WYOMING COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

2023 Accomplishments

2023 Accomplishments

3 School Workshop Days

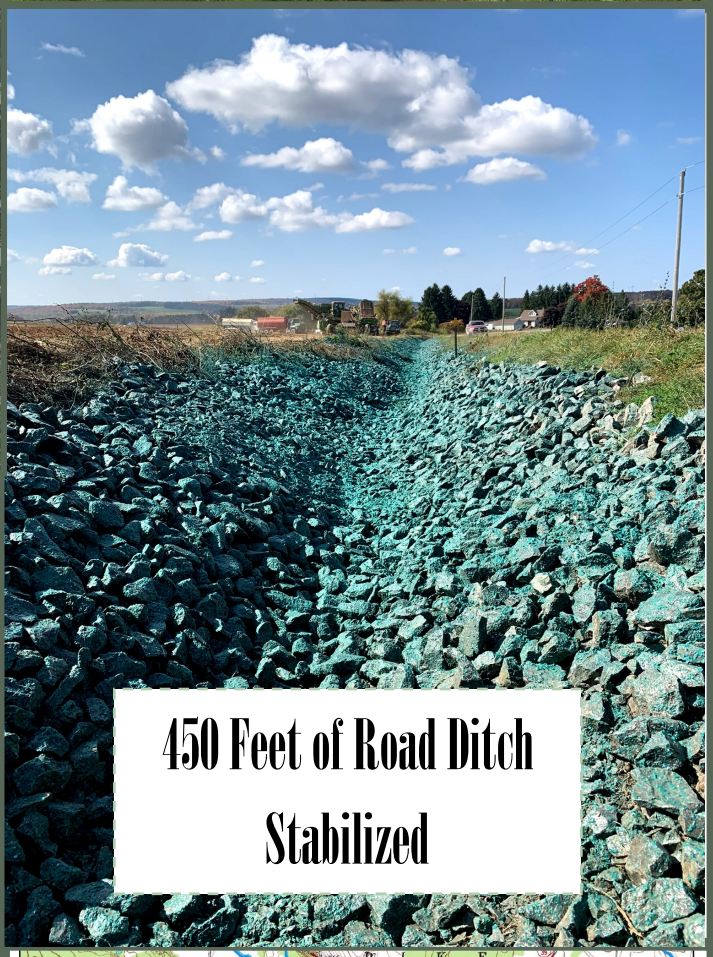
1
KITTEN RESCUED BY SWCD STAFF (AND REHOMED!)

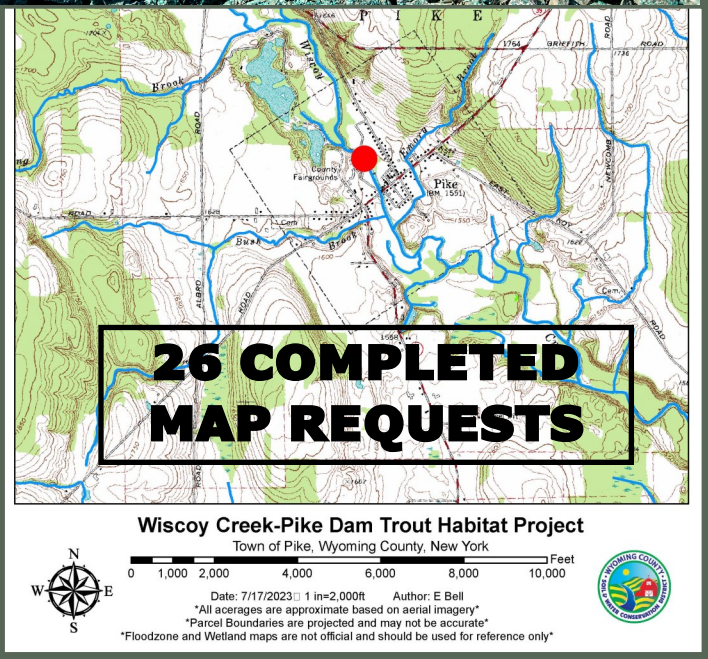
186 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

6.8 Million Gallons of Waste Storage Created

5 ACRES OF INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

2023 Accomplishments





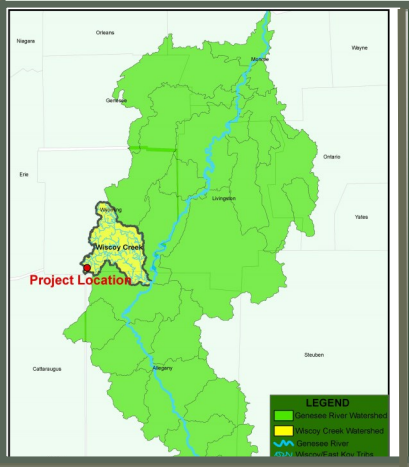
Edelweiss Maternity

~Wiscoy Creek Water Quality Protection Project~

Located in Eagle, NY: Edelweiss Maternity is a CAFO sized farm that houses 500 dry cows for the parent farm, Edelweiss Farms. The farm partnered with the District to help them address the effects of daily manure spreading that was not only inefficient to the farm, but also lead to potential nutrient runoff and soil compaction, which negatively affects water quality and soil health.

The project included the construction of a 2.8 million gallon concrete waste storage structure that would be capable of storing 9 months of manure, bedding, and precipitation. This storage will allow the farm to efficiently spread manure on the surrounding 455 acres of agricultural fields during appropriate times when weather conditions are favorable and nutrient uptake of crops is at its highest.

Project Components: Additional BMP practices are needed to make a waste storage functional. For this project additional components include: A gravity waste transfer system, subsurface drainage, underground outlet, heavy use area protection, access road, fence, and critical area planting (to stabilize disturbed soils post-construction).



The Big Picture: **On a local level, the construction of this waste storage structure will improve the water quality of the Wiscoy Creek- a prized trout stream in Wyoming County and New York State. The implementation of best management practices like this waste storage improve water quality by reducing non-point source pollution that is associated with agriculture.**

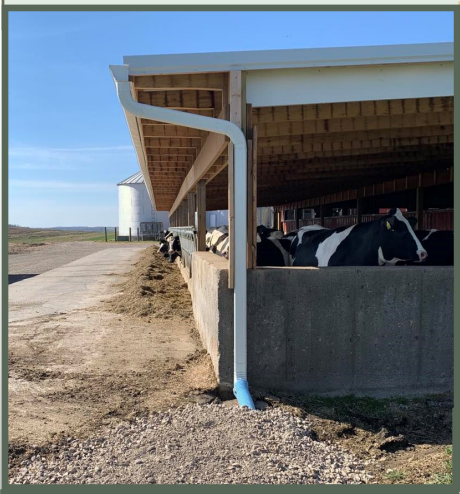
On a larger scale, the Wiscoy Creek meets the Genesee River just before Letchworth Park – The Genesee continues until it reaches Lake Ontario. Implementing proactive practices on a watershed level not only improves local soil health and water quality in the immediate surrounding areas but also reduces the amount of pollution traveling and accumulating in downstream areas. Downstream areas that could be critical habitat to an endangered species, or a drinking water source for disadvantaged communities.

Armson Farms, LLC

~Oatka Creek Farmstead Runoff Management Project~

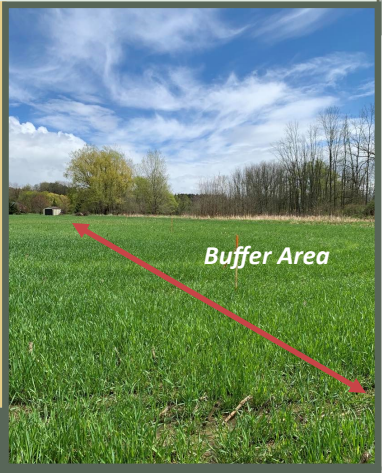
Covered Barnyard Project: Armson Farms, LLC approached the Wyoming County SWCD to address various concerns surrounding an exposed barnyard that collected manure laden water. A genuine resource concern, the contaminated water drained from a corner of the barnyard towards a road ditch that eventually reaches the Oatka Creek.

Funded at a cost-share, an engineer designed a Heavy Use Area Runoff Management System that incorporated building a roof over the barnyard with gutters and an underground outlet to carry the clean rainwater to the road ditch. This project benefits the water quality of the Oatka Creek and Genesee River by remediating a point source pollution concern. Additionally, the project improved the farm's manure management at this facility and improved cow hoof health.



Riparian Buffers

Included in this project is the implementation of a 0.6 acre buffer on an agricultural field bordering a State and Federal Wetland. Riparian Buffers are effective ways to trap and reduce sediment and nutrient pollution before they reach an environmentally sensitive areas.



Post Project Conditions

2023 Conservation Awards

Pictured: Al Fagan-District Manager (left) and Matt Havens- NRCS Soil Scientist (right).

Conservation Partner of the Year Award: **Matt Havens, Soil Scientist– USDA, NRCS**

Matt Havens is a Soil Scientist for USDA-NRCS in Belmont, NY. Matt has assisted the Wyoming County SWCD with various technical assistance requests, including investigating soils on properties to determine if soils mapping is correct. Most notably, Matt has been an instructor for the Wyoming County Trailside Envirothon for 13 years and has helped educate nearly 1,000 students on soil science during this time.

Conservation Farm of the Year Award: **Deere Stone Farms**

Deere Stone Farms, operated by the Hibsch Family has been working with WCSWCD since 2015. Since then, the farm has worked with the District as well as NRCS to implement several Best Management Practices including: Silage Leachate Management on both the farm's bunk and ag bag pad, riparian buffers, and a covered waste storage with a transfer system.

Pictured: Tyler Hibsch, Al Fagan– District Manager, Larry Hibsch, and Jeremy Hibsch (left to right).

Pictured: Rebecca Campbell and Emelyn Bell– District Technicians, Josh and Shirley Spencer (left to right).

AEM Award: **Spencer Brothers Farms**

Spencer Brothers Farms, owned and operated by Josh and Evan Spencer along with their families have been an active Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) participant since 2021. With enthusiastic commitment they completed their first Best Management Practice in 2022, a concrete heavy use area for their beef cattle. The farm has also completed projects with the local NRCS office and continue to plan projects with both agencies.

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Conservation Technician - Rebecca Campbell
Conservation Technician - Emelyn Bell
Conservation Technician—Hannah Guindon

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WYOMING COUNTY
FARMLAND PROTECTION WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND 2024 | 6:00PM - 7:30 PM

WYOMING COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS CENTER
36 CENTER ST. WARSAW, NY
ROOM LC1

ALL LANDOWNERS FROM AN INTERESTED FARM OPERATION OR LESSORS OF FARMLAND **MUST ATTEND** WORKSHOP TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS.

RSVP @
HTTPS://WYOMING-CO-FARMLAND-PROTECTION.EVENTBRITE.COM

Genesee Valley Conservancy

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