



2008 Annual Report

Conservation doesn't cost, It pays!



CONSERVATION AWARDS



2008 Wyoming County
"Conservation Farm of the Year"
Sunny Knoll Farms—Perry, NY

2008 NYS

"Agricultural Environmental Management Awards"

Silver Meadows Farm—Silver Springs, NY

Pingrey Farm #1—Strykersville, NY

Schreiberdale Farm—Perry, NY

Pingrey Farm #2—Perry, NY

Plato Brook Farm—Arcade, NY



**Above—6th Grade Conservation Field
Day Award Winners.**

**Left—2008 Trailside Envirothon
Winners: Perry Central High School**

**Cover Photos: Top Right—New County
Line signs, Center Right—Wind
Turbine in Wethersfield, NY, Bottom
Right— Roadside Stabilization on
Jillson Rd. in Attica, NY**



Bunk Silo Curtain Drain at Flint Dairy Farm in Warsaw, NY

LEACHATE COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND FILTER STRIPS



Hi Land Farms Leachate Collection System in Wyoming.



Friendly Acres Asphalt Bunker Silo & Leachate Collection System in Attica.



Above—Seewaldt Bros. Filter Strip in Wethersfield.
Left—Installation of a Bunk Silo Curtain Drain at Fitch Farms in Castile.



AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

AGRICULTURAL WASTE STORAGE AND TRANSFER SYSTEMS



Top Left—Ag Waste Storage installation at East Koy Valley Farms in Portageville.

Top Right—Baker Brook Waste Storage Pond at Steven's Farm in Attica.

Center Left—Bliss Cattle Co. Waste Transfer Tank in Bliss.

Center Right—Van Slyke's Dairy Farm Lined Earthen Manure Storage in Portageville.

Bottom Left—Sregnuoy Farms Agricultural Waste Transfer System in Wethersfield.

2008 Accomplishments

Request for Assistance	983
Government Units Assisted	52
Ag Value Assessments	266
Trees Sold by District	20,858
AEM Tier 1 Completed	15
AEM Tier 2 Completed	16
AEM Tier 3B Plans Completed	8
AEM Tier 5B Plan Evaluations	9
Ag Waste Storage Systems Installed	4
Ag Waste Transfer Systems Installed	3
Critical Area Seeding	3 Acres
Cover Cropping	2,320 Acres
Culvert Evaluations	4
Deep Tillage Systems	481 Acres
Stream Sites Reviewed	28
Stream Bank Protection/Stabilization	832 Feet
SWCD General Stream Permits	6
Grade Control Structures	13
Tile Drainage Installed	5,906 Feet
Diversion Ditch	1,482 Feet
Waterways	800 Feet
Silage Leachate Collection Systems	7
Pond Sites Reviewed	9
Fencing	44,275 Feet
Heavy Use Area Protection	8 Acres
Pest Management	9,836 Acres
Pipeline for Livestock Water Supply	6,550 Feet
Residue & Tillage Management	7,752 Acres
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	8 Acres
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	9 Acres



From the Top—Down: Bridget Barnes Stream Bank (before stabilization) in Wyoming, Bridget Barnes Stream Bank (after stabilization), Jillson Rd. Grade Control Structure, Oatka Creek Log Grade Control

NRCS Contract Dollars Spent

Animal Trails and Walkways	9,318.75
Brush Management	883.50
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	26,000.00
Conservation Cover	4,500.49
Cover Crop	27,191.04
Deep Tillage	6,710.00
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	562.50
Fence	95,471.40
Filter Strip	7,876.05
Heavy Use Area Protection	7,140.00
Manure Transfer	30,360.00
Nutrient Management	4,940.00
Pasture and Hay Planning	7,747.50
Pest Management	181,075.00
Pipeline	11,343.75
Prescribed Grazing	1,330.00
Pumping Plant	1,875.00
Residue Management (Mulch Till/Strip Till/No Till)	99,282.90
Roof Runoff Structure	1,045.69
Underground Outlet	1,104.03
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	1,887.50
Watering Facility	3,656.25

Frost Seeding: Is This Option For You?

Here we are in mid winter and I just received my first inquiry of the year concerning 'frost seeding'. This tells me producers are thinking about the changes or improvements needed for their pasture and hay forages. If your forages have thinned out, it's important to understand why. Was it wet soil conditions, low fertility, low soil pH, weather related, or was it your harvest management method? Adding new seed to the sward may only be a short term fix. Soil testing and correcting deficiencies will provide for the long term.

The three methods currently used by producers to improve forage stands are the traditional renovation, no-till seeding and frost seeding. Complete renovation is the most expensive method but also has the highest level of success. No-till will not involve the total inversion and tillage of the soil but it does require specialized equipment and the skill to operate. Controlling existing vegetation and competition from weeds is critical on any of the seeding methods, but more so with no-tillage.

For clarification, frost seeding is the broadcasting of seed on the soil surface. (Some producers prefer to do the broadcasting in late winter when a slight dusting of snow still exists to aid in even distribution). Frost seeding is the low-tech method and also the lowest-cost method to improve forages. Be aware as it is also the highest risk method. To improve your level of success, pay attention to all the small details.

The term 'frost' refers to the daily freezing and thawing of the soil surface during a few weeks in the spring months. This shrinking and swelling of the soil allows the broadcasted seed to work its way into the surface layer of the soil. Thus when soil temperatures do warm, this slightly incorporated seed will germinate and establish.

What seed is best for frost seeding? Our red and white clovers have a small, hard, round seed that is best for reaching the soil surface. Close grazing the previous fall, pasture dragging or even a light disking will help to expose the soil surface. I like to see 50% or more of the soil exposed before recommending frost seeding. Grasses do not work as well for frost seeding due to their lighter weight, odd shape, lower ability to tolerate cold temperatures, and their suspicion to absorb moisture and mold before they germinate.

We need to be aware of the requirements for introducing new seed to established



Temporary Ag Waste Storage through EQIP.

forages. Soil-seed contact is required for germination and establishment of seedlings. Once the seedlings are started competition must be controlled. The new guys must have sunlight to compete and become established. Clipping or grazing is necessary to control the height of existing forages but care is needed to protect the new seedlings from excessive traffic.

So is frost seeding for you? It could be a low cost practice only if successful. Do your homework and remember good certified seed avoids the possibility of introducing noxious weed problems.

Don Wild, NRCS Grazing Specialist/ Conservation Agronomist

- Helping People Help the Land -



Walkway with Fence, Watering System, and Pastures through EQIP for rotational grazing.



Mast Tree Pruning increasing food availability for wildlife done through WHIP program.



Clearings to allow for Early Successional Shrub Development through WHIP Program.

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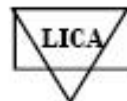


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