

Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District



2025 Annual Report

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OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District to work directly with county landowners to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources, improvement of water quality, and prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, thereby protecting the natural resource base and promoting health, safety, and general welfare of the county residents.

In 1989, the Genesee County Legislature designated the District as the "local planning, management, and implementing agency responsible for..."

- erosion & sediment control on potential non-point sources such as streambanks, construction sites, forestry, mined land, road banks, urban sources and agriculture,
- stormwater runoff,
- fertilizer and pesticide management,
- agricultural waste."

These services are provided for landowners, agricultural producers, and county municipalities! Visit our website, call us, or stop by the office to see how we can work together!

District Directors & Staff

Dennis Phelps
*Chairman,
Grange*

James Kingston
Farm Bureau

Jared Elliott
*Senior Field Manager,
CCA*

Tim Welch,
*Technician,
CCA*

Christian Yunker
*Vice Chairman,
County Legislator*

Brooks Hawley
County Legislator

Robert LaPoint
At-Large



Laura Bestehorn
District Clerk

Rebecca Olsen
Technician



We are excited to welcome
Robert LaPoint to our Board of Directors!

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us on Facebook!



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THANK YOU To Our 2026 Sponsors!

Interested in Joining? Give Us a Call!

FARM OF THE YEAR

ROBERT & MICHELLE WOOD

Since 1959, the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District has recognized a deserving agricultural producer with its annual Conservation Farm of the Year Award. The award honors producers who demonstrate a long-term commitment to sustainable conservation practices, lead by example, and implement effective farm conservation best management practices.

The 2025 recipients are Robert and Michelle Wood of Batavia, New York!

The Woods operate approximately 415 acres of cropland in the Black Creek Watershed. Their farming operation began in 1978 as a dairy operation and has evolved to focus on raising calves while producing forage and grain crops.

Dating back to their first conservation practices in 1983, the Woods have demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting natural resources by implementing numerous conservation practices designed to preserve soil health and manage farmstead nutrients. These practices include cover crops, barnyard water management systems, milkhouse waste management systems, silage leachate storage and treatment, and livestock exclusion from a nearby stream.

Beyond their on-farm conservation work, Robert and Michelle raised their family and were actively involved in 4-H and participation in the Genesee County Fair. Robert also contributed his time and leadership by serving on the County Committee for the Farm Service Agency, the Dairy Advisory Committee for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Nominating Committee for Upstate Niagara Cooperative.

The Woods have been active participants with the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 43 years. In recognition of their decades-long commitment to conservation, they were presented with the 2025 Conservation Farm of the Year Award! Thank you for your stewardship!!!



Robert & Michelle Wood with District Staff and Board Members !

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**1 Culvert Replacement
& 2,472 feet of Underground
Outlets Installed**



**Over 500 water samples
collected**



5 Public Education Events



**Certified 7,318 acres of
cover crop**



**Installed 4,509 sq. ft. of
animal trails**

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



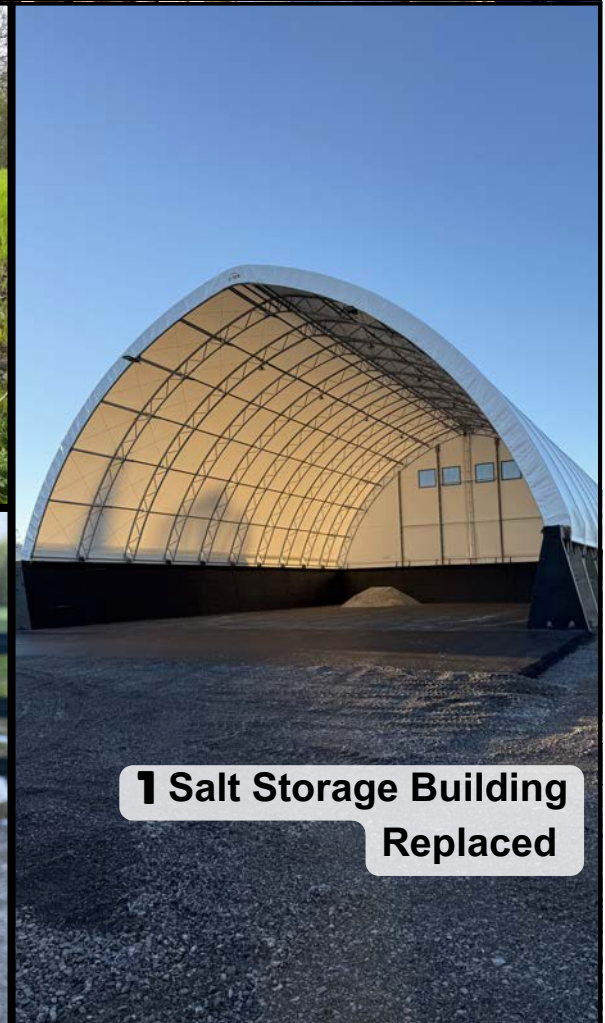
**Attended Over 6
Training &
Continuing
Education
Events**



**Hydroseeded over 14 acres
across 11 Municipalities**



**Installed 4,509 feet of Grazing
Fence Line**



**1 Salt Storage Building
Replaced**

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2.2 acres of Japanese Knotweed Treated



14 Pond Sites & 8 Grass Carp Permit Assistance



1 Agrichemical Handling & Mixing Facility Built



Collected 44 Soil Health Samples



Total of 9,500 Trees & Seedlings Sold

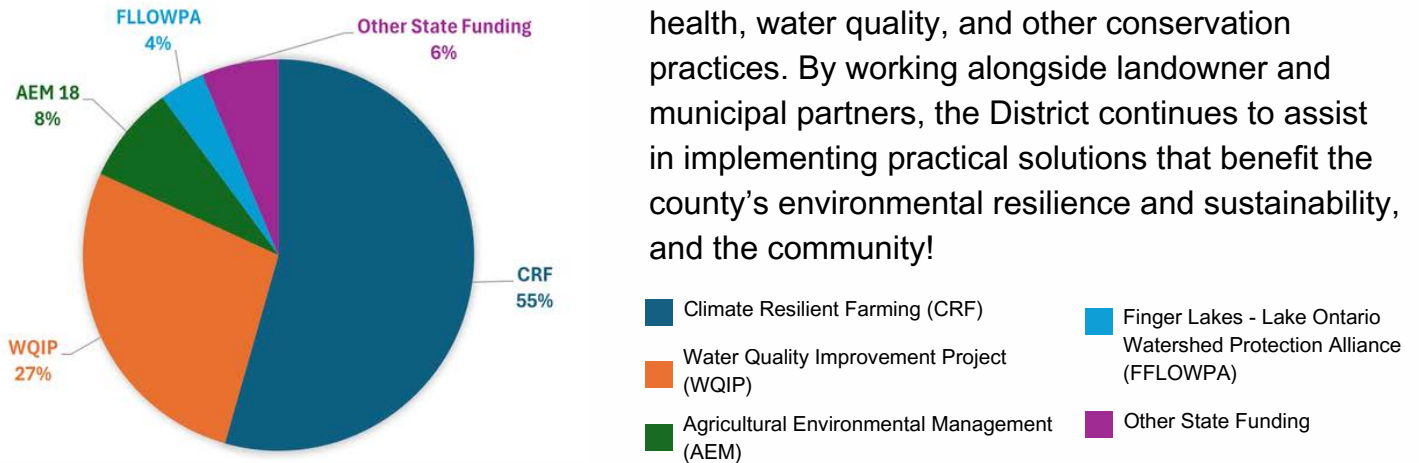


4 Staff Members Excited for 2026!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Project Payments

In 2025, Genesee County SWCD distributed a total of \$1,329,628.52 to county landowners and municipalities through grant-funded projects. This support helped move forward local efforts to address key resource concerns, including soil health, water quality, and other conservation practices. By working alongside landowner and municipal partners, the District continues to assist in implementing practical solutions that benefit the county's environmental resilience and sustainability, and the community!



Town of Pavilion - Salt Storage Replacement Update

In the 2025 Fall Newsletter, we highlighted the Salt Storage Replacement in the Town of Pavilion. Funded through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) and cost-share program, the project was under construction throughout the early fall months.



Old
Wood
Sides

New
Sealed
Concrete
Sides



The storage was completed in October of 2025, just in time to prepare for winter weather!

Genesee County Soil and Water
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