farm to easily clean out the sand bedding and other solids when it builds up at the bottom .\**

Ramp before concrete pour



## Citizen Science — WAVE Stream Assessments



Wyoming County Soil & Water Technicians were busy this summer participating in the NYS DEC's, Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators program (WAVE). 13 samples were taken from various streams throughout the county to assess the variety of macroinvertebrate species present in the streams. These macroinvertebrates, or small aquatic bugs, are key indicators of the stream's overall health and presence of pollution. The results of these samples will help Soil & Water Technicians prioritize which streams are in need of further attention and which streams are in good condition. This program has also served as an educational opportunity for interested community members at the local Wyoming



County Fair who were able to help us sort samples and learn about water quality.

### Streams Testing in Wyoming County — Summer of 2021

Clear Creek

Little Tonawanda Creek

Oatka Creek

Cattaraugus Creek

Wiscoy Creek

Pearl Creek

East Koy Creek

Trout Brook

Spring Brook

### WCSWCD Awarded \$25,740 For Japanese Knotweed Management



With growing county interest and need for Invasive Japanese Knotweed Management in Wyoming County, the Wyoming County SWCD applied for funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Cooperative Weed Management Grant. We are thrilled to be awarded \$25,740 dollars to expand and continue our Invasive Japanese Knotweed Management program. Our program targets Japanese Knotweed along the East Koy and Wiscoy Creek, where its shallow root systems weaken the banks stability and cause increased erosion. Having started the program in 2019, The District has formed many cooperative partnerships with

landowners. In conjunction with the awarded grant funding, WCSWCD is excited to extend our partnership to WNYS PRISM as we continue to manage this aggressive invader.



## Better Late Than Never... Presenting 2020's Conservation Awards!



### Conservation Farm of the Year Award:

Woodvale Farms  
Owned and operated by  
Damon Harwood  
(pictured left).

### Conservation Partner of the Year:

Andrew Schmieder, PE  
(pictured right with  
District Manager  
Al Fagan.)



### 2020 AEM Award:

Deere Stone Farms  
Owned and Operated by Larry, Tyler, and  
Gary Hibsch (pictured from left to right).

Special thank you to all our awardees for  
your hard work and dedication towards  
improving conservation in  
Wyoming County!

## Education and Outreach



This fall, District Technicians Rebecca Campbell and Jake Kelly spent a field class with the Warsaw Agriculture students showing them different surveying techniques. The technicians explained the different types of surveying and how they use them to implement environmental conservation practices. Then students were given the opportunity to try it out for themselves! Both techs enjoyed telling the students about their "day to day" work in hopes of inspiring future generations to pursue careers in environmental conservation and agriculture.



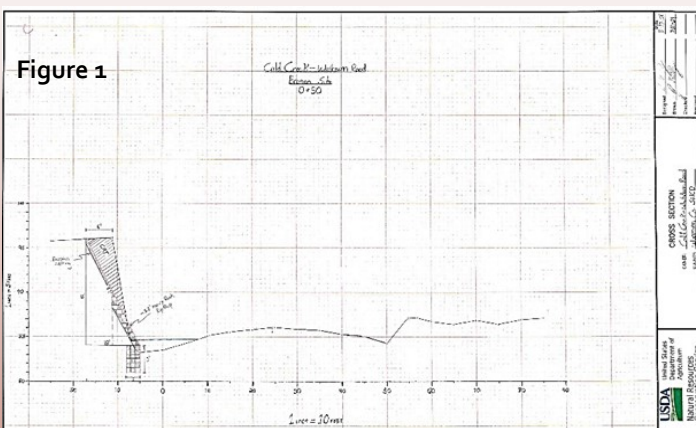
# Cold Creek—Washburn Road Streambank Stabilization Project



Stabilizing streambanks is a constant mission for Wyoming County Soil and Water, it reduces sediment entering waterways and helps to improve water quality. Less sediment in waterways leads to lowered turbidity (clearer water), healthier fish populations, and less deposition of sediment downstream. The District was alerted to this particular project in July and conducted a survey of the site. Once the Survey was completed staff came up with a design that would fit the site (Fig1). The project was then sent out to contractors who could implement the heavy riprap according to the design.



The project consisted of 390 tons of limestone rock. The contractor first built a “Toe” of rock along the base of the slope to provide a solid base that the rest of the rock would be placed on top of. The Toe rock was also extended from the base of the slope back into the bank at the upstream and downstream ends of the project. This formed a “key” of rock that prevents water from eroding behind the rock and threatening the integrity of the entire project. Once the foundation of 3-foot by 3-foot rocks was installed, the bank was sloped to the designed specification. Then mix-sized heavy rip rap was carefully placed on the slope. This rock is placed at random angles to dissipate the energy of the water’s flow and to provide more structural stability. Once all the rock was installed, erosion netting was placed up the streambank to prevent erosion and secure the soil until vegetation was adequately established. This helped retain as much cropland as possible for the farm.



This project was partially funded by the landowner, who was concerned about the protection of his property and cropland. Additional funds were provided through the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) that supports efforts to protect water quality within the Lake Ontario Watershed.

# Employees in Action!



*Preparing to Survey*



*Rock Delivery For Pike Dam*



*NAACC Culvert Assessments*



*Hydroseeding*



*Surveying Erosion Site*



*Construction Inspections*



*Hydroseeding Pike Dam*

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