

# Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District



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## Wyoming County WRCC Water Quality Tour

### Inside this issue:

Changes to the Petroleum Bulk Storage Program	2-3
Conservation Education - Lake Monitoring	3-4
The Emerald Ash Borer	5
Heading West	6



This annual event is hosted and sponsored by the Wyo. Co. WRCC and the Wyo. Co. SWCD.

Each year it focuses on completed projects around the county that improve water quality and practice good environmental conservation. This year the tour visited farms in the East Koy/Wiscoy watershed who have participated in the AEM program. The tour made stops to East Koy Valley Farms (upper left), Tarey Farm (upper right), Bliss Cattle Co.



(lower left and Eagleview Farms (lower right). Each farm was awarded for their exemplary stewardship of natural resources and commitment to environmental protection.

AEM is a nationally recognized, voluntary program helping N.Y. farmers to farm cleaner and greener. This program provides farmers with technical assistance and resources to keep soil and nutrients on the farm and keep clean water clean.

### SWCD Calendar

- September 7 - Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 21 - SWCD Board Meeting
- October 12 - Columbus Day, Office Closed
- October 19 - SWCD Board Meeting
- October 22 - WRCC/RC&D Meeting
- November 11 - Veterans Day, Office Closed
- November 16 - SWCD Board Meeting



# *Changes to the Petroleum Bulk Storage Program*

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On July 21, 2008, New York State law for the Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) program was modified. There are two major areas of changes:

- Certain tanks and facilities not previously regulated by the DEC under the PBS program were added to the program (see information below on these changes).
- Changes were made to comply with requirements mandated by the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 (see below for information on new requirements that will affect all facilities.)
- Broadening the definition of "petroleum" to include all fractions of crude oil;
- Changing the definition of "facility" to include underground tanks greater than 110 gallons;
- Requiring tanks that are newly regulated due to the changes in the definitions of "petroleum" and "facility" to be registered with the NYSDEC and be in compliance with existing Petroleum Bulk Storage Regulations (6 NYCRR Parts 612, 613, and 614) requirements by **July 21, 2009**.

## **New Definition of Facility**

A single property or contiguous or adjacent properties used for a common purpose which are owned or operated by the same person on or in which are located: (a) one or more stationary tanks which are used singularly or in combination for the storage of more than 1,100 gallons or (b) any tank whose capacity is greater than 110 gallons where 10% or more of the volume of the tank is underground.

**Notes:** A property that includes a heating oil tank with a capacity less than 1,100 gallons that is used solely for on-premises consumption is **not** a "facility" **unless** the heating oil tank is on a site that otherwise meets the definition of facility (used to store more than 1,100

gallons of other petroleum or having an underground tank greater than 110 gallons). A farm or residence that includes tanks 1,100 gallons or less used to store motor fuel for non-commercial purposes is **not** a "facility," **unless** the farm or residence otherwise meets the definition of facility.

## **New Definition of Petroleum**

Crude oil and any fraction thereof; any mixture containing crude oil or any fraction thereof; and synthetic forms of lubricating oil, dielectric oils, insulating oils, hydraulic oils and cutting oils. This includes crude oil, motor fuels, heating oils, lubricating and cutting oils, petroleum greases, petroleum spirits (mineral spirits, naphtha), mineral and insulating oils (and products made from mineral oil including automatic transmission fluid), and used oil.

**Note:** Petroleum does not include hazardous waste, substances regulated under the chemical bulk storage program, animal or vegetable oils that do not contain crude oil or any fraction thereof, or products that are gases at 68° Fahrenheit and one atmosphere pressure (e.g. propane).

## **What Should Tank Owners Do?**

**Step 1:** Determine if the new definitions of "petroleum" and "facility" affect you by reviewing all storage tanks at the property. Make a list of all of the tank capacities and products stored at the property. If you have a previously-registered facility, you will need to add tanks to your existing registration if **either** (a) or (b) below are true. If you have a site that has never been registered before, you will need to register all tanks on the property that **meet** either of the following criteria:

- a. You have any underground storage tanks (larger than 110 gallons and more than 10% underground) used to store petroleum (other

than heating oil used on-site), and the site is not a farm or residence.

b. When you add together the capacity of all petroleum storage tanks (not including heating oil tanks less than 1,100 gallons or farm/residential non-retail motor fuel tanks 1,100 gallons or smaller) the total capacity is greater than 1,100 gallons.

**Step 2:** If you have tanks to add to your registration or are a newly regulated facility, you will need to determine if the tanks are in compliance with the requirements of existing state regulations (i.e., 6 NYCRR Parts 613 and 614).

- Underground tanks installed before December 27, 1986 will probably need to be tested for tightness and operators will need to begin keeping inventory monitoring records (see sections 613.4 and 613.5).
- Underground tanks installed after December 27, 1986 must be protected from corrosion (tank and piping systems), have secondary containment (tank), a leak monitoring system (tank and piping systems) and an overfill prevention system.
- All aboveground tanks will need to be inspected monthly (see section 613.6) and, if the tank is in contact with the ground, will need to have a ten-year inspection (see section 613.6).
- Aboveground tanks installed after December 27, 1986 must be constructed of welded steel and be protected from atmospheric corrosion. If the tank is resting on-grade, it must have an impermeable barrier under the tank with the ability to monitor for any leakage and must be protected from corrosion if in contact with soil.
- All aboveground tanks 10,000 gallons or larger (regardless of installation date) must have secondary containment around the tank.

(Note that traditional double-wall above-ground tanks do not by themselves provide secondary containment.) All smaller above-ground tanks must be evaluated for the potential to discharge to waters of the state and if they are likely to do so, must also be provided with secondary containment or redesigned so that discharges are not reasonably expected to occur.

**If any tank is not in compliance with the requirements listed above, it must be brought into compliance by July 21, 2009, by either closing the tank or installing appropriate equipment.**

### **Changes That Will Affect All Facilities**

The new law gives DEC the authority to achieve equivalency with the EPA requirements and to implement requirements from the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. Specific changes to the law include:

- Authority to require tanks to meet equipment requirements (including upgrading existing tanks);
- Authority to prohibit deliveries in certain situations;
- Authority to require operator training.

If you have further questions about NYSDEC bulk storage regulations, call 518-402-9543.

*Reprinted in part from the NYSDEC website.*



Public education is essential for the promotion of environmental conservation. Whether it be reporting on and showcasing completed projects, giving informational talks, or hosting events such as the Envirothon; the goal is to spread the word about the benefits our environment offers and the importance of protecting it.

The summer months are a perfect time to learn and teach about the environment. The plants are growing, wildlife is thriving, and farmers are in full swing. Throughout the summer the SWCD has or will be participating in several educational programs.

### ***Learn to Fish For Free Program May 23, 2009***

The Learn to Fish Day was hosted by and held at Letchworth State Park. It was a day for the public to come and enjoy the park and learn to fish at no cost. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation lifted the fishing restrictions which allowed everyone to come and try their hand at wrangling trout. Many tables and booths were set up to educate children and adults alike about boater's safety, wildlife, and soil conservation. The Wyoming County SWCD proudly attended the event and set up the Enviro-scape model to demonstrate runoff and soil erosion within a watershed. It was a fun-filled day bringing in visitors from far and wide.

### ***Wyoming County Dairy Fest June 12, 2009***

Being that June is officially dairy month, the Wyoming County Dairy Fest is dedicated to, you guessed it, all things dairy! The event was held at Camp Wyomoco in Varysburg, and was filled with ice cream stands, free Up-state milk giveaways, concession stands, and much more. Promoting the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program,

the Wyoming County SWCD set up a display showcasing agricultural pictures from around the county and the 2008 AEM statistics. Joining forces with agencies such as the Farm Service Agency, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and many more, the dairy fest was a great way to promote New York State's number one dairy producer and other Wyoming County businesses.



### ***Silver Lake Environmental Camp July 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2009***

This summer day camp, which was held at Camp Hough and coordinated by the Silver Lake Association (Kelly Paganelli and Pam Bliss), is the first ever environmental camp on Silver Lake.



The camp featured instructors from the Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Brockport, Perry High School, Letchworth State Park, and Wyoming County SWCD.

The camp, geared for middle school students focused on the Silver Lake watershed and environmental issues that surround it. This event was a great way to get kids involved in their environment and to make them more aware of ways they can practice environmental conservation. Special recognition goes to the coordinators and volunteers who made this event happen.

### **Wyoming County Fair**

**August 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Wyoming County Fair is a week long

extravaganza of livestock shows, demonstrations, tractor pulls, rides, and food. We at the Wyoming County SWCD will be setting up a display to highlight our involvement in agriculture in the past, present, and future. Because of the high level of traffic, this is a great opportunity for us to let the public know what we do and what they can do for the environment.



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## **Lake Monitoring Programs**

*By Bethany Klein, Water Quality Technician*

As summer is well under way, so are the Lake Monitoring Programs. The district is currently working with two lakes in Wyoming County; Silver Lake and Java Lake. To help determine the water quality of each lake, several types of analyses are performed including: dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, total phosphorus, nitrates, etc.

### **Silver Lake**

Silver Lake, a lake situated within the Towns of Castile and Perry, is sampled twice each month from May to October. Samples are taken from six tributaries surrounding the lake and from one point in the center of the lake. Primarily, this study is focusing on monitoring what is being flushed into the lake by way of streams and tributaries. The results from the current program and past programs will be used to develop recommendations for watershed management.

### **Java Lake**

Java Lake, located in the Town of Java, has

a monthly sampling program. Samples are taken once a month from May to October. Water analysis is conducted at four sites throughout the lake at different depths. A main focus for this program is to monitor dissolved oxygen (DO) levels which affect fish mortality. If levels of DO become too low, fish will be unable to breathe well and may suffocate. The data collected is used by the Java Lake Water Quality Committee to develop improvement procedures.

Monitoring and maintaining good water quality is essential for plants, animals, and humans alike because we all need water to survive. You can do your small part in helping to improve water quality in your watershed with three easy tips:

- Pick up any litter and trash you see on the ground to keep it out of streams, ditches, and storm drains.
- ALWAYS pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly.
- Keep your vehicles well maintained to prevent oil and gas leaks.

# The Emerald Ash Borer *By Nick Eddy, NRCS Earth Team Volunteer*



A lot of people are wondering: What are those purple colored boxes hanging from the trees around the area? They are actually traps monitoring for the invasive Emerald Ash Borer

which has not yet been found in Wyoming County. The Emerald Ash Borer, EAB, is an exotic beetle that originated from the Asian continent. It was first discovered in Michigan near Detroit in 2002, and is responsible for killing tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The adult beetle actually does little damage to the Ash trees; however, the

larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.

Signs that EAB are present in your trees include, tree canopies dying back, yellowing and browning of the leaves, unusual sprouts on the trunk of the tree, and D shaped exit holes on the trunk. Prevention is the main tool used to slow the spread of the EAB. Use caution and follow state and local regulations when transporting fire woods. Check the Department of Environmental Conservation's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html> for more information.



The emerald ash borer is smaller than a penny. Photo credit: Howard Russell, MI State U., [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

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# Heading West *By Resource Conservationist, Emily Fife*

Recently, I was offered the opportunity to become a Basin Team Leader in Oregon's North Coast Basin. I accepted this new challenge and will be heading west to Tillamook, OR in September to start on this new journey in my life. In my new position, I will be responsible for Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook counties and the staff in those counties. I am very excited about this challenge and looking forward to living on the Oregon Coast.

That being said, it is a bittersweet departure from Western New York because of the experiences I have had and people I have met. I have learned so much in my time here and plan to take that knowledge with me to share with those on my new team. Tillamook County is the heart of Oregon's dairy industry and the progressive

forward thinking of New York dairy farmers will give me some great ideas to present to the dairy farmers in Oregon. I look forward to carrying on the tradition of eating lots of cheese and drinking my 2 glasses of milk a day as I journey from one dairy county to another.



*Thank you to all who have made my experience in Western New York a good one.*



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