

Seneca County SWCD
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Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District Winter Newsletter

January 2015

The Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a political subdivision of the State of New York. It was established in accordance with Chapter III of the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Law of NYS. The Seneca County SWCD was created by the Seneca County Board of Supervisors on December 27, 1940. Its boundaries are the same as those of Seneca County.

The Seneca County SWCD is a uniquely structured, **non regulatory** organization, especially suited for dealing with local water quality and land use problems by coordinating federal, state, and local resources to serve the needs of the local landowners and communities.

Seneca County SWCD is governed by a five member Board of Directors made up of two representatives from the Seneca County Board of Supervisors, one representative from the Seneca County Farm Bureau, one representative from the Grange, and one Member At-Large. We hold monthly board meetings every 4th Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (except on holidays) at the Seneca County SWCD office. The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.

Visit our website at www.senecacountyswcd.org to see our calendar for our scheduled meetings and monthly Agenda.

GET ON OUR EMAIL OR MAILING LIST!

We are looking to increase the circulation of our newsletters and our Annual Tree & Shrub Order Form. Our goal is to get these out to as many Seneca County residents as possible. With this goal in mind we want to reduce paper waste as well as postage cost by building an email list.

You can join our email list by going to our website and signing up! If you don't have an email account and would like to receive our mailings via the postal service please send us your information or give our office a call and we will add you to our mailing list.

Your email will not be shared!

Board of Directors

Mike Reynolds
County Legislator/Chair

Ron McGreevy
County Legislator

Elisabeth Freier
Farm Bureau/Treasurer

John Hunt
Grange/Vice Chair

Bob Ike
Member At-Large

Staff

Jim Malyj
District Manager

Kristin White
Bookkeeper &
Secretary to the Board

Erin Peruzzini
District Technician

Christopher Creelman
District Technician

Ron Vanacore
USDA/NRCS
Resource Conservationist

Kay Scott
IT Services

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Projects

By: Christopher Creelman, District Technician

AEM is a voluntary program that helps farmers in Seneca County operate their business in a manner that is environmentally sound. An AEM Plan is used to identify and address water quality concerns on farms and a current plan allows a farm to be eligible to apply for cost-share funds.

This year we had the opportunity to complete projects on the following farms:



Manure Transfer System George Farm, Town of Ovid

Manure from two free stall barns is pushed into a hopper protected by chain link fence. A manure pump (in the green building) pumps the manure to an existing storage facility. Milkhouse waste is also collected in the hopper



Stream Exclusion Fence Erwindale Farm, Town of Fayette

High tensile fence was installed to exclude animals from the stream. Installing a buffer reduces sediment and pollutants from entering a watercourse.



Water Well and Hydrants Fleur di lis Farm, Town of Seneca Falls

A well was drilled and a pump, pressure tank, and hydrants were installed to provide water for animals in a rotational grazing system. The landowner has installed temporary fence to move the animals between smaller paddocks, allowing the vegetation in previously grazed paddocks to regenerate.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Projects Continued

By: Christopher Creelman, District Technician



Pesticide Mixing Facility Long Point Orchard, Town of Aurora (Assisting Cayuga County)

A facility to store and mix pesticides was built with a concrete floor and pump to contain and collect liquids in the event of a spill.

Seneca County SWCD Weed Harvesting Program

By: Jim Malyj, District Manager

The Seneca County SWCD completed its 29th season of weed harvesting operations on September 15th. Operations began on July 7th on Cayuga Lake. During the two month season the two Conservation District owned Aquamarine Aquatic Plant Harvesters operated on Cayuga Lake, the Cayuga Seneca Canal between Waterloo and Seneca Lake and Seneca Lake removing 1,070 tons of vegetation.

Cayuga Lake saw a significant increase in aquatic plant densities in 2014. The Cayuga Seneca Canal saw a slight decrease.



All harvested aquatic vegetation is offered to local farmers and gardeners for composting.

The Seneca County SWCD Harvesting Program is funded by the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA Aquatic Plan) <http://www.fllowpa.org/>

Phone: 315-568-4366 ext. 4 Fax: 315-568-2414

2015 TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING ORDER FORM

Please find the 2015 Tree & Shrub Seedling Order Form inside. Quantities are very limited so please get your preorder in A.S.A.P. Anything that has been sold out will be refunded or replaced by the customer's choice of our overstock at pickup. Additional order forms can be found on our website:

www.senecacountyswcd.org

Preorder deadline is Friday April 3, 2015.

Preorder pickup is Friday April 24, 2015 9am-5pm and Saturday April 25th, 2015 9am-1pm

Agricultural Assessments / Soil Group Worksheets

Landowners filing for an agricultural assessment in 2015 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 soil group worksheet unless the total parcel acreage has 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 office.

Contact Seneca County SWCD, 315-568-4366 Ext. 4, 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.

We will be accepting applicants by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** from December 1, 2014 to February 27, 2015.

Seneca County Assessors:

Anne Morgan Phone: 607-869-9689

Lodi

Ovid

Romulus

Varick

Jay Franklin Phone: 607-274-5511

Covert

Jim Clear Phone: 315-568-0206

Fayette

Waterloo

Philip Griswold Phone: 315-539-2711

Junius

Tyre

Don Collins Phone 315-568-9700

Seneca Falls

Real Property Tax Office

315-539-1720

SALE ITEMS (tax included)

Bat House	\$18 each	Orange Marking Flags	\$1.00 for 10
Blue Bird House	\$15 each	History of Tile Drainage Book	\$11 each
Fertilizer Tablets	\$1.00 for 10 or \$75 for box of 1,000	Finger Lakes From Space Map	\$23.95 each
Water Bottle	\$2 each	Reusable Shopping Bag	\$2 each

SERVICES

Soil Group Worksheet - \$20 per parcel