Soil Health

Lewis County
Soil and Water Conservation District

Nichelle Billhardt
District Manager
Review

Ag Environmental Management

Funding - AGNPS

Cover Crop Grants

Soil Health Project
AEM is a statewide, locally-led, and voluntary process that helps farmers make common sense decisions toward meeting their business objectives while protecting and conserving natural resources.

- AEM Law enacted in 2000 with soil and water conservation focus.
- Expanded in 2008 to include air, energy, and GHG management.
Agricultural Environmental Management

Helps address New York’s commitment to State and National priorities:

• Clean Water Act
• Safe Drinking Water Act
• Coastal Zone Management Act
• Greenhouse gas mitigation, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation
• Adaptable to future priorities
## AEM Framework – 5 Tier Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEM Tier</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 – Inventory (Questionnaire)</td>
<td>Basic farm info and interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 2 – Assessment (Worksheets)</td>
<td>Identify existing stewardship, resource concerns, and opportunities</td>
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<td>Tier 3 – Planning</td>
<td>Develop conservation plans</td>
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<td>Tier 4 – Implementation</td>
<td>Implement conservation practices based on the plans</td>
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<td>Tier 5 – Evaluation</td>
<td>Evaluate plans, practices, and programs</td>
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Funding Programs to Advance AEM

- AEM Base Program
- Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS)
- Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Ecosystem Based Management RFPs
- Cost-Share Programs from Key Partners NRCS, NYS DEC, EPA, and others
Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program

- AgNPS program cost shares BMP Systems Soil & Water Conservation Districts are the local sponsors
  - Source: NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
  - Higher ranking for TMDLs, 303d, public drinking water, CAFO, and buffers
- $160M appropriated over 23 Rounds since 1994
- Currently R23: $14.1M awarded for $43M in State requested funds for Ag BMP projects proposed by Districts
- $14 million budgeted for 2017/18 (R24)
AGNPS Grant Funds

Cover Crop After Corn Silage Harvest

- 5 Farms - Round 20
- 3 Farms – Round 22
Benefits Of Cover Crops

- Reduced Sediment Runoff
- Improved Nutrient Management
- Protects Water Quality
- Reduced Soil Compaction
- Over All Improved Soil Health
Lewis County
Cover Crop Survey

- Sent out to 140 Farms
- 36 responses

- Hurdles to Planting CC
  1. Limited Time for Cover Crop Planting Following Corn Silage Harvest
  2. Lack of Availability of Planting Equipment
  3. Cost
Part C Funding - Interseeder

- Establishes crops in June/July
- Cover Crops have up to 4 months to grow
- Once corn silage is harvested, the cover crop remains
InterSeeder

- 188 Acres Cover Crop Planted 2017
- Demo Plots of Rye Grass, Red Clover and Daikon Radish
- 2018 - 370 acres
Daikon Radish, Annual Rye Grass & Red Clover Mixture
Planted 7/6/17
Interseeded Cover Crops After CS Harvest
Interseeded Cover Crops After CS Harvest
Soil Health Workshop

Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District
Free Soil Health/Cover Crop Seminar

October 26, 2017
10am-3pm
Boondocks Restaurant
(3950 NY State Route 12 Lyons Falls, NY 13368)

Agenda
9:30am: Registration
10:00am-10:30am: Corey Dillon (Interseeder Technologies)
Benefits of Interseeding
10:30am-11:00am Mike Hunter (Cornell Cooperative Extension) Interseeding Cover Crops-Herbicide and Weed Management Guidelines
11:00am-11:30am: John Kemmeren (Chenango County Farmer)
Find out how 40 years of no-tilling resulted in healthy, high organic-matter soils and have allowed him to cut fertilizer inputs by 75% while increasing yields.
11:30am-12:10pm: Aaron Ristow (Cornell University Soil Health Program Associate) Corn & Soybean Soil Health, Soil Water Holding Capacity & New York State Soil Health Initiative
12:10pm-1:00pm: Lunch Buffet (Provided By: Cornell Soil Health Team)
1:00pm-1:30pm: Shawn Bossard (SUNY Morrisville) No-Tilling While Utilizing Cover Crops
1:30pm-3:00pm: Field Visits (Conway Dairy Farm LLC—Turin, NY)

CCA CREDITS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Please RSVP By October 16th to Lewis County SWCD
(315)376-6122 or Email: alexislyndaker@lewiscounty.ny.gov
Soil Health Workshop

35 Attendees
Classroom & Infield Component
Interseeder 10 Free Acre Project

- Recommended V7 or earlier stage of corn
- Sunlight penetrate in the canopy for cover crop seeds to germinate and establish
  - Daikon Radish
  - Red Clover
  - Annual Ryegrass
- Seed mixture includes 3 lbs. of radish, 8 lbs. of clover and 12 lbs. of ryegrass