

Conservation Highlights



CAYUGA COUNTY SWCD

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Spring 2011

No-Till Drill

Did you know that the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District can be hired to do no-till grass seedings? The District's 8 foot wide no-till drill can handle the variety of seed types used for pasture, hay, wildlife habitat, and food plots. The no-till drill performs best on old sod or crop stubble, reducing erosion and saving the landowner the time and expense associated with tillage operations. The District does not rent the drill out, we provide the full seeding service including the tractor, drill, operator, and seed. Although the landowner can purchase their own seed if they desire. The landowner

may also need to have the field mowed and/or sprayed with an herbicide in order to get the existing vegetation in a state that is conducive for seeding. Don't hesitate to call the District soon at (315)252-4171 to get on our seeding list

for this spring. Ask for John or Jason, they can come out to look at your site and help you make plans. Contacting the District soon will also help them to purchase the seed for your site in time for the season.



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www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/

Intensive Rotational Grazing

Get with the (GRAZE NY) Program!

The District is currently developing new, expanded, or enhanced rotational grazing plans for interested farmers anywhere in the county.

Contact us if you are interested and we will work with you one-on-one to form a grazing plan. The process and resulting product helps you make decisions to improve profitability and time management while also protecting natural resources and making progress toward sustainability. The grazing plans address these areas:

Pasture quality assessment

- Soil characteristics and sampling for soil nutrient analysis
- Grass species identification and seeding recommendations
- Forage yield potential and sampling for forage nutrient analysis

Stocking rate recommendations

- Enough acres for the size and number of livestock
- Paddock sizing and rotation schedule
- Areas reserved for mechanical harvest, bird habitat, or feed stockpiling

- Supplemental feed plan if needed due to limited acres, nutrition needs, or drought

Infrastructure improvements, planning & cost estimation

- Perimeter fencing
- Water supply & delivery system
- Animal laneways & access roads

When we look at the graziers we have assisted with technical planning, BMP design and BMP installation, we can't help but see the diverse operations we have had the privilege to help: dairy, horse, sheep, buffalo, goat, alpaca, and beef farms. There are conventional and organic, CAFO-sized and small, beginning farmers and old pros. Whether you are just starting out or you've had a plan and system for years, we encourage you to join us in one of our Pasture Walks hosted at local farms in 2011. Contact the District if you would like to host one at your farm. It is a great way to gain and lend expertise in the field!

The District's efforts are funded through Graze NY, a multi-county initiative that helps farm families with the adoption of prescribed grazing management. For more information about Graze NY, please visit <http://www.grazeny.org> or call the District (315-252-4171 ext. 121 Jason) for technical assistance.

Special Events:

- MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS—(2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM)
- EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP FROM 9AM TO 2PM ON MARCH 10TH & 30TH.
- REGIONAL ENVIROTHON—APRIL 27TH & 28TH AT MONTEZUMA AUDUBON CTR., MONTEZUMA, NY
- LAST DAY TO PLACE TREE ORDERS—APRIL 25, 2011—
- PICK UP TREE ORDERS ON MAY 6, 2011
- NYS ENVIROTHON—MAY 25TH & 26TH AT HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Erosion and Sediment Control Training

The Cayuga County SWCD has two courses scheduled for the 4-hour contractor training courses in erosion and sediment control. Classes are scheduled for March 10th or 30th from 9am—2pm. The course is mandatory for anyone who is constructing, maintaining, or inspecting erosion and sediment control practices at SPDES permitted construction sites. Construction sites causing one acre or more of soil disturbance must apply for the SPDES permit.



Above: One form of erosion and sediment control practices used on Market Street in Auburn, NY.

“HE WHO
PLANTS A TREE
PLANTS A
HOPE.~
LUCY LARCOM,
“PLANT A TREE”

2011 Annual Tree Sale

The 2010 Annual Tree, Shrub and Ground-cover Sale will take place this year on Friday, May 6, 2011. We are currently taking orders for plants. The last day to order will be Monday, April 25th, 2011. Get your orders in quickly, as they are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Trees will be available for pick-up on Friday, May 6th from 8 am to 6 pm and any extras will be sold on Monday, May 9th, 2011 from 8 am to 12 pm. The Cayuga County Natural Resource Center is located at 7413 County House Road, Auburn. Call for more information or check out our website at www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning

Over the winter farms have worked with the District on developing new comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP's) as well as updating existing plans. To be effective, CNMP's should be updated on an annual basis. New manure samples are taken, then this new manure data, current crop information, and the previous years's manure applications are taken into account. Despite the large number of people requesting plan updates over the winter, summer is also a good time to update your CNMP. During the summer, the planner can make the most of your manure nutrients by planning manure applications that begin after the fall harvest to benefit the following year's crop. So if you have the time this summer, please call your CNMP planner to assist you with an update.

Happy Easter!
April 24th, 2011



Ag Value Assessments

It is that time of year again, when ag value assessments are in need of being completed. We have been busy with soil group worksheets since early December. The information is gathered and based upon land that is used for agricultural purposes. The soil types and acreage are determined and then the Town Assessor places an assessed value to it for more accurate tax purposes. Most deadlines to have your information in to your Town Tax Assessor are generally March 1st.

