



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation in Action

2017 Annual Report

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Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District to enhance and protect the natural resources of Cayuga County through "hands-on" implementation of best management practices.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

STAFF

Doug Kierst, CPESC, CPSWQ	<i>Executive Director</i>
Brian Hall, CPESC, CCA, CNMP	<i>Nutrient Management Specialist</i>
Jason Cuddeback, CCA	<i>Grazing Specialist</i>
Jason Schenck	<i>Watershed Conservation Specialist</i>
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Sean McCarthy	<i>Motor Equipment Operator</i>
Denise Dixon	<i>Cleaner</i>
Al Noga	<i>Motor Equipment Operator</i>

Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

Andrew Snell	<i>Watershed Specialist</i>
Timothy Schneider	<i>Watershed Inspector</i>

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Katherine Schor	<i>District Conservationist</i>
Stephanie Freese	<i>Program Assistant</i>



About Cayuga County SWCD

As the result of petitions and resolutions submitted to the Cayuga County Board of Supervisors (today the County Legislature) by the Farm Bureau, Grange, Dairymen's League, and other farm organizations, the Cayuga County Soil Conservation District was formed on August 8, 1944. Cayuga County is well known for its abundance of productive farmland and high quality water. The foresight of the governing body to protect the natural resource needs located within the County proved to be a good investment. Agriculture is the predominant economic engine of the County.

Over the past 70 years, we have expanded to include Wastewater Management, Nutrient Management, Stormwater Management, and Erosion and Sediment Control Programs.

Today we are the local agency that many community members and government agencies "go to first" with their environmental related problems and concerns. We take pride in not only listening, but getting things solved.

2017 Board of Directors

Ray Lockwood	<i>Chairman, Farm Bureau</i>
James Young	<i>Vice Chairman, Member at Large</i>
Terry Baxter	<i>County Legislator</i>
Joe DeForest	<i>County Legislator</i>
Roger Conner	<i>Member, Grange</i>
Dale Kehoe	<i>Member at Large</i>
Steve Nemec	<i>Member at Large</i>

"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in."

- Theodore Roosevelt

A message from the Executive Director

When we review 2017, we can't help but remember that no two years are the same. While suffering through drought conditions the year prior, we encountered record precipitation amounts in most areas of Cayuga County during 2017. Eight of the twelve months received above average precipitation. The wet weather led to a busy field season for the Cayuga SWCD and many conservation projects were able to be completed. District Staff kept busy meeting with municipalities and individual landowners to address drainage and erosion related concerns. We take a comprehensive approach to solving problems through site visits, providing technical assistance and planning advice, project implementation oversight and project follow-up. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) continue to appear in some of our local waterbodies. They briefly occur during the late summer and fall when temperatures are warm, winds are calm and the sun shines. We would not be able to provide the programs and services necessary to complete the work we do, without the support that we receive from the Cayuga County Legislature. Thank You for your support!

The Value of the SWCD in Cayuga County

Since it was established by the County Board of Supervisors in August of 1944, the Cayuga SWCD has been actively involved with the protection of natural resources throughout the County. The benefits that come with having a local, technical program dedicated to resource concerns includes the immediate availability to provide important technical assistance, local knowledge of the landowners and the environmental resources, an extensive network of partner agencies at the State and Federal levels and the ability to look at the broad picture of the landscape.

Agricultural Assistance:

The role that agriculture plays in the economy of Cayuga County is substantial. As a result, farms and farm businesses need to remain viable and sustainable to provide healthy, local food, maintain a diversity of open space and continue to provide needed jobs. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture (2012), Cayuga County ranked #2 in NYS in the total value of agricultural products sold with \$293,474,000. When our favorable agricultural environment is combined with statistics that indicate the County has the most freshwater shoreline in NYS, a healthy balance must be obtained. The SWCD has the opportunity to have a significant impact throughout our community as a result of its capability to work directly with private landowners as well as local municipalities.

The programs provided by the SWCD to assist agricultural operations in remaining sustainable and viable include the Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM), assistance with nutrient management planning, the promotion of soil health practices, oversight of water quality protecting best management practice (BMP) implementation, and conservation mowing and seeding. In 2017, the SWCD assisted with the implementation of on farm agricultural BMPs totaling \$1,765,247. The landowners contributed \$659,899 towards the costs, while State funding was leveraged to cover the additional \$1,105,348. The SWCD was awarded an additional \$2,860,000 in new grant funding for important projects on Cayuga County farms. Participating farms will be contributing \$2,361,042 towards the implementation of the projects. The funding is focused directly on agricultural BMP implementation. This is in addition to the on-going conservation work that farms complete utilizing their own resources. In addition, the SWCD works closely with our Federal partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to promote additional conservation programs, many of which are available to assist with BMP implementation projects.

Non-Agricultural Residential and Municipal Assistance:

The Cayuga SWCD also works closely with the non-agricultural landowners and municipalities throughout the County. We further our efforts on protecting water quality through programs that focus on stormwater management, wastewater management, aquatic vegetation control, streambank and shoreline stabilization, proper site drainage, critical area stabilization/seeding, roadside stabilization measures and the proper recycling of yard waste.

Cayuga County is home to a very diverse collection of water bodies. Lake Ontario defines the northern boundary of the County which also includes all or parts of three Finger Lakes - Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles. In addition there are several smaller water bodies including Cross Lake, Duck Lake, Lake Como, and Otter Lake. The District's Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objectives are to increase the accessibility and usability of the County's water bodies, while seeking to leave the lakes in the most ecologically intact manner possible. Over the past 5 years, we have removed an average of 1,811 cubic yards per year of vegetation from the waterbodies that we harvest.

The stabilization of exposed and eroding critical areas continues to be another important area of focus for the SWCD. In 2017, the SWCD was awarded \$1,060,000 in new grant funding for important projects throughout Cayuga County watersheds. Municipalities, landowners and the Cayuga SWCD will contribute an additional \$315,500 towards the implementation of the projects focused on protecting and improving water quality.

Being located in the Finger Lakes Region has many benefits, primarily an abundance of clean, fresh water. Farming operations and many others benefit from the availability of clean water. For instance, the tourism industry including recreational boating, hiking and fishing opportunities thrive throughout the County.

***"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds that you plant"***

- Robert Louis Stevenson

District Services

A fawn hiding at one of the District's wildlife seeding sites



No-Till Conservation Seeding

The District uses a tractor with a Truax no-till drill to seed for various projects, including: pasture, hay fields, wildlife and pollinator habitat, and cover crops. The Truax drill is capable of handling the wide variety of seed sizes and textures necessary for all of these projects. The seedings provide a variety of benefits to landowners, including reduced erosion, better soil health, and improved habitat. If you are interested in seeding, you should contact Jason Cuddeback.

Conservation Mowing

The CCSWCD owns two mowers that are used in our conservation mowing program. The boom mower has a floating brush-hog style head on an arm that gives it a reach of over 15 feet. It is best for trimming back overgrown hedgerows, ditches and roadsides. The "bat-wing" deck mower can mow a 15 foot width in one pass, making it ideal for overgrown pastures and field conservation programs. Over the last few years, the District has been increasing the number of acres mowed and trimmed. **In 2017, the Cayuga SWCD mowed 25 acres of pasture and wildlife habitat and approximately 159 miles of conservation ditches, field edges and roadsides.**



Bat Wing Deck can cut 15 feet in one pass

Our Tubgrinder travels around the CNY region turning excess wood into mulch



Wood Waste Recycling

Municipal and commercial wood waste piles can often be difficult to dispose of. With the District's tubgrinder and hydraulic shears, large quantities of wood waste can be quickly and efficiently processed into readily usable wood mulch. Many of the municipalities utilize the mulch that is generated, as a resource to give back to their residents for landscaping. **In 2017, the Cayuga SWCD used its wood waste recycling services to recycle approximately 38,690 cubic yards of wood waste for 24 municipal organizations.**

Critical Area Seeding

Soil erosion and sedimentation are leading causes of water quality degradation. The CCSWCD uses many tools to establish grass cover on bare soils, from road-side drainage ditches to erosion control on slopes and even establishing athletic fields. Our technicians work with local seed distributors to create formulas that work for any type of situation. Using our 1,000 gallon hydroseeder, the District can quickly respond to requests for assistance. The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District provides hydroseeding for county, town and village governmental departments. **In 2017, the Cayuga SWCD completed critical area seeding on 22 acres of eroding roadbanks and disturbed areas.**



CCSWCD Staff hydroseeding a grass waterway

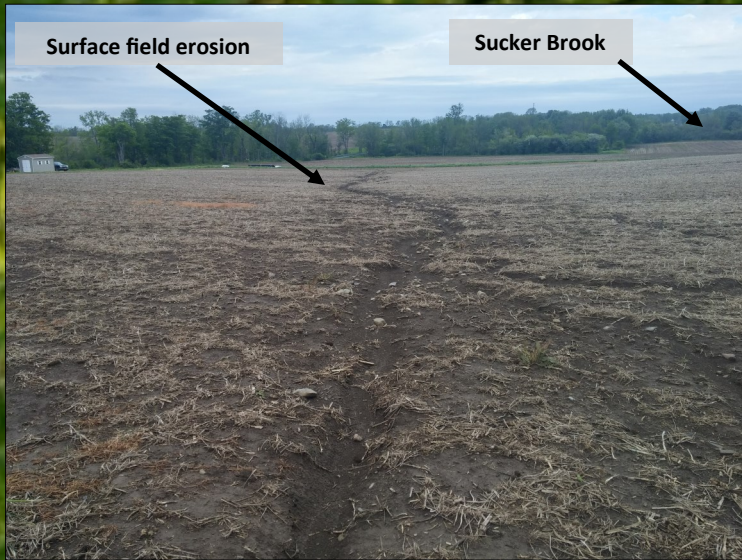


Calibrating a manure spreader for a CNMP involves weighing the spreader when it's full and when it's empty in order to determine the application rate

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning

Nutrient management plans help farmers balance their nutrient applications (manure and fertilizer) with the needs of the crops. Soil samples are taken on all of the fields to help determine this balance. The nutrient management plan also prescribes crop rotations that will keep soil erosion rates below a defined "tolerable" level. By following this plan, a farm can reduce erosion and nutrient losses from their fields, thereby helping to improve water quality and reduce fertilizer costs. A nutrient management planner must also look at the farmstead facilities. Barnyards, feed storage areas, and milking centers are all potential sources of nutrients that need to be addressed. A plan that covers both the agronomic (field) practices, as well as the farmstead, is called a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). CNMP's must be updated annually.

Owasco Lake Enhanced Watershed Restoration Action Plan



The Owasco Lake Watershed Restoration Plan will implement phosphorus reduction efforts on agricultural and non-agricultural sites in the Owasco Lake Watershed. The Cayuga SWCD has been tasked to implement phosphorus reduction BMP's including Erosion Control Systems and Stream Corridor & Shoreline Management Systems.



Community Recycling Events

The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District partners with the Cayuga County Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension, who act as coordinators of these events. The Cayuga SWCD assists by making facilities, equipment and staff available.

- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP DAY-** Is an opportunity for county residents to responsibly dispose of substances that do not belong in normal garbage, such as pesticides, oil-based paints, and household chemicals. **Attendance was 237 households, and the total weight of hazardous materials collected was just over 16, 600 pounds.**
- **HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY-** Geared towards the collection and recycling of electronic devices found around the home, such as televisions and computers. These are banned from regular trash due to heavy metals inside these devices that can contaminate ground water. This past year three events were held for household electronics where 1650 plus participants recycled over 134,000 pounds of electronics waste that were brought to be properly recycled. Over 1400 TV's and computer monitors were recycled, and 68% were still older picture tube TVs or CRT-based monitors with high lead glass content. The County spent nearly \$25,000 to have these lead glass units properly recycled. The electronic events were not held at our facility due to the large size of the events.
- **TIRE ROUNDUP-** Old tires can be brought in by county residents for a small fee. Lead weights are removed and most of the tires go to NUCOR to supply carbon for steel production. Others are shredded to be reused as road, building and drainage materials. **This year, 192 participants recycled approximately 2,260 tires and 21 pounds of lead during the event held on June 24, 2017.**
- **TRADE-A-TREE-** County residents have the chance to drop off Christmas trees from the holiday season in exchange for a voucher granting them a free tree seedling. The trees are chipped with the District's tubgrinder and used as mulch. **Nearly 300 trees were traded and recycled in winter 2017.**

Be on the lookout for dates of the upcoming 2018 recycling events.



Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

The Inspection Program staff assisted the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District with road ditch stabilization projects and helped facilitate an educational workshop for highway supervisors in Moravia, in 2017.

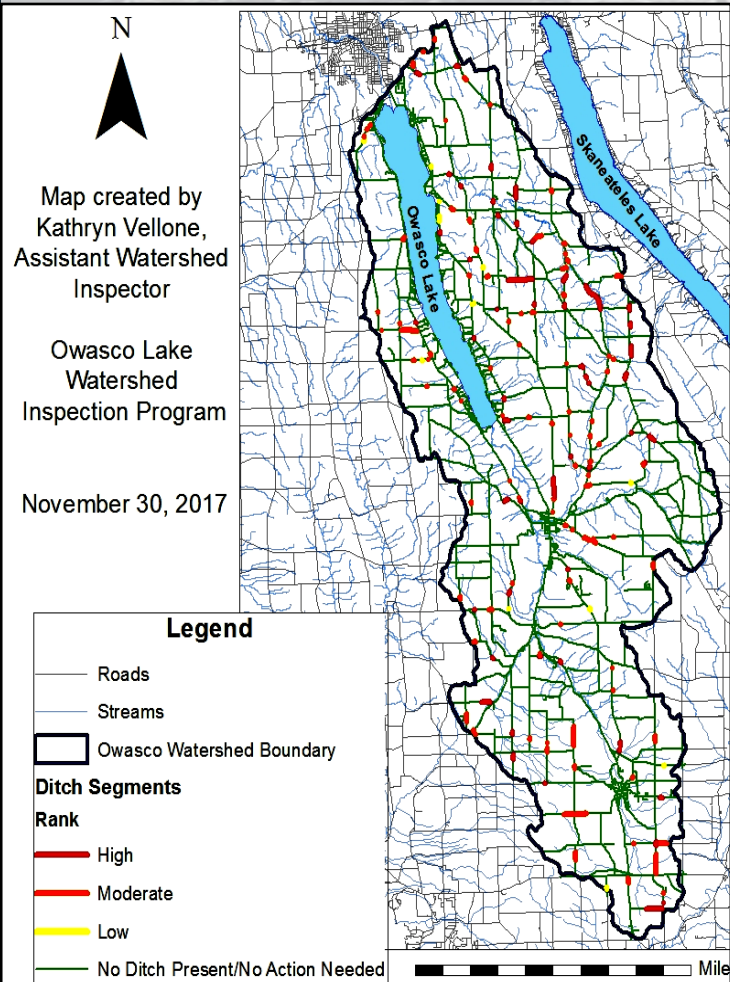
The educational workshop, held in May, focused on the relationship between road ditching techniques and the functional relationships between those techniques and water quality. The workshop featured a presentation from world-renowned Cornell University professor, and ditching expert, Rebecca Schneider. Ms. Schneider illustrated the importance of proper ditch installation and maintenance for the protection of surface and groundwater. The half day workshop also included a demonstration by the town of Moravia highway crew on how to properly construct a ditch "check dam" for water velocity and sediment control (Photo 1).

Seasonal Inspector, Kathryn Vellone, worked tirelessly to assess the road ditches throughout the watershed in 2017. In total, she located over 100 sites for a combined total of nearly 10 miles of ditch requiring some level of repair (see table and map).

Town	# of Sites Assessed	Cumulative ditch segment length in need of stabilization
Fleming	5	1,450 ft
Scipio	8	4,450 ft
Venice	1	400 ft
Sennett	2	500 ft
Owasco	19	5,500ft
Niles	30	19,900ft
Moravia	24	10,400 ft
Sempronius	6	2,730 ft
Locke	12	3,800 ft
Skaneateles	3	2,750 ft
Total	110	51,150 ft (9.69 miles)



Photo 1



Tim Schneider is no longer with the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program. Tim has taken on a new position at the Cayuga SWCD as the Watershed Inspector. His work is focused on the prevention of contamination of protected public watersheds.

Aquatic Vegetation Control (AVC) Program

The AVC program provides relief to the County's waterbodies that have become impaired by dense vegetative growth. Due to nutrient inputs and sunlight, aquatic vegetation is an unavoidable reality in lake ecosystems. From hindering navigation and swimming, to creating water and air quality issues during mass die off events, aquatic vegetation can dramatically interfere with people's use of the lakes. The Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objective is to increase the accessibility and usability of the County's waterbodies, while seeking to leave the lakes as ecologically intact as possible.

The District's AVC program consists of two boats, an on-shore conveyor, and a small dump truck. The largest boat is a paddlewheel type boat that is designed to access heavy vegetation in shallow water. This boat cuts and picks up the weeds. The second boat is a transport boat, used on the larger lakes to cut down transport time from the cutting area to the truck, increasing the efficiency of the program. The weeds are off-loaded onto the dump truck using the conveyor, and taken to nearby farms where the vegetation is used as compost to enrich the soil.

The water bodies that our program covers are Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, Otter Lake, Lake Como and Fair Haven Bay. Some of the common weeds found in our lakes include: Common Elodea, Starry Stonewort, Nitella, Eel Grass, Milfoil, and European Frogbit.

In 2017, the Aquatic Vegetation Control Program removed from Cayuga County waterbodies: • 1,957 cubic yards (Yd³) Aquatic Vegetation • 254,410 dry pounds Aquatic Vegetation • 5,342 pounds of Nitrogen • 452 pounds of Phosphorus • 2,837 pounds of Potassium



Harvester Boat Operated by Tim Lozier



Sean McCarthy using the conveyor to empty a full boat of weeds.

Volume (Yd ³)	Owasco Lake	Cayuga Lake	Fair-Haven Bay	Lake Como
2017	872	627	91	214
2016	734	581	795	N/A
2015	45	306	397	53
2014	940	742	306	122
2013	1,162	428	413	76

Conservation Bus Tour

The Cayuga SWCD sponsored a bus tour of recently completed Best Management Practices. The tour was held on Thursday, September 28th and began at the Cayuga SWCD Office where several pieces of equipment, including our tubgrinder, no-till drill and new hydroseeder were featured. Twenty-three (23) participants, including representatives from NYS Senator James Seward's Office, the Cayuga County Legislature, the City of Auburn, the NYS DEC, County Departments, local watershed and agricultural organizations and the general public had the opportunity to visit projects that the Cayuga SWCD has been actively involved with. Projects that were highlighted and visited included a stormwater retention basin, an example of erosion control practices at a crop farm, a roadbank stabilization project and a silage leachate collection system on dairy farm.



Drainage project in Moravia

Assistance to Municipalities & Organizations

During 2017, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District assisted many municipalities throughout the county on various erosion control and water quality projects. These projects included streambank stabilizations, ditch stabilization, flood mitigation, and erosion control.

City of Auburn—Miller Street Bank Stabilization



The Cayuga County SWCD and the City of Auburn worked collaboratively to protect an eroding bank that runs along the Eastern portion of the sluiceway that feeds the City's hydro-power station. The City had concerns about debris, including loose soil and vegetation, entering the flow channel and causing damage to equipment and infrastructure.

The Cayuga SWCD re-graded the bank to a more gentle and stable slope and installed 240 feet of rock rip rap placed on geotextile fabric to stabilize the bank. The newly stabilized bank will not only reduce the probability that unwanted material will enter the channel, but it will also allow for the City representatives to maintain the site in the future.

Town of Genoa—Creek Road Streambank Stabilization

The Cayuga County SWCD and the Town of Genoa worked collaboratively to complete a streambank stabilization project on Creek Road in the Town of Genoa. The project was needed to secure the base of a town road that was eroding as a result of high stream flows. Additional benefits were the removal of a gravel bar that was contributing to the problems. The project included the stabilization of 120 feet of toe protection along the streambank using large rock rip rap, the addition of in-stream flow training structures (rock vanes) and minor channel re-alignment. The project was able to reduce the amount of sediment that was being deposited in Little Salmon Creek, a tributary to Cayuga Lake.



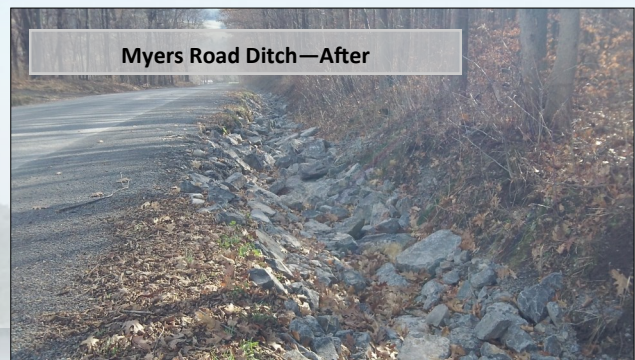
Town of Venice—Myers Road Ditch Stabilization

The Cayuga SWCD and the Town of Venice Highway Department worked collaboratively to implement a road ditch stabilization project. Prior to the work, Myers Rd would experience frequent erosion during heavy rain events that would lead to the downslope culvert pipe being plugged with sediment and debris. Approximately 607 tons of medium stone fill were hauled in by the Town of Venice Highway Department. Cayuga SWCD Staff utilized their own equipment to place the rock. Two sections of road ditch totaling approximately 1,620 feet (~.3 miles) were stabilized. The project will protect the existing infrastructure as well as water quality by reducing the amount of nutrients/sediment reaching a tributary to Cayuga Lake.

Myers Road Ditch—Before



Myers Road Ditch—After



Town of Moravia—July Storm Cleanup / Remediation

The Town and Village of Moravia were hit particularly hard during a series of spring rain events which caused extensive erosion and flooding in some areas. Already saturated ground conditions from a very wet spring, coupled with a heavy rain event led to very high flows in streams which existing infrastructure could not handle. The Cayuga County SWCD worked on several projects to protect critical public infrastructure and minimize flooding to residences within the village.

July 14th Storm



Before



After



The July 14th storm washed out an old culvert pipe used to convey surface water across a county road. The road was partially washed out during the storm as well.



After construction of a rock lined waterway which was built to stabilize an erodible portion of residential lawn and protect the county road by slowing storm flows. Cayuga SWCD worked jointly with the Cayuga County Highway Dept. to complete the project.

Conservation Field Days

Conservation Field Days is an exciting way to give sixth grade students from around Cayuga County the opportunity to become better acquainted with natural resources and the environment. Professionals from various fields conduct short educational programs, enabling the students to learn not only about the subject matter discussed, but also see nature and conservation occupations in action.

In 2017, there were 16 stations for the students to attend. The stations covered subjects such as: Trees of Emerson Park, Fish ID and Senses, Soils, Bats, Macroinvertebrates, and more. Students from 12 local school districts gathered together at Emerson Park over two days in September. After spending the day at the park, students are asked to write an essay detailing their favorite station at field days. The essays are collected and judged, with the top place winners earning recognition, as well as a voucher for 10 tree seedlings and a bird house to continue their environmental learning.



Jim D'Angelo from the Sterling Nature Center, teaching "All About Bats"



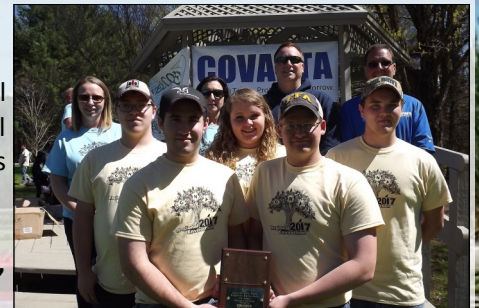
Kathryn Vellone, with the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, presenting "Macroinvertebrates: Adaptations for Life Underwater"

Regional Envirothon

The Envirothon is a fun, outdoor, team-based program designed to help high school students better understand their environment through exploration of ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues. The Envirothon combines classroom learning with hands-on field experience focused around five major topics:

•Soil and Land Use •Aquatic Ecology •Forestry •Wildlife •Environmental Issues

The 2017 Regional Envirothon was held at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville, NY on April 26, 2017.



2017 Regional Envirothon winners
Moravia FFA Team

District Training Sessions

Throughout 2017, the District held *nine* erosion and sediment control workshops for construction site contractors and operators. **One hundred and twenty one** trainees attended these workshops, which New York State requires for contractors working on construction sites which disturb at least one acre of soil. The four hour workshops covered permit regulations, contractor responsibilities, construction site inspections, and erosion and sediment control best management practices. The District offered several erosion and sediment control workshops through the spring of 2017 and a couple more classes were held in November and December.



Executive Director, Doug Kierst at
Stormwater Training Workshop



Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

The County's **Agricultural Environmental Management** Program is a voluntary, watershed based, locally-led effort to protect and enhance the environment while maintaining the viability of agriculture in Cayuga County.

The AEM Program in Cayuga County is administered through the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and is designed to assist farmers protect the natural resources that they depend on. The AEM assessment, planning and implementation process helps to target local, state and federal technical and financial resources to farms with the greatest potential for impacting the environment. For additional information or to start the process by completing a Tier 1 Worksheet, visit www.cayugaswcd.org.

Benefits of AEM Participation:

- Potential funding for planning and implementation of on farm Best Management Practices
- Documentation of current environmental stewardship activities on farms
- Farmer driven decision making and goal setting
- Increased awareness of how farm practices affect the surrounding environment both on and off the farm

Examples of BMPs that have been implemented on Cayuga County farms through the AEM Program:

- Manure Management Systems, including waste storages and transfer systems
- Silage Leachate Management
- Erosion Control Systems, including Cover Crop, Water & Sediment Control Basins and grassed or lined waterways
- Prescribed Grazing Systems, including Laneways, Water Source Development and Fence



Lined Waterway



Inter-seeded Cover Crop



Animal Walkway w/ Water Bars

SOIL HEALTH SEMINAR AT MUSGRAVE RESEARCH FARM & THE 2017 EMPIRE FARM DAYS



Seminar at Musgrave Research Farm



Adapt N Trial Plot



Inter-seed Crop Trial



Empire Farm Days,
Soil Health Building



Farm Show Cover Crop Plot



Reduced Tillage Farmer Panel

NYS Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program

The Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS) is coordinated by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee through NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets. It is a competitive grant program that awards cost-share funding to farmers to address water quality challenges facing farms across NYS. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) play an integral role in the administration of grant funds and provide planning, design, and implementation assistance for projects.

2017 AgNPS Active Grants "ON THE BOOKS"

- 21 Grants Encompassing 48 Farms
- \$10,170,686 Contracted with NYS and Landowners

2017 AgNPS BMPs "ON THE GROUND"

- 33 Farms Completed BMPs
- 40+ BMP Systems
- \$1,105,348 State Share
- \$659,899 Landowner Share
- \$1,765,247 Total Project Costs



Installed Best Management Practice (BMP) Systems

Structural BMPs

- Erosion Control Basins
- Livestock Exclusion
- Access Road Stabilization
- Waste Storage Facilities
- Waste Transfer
- Runoff Control and Treatment
- Heavy Use Area Stabilization

2,692 acres were cover cropped in Cayuga County



Management BMPs

- Nutrient Management
- Soil Management
- Crop Rotations
- Cover Crops
- Soil Testing and Analysis
- Soil Amendments
- Rotational Grazing

Dutch Hollow Brook



NYS Ag NPS 2017 Installed BMPs Cont.

10 Acres of Permanent Grass Buffers
were installed on crop fields
protecting over 12,500 Feet of stream corridor



Erosion Control Systems —

Water & Sediment
Control Basins to reduce
erosion and keep clean
water from flowing
through production
areas.



Erosion areas identified in contoured strip cropping system.



Drone Photo of two large erosion basins that capture runoff water and safely outlet it before erosion can occur.

NYS Ag NPS 2017 Installed BMPs Cont.

Roofed Barnyard, Waste Storage Facility , and Rotational Grazing System



Before



After

The above project was installed on a beef farm to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from an outdoor feeding area. By installing a waste storage facility, the farm can apply the stored nutrients to crop fields and reduce nutrient loss. The rotational grazing system maximizes livestock and pasture production and will remain in permanent managed pasture.

Silage Leachate Collection System



Synthetic Lined Waste Transfer

06.29.2017 11:22

The project was comprised of 8 component practices. Total collection of bunk silo runoff was transferred to a waste storage facility. Diluted silage leachate could then be stored and applied at the recommended time, rate, and field based on the farm's nutrient management plan.



Access Road and Hydro Seeding



During construction of Waste Storage



Total Collection Systems with Waste Storages and Transfer Systems

Multiple BMP systems with more than 20 individual BMPs were installed on several farm facilities. These BMPs work in conjunction to reduce the potential loss of nutrients and provide multiple options for managing nutrients being recycled on the farms.



Rain barrels are an easy way to collect and store water



Conservation Programs offered at the District

Our staff provides technical assistance directly to the residents of Cayuga County by discussing the concern with the individual, conducting site visits and then, if needed, working with the individual to rectify the concern. Services we provide include site planning, technical guidelines and literature, and permitting assistance. When applicable, the CCSWCD seeks grant funding to

assist with project implementation.

Rain Barrels– The CCSWCD has 55 gallon rain barrels available to purchase at a minimal cost. A rain barrel is an easy way to collect and store rainwater from rooftops, conserving water and helping to lower costs. Rain barrels collect runoff that could otherwise easily travel across paved surfaces, collecting pollution along the way, and into the natural resources area waterways.

Barley Rolls– Traditional and chemical methods of controlling the algae in ponds are not always effective or economical. The use of barley straw has been found to be a successful method of algae control. When applied correctly, barley rolls do not kill existing algae, but inhibits the growth of new algae. Our barley rolls float near the surface of the water allowing water to flow through the straw, effectively reducing algae levels.



Annual Fish Stocking Sale

Annual Fish Stocking Sale– The District held Fish Stocking Sales in May, June and September of 2017 to serve landowners in the county. A variety of fish for ponds were available for sale including rainbow trout, largemouth bass, minnows, channel catfish and grass carp. **In 2017 the District sold over 1,000 fish including 149 grass carp during the fish stocking sales.**

Tree, Shrub & Groundcover Sale– The Cayuga County SWCD held their 46th Annual Spring Tree and Groundcover Sale in May 2017. As in the past, the District offered a variety of conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, groundcovers and perennial plants, fruit trees, and native flowering plants. These seedlings and other plants are a very low-cost way to prevent erosion and to promote wildlife in your area, create noise and visual buffers, and are perfect for creating natural snow and wind breaks. **In 2017 the District sold over 11,000 Trees, Shrubs and Groundcovers in our Annual Tree Sale.**

Bird & Bat Houses– Wooden nesting boxes help promote backyard conservation and increase the population of local birds and bats. Locally-made wooden nesting boxes that provide safe habitat for bluebirds, screech owls, kestrels, wood ducks, and bats are offered for sale at the District office.

Septic System Inspections & Dye Testing– The District provides services to county landowners for septic system inspections (dye tests) that are mandated by the Cayuga County Health Department. The District also provides percolation tests, septic system designs and inspections of newly installed septic systems in compliance with Cayuga County and NY State Health Codes.

Agricultural Land Assessment– **236 Soil Group Worksheets were completed for landowners in Cayuga County in 2017.** The Agricultural Land Assessment Program is a state-wide program that provides the opportunity for farmland owners to receive real property assessments based on the value of their land for agricultural production rather than on its development value. Eligibility requirements are outlined by the State Office of Real Property and Department of Ag and Markets, and determined by local assessors.



Cedar and Pine Blue Bird Boxes provide safe habitat

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

7413 County House Rd, Auburn, NY 13021

Phone: (315) 252-4171 Ext. 3

Email: cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org

Website: www.cayugaswcd.org

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