



# GENESEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



### 2024 FLOWPA WATERSHED TOUR

Since 2000, the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA) continues to cost share and provide technical assistance on water quality improvement projects. This summer they held a watershed tour of funded projects across Genesee and Wyoming County to showcase their completed projects to New York State Senate and Assembly Representatives, DEC staff, and key stakeholders. These projects included culvert replacements, cropland erosion control systems, streambank stabilization, and heavy use area protection.

Thank you to all who make these projects possible!



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# SUMMER STAFF TRAININGS

Pg. 2



## MANURE EXPO

An annual educational and demonstration event that has been hosted by 11 different state/provinces, this year in Auburn, NY! Attendees toured local facilities to witness the best in manure innovations and nutrient management. Demonstrations included separators, agitators, and spreaders! Along with education sessions on safety, soil health, water quality, GHG mitigation, and more!



## AG BMP WORKSHOP

Hosted in Geneva, NY, senior SWCD technicians trained newer district employees on design and implementation of structural erosion control BMP's on agricultural lands. We toured 5 different project sites and worked through real life scenarios of diversions, outlets, grassed waterways, and water and sediment control basins (WASCOBS)! Thank you to Ontario, Seneca, Yates County SWCD, and their technicians!



## AEM TRAINING

An Intro to AEM Training was held in Attica, NY! This training reviewed the AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Program which included Tier assessments, planning protocols, and discussion of other practices and skills related to conveying AEM services to our farmers and community members! Thank you to our educators and the Rudgers Family for this training and access to the farm!

## Spotted Lanternfly Eggs

Egg masses laid by SLF can be found throughout the fall and winter months on almost any surface. If you see an egg mass, similar to dried mud, please scrape them into a bag or jar to prevent invasive spread and make sure to report it! For more information, visit our Facebook page or see previous newsletters!



## District Directors & Staff

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*Technician*





# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Pavilion Center Road Culvert Replacement

The Town of Pavilion had to close Pavilion Center Road in late 2023 due to a failed plastic culvert pipe that was so severe, the road had collapsed. The District, along with Genesee County Highway Department, were contacted by the highway supervisor of The Town of Pavilion for technical assistance on the replacement of the culvert. As part of the design, the District sized the watershed and determined the flow of water the site would see annually. County Highway engineers then sized the new culvert pipe, which the District added to their designs and gave to the town to install. The new, and larger, culvert was installed on a similar grade but was imbedded to allow for aquatic passage of macroinvertebrates and fish. To protect from erosive water flows, the inlet and outlet of the pipe were armored.



Outlet; armored to protect against Oatka Creek water flow



Inlet; less damaging flow, no large armoring needed

## Paul Road Culvert Replacement

The District assisted the Genesee County Highway Department in a culvert replacement on Paul Road in the Town of Bethany. The culvert helps controls water from a wetland adjacent to Black Creek during heavy rain and spring thaw, covering approximately 236 acres. The crossing consisted of two (2) corrugated steel squash pipes with deteriorating conditions. With financial support from Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance Program (FOLLOWPA), these were replaced with a concrete box culvert (as shown in the photo) that was properly sized for the flow of water the area sees.



## Hydroseeding

Hydroseeding is a planting method that consists of water, grass seed, and mulch. This method allows us to apply uniform coverage, cover large areas of land (including sloped areas!), provides quick germination due to the moisture content of the slurry, and (most importantly) helps control soil erosion! We apply this slurry using our FINN Hydroseeder and have seeded, to date this year, over 424,546 sq. ft. of soil...that's almost 10 acres!

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# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Waste Storage Facility



In collaboration with USDA NRCS and financial assistance through Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPSACP), the District assisted in the completion of a 700,000-gallon waste storage facility in Alexander, NY. This facility will allow up to 8-months of manure and milkhouse waste storage (dependent on number of livestock). The storage reduces the need for frequent hauling and land spreading, especially in the winter months. Spreading when soil and weather conditions are suitable is vital for effectiveness and helps to prevent potential field runoff.

This project also included the design and construction of roof runoff structures to improve drainage and divert rain water to the storage - an addition precaution to potential runoff.

## Leachate Collection and Transfer System

The Nutrient Reduction in White Creek Watershed Project, funded by Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPSACP), started construction in Pavilion, NY this summer. This project addresses silage leachate runoff concerns and nutrient management. Silage leachate is a byproduct of the fermentation process of harvested crops stored in feed storage bags. To prevent this nutrient flow from entering waterways, a total collection system was installed. A concrete apron and curb were installed around the existing feed storage pad. This directs the low and high flow effluent to an outlet control structure. From there, it will be pumped through a 6" pipe to a 44,000 cubic foot waste storage tank.

The project, to be continued in 2025, will also allow the water and nutrients collected from the feed storage area to be recycled. This will be done by installing a pumping plant adjacent to the waste storage tank to assist in moving water to the irrigation system. An additional 1,000 feet of irrigation pipeline is to be included, as well as 2,000 feet of hose reel and a traveling sprinkler. This will allow the farm to recycle all wastewater collected (nutrients!) and be applied to land that supports their livestock's forage demands.



Concrete Curb & Apron to direct leachate



Total Collection System to hold leachate & water runoff



Storage Tank to hold waste prior to irrigation

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# WINTER IS COMING!

## Keeping Pumpkins OUT of the Landfill!

Did you know over 1 billion pounds of pumpkins go to the landfill each year? That's over 80% of all purchased pumpkins for the fall season. Here are some ways we can keep them out of our landfills...

-  Toss them in your compost pile
-  Cut the hallowed pumpkin in half and fill with birdseed - the birds will love it!
-  Cut up and freeze chunks of pumpkin & put them out in the spring for butterflies
-  Donate to local farms, zoos, animal shelters, or wildlife rehabilitation centers!
-  Cook them! There's so many amazing pumpkin recipes out there!

## Winter Prep - Inside and Outside

Keeping your home safe and warm is important this winter, but so is saving energy! Here are some things to consider when getting ready for the winter months inside and outside your home...

### Inside

- Ensure attic is properly insulated to help retain hot air from the home and prevent it from escaping
- Check for gaps and cracks around windows and doors to prevent drafts...use caulk or weather-strips to seal
- Reverse ceiling fans to circulate warm air that rises (clockwise!)



### Outside

- Turn off and drain exterior faucets
  - maintain extension hoses attached to sump pump discharge pipes!
- Clean gutters to prevent clogs and potential water leaks around your home
- Clean out dryer vents and chimneys to prevent fires!
- Make sure broken or loose siding is replaced or repaired

**\*\*Please *DO NOT* stack wood alongside your home or garage...there should be at least a 5 foot buffer from the stacked wood to the wall of a structure. This allows for airflow, prevents fuel for fires, and prevents unwanted pests and rodents from accessing your home!**

## Cover Crops

You can winter prep your garden too! Cover crops are an amazing addition to your garden or garden beds. Plant them after harvest in the fall & let them go all winter! They'll improve your soil by reducing compaction, increasing moisture and nutrients, controlling erosion, and much more! Call or stop by the office to purchase our cover crop mix!



REMINDER - Tree & Shrub Program Sale Order Forms come out this winter! Be on the lookout for them in January!

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# JAPANESE KNOTWEED

## Invasive Species Program



Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive species that is spreading quickly across Genesee County. This plant is a nuisance, growing in dense thickets that shade out native plants, cause soil erosion, interfere with roads and bridges, and can even alter waterways.

Genesee County Soil and Water has been mapping out Japanese Knotweed throughout the Spring and Summer months. Starting next summer, we plan to start chemical treatments to kill the invasive plants. If you or someone you know has knotweed on their property and would like it treated, please contact us at (585) 343-2362 ext. 5 or email [jhodges@geneseeswcd.com](mailto:jhodges@geneseeswcd.com).

## Identification

- Hollow, smooth, reddish stems growing in zig-zag pattern
- Heart shaped leaves with long pointed tip and flat top
- Clusters of white flowers blooming August-September
- Reddish-brown thicket of broken/bent stems blown over by winds in the winter months



Even if you do not wish to have your knotweed infestation treated with herbicides, our office has valuable information to help you control the plant by other means. Call or stop in and ask for a homeowner treatment information packet!



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# AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENT

In 1971, NYS enacted the Agricultural Districts Law to help protect and promote agriculture within the State. As part of that law, taxes on eligible farmland would be based on that land's agricultural assessment rather than its full assessment.

## What Makes Farmland Eligible?

At a minimum, land must have at least two cropping years and be seven (7) acres with annual sales of \$10,000, OR, if under seven (7) acres, then annual sales of at least \$50,000.

\*If you are a landowner and rent your land to a farm, you may also be eligible for the reduced assessment.

If you think your land may be eligible, please talk with your town's Tax Assessor. If your land is deemed eligible, you will need to apply for the Agricultural Assessment yearly with the Assessor and may need to have a Soil Group Worksheet (SGW) completed. Typically, the taxable status date is March 1st.

### You will need to have a Soil Group Worksheet completed if:

- This is the first time you are applying for the Agricultural Assessment;
- Ownership of the parcel changes;
- Dimensions of the parcel changes (i.e., a parcel is divided or merged);
- The amount of land used for agricultural production changed;
- The Assessor requests one;

\*\*If your parcel is 15 years or older, consider getting an updated agricultural assessment. Our measurement tools are more accurate than before!

### Each parcel will be broken down into land use types: agricultural and silvopasture, farm woodland, excess farm woodland, and non-agricultural land.

1. Agricultural land consists of cropland, pasture, orchards, vineyards, managed Christmas tree plantations, sugarbush, aquaculture and supportland. Silvopasture must have an associated and attached plan and is limited, for tax purposes, to ten (10) acres for large livestock or five (5) acres for small livestock.
2. Farm woodland consists of land used for the production of woodland products including logs, lumber, posts and firewood up to 50 acres. Any acreage over 50 is listed under the 'excess farm woodland' heading
3. Non-agricultural land consists of buildings, residences, yards, quarries, etc.

Agricultural land will then be mapped and categorized based upon soil type and acreage. Each soil is assigned a Mineral Soil Group, which is what the adjusted taxes are based upon.

If you are directed to get a Soil Group Worksheet in the future, please call our office. We will need your name, mailing address, each parcel location, the Parcel Identification Number, and the total parcel acreage per your tax bill. We will also need to know if there were any recent changes in parcel size or ownership. Each parcel will receive a separate SGW at a cost of \$25 per Worksheet.



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