

# Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District News

Academy Square Building, 12 N. Park Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
Phone (315) 568-4366 • Fax (315) 568-2414  
[www.senecacountyswcd.org](http://www.senecacountyswcd.org)

FALL 2010

## HAPPY 70th ANNIVERSARY!

On December 27, 1940 the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District was created by the Seneca County Board of Supervisors. 2010 marks our 70th Anniversary!

The primary purpose of the District is to improve and protect the land, water, and related resources both existing and potential; to discourage land use practices that are detrimental to the environment; and to develop and carry out preventive and creative programs aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural resource base of the County and the State. The Seneca County SWCD is an action agency. It has the power to plan as well as to implement the physical work on both public and private lands.

Throughout the 70 years of service the Seneca County SWCD has helped municipalities, landowners and the community protect the County's water and natural resources. The District works along side Federal and State Agencies to secure funding opportunities that help aid agricultural producers in conservation practices.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### ROUND 17 PROJECT REQUEST

In the coming months we will be writing proposals for funding under **Round 17** of the *Ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program*. Any farm interested in being included in funding proposals under Round 17 for implementation of agricultural conservation practices are urged to contact District Technician, Jim Malyj at 315-568-4366 to discuss eligibility and potential projects you may have by **November 15th**. Participation in Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a requirement for any farm applying.

Some examples of potential projects for funding would be • Silage Lechate • Manure Management • Erosion Sediment Control • Grazing • Laneways • Water System. Call our office with any other ideas you may have.

More information on AEM can be found on our website at [www.senecacountyswcd.org](http://www.senecacountyswcd.org) or at [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/SoilWater/aem/index.html](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/SoilWater/aem/index.html).



### VINEYARD GRANT PROGRAM

There is potential funding available to all vineyards in the Seneca Lake Watershed to aid in erosion control and pesticide management projects.

Erosion Control - Vineyard mulching and cover cropping practices.

Pesticide Management - For technology upgrades to existing vineyard sprayers for drift reduction during spray applications.

Other - Any other vineyard projects you may have. Call our office to see if they are appropriate for this grant.

If interested please contact the Seneca County SWCD Office by **November 15, 2010**.

All programs and services of the Seneca County SWCD and NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



The Graze NY program began in Central NY in 1996 as the result of US Congressman James Walsh's participation in a grazing farm tour. At that event, Congressman Walsh learned first hand from farmers practicing Prescribed Grazing Management (PGM) how grass based agriculture provides a less expensive feed source than purchased feeds, reduces production costs, retains more farm profits, and reduces soil erosion. Leaders in the field of PGM recognized that rotational grazing could be one option to combat rising production costs that were forcing many small family farms out of business.

Since 1996, Congressman Walsh sponsored the "Pastureland Management/Rotational Grazing" earmark funding as part of the Agricultural Appropriations budget. This funding was responsible for the creation of the Graze NY program in 1996 and sustained the program through 2008. With the retirement of Congressman Walsh in 2008, Congressman Michael Arcuri assumed sponsorship of the Graze NY program.

In the past, this program was administered through Jason Cuddeback at Cayuga County SWCD office. As of August 2010 the Seneca County SWCD office has taken over the Graze NY Program for the Seneca County area. Jim Malyj, District Technician will be the point of contact.

If you are interested in becoming part of this program please contact Jim Malyj at 315-568-4366.

## 2011 Conservation Planting Program

Look for our 2011 order form on our website at [www.senecacountyswcd.org](http://www.senecacountyswcd.org) in late December/early January. Preorders will be accepted January 1 through April 2, 2011. Order forms will be mailed in late January.

Thank You for all that participated this year and we look forward to seeing you next year!

## Agricultural Assessments Soil Group Worksheets

Landowners filing for an agricultural assessment in 2011 must file applications with their local town assessor by March 1st. To complete an application for an agricultural assessment exemption, landowners must have a Soil Group Worksheet prepared by the Soil & Water Conservation District for each tax parcel they intend to enroll. Landowners who have previously had a soil group worksheet completed for a tax parcel do not need a new one unless the total parcel acreage changed.

Agricultural land does not automatically receive an agricultural assessment exemption.

**Landowners must apply each year with their assessor to remain eligible.** For more information contact your local assessor or Real Property Tax Service.

Contact Seneca County SWCD, 315-568-4366, to **make an appointment** to have your soil group worksheet completed. You will need a current copy of your tax bill for each parcel that is qualified for this program. The cost per parcel is \$20.

**Remember, it's up to the landowner** to give the application to their assessor, we do not provide this information to them.

## 2010 WEED HARVESTING

By: Jim Malyj



Aquatic Plant Harvesting began this year in July. A total of 486 tons of vegetation were harvested from Cayuga Lake and 138 tons from the Cayuga/Seneca Canal.

## BigFoot Agricultural Plastics Baler

BigFoot is a baler that condenses used agricultural plastics, such as silo covers and silage bags from dairy farms, into 40-inch-square cubes ready for recycling.

Best management practices for collecting used agricultural plastics include:

- As much as possible, keep the used plastic free of mud and manure;
- Shake dirt and debris and pull weeds out of the plastics;
- Fold, roll or cut dry plastics into easily handled bundles;
- Separate different types of plastics, and
- Store baler-ready bundles under cover to keep them clean, dry and out of sunlight.

Seneca County SWCD has joined together with the Cayuga County SWCD office in providing services with the Bigfoot Ag Plastics Baler. For more information please contact Phil Griswold, District Manger at 315-568-4366.



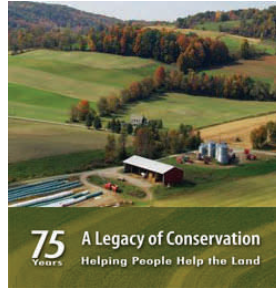
Jason Cuddeback from Cayuga County SWCD with Ag Baler at Freier Farms in Seneca County.



BigFoot Ag Baler



A Legacy of Conservation—75 Years Helping People Help The Land



A Conservation Legacy Reaching Back to 1935! 2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the beginning of the Federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural re-

sources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment.

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

Science and technology are critical to good conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. Whether developed in a laboratory or on the land, NRCS science and technology helps landowners make the right decisions for every natural resource. NRCS succeeds through partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America's natural resources.

We work at the local level, in field offices at USDA Service Centers in nearly every county in the Nation. NRCS employees' understanding of local resource concerns and challenges result in conservation solutions that last. In the words of the first NRCS Chief, Hugh Hammond Bennett—"If we take care of the land, it will take care of us."

Contact your local USDA-NRCS office or visit [www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/).

Ron Vanacore, USDA-NRCS

Seneca County SWCD  
 Academy Square Building  
 12 N. Park Street  
 Seneca Falls NY 13148

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**Fall Newsletter 2010**

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 Erin Peruzzini.....District Technician  
 Kristin White.....Bookkeeper/Secretary

**USDA-NRCS Staff**  
 Ron Vanacore.....District Conservationist

Kay Scott.....IT Specialist

Our Board meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday at 9:30 am, in the Conference Room  
 at Academy Square Building

<b>SALE ITEMS</b>	
(tax included)	
Bat Houses.....	\$18.00 ea.
Bluebird Houses .....	\$15.00 ea.
Reusable Shopping Bags .....	\$2.00 ea.
Fertilizer Tablets.....	\$1.00 for 10
Finder Books .....	\$4.50 ea.
History of Tile Drainage Book .....	\$11.00 ea.
Finger Lakes from Space.....	\$23.95
Orange Marking Flags .....	\$1.00 for 10
Soil Survey Book.....	\$10.00 s/h
Topographic Maps.....	\$6.00
Wildflower Seeds, 4oz. bag.....	\$12.00
3/4 oz.....	\$6.00
Animal Guards for drains .....	\$2.50 to \$6.50
Soil Group Worksheet .....	\$20.00 a parcel
Bulkhead Permit .....	\$100.00