

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – January 2018
Submitted by: Brian Steinmuller – Assistant Director, Acting Region 4 Coordinator

NYS SWCC News

Climate Resilient Farming Program – Round 3 Funding: The Request for Proposals for Round 3 of the Climate Resilient Farming Program is now available on the SWCC's [SharePoint](#) site. \$2 Million is currently available for projects aimed at reducing impacts of climate change on agriculture. The RFP and associated proposal materials are also available on the Department of Agriculture and Markets Website, <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html>. Proposals are due by **4:30 p.m., February 26, 2018**. Any questions about the RFP should be sent in writing to Brian.Steinmuller@agriculture.ny.gov.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program: Congratulations to those SWCDs and farms who were awarded funding under Round 1 of the CAFO Waste Storage Program! Award letters were mailed out in late December 2017. Round 1 of the program funded 61 Waste Storage & Transfer Systems on 56 farms. Don't forget, a second application period for an additional \$15 million will be launched later this year, along with an additional \$15 Million available in 2019. Any questions about the program should be directed to either Bethany Bzduch Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA.

2017 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15: 2017 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are available on [SharePoint](#). 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.

Performance Measures: January starts a New Year and a reminder to hit your Performance Measures for 2018 Part C funds early and often! Successful completion of all sections of the Performance Measures in 2018 will provide your District with funds in 2019 to implement programs and/or activities that deliver conservation to your County.

SWCC Meeting: A NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting was held on December 19th in Albany with a video conference option available at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. All SWCDs in NY had their Annual Plans of Work approved by the SWCC by the start of 2018. The next SWCC meeting will convene in February 2018. An agenda will be made available as we get closer to the meeting date.

NYS Grown and Certified: Maple is the next commodity to come into the program. If Districts have maple producers that are interested in the program, it's time to get their AEM evaluation scheduled. The core Tier 2 worksheets for maple that can be used include watershed site evaluation, soil management, waste disposal, pesticide use, farmstead water supply, stream & floodplain management, petroleum & oil storage, forest management, and process wash water. If the maple operation includes other commodities, they must be included in the evaluation as well.

AGNPS: The RFP for Round 24 of the AGNPS Program is expected to be released in January 2018. Please stay tuned for further notifications.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): The Governor has announced a new initiative to address HABs in 12 waterbodies across the state, including areas of Lake Champlain and Lake George in the North Country. DEC and the SWCC will be working together to coordinate the development of regional HAB Summits and Action Plans to tackle these issues. **More information to follow.**

Did You Know: Did you know you can access your SWCC Claim for Payment information on the vendor self-service portal of the NY Statewide Financial System? In fact, you can check the status of your recent transactions (Invoices, Purchase Orders & Payments) with all New York State agencies by logging into the Vendor Self-Service Portal. You can find out more about this system here: http://www.osc.state.ny.us/vendor_management/index.htm

Other Events

2018 SWCS Empire State Chapter Annual Meeting: The Empire State Chapter of the SWCS will be holding its annual meeting on **January 18, 2018** at Cayuga County's Soil and Water Conservation Building, located at 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York 13021. Registration is due by January 11th, 2018. Registration questions should be directed to Lisa Miller, Office Manager, SWCS – Empire Chapter swcsnewyork.org@gmail.com

Managing Dairy Manure Systems - Sharing Experiences of Farmers and Engineers: Cornell Cooperative Extension will be convening their “Managing Dairy Manure Systems” meeting at 10 AM on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**, at the Greenwich Elks Lodge, located at 130 Bulson Rd., Greenwich, NY. For the meeting, a panel of six experienced farms and two top engineers in New York will discuss various topics including: Separating sand & solids; Draglines; Hauling; Satellite Lagoons and; etc. Questions & RSVPs should be directed to, Tove Ford (518-765-3518, cce-caahp@cornell.edu)

2018 Water Quality Symposium: The 2018 Water Quality Symposium / NYS CDEA Annual Training Session will convene at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Syracuse, NY during March 13th – 16th, 2018. Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2018 and are due no later than February 2nd, 2018. The 2018 WQS Registration Packet can be found on the NYS CDEA [Website](#). If you have questions about registration, the courses or hotel, please contact Chastity Miller at cmiller@fcswcd.org or by calling (518) 483-2850 ext. 5.

Other Funding Opportunities

Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the [Urban Waters Restoration Grant program](#) will award \$2 Million in grants nationwide for projects addressing ecological improvements, targeted community outreach, education, and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; water quality monitoring; and stormwater management. Applications are due **January 31, 2018**. <http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/2018rfp.aspx>