



CAYUGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation in Action



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2022 Annual Report

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**

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Al Noga	<i>Motor Equipment Operator</i>
Jim Sanders	<i>Motor Equipment Operator</i>
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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, Dairyman'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 75 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, landowners and government agencies “go to first” with their natural resource related problems and concerns. We take a hands on approach to evaluating a concern by providing technical assistance to identify potential solutions and coordinate the implementation of the corrective measures that may be needed utilizing our trained staff and our network of partners.

2022 Board of Directors

Ray Lockwood	<i>Chairman, Farm Bureau</i>
James Young	<i>Vice Chairman, Member at Large</i>
Tricia Kerr	<i>County Legislator</i>
Mark Strong	<i>County Legislator</i>
Roger Conner	<i>Member, Grange</i>
Terry Baxter	<i>Member at Large</i>
Slade Cox	<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

Every now and again, it is important to take time to reflect and face the unfortunate reality of how things change over time. Some things change for the better, some things change for the worse. How we prepare and plan for any potential change will reflect on how we will be impacted by the results of the change.

One major change we constantly hear about is climate change. While not everyone seems to be able to agree on what is causing it or what is the best way to address it, most people recognize that the climate is different “from what I remember”.

Many of the recent Best Management Practices (BMPs) planned, recommended and installed by the Cayuga SWCD have been in response to recent climate related “events”. Whether it is culvert assessments/upgrades, streambank stabilization projects, water & sediment control structures (WASCOBs) and/or nutrient storage cover and flare projects, each have addressed and showcase how individuals have had to deal with change.

Despite the uncertainty of what may be causing the change, the one thing we can expect in CNY ... is that the climate is guaranteed to change at least 4 times a year, which is why many of us prefer to call it home.

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 (2017), Cayuga County ranked #2 in NYS in the total market value of agricultural products sold with \$287,853,000. 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 Cayuga 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 Cayuga 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 2022, the Cayuga SWCD assisted with the implementation of on farm agricultural BMPs totaling \$2,481,567. The 32 farms contributed \$814,027 towards the costs, while State funding was leveraged to cover the additional \$1,677,540. In the future contracted NYS Grants, there are 55 participating farms that will be contributing \$5,183,488.95 towards the BMP's, for a total of \$15,699,487 of new projects.** The funding is focused directly on agricultural BMP implementation for water quality improvements. This is in addition to the on-going conservation work that farms complete utilizing their own resources. The Cayuga 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 Cayuga SWCD'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 1,660 cubic yards of nuisance aquatic vegetation. The equivalent to 138 10-wheel dump truck loads per year of vegetation from the waterbodies that we harvest.**

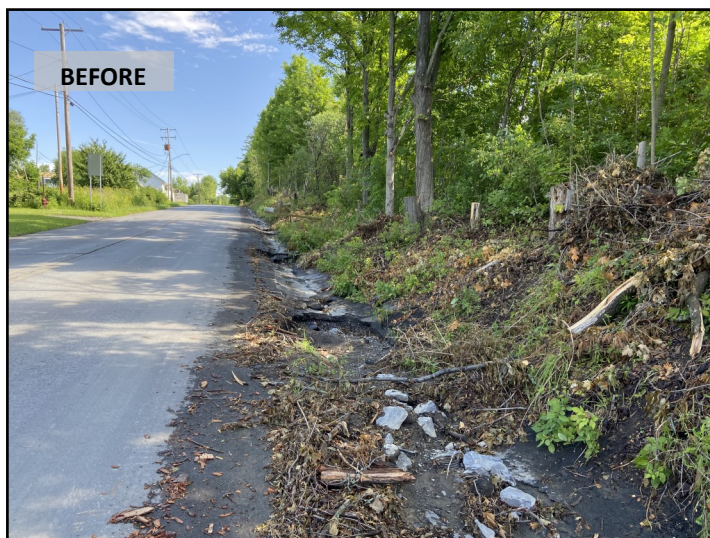
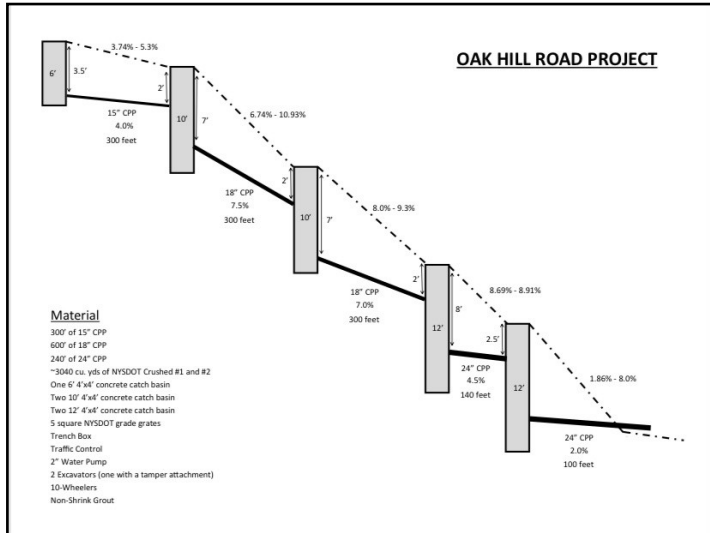
We continue to collaborate with our local Highway Department Superintendents to identify locations in need of assistance. The stabilization of exposed and eroding critical areas continues to be an important area of focus for the Cayuga SWCD. We have worked alongside the Highway Department personnel to address their local concerns including culvert replacements, rock lining of road ditches and installing streambank stabilization measures to protect important infrastructure. Utilizing the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol, the Cayuga SWCD was also able to evaluate 195 culvert crossings in Cayuga County.

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”***

Oak Hill Road Stormwater Management Project

The Cayuga SWCD, in partnership with the Cayuga County Highway Department, was able to stabilize 1,200 feet of road drainage utilizing a stepped down subsurface drainage approach to reduce the runoff velocity and manage flooding risks. An old asphalt, road side ditch system failed after heavy runoff events caused major erosion and safety concerns along Oak Hill Road in the Town of Moravia. The District removed a silted 4 inch tile and installed 4 drop inlet catch basins connected by HDPE culvert pipe ranging from 15" to 24" in diameter. The drop inlets allowed for the steep 8%-10% road grade to be reduced to 3%-4.5% which assisted in reducing the runoff velocity and how quickly flood water migrated down slope to the village of Moravia that experienced major flooding after a moderate to major rain event. This completed phase 3 of the Moravia flood reducing project. This project was funded through the NYS Water Quality Improvement Project Program.



Crane Brook Stream Stabilization Project

The Cayuga SWCD worked with a local landowner in the Town of Mentz to install toewood streambank stabilization practices along Crane Brook. Continual erosion over the years resulted in nearly 25 feet of crop field being lost and encroaching on a laneway used to access adjacent fields. After completing a mussel survey, the District was able to stabilize 340 feet of streambank while moving the stream back to its original flow path while creating a small floodplain, planted with willows and sycamores. J-hooks were also installed to help bend the water around the oxbow, and coupled with the toewood, the thalweg was redirected to the middle of the channel. This project was funded by a NYS Water Quality Improvement Project Program.



Assistance to Municipalities & Organizations

Appletree Point Project

The Cayuga SWCD stabilized over 1,400 feet of unstable roadway drainage along Appletree Point Road in the Town of Niles. Severe storms in 2017 and 2021 resulted in major runoff from steep slopes that overwhelmed the ditch system along Appletree Point Road, causing severe erosion and leading to sedimentation in Skaneateles Lake. The District worked alongside the Town of Niles Highway Department to complete the installation of a rock lined channel with check dams along the length of the road while also replacing driveway culverts with increased capacity, where needed. This system allows runoff to flow efficiently, while also slowing the water velocities down due to increased roughness from the angular limestone. Erosion control blankets and hydroseed were used to stabilize the soil and provide additional stabilization to the landscape. The project was funded through a WQIP grant with in-kind services provided by the Town of Niles Highway Department.



Before picture showing the eroding ditch



After picture showing the final stabilized ditch

Emerson Park Seawall Project

The Cayuga SWCD worked with the County Parks and Trails Department to install a new seawall at Emerson Park, after high water levels from the 2021 storms caused severe damage to the existing wall. The District utilized large, flat stackable limestone, backed with geotextile fabric to shore up the lakeshore and blend the shoreline in with existing seawalls found at the park.



Tollgate Road Bank Stabilization Project

November 2022, the District assisted the Cayuga County Highway Department with a bank failure along Tollgate Road in the Town of Locke, where the toe of a steep embankment eroded away, resulting in the bank to slough off and compromise the road shoulder. The District worked with HUNT EAS to install GeoWeb as a means to protect the bank without installing heavy angular limestone, and install a more natural approach. The bank was rebuilt and lined with non-woven geotextile. The GeoWeb was anchored into the road shoulder using polyester tendons wrapped around an anchor pipe and was then run down the bank and filled with topsoil. The exposed topsoil was seeded and covered with RECP.



Stream Crossing Assessments

The Cayuga SWCD received funds through the NYS DEC WQIP to assess stream crossings in local watersheds, in a multi-year grant. Using protocols and training provided by the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), the District assessed approximately 77 total stream crossings in 2022. Twenty eight which were in the Amherst Island—Frontal Lake Ontario Watershed, 33 in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed and 16 in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. The NAACC provides protocols for road-stream crossings (culverts and bridges) to assess and score crossings for fish and wildlife passability, as well as culvert condition and other data useful for evaluating risk of failure.



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 2022, the AVC Program removed from Cayuga County waterbodies, including a portion of Cross Lake (working with the Onondaga SWCD):

- 1,155 cubic yards (Yd³) Aquatic Vegetation (equivalent to 96 large dump truck loads)
- 150,150 dry pounds Aquatic Vegetation
- 3,153 pounds of Nitrogen
- 268 pounds of Phosphorus
- 1,675 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
2022	286	193	233	36
2021	566	596	871	68
2020	451	673	382	114
2019	489	756	252	138
2018	474	496	780	38

District Programs

Road Ditch and Critical Area Hydroseeding Program

District Staff assisted towns in Cayuga County to hydroseed road side ditches that are cleaned of accumulated sediment to reestablish vegetation and prevent future erosion. The District was able to hydroseed 8.5 miles of road ditch in 2022.



Bat Wing Deck can cut 15 feet in one pass

Mowing Program

The Cayuga SWCD 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. In 2022, the Cayuga SWCD mowed 10 acres of wildlife habitat and approximately 101 miles of conservation ditches, field edges and roadsides.



Agricultural Environmental Management Program

The County's **Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)** 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 SWCD and it is designed to assist farmers in protecting the natural resources that they depend on. Through AEM participation our farmers can document their environmental stewardship and further advance their positive contributions to our community, food systems, the economy, and the environment. Local AEM resource professionals assist farms through assessment, planning and implementation needs, while targeting local, State, and Federal technical and financial resources that may be available for eligible farms. Farms and/or landowners interested in participating in the AEM Program are encouraged to reach out the Cayuga SWCD or visit www.cayugaswcd.org for additional information.



Benefits of AEM Participation:

- Potential funding for planning and implementation of on farm Best Management Practices
- Documentation of current environmental stewardship activities on farms
- Science-based, 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 Fencing

Program Development and Management

The District had a successful year full of programmatic updates. As part of a phased approach, the Cayuga SWCD plans to reinvigorate the vision of the AEM Program to better meet the needs of the District staff, the watershed, and its farmers. As part of the process, the Cayuga SWCD has continued to implement a centralized database that will better enable staff to prioritize workloads and improve customer service. Additionally, the Cayuga SWCD has developed and utilized standardized planning templates to accommodate increased demands for nutrient management planning across the County. Moving forward, the Cayuga SWCD will adaptively manage the AEM Program to continuously meet the needs of an ever changing industry and environmental concerns across the County's watersheds.

2022 AEM Outreach & Education



The foundation of the Cayuga SWCD's AEM Program revolves around providing education and outreach to not only producers but our partner agencies, watershed groups, and the community. Through this education we can effectively and efficiently work together to ensure Cayuga County's watersheds are a healthy and productive landscape for all residents.

The Cayuga SWCD utilizes fact sheets, brochures, social media and in person meetings (farm visits, presentations, and workshops) to facilitate program outreach. For more information about the Cayuga SWCD's outreach and education initiatives, follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our YouTube channel. The Cayuga SWCD regularly posts educational videos about ongoing watershed efforts and stewardship activities happening across the County!



Agricultural Environmental Management Program - Partnership Activities -

As part of the AEM Program and Cayuga County's Strategic AEM Plan, the District spent a significant amount of time planning and implementing soil health related seminars. Cayuga SWCD partnered with Tompkins SWCD, Seneca SWCD, Cornell University NYS Soil Health Initiative, and Cornell PRO-DAIRY to implement these seminars.



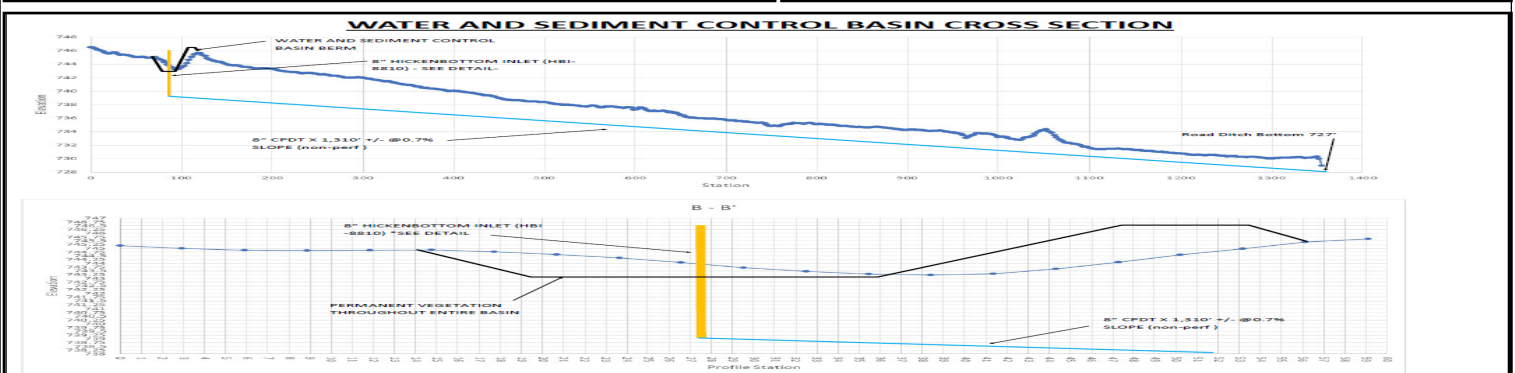
**300 FARMERS PARTICIPATED IN 6 SOIL
HEALTH SEMINARS FOR 2022.**





AEM TIER 4 — Round 17 — BMP Implementation

This funding source is used to implement 'shovel-ready' projects that are identified in a producer's plan. The District implemented two 130 ft. water & sediment control structures (WASCOB's) along with 2,500 ft. of subsurface drainage. AEM Tier 4 Rd. 17, Great Lakes Commission's project (Conservation Kick) and funding from the City of Auburn was used to implement this project. The project site's direct drainage path is less than 1,400 ft. away from the North end of Owasco Lake.



Conservation Kick - 'Conservation through partnerships'

In partnership, the Cayuga SWCD, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC), and the City of Auburn are leveraging an innovative Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program called 'Conservation Kick,' intended to advance the sale of water quality credits by upstream producers to downstream utilities. Program funding covered the costs of installing a water and sediment control basin on a local farm within the Owasco Lake watershed. The City of Auburn invested the required cost share for the grant award that was administered through the OLWMC.

AEM 2022 — SOIL HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Cayuga SWCD assisted with the implementation of 9,730 acres of cover crops.



Cayuga SWCD assisted with the implementation of 6,379 acres of residue/reduced tillage management.



Record number of biological life surveyed



Biological study on Cayuga County Farms



Increased interest in testing alternative farming practices



Increased adoption of No-till & Reduced Tillage Practices

NYS Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program **NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program** **NYS CAFO Waste Storage & Transfer System Program**

These Agricultural Grant Programs are coordinated by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee through NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets. They are competitive grant programs that award cost-share funding to farmers to address water quality challenges facing farms across New York State. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) play an integral role in the administration of grant funds and provide planning, design, and implementation assistance.



2022 Ag Active Grants "ON THE BOOKS"

- 23 Grants Encompassing 55 Farms
- \$15,699,487 Contracted with NYS and Landowners
- Decreased \$1,617,372 from 2021

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
- Lined Waterway



Management BMPs

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

Example Waterline and Fencing Installation



Example Nutrient and Soil Management BMPs Results - New Seeding Establishment



NYS Ag NPS 2022 Installed Best Management Systems Cont.

4,500 Cow Dairy Farm— Existing Waste Storage System Retrofit

- Flexible Membrane Liner along with new Waste Transfer System
- Flexible Membrane Cover Gas Collection and Flare System



Retrofit for Liner and Transfer System.



Liner Installation



Cover Installation



Rainwater Collection System



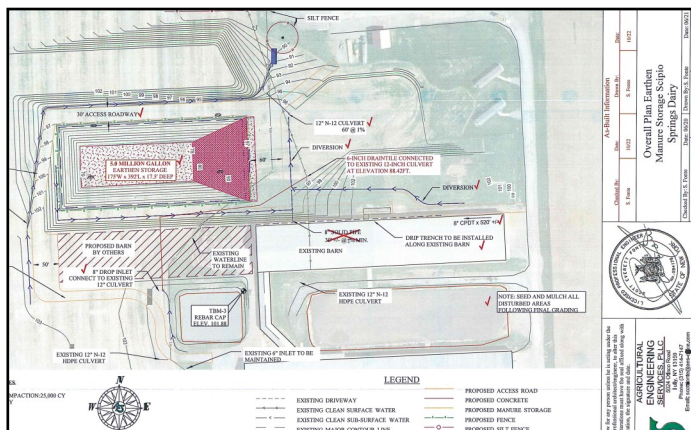
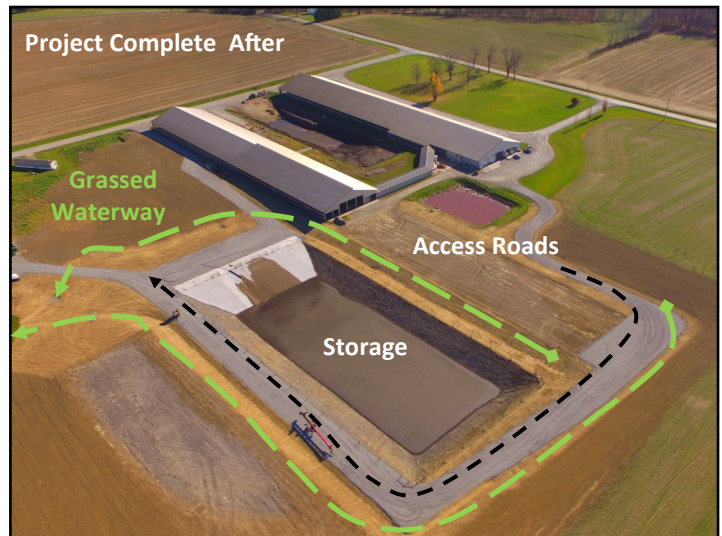
Completed System

The completed system will allow the farm to safely store its manure until the proper time for field application. The Flexible Cover not only excludes clean rainwater that would increase the annual volume of manure needed to be spread, it also allows the methane gas that is produced by the manure to be collected. The methane gas can be transferred and burned at the on-farm Flare System rather than being released into the atmosphere. This will allow the farm to lose its annual greenhouse gas emissions.

NYS Ag NPS 2022 Installed Best Management Systems Cont.

1,200 Cow Dairy Farm— Waste Storage System

- 5 Million Gallon Earthen Storage with Concrete Bottom and Ramp
 - Access Roads and Grassed Waterways



NYS Ag NPS 2022 Waste Storage Program—2022 Installed System**1,000 Cow Dairy Farm—Waste Storage System**

- Dry Manure Stacking Area
- Access Roads and Grassed Waterways



NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program - 2022 Installed System

150 Cow Beef Farm— Soil Health Prescribed Grazing System

- 70 acres of Row Crops Converted to Permanent Pasture
 - 18,000 feet of Fencing and Gates
- 4600 feet Buried Waterline with 6 Hydrants and Electrical

Before Feedlot in Sensitive Areas



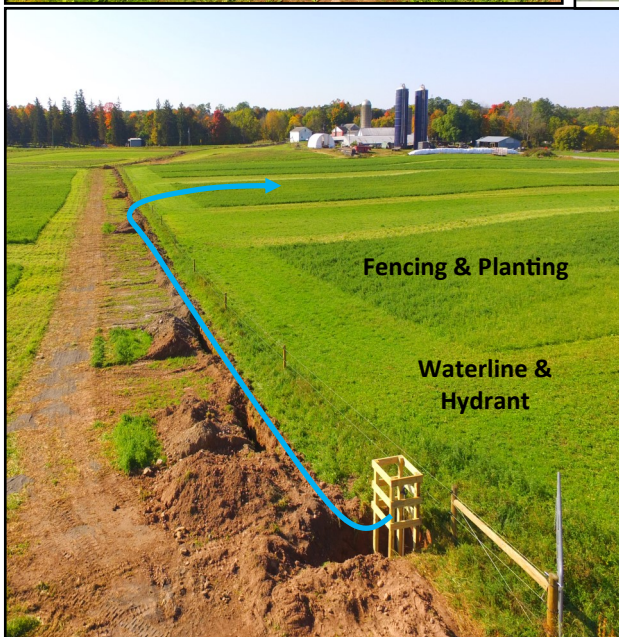
Fencing & Planting



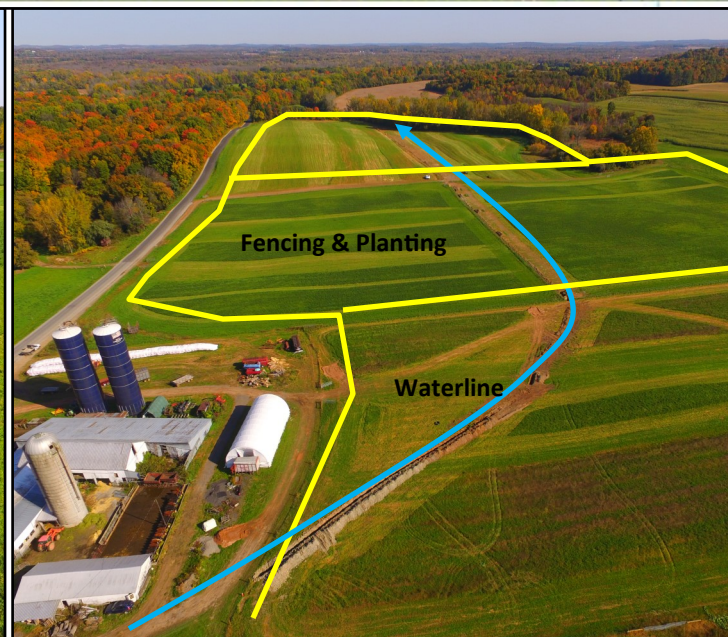
Drone View Project Area



Fencing & Planting



Waterline & Hydrant



Community Recycling Events

The Cayuga SWCD partners with the Cayuga County Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension, who act as coordinators for the Tire Roundup. The Cayuga SWCD assists by making facilities, equipment and staff available.

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 participants recycled approximately 5,000 tires which is equivalent to 83 tons during the event which was held on June 25, 2022**



Household Hazardous
Waste Cleanup Day



Tire Roundup

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 that was held at the Natural Resource Center on **October 29, 2022**.

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 and used as mulch. **Over 150 trees were traded and recycled in the winter of 2022.**

Be on the lookout for dates of the upcoming 2023 recycling events.

- 2023 Dates -

Spring Electronics—April 1, 2023

(Registration Only)

Tire Roundup—June 2023—Exact date not yet announced

(Held at Soil & Water)

Fall Electronics - Date not yet available

(Registration Only)

Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day—October 21, 2023

(Registration Only)

EDUCATION

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.



John Graham, NYS DEC Forester, teaching on the "Trees of Emerson Park"

In 2022, Conservation Field Days was cancelled due to COVID 19. The event is scheduled to take place in 2023.



Niles Brown, Retired from Cornell Cooperative Extension, presenting on "You Can Make a Difference" (Birds)

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

Weedsport High School represented Cayuga County at the 2022 New York State Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, NY. Weedsport attended the Wayne County Regional Envirothon in 2022, and won the right to represent Cayuga County at the State event.

District Training Sessions

Throughout 2022, the Cayuga SWCD held seven erosion and sediment control workshops for construction site contractors and operators. One hundred and forty three 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.

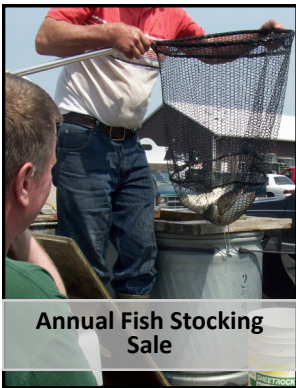


Doug Kierst, CPESC, Executive Director, teaching a Stormwater Training

Conservation Programs offered at the District

Cayuga SWCD 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 Cayuga SWCD seeks grant funding to assist with project implementation.

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- The Cayuga SWCD held Fish Stocking Sales in May and September of 2020 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 2022, the Cayuga SWCD sold over 450 fish including 74 grass carp during the fish stocking sales.**

Tree, Shrub & Groundcover Sale- The Cayuga SWCD held their 51st Annual Spring Tree and Groundcover Sale in May 2022. As in the past, the Cayuga SWCD 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 2022, the Cayuga SWCD sold almost 12,000 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 Cayuga SWCD office.

Septic System Inspections & Dye Testing- The Cayuga SWCD provides services to county landowners for septic system inspections (dye tests) that are mandated by the Cayuga County Health Department. The Cayuga SWCD 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- **140 Soil Group Worksheets were completed for landowners in Cayuga County in 2022.** 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

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Phone: (315) 252-4171 Ext. 4

Email: cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org

Website: www.cayugaswcd.org

Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/cayugaswcd