



CAYUGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation in Action

2023 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

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Jim Sanders	<i>Motor Equipment Operator</i>
Denise Dixon	<i>Cleaner</i>

2023 Board of Directors

Ray Lockwood	<i>Chairman, Farm Bureau</i>
James Young	<i>Vice Chairman, Member at Large</i>
Andrew Dennison	<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

No matter where you live, you are in a watershed. Actually, you are in several at any one time. Each watershed is uniquely different and should be appreciated for the role it plays in our daily lives.

Although it can be challenging, the Cayuga SWCD is fortunate to work throughout several regionally and historically important watersheds. When protecting natural resources in the Finger Lakes Region, the Great Lakes Region and the Erie Canal Corridor, we have to find a balance in the various priorities within each watershed. Some waterbodies are protected against nutrient loading because they provide valuable drinking water to local residents, while others are more tolerant to higher nutrient levels and promote aquatic activity for fishing opportunities.

Each of us have an important role in protecting our natural resources. By recognizing what watershed you are in, and understanding what the goals of each watershed are and why they are important, you can implement simple and practical measures around your property, that will ensure the enjoyment of our natural resources for future generations.

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 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 by utilizing our trained staff and our network of partners.

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 include 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 (2022), the total market value of agricultural products sold was \$461,927.00. 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 2023, the Cayuga SWCD assisted with the implementation of on farm agricultural BMPs totaling \$1,948,988. The 14 farms contributed \$1,003,711 towards the costs, while State funding was leveraged to cover the additional \$945,277. In the future contracted NYS Grants, there are 73 participating farms that will be contributing \$3,573,597 towards the BMP's, for a total of \$11,833,733 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 five years, we have removed an average of 1,362 cubic yards of nuisance aquatic vegetation. The equivalent to 170 ten-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 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. 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”***

Assistance to Municipalities & Organizations

Town of Brutus Post Flooding Resiliency Project

The Cayuga SWCD worked throughout the year with the Town of Brutus to repair and enhance stream corridors that were damaged during flooding in 2022. Projects ranged from streambank stabilization, culvert protection, and flood mitigation practices.



Ensenore Road Ditch Stabilization Project

The Cayuga SWCD worked with the Town of Scipio to install over 1,200 feet of rock lined ditch stabilization to protect Owasco Lake from sedimentation and nutrient inputs. The project was funded through a WQIP grant with in-kind services provided by the Town of Scipio Highway Department and funding through the Owasco Watershed Lake Association.



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 Cayuga SWCD assessed approximately 83 total stream crossings in 2023 in the Amherst Island—Frontal Lake Ontario Watershed, Skaneateles Lake Watershed, and 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 to assess culvert conditions and other data useful for evaluating risk of failure.



Great Gully Brook Crossing Project

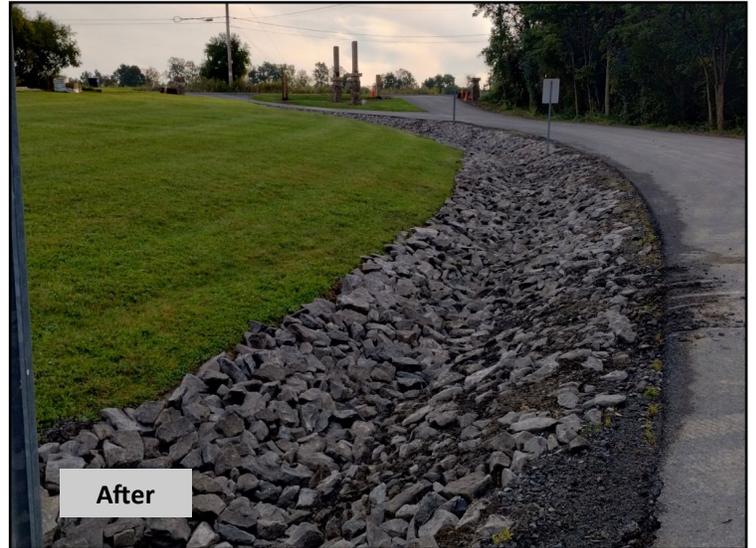
The Cayuga SWCD worked with a local landowner in the Town of Springport to improve an equipment access crossing over Great Gully Brook. Recent storm damage resulted in a headcut to move up through the stream corridor resulting in the inability for farm equipment to access a field for the fall harvest. Utilizing FLOWPA funding, the Cayuga SWCD installed a GeoWeb crossing filled with crushed gravel to provide a stable base and prevent wash outs and erosion. The streambanks were also lined with medium stone fill to provide roughness and stability to the stream, with the goal of preventing erosion further downstream. Large limestone blocks were placed at the inlet and outlet of the crossing to ensure the GeoWeb product is not undermined.



For any erosion concerns or flooding issues, please contact the Cayuga County SWCD for assistance . You can contact us at 315-252-4171 ext. 4

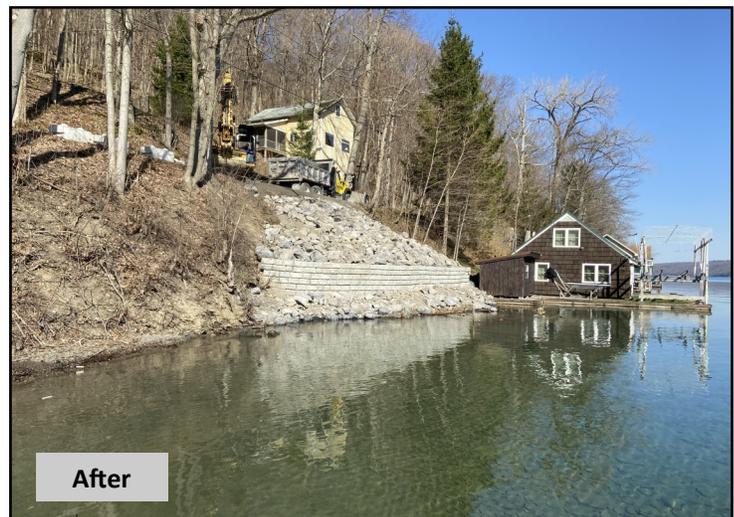
Owasco Lake Firelane Drainage Improvement Project

The Cayuga SWCD was funded through the NYS Water Quality Improvement Project Program to stabilize road ditches, increase culverts to convey stormwater efficiently, and manipulate drainage pathways to prevent flooding along firelanes that are located around Owasco Lake. SWCD staff assessed over 60 firelanes and ranked the firelanes from worst to best conditions. The condition score criteria included existing erosion concerns, risk of flooding, risk for public safety, slope, proximity to a water course, available match funding, ease of access for equipment, and more. The top ten “worst” firelanes and their point of contact, worked with the Cayuga SWCD to develop a workplan which is the foundation for implementation. The Cayuga SWCD began two firelane projects in 2023, and plan to start the rest in 2024.



Glen Haven Road Stabilization Project

The Cayuga SWCD stabilized around 80 feet of highly unstable road bank and road shoulder in the Town of Sempronius along the shoreline of Skaneateles Lake, working along side the Cayuga County Highway Department. The road shoulder was excavated and stabilized with Redirock Block with the a Geonetting fabric acting as a deadman with compacted select fill. The toe of the block was protected using medium stone fill. The biggest challenge to this site was the access and maneuverability, but Cayuga SWCD equipment operators were able to safely track down the slope. Then as the wall was built and the backfill was placed, the machine was easily able to track back out.



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 also seeking to leave the lakes as ecologically intact as possible.

The Cayuga SWCD’s AVC program consists of two weed cutting boats, one transport barge, 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 which is used on the larger lakes to cut down transport time from the cutting area to the truck by increasing the efficiency of the program. The weeds are off-loaded onto the dump truck using the conveyor and then 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 2023, the AVC Program removed the following from Cayuga County waterbodies: • 821 cubic yards (Yd³) Aquatic Vegetation (equivalent to 157 large dump truck loads) • 106,730 dry pounds Aquatic Vegetation • 2,241 pounds of Nitrogen • 192 pounds of Phosphorus •



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
2023	371	141	58	136
2022	286	193	233	36
2021	566	596	871	68
2020	451	673	382	114
2019	489	756	252	138

District Programs

Road Ditch and Critical Area Hydroseeding Program

Cayuga SWCD 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 Cayuga SWCD was able to hydroseed 11.5 miles of road ditch in 2023.



The 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 hedge-rows, 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 2023, the Cayuga SWCD mowed 10 acres of wildlife habitat and approximately 99 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 and 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 to 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 Cayuga SWCD 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 Cayuga SWCD staff, the watersheds, 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.

2023 AEM Outreach & Education



The foundation of the Cayuga SWCD’s AEM Program revolves around providing education and outreach to not only producers, but also 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 Cayuga SWCD spent a significant amount of time planning and implementing soil health related seminars. The Cayuga SWCD partnered with Tompkins SWCD, Seneca SWCD, Cornell University NYS Soil Health Initiative, and Cornell PRO-DAIRY to implement these seminars.



115 FARMERS PARTICIPATED IN 2 SOIL HEALTH SEMINARS FOR 2023.





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 AEM Tier 4 funding helped Healing H'Arts Equestrian Center implement a 2,700 sq. ft. heavy use area protection and 150 ft. trails and walkway utilizing geo-web for the walkway. The stone HUA ensured a harder surface area in front of the horse walk-ins before entering the sacrifice area. The trail & walkway gives the animals easier access to walking trails adjacent to the pasture. Gabion stone was installed to reduce velocity of surface water entering the farm ditch before crossing through the trail & walkway.

Before



After



After



AEM 2023 — 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.



2023 Ag Active Grants "ON THE BOOKS"

- 17 Grants Encompassing 73 Farms
- \$11,833,733 Contracted with NYS and Landowners

2023 Ag Grants BMPs "ON THE GROUND"

- 14 Farms Completed BMPs
- 19 BMP Systems
- \$945,277 State Share
- \$1,003,711 Landowner Share
- \$1,948,988 Total Project Costs

Installed Best Management Practice (BMP) Systems

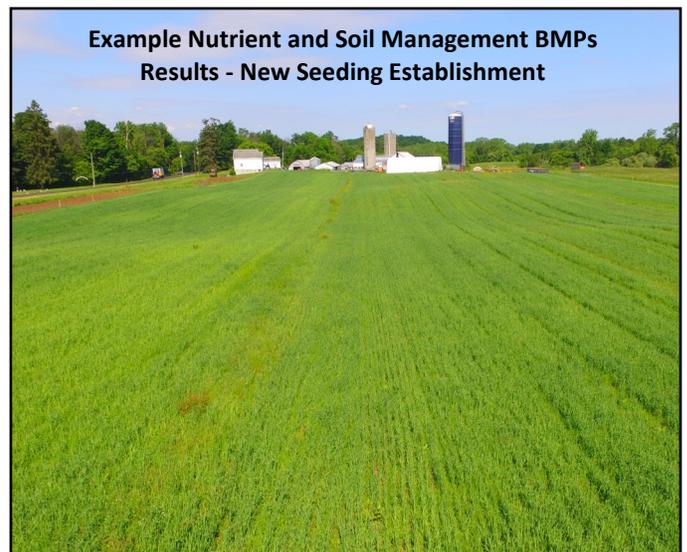
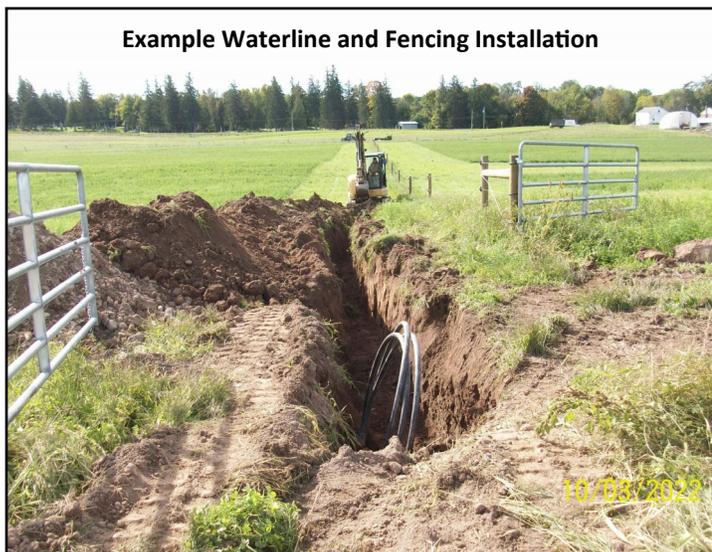
Structural BMPs

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



Management BMPs

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



NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program - 2023 Installed System

Large CAFO Cow Dairy Farm— Manure and Agricultural Waste Treatment System

- Roofs and Covers
- Waste Treatment & Transfer
 - Pumping Plant



NYS Ag NPS 2023 Installed Best Management Systems Cont.

Large CAFO Cow Dairy Farm— Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System

- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Waste Transfer & Sediment Basin
 - Vegetative Treatment Area
 - Access Road



NYS Ag NPS 2023 Waste Storage Program—2023 Installed System

Medium CAFO Cow Beef Farm—Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System

- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Waste Separation Facility, Waste Transfer, Pumping Plant, and Structure for Water Control
- Vegetative Treatment Area, Diversion, and Access Road



Before



During



During



During



During



After

NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program - 2023 Installed System

150 Cow Beef Farm— Soil Health Prescribed Grazing System

- 600 Linear feet of Access Road
- 2 Structures for Water Control
- 25,000 Square feet of Heavy Use Area Protection
- .27 Acres of Grassed Waterway



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 6,000 tires which is equivalent to 103 tons during the event which was held on June 10, 2023**



Tire Roundup



Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP DAY

— Was 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 21, 2023**.

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 170 trees were traded and recycled in the winter of 2023.**

Be on the lookout for dates of the upcoming 2024 recycling events.

- 2024 Dates -

Spring Electronics—April 27, 2024

(Registration Only)

Tire Roundup—June 8, 2024

(Held at Soil & Water)

Fall Electronics - November 2, 2024

(Registration Only)

Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day—October 5, 2024

(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.



Jim Hotaling, Retired Cayuga SWCD Executive Director, presenting on "The Maple Experience"



Cayuga County Health Department presenting on Rabies & Ticks

In 2023, Conservation Field Days returned to Cayuga County on September 19 & 20, with great attendance from our county schools! We had 14 schools (including all 6th grades in Cayuga County) in attendance, with approximately 750 students and teachers participating. We wish to give special thanks to our amazing station instructors, hosting 21 stations.

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 2023 New York State Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, NY. Weedsport attended the Wayne County Regional Envirothon in 2023, and won the right to represent Cayuga County at the State event.



District Training Sessions

Throughout 2023, the Cayuga SWCD held six erosion and sediment control workshops for construction site contractors and operators. Approximately 48 trainees attended these workshops. New York State requires contractors working on construction sites which disturb at least one acre of soil to take these workshops. The four hour workshops covered permit regulations, contractor responsibilities, construction site inspections, and erosion and sediment control best management practices.

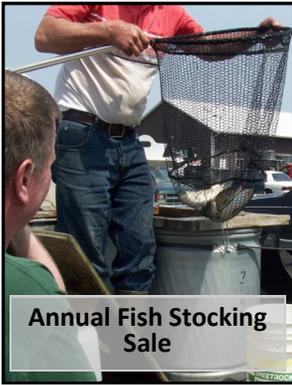


Doug Kierst, CPESC, Executive Director, teaching a Stormwater Training Workshop

Conservation Programs Offered At The Cayuga SWCD

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 instead 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 Cayuga SWCD held a Fish Stocking Sale in May to serve landowners in the county. A variety of fish for ponds were available for sale including black crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, minnows, channel catfish, and grass carp. **In 2023, the Cayuga SWCD sold over 350 fish including 40 grass carp during the fish stocking sales.**

Tree, Shrub & Groundcover Sale- The Cayuga SWCD held their 52nd Annual Spring Tree and Groundcover Sale in May 2023. 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 2023, 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- **176 Soil Group Worksheets were completed for landowners in Cayuga County in 2023.** 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 are determined by local assessors.



Cedar and Pine Blue Bird Boxes provide safe habitat

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

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