

Conservation Highlights



CAYUGA COUNTY SWCD

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Spring 2012

Conservation No-Till Drill Seeding

The District is taking requests for seeding projects with our no-till seeder. The District's 12 foot wide no-till drill can handle the variety of seed types used for pasture, hay, wildlife habitat, and food plots with minimal soil disturbance. For details call John or Jason at the SWCD (315)252-4171.



▲ Above: "No-till Seeder implementing a cool season pasture mix"



▲ Above: "Warm season grasses that were seeded for wildlife habitat in 2011."

Cayuga County SWCD
7413 County House Rd.
Auburn, NY 13021
(315)252-4171
cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org
www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/

Regional Digester

The Digester project took a giant step forward in January when the generator was started using natural gas. At this time, all the systems were able to be tested and problems addressed or put onto the punch list. As was expected, there were some serious issues that came to light that called for a return of some of the contractors. Since we were in a testing phase, the generator was turned off until we were ready to start the methane making process. Even with the digester "cold", we have been hosting a number of tours of people who wish to see the project and gain an



understanding of what we are doing here at the District. At this point, having passed a number of expected start up dates, we don't like to give firm dates for start up operation. But, with the project 99.5% complete, we are looking to be running in April, if not before.

Special Events:

- MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS—(2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM)
- EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOPS FROM 7:45 AM TO NOON ON MARCH 7TH & 20TH, APRIL 3RD, 10TH, & 24TH AND MAY 8TH & 22ND.
- REGIONAL ENVIROTHON—APRIL 25TH & 26TH AT ROGERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER IN SHERBURNE, NY
- LAST DAY TO PLACE TREE ORDERS—MAY 4TH, 2012—
- PICK UP TREE ORDERS ON MAY 6, 2011
- NYS ENVIROTHON—MAY 23RD & 24TH AT HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES IN GENEVA, NY

Erosion and Sediment Control Training

The Cayuga County SWCD has several courses scheduled for the 4-hour contractor training courses in erosion and sediment control. 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.

Classes are scheduled for March 7th and 20th, April 3rd, 10th, and 24th, and May 8th & 22nd from 7:45am to Noon .

Ag Advisory Committee Tour With Congresswoman Buerkle



▲ Above: Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle and Ron Podolak, Executive Director of the Cayuga County SWCD at the Ag Advisory Committee Tour held on February 24, 2012. The tour was sponsored by the Onondaga and Cayuga County SWCDs. Farms were visited in both Cayuga and Onondaga counties.

2012 Annual Tree Sale

The 2012 Annual Tree, Shrub and Ground-cover Sale will take place this year on Friday, May 4, 2012. We are currently taking orders for plants. The last day to order will be Monday, April 23rd, 2012. 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 4th from 8 am to 6 pm and any extras will be sold on Monday, May 7th, 2012 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/



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.

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

Happy Easter! April 8th, 2012

