



District receives more than 2 Million Dollars in Additional Funding for Agricultural BMP's

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The Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that during the past several months, we have been approved for more than 2 million dollars in state funding for the implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) on farms in priority watersheds throughout Wyoming County.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program. Through this program, Wyoming County SWCD was awarded funds for 4 watershed improvement projects with a total of approximately \$1.6 million. This funding may cover approximately 75% of the project costs with a 25% landowner match, which can be provided as cash or as in-kind services for their projects.

In September of 2015, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets announced the awards for Round 21 of the

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Wyoming County Winning Team - Warsaw High School

The Trailside Envirothon is a regional competition for high school students in the local area, including Wyoming, Allegany and Steuben Counties. The Trailside Envirothon is an annual event that has been held at Letchworth State Park's Trailside Lodge since 1991, making the May 4th, 2016 event the 25th anniversary.



From the left are: Stella Glosser, Cheyanne Wick, Joe Fisher, Cherie Glosser and Lauren Crandall.

Teams of students are tested on their knowledge of five different subjects throughout the day. The subjects include forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and a current issue. This year's current issue topic was invasive species. The event is held outdoors, giving students a chance to stretch their legs and grab some fresh air. This hands-on educational event includes a wide variety of questions on examinations; anywhere from identifying an animal from its fur to measuring the board footage in a tree to using

reference materials to determine a soil type.

Students spend a significant amount of time studying for the event, both in their normal classes, and also attending study sessions during after school hours.

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Wildlife Station



Water Taste Test Station

Funding for Agricultural BMP's

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- **Cattaraugus Creek Ag BMP Implementation Project = \$644,820.00**

This project will assist one farm in Cattaraugus County and two farms in Wyoming County in addressing water quality BMP's including the construction of agricultural waste storage facilities and waste transfer systems as well as the implementation of cover cropping and riparian buffers along cropland in the Cattaraugus Creek Watershed.

- **Cayuga Creek Ag BMP Implementation Project = \$182,959.07**

This project will assist two Wyoming County farms in addressing water quality BMP's including the construction of diversion ditches, grass waterways, rock lined waterways, barnyard runoff control BMP's, waste transfer system as well as the implementation of riparian buffers along cropland in the Cayuga Creek Watershed.

- **Middle Genesee River Ag BMP Implementation Project = \$572,763.33**

This project will assist three farms in Wyoming County in addressing water quality BMP's including the construction of agricultural waste storage facilities and waste transfer systems, vegetated treatment areas as well as the implementation of riparian buffers along cropland in the Middle Genesee River Basin.

- **Upper Buffalo Creek Ag BMP Implementation Project = \$229,244.58**

This project will assist one farm in Erie County and one farm in Wyoming County in addressing water quality BMP's including the construction of agricultural waste storage facilities, waste transfer systems, and vegetated treatment areas as well as the implementation of riparian buffers along cropland in the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

On April 18, 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$1.4 million in award funding for the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture-related activities and increase the resiliency of New York State farms.

This pilot project will support 11 projects on farms across New York State to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy savings and mitigate water and soil quality concerns in the face of climate change. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts were awarded the grants on behalf of farmers for one of the following project categories: agricultural waste storage cover and flare; on-farm water management; and soil health systems.

- **Wyoming County SWCD was awarded \$429,929.00** for the implementation of a waste storage cover and flare system on behalf of Table Rock Farms in the Town of Castile.

Trailside Envirothon a Success

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On the day of the Trailside Envirothon, students arrive at the Trailside Lodge around 9:00 am where they break off into teams of five. After the students are given an orientation so that they understand the rules and are told where the various stations are located, they move to their testing locations where they are given 30 minutes to complete their tests. When the time has ended for each station, students wait for a horn to sound so they know to move to their next testing station. The teams repeat this until each team has

completed all 5 of their tests. The students are provided with lunch as their final scores are tallied up, and the winners are finally revealed. The winning team from each county is able to advance on to the New York State Envirothon, which will be held at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva, NY on May 25th and 26th. At this event, teams compete against the top teams from counties across the state. The winning team from the New York State Envirothon then has the opportunity to go to the National Envirothon Event.



Forestry

The winners of the 2016 Trailside Envirothon were Warsaw Central School for Wyoming County, Cuba-Rushford School District for Allegany County, and Campbell – Savona Central School for Steuben County.

A significant amount of time is put into planning, organizing, and dealing with the logistics of the event. The Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District, along with Allegany and Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation Districts work to put the program together. Staff from each District, along with volunteers from other agencies such as Wyoming and Allegany County USDA FSA, Wyoming and Allegany County USDA NRCS, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation – Letchworth State Park, Allegany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Smith Creek Fish Farm, and other members of the community bring the event together by writing, facilitating, and grading of tests, setting up the stations, gathering materials and supplies, and assisting with other logistics. The Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District would like to



Soils

sincerely thank all of the volunteer and sponsors that made the 2016 Trailside Envirothon a success. Essential support is provided by school science teachers, school districts, and local businesses that donate supporting funds.



Aquatics



Wildlife



Invasive Species

Trees for Tribs update



Our first major Trees for Tribs planting was held on Saturday, May 21st at Oatka Creek Park. The Oatka Creek Watershed Committee organized the event and gathered over 60 volunteers to help plant 1,500 trees and shrubs in roughly 6.5 hours.

The trees were planted along the riparian corridor in Oatka Creek Park to help improve the water quality, create shade and habitat for fish and to help stabilize the banks. This section of the creek has a lot of White Ash tree species that are dead or dying from the Emerald Ash Borer. We have high hopes that all 1,500 trees and shrubs will have a chance to grow and replace these ash trees.

This planting wouldn't have happened without the following organizations and volunteers: Oatka Creek Watershed Committee; Monroe County Department of Parks and Recreation; Trout Unlimited Chapters (Seth Green Western NY and Canandaigua); the Trees for Tribs Program for the Genesee River Basin; the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Saratoga Nursery; Black Creek Watershed Coalition; students from McQuaid and Sunderland High Schools; CEI-Genesee RiverWatch; Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District; Knights of Columbus - Caledonia Council; and many other individuals.



Supplies for a successful planting— tree tubes, mats and staples provided through The "Trees for Tribs" program

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Bare-root tree ready to plant



Soil properly placed around newly planted tree



Tree Tubes are put around the trees protecting them from wildlife. They also act as a greenhouse, collecting light and warming the temperature inside the shelter for earlier growth in the spring and later growth in the fall.

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Wyoming County SWCD welcomes Megan Boberg



My name is Megan Boberg, and I am the newest District Conservation Technician at the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District. I grew up in a small town outside of Binghamton, NY. I currently reside in West Valley, NY with my husband and dog, Rem.

After graduating from Maine Endwell Central School District in 2009, I continued my education at Morrisville State College. I graduated from Morrisville State College in December 2012 with my Bachelors of Technology in

Renewable Resources and Associates in Natural Resource Conservation.

Throughout my college career I interned with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District. I spent the summer of 2011 at the NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center in Bath, NY. That following summer I interned at the NRCS Jamestown Field Office where I was able to work with Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District. Throughout these internships I discovered my appreciation for these agencies and the type of work they do to protect our land.

Following my college career I was able to work with Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District, Western New York Crop Management and Fisher Associates, an environmental consulting firm out of Buffalo, NY. I am glad to bring that experience to Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District.

In April, I accepted the District Conservation Technician position here at Wyoming County. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait to work with the community!

Best wishes to Kimberly Falbo



Kim has accepted a position as a Watershed Program Technician with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. Her last day here was April 22.

Kim started working for the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District in November of 2013.

Her expertise in all aspects of the environmental field was appreciated and felt not only by the District but also from local landowners along with several watershed committees of neighboring counties.

Although Kim will greatly be missed, we hope that our paths will continue to cross through regional projects relating to shared interest of water quality.

We all wish her the very best !

Why do Dairy Farms build Satellite Manure Storage Structures ?

Manure storage is an important environmental protection practice and more dairy farms across NYS are installing or adding to their storage capacity. Manure storage allows for improved application timing so that nutrients can be better recycled for crop use. Farms that are regulated or that receive state or federal cost sharing must design and build manure storage in accordance with strict USDA-NRCS standards.

New regulatory requirements are bringing additional limitations that affect when manure may be applied making adequate manure storage capacity a necessity, and this will also drive an increase in construction of manure storages. Many farms have built manure storage structures near the barns where the animals are housed for ease in loading. Manure needs to be applied at an agronomic rate to crop land, according to crop need, and this means manure must be transported to most fields operated by the dairy, some near, some far.

Further, traditional bedding sources like straw or sawdust have become very expensive or difficult to find, so many farms provide mattresses or have turned to bedding with sand or recycled manure solids for cows in free-stall

housing. This results in manure with a liquid consistency, and often containing 90-95% water. This watery material is bulky and presents challenges to move around at the optimum spreading time to land that grows crops for the cows. For these reasons, it often does not make sense to enlarge or add a second manure storage structure at the home location, but to create storage near other blocks of land where manure will be land applied anyway.

These structures are referred to as satellite storage. Satellite storages allow farms to pump or transport manure during less busy times and in ways that reduce traffic intensity and odor prevalence. This is a benefit for the environment, neighbors, and the farm. This system also allows farms to focus on manure application when the land is ready, as the time-consuming aspect of hauling was taken care of before the growing season starts. This means more timely manure application and also better results for the farm and the environment, because risks of nutrient loss are lower when timing is better.

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NYSERDA offers energy audits to help eligible farms and on-farm producers identify ways to save energy and money on utility bills. Reports include recommendations for energy efficiency measures.

Eligibility

Eligible farms include but are not limited to dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers, and poultry/egg. The farms must also be customers of New York State Investor-owned utilities and contribute to the System Benefits Charge (SBC). Please check your farm's current utility bills to see if your farm pays the SBC.

Energy Audit Options

You can request the level of energy audit that best fits your farm's needs. NYSERDA will assign a Flexible Technical Assistance Program Consultant to visit your farm and perform an energy audit at no cost to you.

Level	Audit Activities	Type of Report that the Farm Receives
Level 1	Walk-through energy audit	Summary letter with limited evaluation of feasible energy efficiency measures
Level 2	Detailed energy audit	Energy audit report with calculated evaluations of appropriate energy efficiency measures including simple payback; meets ANSI/ASABE S612 standards
Level 3	Energy audit focused on specific systems, energy efficiency measures, or renewable energy	System-specific energy analysis report

Get Started

Visit nyserda.ny.gov/agriculture to download an application or apply online. Call **1-800-732-1399** to learn more, request an application, or for assistance with determining the audit level.



We have moved to the

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This publication is the quarterly newsletter of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to all District cooperators, all interested landowner and land users, and to the general public. To receive this newsletter, simply email us at wcsxcd@frontiernet.net or send your complete mailing address to our office.

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