



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume 21, Issue 4
WINTER 2015



Cayuga County Manure Management Meeting—

On Monday, November 16, 2015 a manure management meeting was held at the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES meeting room at 7 pm. The meeting was hosted by Cayuga County legislators Keith Batman and Mike Didio and facilitated by Nick Colas of the County Planning and Economic Development Office. Approximately 75 people were in attendance at this meeting. The reason for the meeting was to discuss how local farmers, non-farmers, municipal agencies and legisla-

tors plan to improve the water quality of the county's lakes. A working group and its advisory committee compiled a "14-point Countywide Agenda for Action regarding Improving Manure Management". The agenda for action was discussed and which agencies would be responsible for administering each action and its follow through. Before the actions are implemented, it will need to be approved by the County Legislature. It is important to have involvement from all entities in order to achieve the goal of improving the water quality in Cayuga County.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Plan - On Monday, November 30, 2015 an Owasco Lake Watershed Management Plan public meeting was scheduled at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES at 7 pm. There were approximately 45 people in attendance for this meeting. The project team analyzed the factors affecting water quality and habitat conditions, and identified measures for restoration and protection. This meeting was held to inform the public of findings from the project team and allow them the opportunity to offer their insights on the development of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management and Waterfront Revitalization Plan which has been underway for over a year.



Barnyard Improvements

A concrete barnyard and waste storage facilities were recently completed at a beef farm in the Cayuga Lake watershed. The majority of these beef cows are on pasture during the grazing season, but they were wintering on a muddy lot which drained towards the lake. The new barnyard will contain all cows that are not on pasture. Concrete curbs and walls will direct runoff from the barnyard into a series of two storages. The first ramped concrete storage will capture most of the solids before spilling over into a circular concrete tank. The manure

from these storages can then be applied to cropland at an appropriate time according to the farm's comprehensive nutrient management plan. This project received cost sharing from the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program.



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Monthly Board Meetings

2nd Wed. of the month at 10 am

January 13, 2016
February 10, 2016

****Holidays****

The office will be closed on the following days:

Dec. 25, 2015 —Christmas Day
Jan. 1, 2016 —New Year's Day
Jan. 18, 2016— Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 15, 2016—President's Day



BEFORE COVER CROP

Cover Crops

Cover Crop established in the Owasco Lake Watershed. A small dairy operation installed Cover Crops under the Ag. Nonpoint Source Pollution grant in 2015. Cover crops slow down the rate of erosion into nearby water bodies to Owasco Lake. Forage grasses were planted to be harvested in the fall of 2015 and over the winter providing protection from the elements.



AFTER COVER CROP ESTABLISHED

Conservation Field Days Essay Contest Winners— Winners have been chosen for the 2015 Conservation Field Days Essay Contest. Sixth grade students from Cayuga County schools attended field days hosted by the Soil and Water Conservation District in September of 2015. The students were asked to write an essay on “The Most Important Thing That I Learned at Conservation Field Days”. After much consideration the winners are being announced: Kayley Duffy of St. Joseph School—“Birds”, Kathryn Palmer of A.J. Smith Elementary School—“Farmers are Earths Best Friends”, and Colby Sellen of Emily Howland Elementary School—“Bats”. The winners will receive a certificate of award, a certificate for 10 Canaan Fir Transplants to be picked up at the District’s tree sale on May 6, 2016, and a bird or bat house. Due to the large number of well written essays received, we also awarded a few honorable mentions to: Riley Secor of A.J. Smith Elementary School—“My Best Friends” and David Morehouse of A.J. Smith Elementary School—“Not Just ‘Tweet Tweet’”. Honorable mentions will receive a certificate of award and a certificate for 10 Canaan Fir Transplants to be picked up at the District’s tree sale on May 6, 2016. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks for participating in Conservation Field Days.

Erosion & Sediment Control Trainings

In New York State, all construction projects that create an acre or more of disturbed soil must have a SPEDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity. All contractors completing earthwork on SPEDES permitted sites must have at least one individual on site that has completed a four hour erosion and sediment control training course. To be kept current, the training must be completed once every three years. The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering these trainings to contractors, developers, inspectors, engineers, and government employees. **Now offering 4 CEC’s to Code Enforcement Officers and Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals members.** Upcoming trainings will be held on the following Wednesdays:

- Jan. 20, 2016
- Feb. 17, 2016
- March 2, 2016
- March 23, 2016
- April 6, 2016
- April 20, 2016
- May 4, 2016
- May 18, 2016



TRADE-A-TREE FOR A TREE—

After Christmas this year, trade in your old tree for a free transplant! The Cayuga County Trade-a-Tree for a Tree program offers residents an opportunity to recycle their Christmas tree in exchange for a Canaan Fir transplant (transplants will be available for pick-up in the spring on May 6, 2016 at the Tree Sale). It’s fast, easy, and free! Location: Cayuga County Natural Resource Center @ 7413 County House Road, Auburn.

****Trade-a-Tree Dates & Times**

- Dec. 28-30
8 am— 4 pm
- Dec. 31
8 am—noon
- Jan. 4-8
8 am—4 pm
- Jan. 11-15
8 am —4 pm