

# WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 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.



# 2024 Accomplishments



**6 AGRICULTURAL BMPS  
APPLIED**



**6 Hydroseeding Projects**



**46 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
ASSISTED**



**60 TREES AND SHRUBS  
PLANTED**



**9 STREAM SITES REVIEWED**

# 2024 Accomplishments



**3 School Workshop Days**



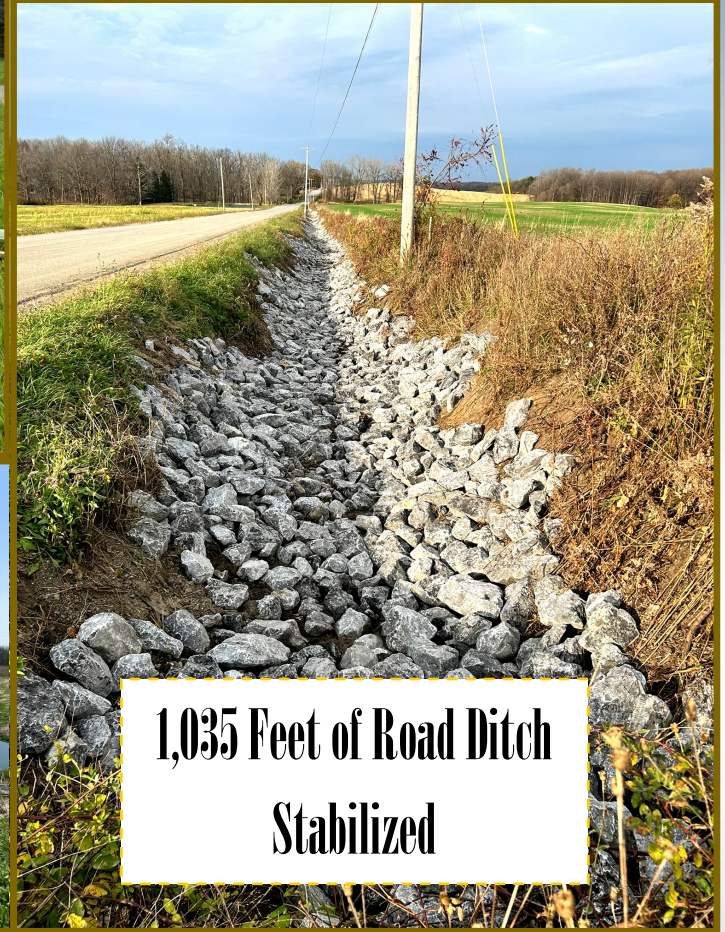
# 2024 Accomplishments



**1** RIPARIAN FOREST  
BUFFER



**133 AGRICULTURAL VALUE  
ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED**



**1,035 Feet of Road Ditch  
Stabilized**



**1,265 AEM HOURS  
ASSISTING FARMS**



**2** PROJECT TOURS

**48 COMPLETED  
MAP REQUESTS**

**Wiscoy Creek-Pike Dam Trout Habitat Project**  
Town of Pike, Wyoming County, New York

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 10,000 Feet

Date: 7/17/2023 1 in=2,000ft Author: E Bell  
\*All acreages are approximate based on aerial imagery\*  
\*Parcel Boundaries are projected and may not be accurate\*  
\*Floodzone and Wetland maps are not official and should be used for reference only\*

# SWCD Chairman Daryl Heiby is Recognized for 35 Years of Service

At the 2025 Water Quality Symposium, hosted by NYS Conservation District Employees Association, Daryl Heiby was recognized for the 2025 District Director Award in commemoration of his 35 years of service on the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Daryl Heiby, a Perry resident, was appointed to the Wyoming County SWCD Board as the Member at Large to begin his first term on January 1st, 1990. On January 1st, 2004, he was then appointed to become the Chairman of the Board and has retained that position to date.



Our Chairman has supported the District through three decades of change and never fails to miss a beat. A salesman by trade, Daryl promotes staff attendance at career fairs, and other outreach events like the Wyoming County Fair. During the week of the County Fair, he can be found manning the SWCD Fair Booth and interacting with county residents, landowners, and staff. His unspoken motto reminds staff to be the familiar face of the District, and his spoken motto is to wear your nametag!

With his strong ties to the community, Daryl wears the SWCD logo as a badge of honor. He's an advocate for advancing representation and encourages the promotion of the District so that the community has equal access to acquiring the knowledge and programs we have at our disposal. Daryl and the other Board Members have made it accessible for the District staff to manage and implement projects at ground level. He's a reassuring figure who encourages the District to pursue projects and grant funding that will have a positive impact on the environment within our county. 35 Years of service to Wyoming County SWCD is an impressive achievement and truly well-deserved. Congratulations Daryl Heiby!

## 2025 Water Quality Symposium Employee Awards

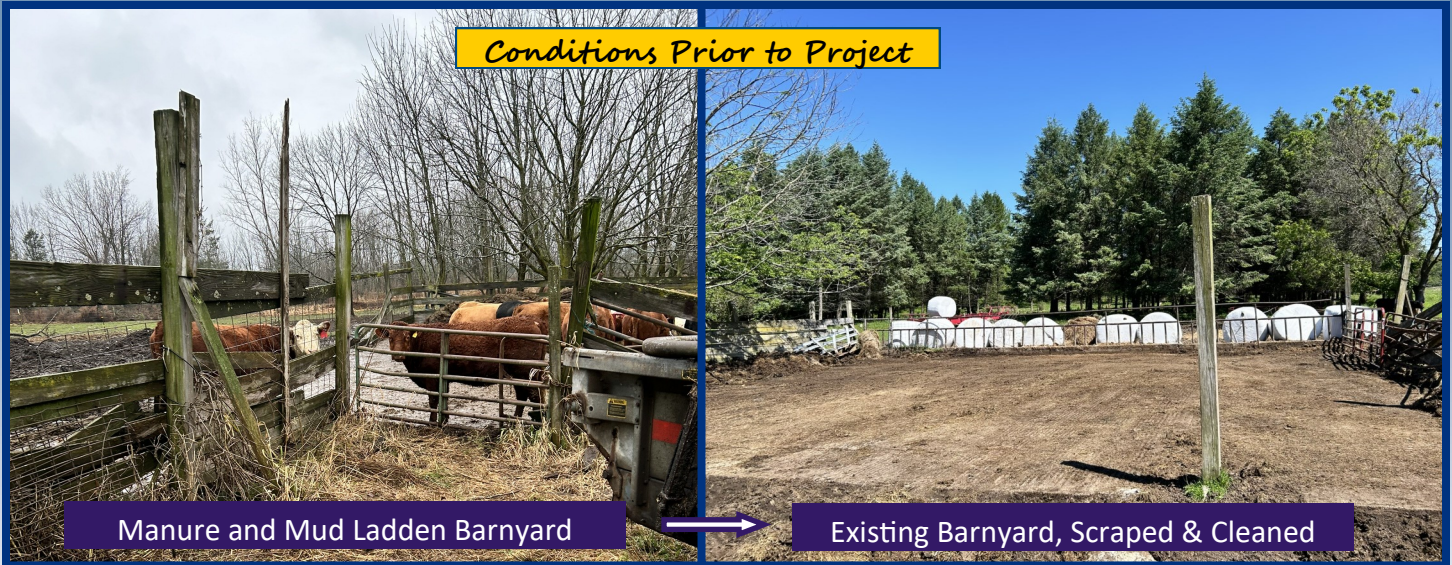
Wyoming County Staff received two additional awards at the Water Quality Symposium event. Sharon Boyd (pictured center) received the 2025 Division I Merit Award for her exemplary efforts in conservation during her 20 year tenure with the District as secretary/treasurer. Sharon has always fiercely advocated for the staff and betterment of Wyoming County SWCD.

Additionally, Emelyn Fagan (left), and Rebecca Campbell (right) were the 2025 recipients of the Heroic Action award for their teamwork and quick thinking when another technician needed aide in the field. The pair was exceptionally honored to receive the award and even more grateful to have their third compadre back by their side going forward.



# Schie Family Farm

## Barnyard Runoff Management Project



**Covered Barnyard Project:** Schie Family Farm, a beef operation in Attica, began their partnership with the Wyoming Co. SWCD to improve their barnyard runoff management in 2023. With the farm's 45 beef animals concentrated in the barnyard, clean rainwater mixed with the manure and feed spoilage creating nutrient laden runoff that made its way to a tributary to the class A, Tonawanda Creek.

With assistance from a professional engineer, it was determined that covering the barnyard to exclude clean rainwater and contain any pollutants was the best option. Utilizing existing and new concrete, a roof structure was constructed in addition to gutters, downspouts, underground outlets, and additional tile to carry clean rainwater away from the barnyard. The farm also implemented livestock exclusion fencing and drainage work to exclude further sediment pollution from wet areas in the barnyard.

Overall, this timely and successful project will positively benefit the Tonawanda Creek water quality, improve hoof health and animal comfort, and improve day to day management for the farm.



### Post Project Conditions



## 2024 Conservation Farm of the Year

Rudgers Registered Jerseys, Attica NY

Since 1970, the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District has recognized a farm in Wyoming County annually that makes exemplary efforts in the conservation of natural resources. Farms that are chosen have implemented a multitude of practices to protect water quality, reduce erosion, and improve soil health.

Lyman and Chelsey Rudgers milk 350 Jersey cows and raise all of their own young stock on their farm in Attica, while operating 500 acres to grow their crops. The farm has implemented numerous best management practices, both on their own and with assistance from the District and NRCS, that has led to improved water quality in the Tonawanda Creek Watershed.



**Pictured: Chelsey and Lyman Rudgers (left) Al Fagan-District Manager (right).**

## 2024 AEM Award

Steve and Becky Schie, Attica NY

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a tiered planning process designed by the NYS SWCC that helps farmers make sound decisions in protecting natural resources on their farms.

By participating in AEM, farmers can document their environmental stewardship, develop plans for future improvements that will positively impact natural resources, and contribute to a positive image of agriculture in their communities. Farms that meet certain criteria are also eligible to be awarded an AEM "Partnering to Protect Our Environment" sign.



**Pictured: Becky and Steve Schie along with their Grandson.**

## 2024 Conservation Partner of the Year

Stephen George, SJG Engineering

Steve George is a Professional Engineer that specializes in agricultural engineering. For well over a decade, the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District has been working with Steve to develop plans and designs for various environmental best management practices on farms within Wyoming County.

The Wyoming County SWCD recognized Steve George for his continued professionalism in delivering quality designs that promote wise management of our natural resources.



**Pictured: Stephen George, SJG Engineering, PLLC (left) and Al Fagan-District Manager (right).**



## District Board of Directors & Staff

Chairman, At-Large Member - Daryl Heiby  
 County Supervisor - James Brick  
 County Supervisor - Mark Merrill  
 Farm Bureau Representative - Walt Faryna  
 Grange Representative - Ronald McCormick  
 District Manager-Allen Fagan  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Sharon Boyd  
 Conservation Technician - Rebecca Campbell  
 Conservation Technician - Emelyn Fagan  
 Conservation Technician—Hannah Guindon



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