

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report - December 2017
Submitted by: Brian Steinmuller – Acting Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

Happy Holidays! The holiday season is here again, a time for remembering our family and friends. Wishing you and all those close to you... a joyous holiday season and a new year of happiness! Season's Greetings!

NYS SWCC News

2017 State Aid to Districts – Solicitation for Reports: 2017 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are now available on [SharePoint](#). These reports will NOT be emailed to you. All reports are due to the State Committee by February 15, 2018. Please contact jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions. If your District would like, I would be happy to provide a cursory review of your completed 2017 Annual Reports. My review cannot guarantee they are correct, but I can offer another set of eyes which is often helpful when looking at the reports for several days/weeks!

Performance Measures: Just a last-minute reminder that you still have the month of December to complete any of your performance measures for Part C funding. Successful completion of all sections of the Performance Measures will provide your District with funds this coming year to implement a program or activity to deliver conservation to your county. Note: having an established FOIL Policy is a **new requirement**. The *2017 Performance Measure Summary Evaluation Report* is available on [SharePoint](#)

NRCS Local Workgroup Meetings: Recently across NY there have been a few of these NRCS meetings scheduled in several Counties. As a reminder, if you and your Board member(s) attends these meetings, this will count towards your 2017 Perf Measures.

SWCC Meeting: The next NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be held on December 19th at the Department of Agriculture and Markets office located in Albany with a potential videoconference in Syracuse. Details and a full agenda will be forwarded soon.

AEM Base Year 13 Interim Reports: As a reminder, AEM Year 13 (2017-2018) Interim Reports are due from all Districts participating in the AEM Base Program by **December 6, 2017**. The Interim Report Form is available on the SharePoint site (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>).

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program: The application period for the first \$20 million has closed with 93 applications being submitted for funding consideration. It is anticipated that award decisions for Round 1 funding will be made in the next few weeks. Any questions concerning the program should be directed to either Bethany Bzduch Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA.

AGNPS: A reminder, AGNPS Interim reports were due on November 1st. If you have not done so yet, please submit your reports to Maureen Irish (Maureen.Irish@agriculture.ny.gov) and your Regional AEA as soon as possible. Please note, interim reports are only required for fully executed contracts. If you do not yet have a fully executed contract, you are not required to submit an interim report.

Climate Resilient Farming: Round 3 of the CRF Program is slated for release very soon. Again, this year there will be three funding tracks: Manure Storage Cover and Flare, Water Management, and Soil Health. Please be on the lookout for this announcement.

NYS Ag& Mkts, NYS SWCC, and NYS DEC MOU: The MOU that authorizes the DEC to provide funding to Districts through the SWCC is going through a renewal process. The current MOU has funded many valuable projects including: Weed Harvesting on Lake Champlain, Riparian Forest Buffers with enhanced rental payments in the Upper Susquehanna, NAACC projects and ESI. It is the goal of the partnership to create a longer-term MOU that will support more projects in priority basins across the state. It is a personal goal of mine to bring some of this funding to Region 4 to bolster North Country District programs even further.