

# Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District



December 2012



WWW.WCSWCD.ORG \* WCSWCD@FRONTIERNET.NET

## 2012 CONSERVATION FARM OF THE YEAR

### McCormick's Maple Ridge Farm North Java, NY

Each year, Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes a farm which has excelled in conserving our soil and water resources by installing Best Management Practices on their farm to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality. This year's "Conservation Farm of the Year" was awarded to McCormick's Maple Ridge Farm. Walter, Vanessa, Emily & Jacob McCormick.

Maple Ridge Farm is a 600 head replacement heifer farm. They are the 3rd generation to farm on the land and became a heifer operation in 1979. In 2012, crops were raised on over 500 acres, 250 of those owned, leasing the remaining. The Maple Syrup production started in 1988. Custom bailing is also an aspect of Maple Ridge Farms. Walt was the first to have a large square bailer in the area.

The farm has always taken the responsibility of taking care of our resources. Implementation of conservation practices have been at the forefront. Some of the practices include: Residue Management, Cover Crops, Fencing Use Exclusion, Pasture Management, Heavy Use Area Protec-

tion, Drainage Tile and Diversion Ditches.

Maple Ridge Farm has been an active participant in the Wyoming County Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. They received the "Partnering to Protect Our Environment" award in 2011 for their involvement in the AEM program.



**Pictured Left to Right:  
Walter, Emily, Jacob & Vanessa McCormick**

They have participated in NYS Agricultural Non-point Pollution Abatement & Control projects and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). They developed a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) in 2006. Since then, they have implemented an Ag Waste Storage, Ag Waste Transfer System and Silage Leachate Management System with a Vegetated Treatment Area.

The McCormick family has been involved in many community organizations. Walt is a past President of the North Java Fire Dept., member of the Drift Hoppers Snowmobile Club and Farm Bureau. Vanessa is a member of the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce, past President of the Warsaw Kiwanis and the President of the Warsaw Central Alumni Association. Emily is a member of the Girl Scouts and the Rosebud Stables Equestrian School and Jacob is a member of the Eagle Flight School and the Rosebud Stables Equestrian School as well.

## 2012 AEM AWARDS

Agriculture is the largest single land use across rural New York, making it important ecologically, economically, aesthetically and culturally. This is especially true in Wyoming County. Most farmers are dedicated stewards of land and water resources. Many farms across New York are involved in their local AEM Programs to take their level of commitment to protecting the environment to an even higher level. New York State wants to recognize these farms with a new “Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment” sign program.

This AEM Sign Recognition Program is made possible by the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets and NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee. The signs are to be awarded to farms in each county that are utilizing the AEM Program as excellent stewards of our natural resources.

The AEM Program is a voluntary state-wide program that is utilized by farms to address Water Quality Concerns from Agricultural Activities through a Tiered Approach that includes:

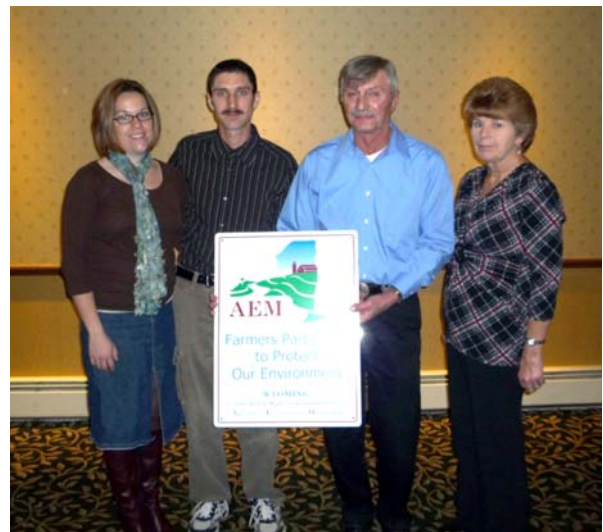
- Initial assessment and identification of environmental concerns,
- Documentation of current stewardship and prioritization of environmental concerns,
- Development of environmental farm plans,
- Implementation of sound Best Management Practices to address identified concerns,
- And finally, evaluation of their success.

Farms must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a “Partnering to Protect Our Environment” sign:

- Must be a commercial farm enterprise located in New York State.
- Must be in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, and free of any water quality violations.
- Engaged in the AEM process and set an example of a high level of environmental stewardship for other farmers and the public:
- The farm must have made a solid commitment toward implementing practices by enrolling in state or federal conservation

programs to address priority concerns and have implemented at least one recommended conservation practice. A high level of environmental stewardship must also be documented, such as the proper maintenance of any previous conservation practices installed.

So far, 28 Wyoming County farms have received an AEM Recognition Sign, which is the highest number for any county in the entire state of NY. Three farms were recognized this year for their accomplishments:



### AEM AWARD

Davis Valley Farm - Bliss, NY



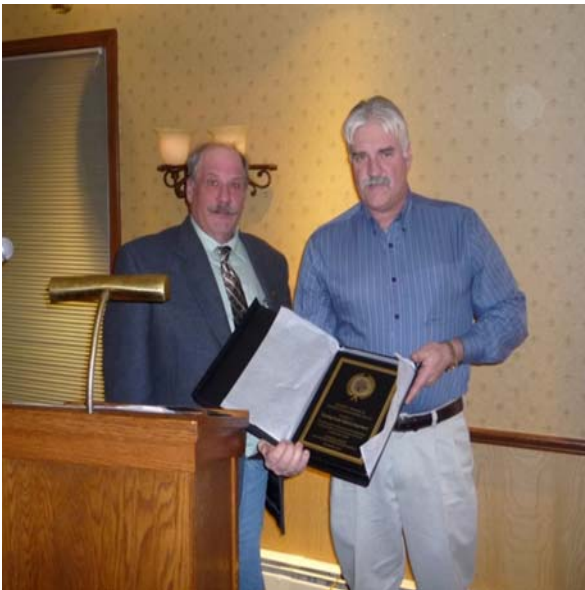
### AEM AWARD

Harkins Dairy, LLC - Wyoming, NY

## AEM & PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD



AEM AWARD  
Co-Vista Holsteins LLC  
Arcade, NY



"Partners in Conservation Award"  
Greg McKurth presents award to  
Chris Olivieri, Wyo. Co. Highway Dept.

This year the Ronald P. Herman Sr. Partners in Conservation Award was presented to the Wyoming County Highway Department for outstanding achievement and cooperation to the protection of soil & water resources in Wyoming County.

Wyoming County SWCD Board of  
Directors & Staff Sincerely Thank  
our Sponsors for supporting SWCD  
Educational Programs.

The Bank of Castile  
Tompkins Insurance Agencies Inc.

Farm Credit East

The Sallie Mae Fund

E. J. Freyburger & Sons  
Earth Moving

Upstate Niagara Cooperative

Lamb & Webster, Inc.

Java Farm Supply

WYCO Construction, Inc.

R. W. Taylor, LLC

Pike Hardware

Fastenal - Arcade

Arcade Center Farm

Reisdorf Brothers, Inc.

William Kent, Inc.

Warsaw Tractor Supply Co.

Joseph Gozelski

Steuben Trust Co.

## News Release

### Agricultural Value Assessments for Tax Exemption

It's that time of year again! Applications for the Agricultural Value Assessment must be submitted to your Assessor by **March 1, 2013**. Applications must be **renewed annually** with the assessor – they are **not** carried over year-to-year.

The Agricultural Assessment Program provides a partial exemption from real property taxes for eligible farmland. Land is taxed based on its agricultural assessment rather than the fair market value. The landowner must apply each year.

If you are applying for the first time or if there have been changes in your parcel, the first step in applying for an Agricultural Value Assessment is to have a RA-100 Soil Group Worksheet completed. You may call the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District to make an appointment to assist with the completion of the worksheet.

If you need to update a Soil Group Worksheet or have purchased a new parcel, please call for an appointment before March 1, Allen Fagan at the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District Office, 31 Duncan Street, Warsaw, NY, 14569, telephone 786-5070.

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 landowners and land users, and to the general public. To receive this newsletter, simply send your complete mailing address to our office.

#### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**Chairman, At-Large Member**      **Daryl Heiby**

**County Supervisor**      **James Brick**

**County Supervisor**      **John Knab**

**Farm Bureau Representative**      **Walt Faryna**

**Grange Representative**      **Joseph Gozelski**

#### DISTRICT STAFF

**District Manager**      **Gregory McKurth**

**Secretary/Treasurer**      **Sharon Boyd**

**Conservation Technician**      **Allen Fagan**

#### NRCS

**District Conservationist**      **Mia Halter**

**Soil Conservation Technician**      **Mike Shaw**

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Wyoming County SWCD  
31 Duncan St.  
Warsaw, NY 14569

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WARSAW, NY 14569  
PERMIT NO. 64

