

Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District



July 2012

WWW.WCSWCD.ORG * WCSWCD@FRONTIERNET.NET

31 Duncan Street, Warsaw NY 14569 * Phone: 585.786.5070 * Fax: 585.786.0381

Conservation District Fuels Local Economy

Agriculture, natural resources and tourism are leading parts of the economic engine in rural and upstate communities. For decades, County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have worked with residents, municipalities and industry to ensure the health and viability of all three of these areas.

Conservation projects like soil erosion control, public water supply protection, flood prevention, stream restoration and stormwater management provide multiple benefits. They protect farm viability and the natural resources enjoyed by residents and tourists alike, while improving the local tax base, protecting public health and safety, and saving landowners and communities time and money.

Soil and Water Districts provide a significant return on their county's investment by leveraging funds from multiple sources for conservation projects that maintain and create green jobs and support local business.

Since the inception of New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) in 1994, Soil

and Water Districts have put over \$81 million in cost-share grants to work on over 2,000 farms involving more than 5,000 conservation projects across 50 counties. For their share, farmers have contributed over \$25 million toward these State funded projects that protect water quality and natural resources for all New Yorkers.

Well over 90 percent of the grant dollars spent on conservation projects in 2010 were reinvested back into the local and regional economy, according to a survey by the Soil and Water. Local contractors are hired to implement the projects and supplies are purchased from area businesses that spend this money locally on labor, materials and equipment.

Agriculture is by far the number one industry in Wyoming County, providing the largest tax base and fueling the local economy. Since 1994, the Wyoming County Soil and Water District has brought in over \$4.5 million to help farmers cost share agricultural conservation projects that protect drinking water and benefit

tourism, fisheries and recreation. After adding in the farmer contribution, this amount nearly doubled to \$9 million added into the local economy.

This article was taken in part from NYSAC News, Volume 32 Issue 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Attention Members of the Ag Community	2
Tonawanda Creek Watershed Projects Complete	3
Success Story for Beginning Farmer	4
Ag Plastic Recycling Update	5
How you can help Pollinator's	6
New Conservation Technician	7

Attention Members of the Agricultural Community...

We are here to assist you!

1. Do you have a project that you need to complete to comply with CAFO regulations?
2. Do you want to implement a best management practice that will protect and preserve water quality?
3. Are you interested in practicing conservation stewardship, but not sure where to start?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then we at the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District invite you to call or come in to discuss your options and ideas. We are here to help you, the landowner, to take a proactive approach to conservation and become a better steward of the land.



We offer comprehensive farmstead planning through our Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. This program is a voluntary state-wide program that is utilized by farms to address Water Quality Concerns from Agricultural Activities through a Tiered Approach that includes:

- Assessments and identification of environmental concerns (Tier 1)
- Documentation of current stewardship and prioritization of environmental concerns (Tier 2)
- Development of environmental farm plans (Tier 3)



- Implementation of Best Management Practices to address identified concerns (Tier 4)
- And finally, evaluation of their success (Tier 5)

If you are already involved in the AEM process and are ready to implement projects or need to complete projects as a requirement for your CAFO regulations, we can document your project needs and apply for grant funds as they become available.

Qualifying projects are those that are designed to protect water quality and reduce non-point source pollution. Some examples are: Silage Leachate Collection Systems, Ag Waste Storages, Ag Waste Transfer Systems, Barnyard Runoff Protection, Petroleum Containment Systems, Animal Composting, Animal Walkways, Pasture Management, etc. The grant funding programs generally provide funding for approximately 75% of the total project cost. The remaining 25% must be contributed by the landowner in the form of cash or in kind services.

While there is no guarantee that funds will be awarded, it is important to take this proactive step in the planning process. Realizing and documenting your needs early will lead to greater project success in the future.

Remember...

“Conservation doesn’t cost, it pays!”

Tonawanda Creek Watershed Project Complete

The Wyoming County SWCD is pleased to announce the completion of the Tonawanda Creek Watershed Agricultural BMP Implementation Project. This project was funded through the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program.

The purpose of this project was to utilize the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) process along with NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program funding to begin the implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) on priority farms in the Tonawanda Creek Watershed. These farms are located in Genesee and Wyoming Counties. This is actually the second phase of a multi-phase project to address water quality needs of farms in this important watershed as the Tonawanda Creek is known as a public water supply for the City of Batavia and other communities in Genesee County as well as an important recreational resource.

The BMP's that were installed through this contract were identified through the AEM Process. Since most of the participating farms are of CAFO size, a cooperative effort and positive working relationship was developed with the Certified Nutrient Management Planners for each of these farms.

Though this project, 12 participating farms have completed the following Ag BMP's:

- 4 - Agricultural waste storage facilities,
- 4 - Agricultural waste transfer systems,
- 6 - Silage Leachate Management & Collection Systems,
- 3 - Barnyard Runoff Management Systems,
- 1 - Milk Center Waste Collection & Storage System.

The following companion projects were also completed through USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds:

- 169.0 acres of Deep Tillage Practices,
- 10.5 acres of Buffer Strips on Cropland,
- 25.0 acres of Pasture & Hayland Planting,
- 75.0 acres of Prescribed Grazing Systems,
- 1,083.0 acres of Residue Management on Cropland,
- 2,789.7 acres of Cover Cropping,
- 10,064.0 acres of Pest Management,
- 15,600 feet of Fencing.

We feel that it was a very successful project with 12 farms completing 31 Agricultural BMP's, a total cost of over \$2.1 million dollars which benefits water quality in the watershed and certainly benefits our local economy. We would like to thank the NYSSWCC and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for this opportunity to assist these farms.

D. Smith & Son Excavating, LLC

Don Smith
Owner/Operator

10176 Gillate Rd.
Alexander, NY 14005-9623

(585) 547-9929 Home
(716) 432-4267 Cell



(585) 457-9975

E.J. FREYBURGER EARTHMOVING

ESTABLISHED 1946

ERWIN, KEN, & MIKE
Representatives

4769 WHALEY ROAD
JAVA VILLAGE, N.Y. 14083



PAVILION DRAINAGE SUPPLY CO, INC.

Your Corrugated Metal & Plastic Pipe
Headquarters
Phillip Plossl, Pres.
Pavilion, NY 14525
(585) 584-3261

Success Story for Beginning Farmer

By District Conservationist, Mia Halter



Animal Laneway under Construction



Animal Laneway Completed

Project Location: Bliss, New York

Project Summary: A south-central Wyoming County beginning dairy farmer used NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to install conservation practices that would reduce soil erosion and eliminate nutrients discharging into the nearby streams.



**Valve and Trough for Paddock,
Water from New Hilltop Well**

Project Description:

The farm is located along the sometimes steep and always rolling hills near Bliss, NY. The farmstead has pastures from the top of ridges down to bottom land along important headwater streams. The beginning farmer was well aware of the impact his dairy farm had on the environment and

became interested in NRCS conservation programs to both improve the farm's management of available resources and protection of water quality in the Wiscoy Creek Watershed.

The installation of fence to create prescribed grazing paddocks was a tremendous benefit for soil conservation by placing cropland into permanent pasture. The immediate benefit of installing animal laneways allowed traveling to paddocks easier, quicker, and prevented hillsides from eroding.

Another key success of the farm's prescribed grazing system was having an adequate watering system. The installation of a well, along with a buried pipeline to water troughs in paddocks has negated the need to use nearby streams to water the herd. Installation of fence for both the laneways and paddocks closes off and protects the nearby streams.

The installation of these conservation practices improved the management of the beginning farmer's natural resources, along with protecting the soil and water resources. This project has been a giant leap forward for this beginning farmer operation.

NRCS has a special category funding for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

Success Story continued



High Tension Fence

A Beginning Farmer or Rancher means an individual or entity who:

- Is an applicant who has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

Please contact any local USDA Service Center and NRCS field office if you any questions.

The NRCS District Conservationist for the Warsaw USDA Service Center can be reached at: (585) 786-5070.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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)."

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Update on RAPP (Recycling Ag Plastics Project)

In the past, disposal of agricultural plastics such as bunk cover, ag bags and round bale plastic has included landfills, burning and burying. These methods are no longer feasible and all present sustainability challenges. The goal of the RAPP is recycling through baling and marketing of these materials.



The Ag Plastics Recycling baler will be located at the Wyoming County Highway Buildings on Rt. 19 in Rock Glen on the last Friday of the next 3

months: July 27th, August 31st and September 28th from 11AM to 3 PM.

Please bring your clean & dry agricultural plastics for recycling.

Other dates and locations at farms around the county for each month will be announced. For more information or questions please contact:

Debra Welch, CCE Wyoming
585-786-2251
email djw275@cornell.edu

or

Allen Fagan, Wyoming County Soil & Water
585-786-5070
email afagan@frontier.com

How you can help Pollinators

By Soil Conservation Technician, Mike Shaw

Pollinators are essential to the reproductive cycles of many flowering plants. Roughly 70% of the world's flowering plants need pollinators for reproduction. There would be no alfalfa, apples, pumpkins, blueberries, many other fruits and vegetables without pollinators. One out of every three mouthfuls of food and beverage humans consume required the presence of a pollinator. In the US there are more than one hundred crop plants that need pollinators for reproduction.

There are many different types of pollinators', bees and butterflies are the first that come to mind. Others include bats, hummingbirds, moths, beetles, thrips (tiny, slender insects with fringed wings), flies, many of the wasps, and even slugs as well to a lesser extent mammals and birds. Most native pollinators will not sting unless grabbed or stepped on. Honeybees, bumblebees and social wasps (such as yellow jackets, which are not significant pollinators) are likely to sting when their nest is disturbed.

While going through your crop fields you may have seen bee hives in various locations pollinating crops. These hives usually house European Honey Bees for crop pollination. Records show that the number of honey bee hives is half of what it was in the 1950's and the number of bee hives continues to decline due to diseases, pests, low price of honey and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Research has demonstrated that native bees make a significant contribution to crop pollination; some provide 100% of pollination when enough habitat is available. Many of the native bees will forage in colder and wetter conditions than honey bees. The foraging behavior results in more cross pollination that is good for vegetables. Factors that account for the population decline of native pollinators are loss and fragmentation of habitat, degradation of remaining habitat and pesticide poisoning.

Some of the things you can do to help pollinators:

- Avoid or limit the use of pesticides. To minimize the impact of pesticides, scout to determine the pests, avoid spraying when crops or flowers are in bloom, spray in the afternoon or at night if possible or leave a buffer between sensitive areas and sprayed areas.
- Plant a pollinator garden. Choose native plants that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season, plant a variety of flower colors and shapes, and plant in clumps.
- Provide nesting sites such as bee nest blocks, leave dead trees or limbs if not a hazard, and maintain small undisturbed patches of bare ground.

For more information contact the NRCS office at (585) 786-5070 or to learn more about pollinators and their habitats go to:

<http://www.xerces.org/>

<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html>

Sources used: The Xerces Society
US Fish and Wildlife Services



Photograph © Mace Vaughan

	RMS Technologies, LLC
TSP, CPESC & NICET Certified	Rod & Marlene Sergel 674-9 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: rmsergel@verizon.net	

D & H EXCAVATING, INC. 11939 Rt. 98 South Arcade, New York 14009 ELDON KING "Gift of Experience" (716) 492-4956 Fax: 492-4951	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basements• Driveways• Septics• Ponds• TruckingGravel & Topsoil
--	---

CONSTRUCTION, INC. General Contractor Formed Concrete • Steel Buildings • Site Work Stephen Ferry Jr. Vice President 2025 Attica Road Darren Center, NY 14040 Telephone: (585) 547-9490 Facsimile: (585) 547-9401

Auctioneers, Appraisers & RE Brokers PO Box 58 Stafford, NY 14143 585-343-5449 www.williamkentinc.com

Meet Wyoming County's Conservation Technician

My name is Allen Fagan, and I am the newest Conservation District Technician at the Wyoming County SWCD. I grew up in the Town of Bliss, graduating from Letchworth Central High School in 2007. From there, I continued my education at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. Upon graduation in the spring of 2011, I left Paul Smith's with degrees including a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry Vegetation Management, an Associate's of Science in Arboriculture and Landscape Management, and a Certificate for Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Throughout my college career, I spent my summers working for various agencies, including the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation at Letchworth State Park, USDA-APHIS-PPQ in Ellicottville, NY, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Avon, NY, on projects including the Emerald Ash Borer Survey of Western New York, and the Giant Hogweed Eradication Team.

Following my college career, I took a seasonal position with the National Park Service at Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Here I served as a crew leader on the Invasive Vegetation Team, managing invasive plants throughout Acadia. After this position ended, I returned home and spent 6 months working for McCormick Farms, Inc.

In April, I accepted a seasonal position with the Onondaga County SWCD as a Critical Area Seeding Technician. In June, I accepted the Conservation District Technician position here at Wyoming County. When not in the workplace, I enjoy my time outdoors as much as possible, with activities such as hunting, hiking, and paddling. I am very excited to start a new career here at Wyoming County SWCD!



Visit www.wcsxcd.org for a full listing of District programs and services!

TREES TRIMMED **Tri-County STUMP REMOVAL Tree Service** **TREES CABLED**

TREE CUT
FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES
Call Anytime
1-877-TREEMAN

7960 Trall Road
Freedom, NY 14065

TIM BARLOW

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

E&M Engineers & Surveyors, P C

www.emengineers.com
482 S. Cascade Drive
PO Box 159
Springville, NY 14141-1059

Dam Plans · Property Surveys
Manure Storage Designs · Septic Systems
(716) 592-2851 Toll Free (800) 339-5971

JAVA EXCAVATING
PAUL W. FREYBURGER

Java Village, NY
585-457-9483
* Lagoons * Land tiling
* Sitework * CAFO projects
javaexcav@yahoo.com

POURED WALLS
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE
FOUNDATIONS

JOE COCINA
DAVE MURPHY

FRONTIER CONCRETE INC.

P.O. BOX 65
BOSTON, NY 14025
(716) -941-4780

E.R. Rule & Sons Excavating, Inc.
6 Bixby Hill Road
Arcade, New York 14009
Member of NYLICA

(585) 492-4090 - 492-2120 - Fax 492-4091
Bulldozing-Roads -Sewer Lines -Sand & Gravel - Coal Water Lines -
Basements -Land Clearing -Fully Insured

MEYERS CONTRACTING LLC

Jasen C. Meyers
Owner/Operator
(585) 805-0335
Fully Insured

Commercial - Residential - Agricultural

Site Work Excavation Grading Bulldozing
Trucking Ponds Drainage Driveways Ditch Cleaning

Land Improvement Contractors of America

L. B. Tiling, Inc.
Laser Controlled
Drainage Systems
Bulldozing

Ponds-Septic Systems-Locations

Lee Broadwell (585) 493-2018

JOHN F. GILLEN

Land Surveyor

GILLEN & WELLMAN

Land Surveyors

7 Perry Avenue
Warsaw, New York 14569
Telephone: (585) 786-3960
Fax: (585) 786-2933
Email: johngillen@frontiernet.net

Support Your Local Farm Markets!

S Z F E K B J Q S U N E O S S V H F K S
 S E U G R W E M T C R P D R I R S M Y I
 M X I C C R O A D D O Z P E A S A R H R
 P R L R C O U T N M C A K W D G U E Z W
 F Y M X R H E Y O S P H O O W P Q F P N
 Q Q G H G E I X N P S X H L R N S V T C
 K F S P W L B N L S J F O F Q X T P U U
 M U H S S S E I A L X G N E S E E H C
 M C N E F D S R U W W P P U Q I W A T N
 B A V Z V W N F L L R I T S A S I C S J
 E U D Y X F O I O Z B K N X Q X A H O G
 L M H Y U H L L C Y L O G G N M G E F Z
 C H E R R I E S L L R D P O N I J S O W
 M I I S H P B A Y E N O H S C H A R A F
 A I T C J W E U L M Y A G K O O T R M R
 P C V V S Y G R E E N G L S E P B P L B
 L U I Y Y C K U K C E S G D U F G B V B
 E Z W H A F D Y X G J P L Q M P K W Q Z
 Y J A L C V E R R R I E G V H B Q V E E
 I W T M L O W U R O E O S O Y B V R N U

- Apples
- Cherries
- Blueberries
- Sweet corn
- Zucchini
- Sunflowers
- Cheese
- Green beans
- Maple syrup
- Honey
- Mushrooms
- Eggs
- Peaches
- Pears
- Peas
- Yellow Squash

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.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

- Chairman, At-Large Member** Daryl Heiby
- County Supervisor** James Brick
- County Supervisor** John Knab
- Farm Bureau Representative** Walt Faryna
- Grange Representative** Joseph Gozelski

DISTRICT STAFF

- District Manager** Gregory A. McKurth
- Secretary/Treasurer** Sharon Boyd
- Water Quality Technician** Bethany Bzduch
- Conservation Technician** Allen Fagan
- NRCS**
- District Conservationist** Mia Halter
- Soil Conservation Technician** Mike Shaw

Helping People Help the Land
 An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Wyoming County SWCD
 31 Duncan St.
 Warsaw, NY 14569

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 WARSAW, NY 14569
 PERMIT NO. 64

