

2016 CONSERVATION FARM OF THE YEAR

Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Conservation Farm of the Year Award is Davis Valley Farm of Bliss, NY. This award is given each year to honor a farm with an immeasurable commitment to soil conservation and water quality protection.

Jim and his wife Cynthia purchased the farm in 1979 after serving in Vietnam as a heavy equipment operator and working on a farm in Sherman, NY. The farm formed an LLC in 2012 which included his son Jimmy and his wife Amanda. This helped prepare the farm and everyone for Jim and Cynthia's retirement which is edging closer every year. The farm is operated by 6 full time and 2 part time employees and has about 310 cows and 310 heifers while farming about 500 acres, a combination of corn silage, grass, clover and alfalfa. The cows are currently milked in a double 8 parallel parlor which is expandable to a double 14. The herd manager uses a blend of experience and two computer programs which provide an abundance of information on each cow including milk production and activity data. This year the farm constructed a 3.1 million gallon concrete waste storage tank to eliminate weekly liquid manure application to the land along with many other benefits to the land and the operators. The farm also redesigned their vegetative treatment area which receives any high water volume discharge. The concentrated low flow discharge is collected in a separate tank to be land applied. A few other practices the farm has participated in include installation of tile lines, cover cropping, buffer areas, and strip cropping. The farm will start injection of liquid manure next spring. The farm maintains a medium CAFO permit under the environmental conservation law.



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Davis Valley Farm of Bliss, NY.

Left to Right: Amanda, Jimmy, Jim and Cynthia Davis



**AEM Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment Award
Wilmar Farm of Gainesville, NY
Bill and Marie Kuipers**



**AEM Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment Award
Fugle Dairy Farm, Strykersville, NY
Bill and Debby Fugle with Family**



AEM Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment Award
Breezy Acres, Warsaw, NY
Donna and Shannon Slocum, representing Joe Slocum



Ronald P. Herman, Sr. Partners in
Conservation Award
Presented to: D & H Excavating, Arcade, NY