

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

Summer 2009



Agricultural Environmental Management

What is AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmer operate environmentally sound and economically viable business.

The AEM program coordinates agricultural and environmental conservation agencies and programs, as well as private sector consultants, to provide one-stop shopping for services. All Agricultural counties in New York State are conducting AEM programs, and participation has grown to include over 9,000 farms.

Why AEM?

Farmers utilize AEM to address water quality concerns originating from agricultural activities by:

- Assessing environmental concerns associated with their farming operations
- Documenting current stewardship
- Developing environmental farm plans
- Implementing environmentally sound practices to address identified concerns
- Complying with state and federal environmental regulations

Local management of AEM program activities allows consideration of site specific agricultural practices, local environmental concerns, and individual business objectives.

AEM helps to:

- Manage manure and fertilizer nutrients
- Manage barnyard runoff and process wastewater
- Conserve soil
- Protect drinking water
- Improve neighbor and community relations
- Promote the economic and environmental benefits of farmland to the community
- Comply with environmental regulations
- Be consistent with permit requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO'S)

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www.empirefarmdays.com

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Districts will again be represented at the 2009 Empire Farm Days August 11, 12, and 13 in Seneca Falls, Route 414S

Look for us in the Southwest Main Tent.



www.nysfair.org/fair

2009 New York State Fair
August 27 – September 7, 2009

NYS Soil & Water Conservation Districts Fair Committee is hard at work putting together a new theme for this year. The focus will be on Back Yard Conservation with an example of a Rain Garden and informational handouts.

We're in the Horticulture Building!
See You at the Fair!!

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.

AEM Cont.

AEM Objectives:

- Provide a voluntary, incentive-based program to address water quality concerns on farms.
- Coordinate a watershed-based approach
- Document environmental stewardship
- Adopt Best Management Practices (BMP'S) consistent with farm resources
- Increase farmers' awareness of their potential impact on the environment
- Increase non-farmer awareness of agriculture's multiple environmental benefits
- Address neighbor relations concerns

New Equipment

The District purchased a Finn Hydroseeder last year with funds from Ag & Markets to help municipalities within Seneca County hydroseed areas that are at risk for soil erosion.



Above: Jim Malyj hydroseeding on River Road

Below: Phil Griswold hydroseeding along Routes 5 & 20



Employee Recognition



Dave Kaiser & Jim Malyj



Mike Reynolds & Erin Peruzzini

April 17th marked Jim Malyj's 20 Year Anniversary for working with Seneca County SWCD. Jim is a District Technician that works on programs such as AEM, FL-LOWPA Weed Harvesting, Envirothon, and others.

Erin Peruzzini's 10 Year Anniversary as a District Technician was marked on May 10th. Erin works on grant applications, permit assistance, surveying, AEM, Bulkheads, Roadbank Stabilization, and other projects.

Jim & Erin were presented with plaques & gift certificates by our Board of Directors.

2009 Conservation Planting Program

By: Kristin White

What a GREAT year this was for our Conservation Planting Program! We had a great turnout for our overstock sales. This was our first year at the County Fair grounds in Waterloo and we did some extra advertising throughout Waterloo, Seneca Falls, and surrounding areas with yard signs. The added advertising brought awareness to several Seneca County residents that were unaware of our program. The town of Romulus also put our order form in their newsletter...Thank You Angel!!

Look for our 2010 order form on our website at www.senecacountyswcd.org late December/early January. There will be an order form in our winter newsletter as well. Preorders will be accepted January 1 through April 2, 2010.

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



Fuel Containment Funding Received

By: Erin Peruzzini

In an effort to help landowners protect natural resources from fuel spills on their property, the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) sought and were awarded funding to provide cost sharing for the purchase of secondary fuel containment systems for existing above ground fuel tanks.

The grant was a joint project with Cayuga County SWCD and will provide cost sharing for 10 Seneca County & 10 Cayuga County agricultural producers. The vessels are currently being made and will be installed this summer and fall. Currently all slots are filled but please call the SWCD office if you have any questions.



Example of fuel containment vessel that will be purchased with grant funds.

PERMIT ASSISTANCE

The Seneca County SWCD will assist Seneca County landowners with various permit assistance including Bulkheads, Docks, Shorewells, Wetlands & Stream work. The District is not regulatory & only assists in obtaining the appropriate permits from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and The US Army Corps of Engineers (USAC). Call our office for more information and fee schedule.



2009 EQIP Organic Initiative

The 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. USDA-NRCS announces various sign-up periods throughout the fiscal year. Please contact your local office for more information.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural producers who are willing to address priority environmental issues by implementing conservation practices. It is administered by the USDA-NRCS.

The EQIP Organic Initiative will highlight 6 "core" conservation practices. The list of eligible practices include but are not limited to: Conservation Crop Rotation; Cover Crop; Nutrient Management; Pest Management; Prescribed Grazing; and Forage Harvest Management. Additional eligible practices include, but are not limited to: Strip-cropping, Riparian Forest Buffers, Grassed Waterways, Fence and Watering facilities. Individual applicants can receive a maximum of \$80,000 over the life of the 2008 Farm Bill, and no more than \$20,000 in any one year.

Contact your local USDA-NRCS office or visit www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/.

Ron Vanacore or Becky Flotasz, USDA-NRCS

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Board of Directors
 David Kaiser.....Chair, County Legislator
 Michael Reynolds.....Vice Chair, County Legislator
 Elisabeth Freier.....Treasurer, Farm Bureau
 Norman Sharman.....Member at Large
 Allan Buddle.....Grange Member

District Staff
 Phil Griswold.....District Manager
 Jim Malyj.....District Technician
 Erin Peruzzini.....District Technician
 Kristin White.....Bookkeeper

USDA-NRCS Staff
 Ron Vanacore.....District Conservationist
 Becky Foltasz.....Soil Conservationist

Kay Scott.....IT Specialist

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

SALE ITEMS	
Bat Houses	\$16.50
Bluebird Houses.....	\$11.00
Reusable Shopping Bags.....	\$2.00 ea.
Fertilizer Tablets	\$.10 ea.
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 Sample Kit	\$15.00
Soil Survey Book	\$10.00 s/h
Topographic Maps	\$6.00
Wildflower Seeds, 4oz. bag	\$9.00
3/4 oz.	\$6.00
Animal Guards for drains.....	\$2.50—\$6.50
Soil Group Worksheet.....	\$20.00 a parcel
Bulkhead Permit.....	\$100.00