



Spring 2011

Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Doesn't Cost, It pays!

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SWCD Calendar:

- June 12 - Agri-Palooza
- June 20 - SWCD Board Meeting
- July 4 - Independence Day observed - Office Closed
- July 18 - SWCD Board Meeting
- July 21 - Water Quality Tour
- August 15 - SWCD Board Meeting

Wyoming County 2011 Trailside Envirothon Winners Perry High School



(Left to Right): Ben Zerbe, Paul Stoddard, Jenna Borek, Jon Borek & Kevin Biondolillo



Students at the Wildlife Station with Instructor, Doug Bassett

On April 27th, 110 High School students competed at the 2011 Trailside Envirothon held at Letchworth State Park. Participating Wyoming County Schools were Perry, Warsaw, Attica and the Catholic Home School Group. Cuba Rushford, Fillmore, and Canaseraga Schools also took part in the event representing Allegany County.

Each school was formed into teams, and each team was tested in subjects such as Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics and the Current Issue: "Salt and Freshwater Estuaries".

This year, the Wyoming County winner was Perry High School with a score of 369 out of a possible 500. The Allegany County winner was Fillmore High School with a score of 382.5. Winning teams now have the opportunity to go on and compete at the New York State Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, NY.

The Wyoming County SWCD Board of Directors and Staff sincerely thank the Letchworth State Park staff, sponsor's, and volunteers that made the Envirothon a success!

Wyoming County Drinking Water Taste Test Results:

In observance of New York State Water Week, the Wyoming County Health Department and Wyoming County SWCD conducted the water taste test at the 2011 Trailside Envirothon held on April 27th. Activities held during water week, such as the taste test, are designed to help citizens understand the importance of protecting and conserving our valuable water supplies. Samples from 6 municipal water systems throughout Wyoming County, including Warsaw,

Castile, Wyoming, Arcade, Attica, and Perry were taste tested and ranked. The 2011 best tasting water, earning the most votes was the Village of Arcade; second place went to the Village of Castile.

The Village of Arcade now has the honor of being the best tasting water in Wyoming County and is eligible to compete for the title of the best tasting water in New York State.

Special thanks to Andy Meyer and the Wyoming County Health Department for their assistance in conducting this year's contest.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Approved Grants for Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership Projects

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership are pleased to announce the approval of over \$1 million in grants aimed at supporting on-the-ground fish habitat work in the Great Lakes under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

"We are pleased to support these projects to benefit aquatic habitat under the Partnership, and recognize the GLRI as a tremendous opportunity to implement on the ground restoration in the basin," said Mike Weimer, Assistant Regional Director of Fisheries for the Midwest Region of USFWS.

The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District was granted \$55,314 for the North Branch Wiscoy Creek Restoration. The District will improve habitat for the North Branch of the Wiscoy Creek fishery by restoring pool and riffle habitat within the stream, which will provide cover for

aquatic species. This project will further protect and restore the Wiscoy through plantings of native vegetation streamside, which will provide much-needed shade and buffer stretches of the creek. These efforts will provide additional high-quality cool-water habitat for temperature sensitive species of fish, including trout, dace, and darters.



Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds receive Funding for Sediment Control Projects

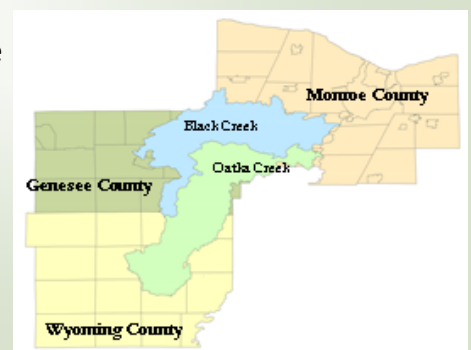
Genesee, Monroe, and Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation Districts have received \$536,000.00 of funding through the Great Lakes Commission Erosion and Sediment Control Program to complete erosion and sediment control projects on agricultural land in the Oatka and Black Creek Watersheds. The funding will cover approximately 75% of the total project cost with a 25% landowner match, which can be provided as cash or as in kind services. The Black and Oatka Creek Erosion & Sediment Control Project is a three year program, allowing three years for project completion.

There are several different types of best management practices that can be utilized to reduce sedimentation and soil erosion. The practices can range from agronomic practices such as conservation tillage, cover cropping, stream bank buffer areas, or planned grazing, to structural practices such as streambank stabilization, grade control structures, water ways, and water and sediment control basins.

All of these projects will reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in the Genesee River and Lake Ontario Watershed Basins.

The three Soil and Water Districts are also currently working to secure funding through the New York State Round 17 Ag Non-Point Source Pollution Program to supplement the 25% match resulting in decreased landowner costs. This funding provides a great opportunity to help the agricultural community address soil loss and sediment erosion while continuing to practice environmental stewardship.

This map shows the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds in Genesee, Wyoming, and Monroe Counties.





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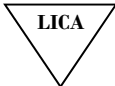
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Agriculture Plastic Recycling



If you haven't heard the District has been awarded an agricultural plastics baler through Cornell University. In an effort to move towards recycling agricultural plastic we are working in conjunction with Cooperative Extension on developing an agricultural plastics recycling program.

Preparing Plastics

At this stage of the game, it is important for producers to begin preparing and storing their plastics for recycling. It will be much easier on recycling day if plastics have been prepared in the correct way. Plastics need to be clean, dry, separated by type, and in "bundles" appropriately sized for the baler. The BF-300 Baler produces a 40" cube.

Clean means free of as much debris and dirt as possible and practical.

Dry means it must be stored under cover: In a shed or under a tarp or plastic and up off the ground so that runoff cannot collect while it is stored.

Bundles of plastic must be small enough to fit into the chamber (Maximum 40"x40" square) and light enough for one person to handle for loading.

Dairies can combine low-density polyethylene (LDPE) from plastic films like bunk covers, Ag bags and bale wrap. However, reinforced bunk covers (which include a sandwich layer of a different type of plastic for strength), net wrap and twine must be segregated. These can be made into its own separate bale.



The preparation and cleanliness of the plastic cannot be stressed enough. The market for the plastic is fairly weak at the moment and if we produce dirty bales they will not be accepted and our credibility may be lost. Whatever monetary compensation (if any) we would receive would be used for maintaining the baler.

This is a free service for producers to get rid of agricultural plastic in an environmentally friendly way.

Contact Justin Schoff with questions at:

585-786-5070 ext. 116 or via email:
jschoff2@frontier.com.

In April, the District held their annual tree seedling and wildlife shrub distribution at the Wyoming County Highway Department in Rock Glen.

The District sold over 10,000 conservation seedlings. Conservation Packs were distributed to 27 Wyoming County 4-H members as well. For more information about our annual tree & shrub sale, please visit our website at www.wcswd.org



Agriculture Plastic Container Recycling



FREE

Agricultural Plastic Container Recycling

Only non-refillable plastic containers from 1 gallon to 55 gallon barrels made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) embossed with recycling symbol #2 on the bottom are acceptable. Larger containers, such as 250 gal. totes are accepted but must have all metal removed and cut into 2' x 2' strips. 5 gal. buckets must have metal handle removed. Multi-gallon containers must have caps and booklet removed. All containers **MUST** be clean, empty and pressure rinsed or triple rinsed and dry. Any container that is not clean will be returned to the owner.

Collection will be in June and October. Pick up dates to be announced.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

You must call and advise us of the approximate amount of containers you will have for recycling. Collection dates and locations are based on the anticipated amount collected. Large plastic bags to store clean containers are available for free.

Contact Information

Genesee Co. SWCD, Elizabeth Bentley-Huber
(585) 343-2362

or

Monroe Co. SWCD, Tucker Kautz
(585) 473-2120 Ext.#108



Recycling is good
for everyone!

*Coordinated by Genesee County Soil
& Water Conservation District
Agricultural Environmental
Management Committee (AEM)
in conjunction with
USAg Recycling, Inc. & Ag Container
Recycling Council (ACRC)*

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance: *Don't Risk Your USDA Benefits!*

What is Conservation Compliance?

The **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance** provisions are required in the Farm Bill to participate in USDA programs. The purpose of these provisions is to protect highly erodible land from excessive soil erosion and to protect wetlands.

Protect Highly Erodible Land

Find out if any fields are designated as Highly Erodible Land (HEL). Fields designated as highly erodible must be protected from excessive soil erosion when used to produce agricultural commodities by applying an approved conservation system.

Get a Wetland Determination

Participants must certify that crops have not been planted on land that was converted from a wetland to cropland between December 23, 1985 and November 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits in any year an ag commodity was planted). Participants must also certify that a wetland has not been converted to cropland after November 28, 1990 (if so, they are ineligible for program benefits until the wetland is restored or re-created in another location).

What activities could put me at risk?

Activities that could affect HEL/Wetland compliance need to be evaluated by NRCS. Examples are:

land clearing, filling, leveling, excavation, dredging, stump removal, or creating new drainage systems.

To initiate the process visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and fill out an AD-1026 form. FSA will forward the request to NRCS for evaluation.

USDA Benefits That Can Be Affected

Non-compliance with the HEL/Wetland Con-

version provisions may affect the following USDA program benefits. Violations could affect your ability to rent or sell the land in the future.

Commodity Programs:

- Direct and Counter Cyclical Program
- Deficiency Payments
- Act farm operating loans
- Farm Storage Loans (HEL only)
- Crop Disaster Program

Conservation Programs:

- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Variances and exemptions to the provisions may be granted under some conditions.

A certified wetland determination/delineation is conducted for the purpose of implementing the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. The determination/delineation may not be valid for identifying the extent of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE's) Clean Water Act jurisdiction for this site. If you intend to conduct any activity that constitutes a discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands or other waters, you should request a jurisdictional determination from the local office of the COE prior to starting the work.

Please contact your local Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service field office if you have any questions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's [TARGET Center](#) at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Streambank Stabilization Project



The Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District has assisted the Wyoming County Highway Department with a streambank stabilization project on the Cayuga Creek at the Burroughs Road Bridge in the Town of Bennington.

The project involved the completion of approximately 175 feet of rock rip-rap bank stabilization to protect the bridge as well as to reduce erosion and property damage to the neighboring BSA Camp Schoellkopf. Also, many tons of sediment deposits were removed from under the bridge to improve capacity and stream channel flow. The District staff provided technical assistance with

the project designs as well as the NYSDEC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit applications. All project work was completed by the County Highway Department personnel.

The District is available to assess and provide technical assistance with recommendation and permit applications for streambank stabilization and stream restoration projects. Unfortunately, in today's world, there is very limited funding available to assist with privately owned projects. If you would like a site review or assistance with stream permits, please call for an appointment.

Conservation Word Find

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead