

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – June 2018
Submitted by: Brian Steinmuller – Region 4 Acting Regional Coordinator

AGNPS Round 24: The AgNPS Round 24 RFP is awaiting approval to be released. Thank you for your patience. More information and the RFP will be available soon.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program Round 2: The application period for the 2nd round of funding (\$15 million) is now open. This year, applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC Sharepoint website by **4:30 PM August 6th, 2018**. The RFP, Proposal Rating Sheet, and Application Form were recently sent via email and are also available on Sharepoint and the Department website. (<https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html>) Any questions concerning the RFP should be sent in writing to Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov by July 30, 2018.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Round 3: As a reminder, CRF Round 3 Plans of Work are due by **June 11th, 2018** so we can proceed with contract development in a timely manner. Contact your Regional AEA with any questions or concerns.

June SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene **Tuesday, June 19th at 10:00 a.m.** via videoconference in Albany and Syracuse. Details and a full agenda will be forwarded soon.

State Aid to Districts Meeting: An announcement will go out soon regarding a Web-Ex meeting to be held on June 15th from 10:00 – 2:00 regarding the changes to the State Aid to Districts program and specific Performance Measures recommendations. Please save the date, this meeting is open to all Districts, including Directors.

AEM Year 13: As a reminder, the information on close-out of AEM Year 13 (2017-2018) Program was recently released. Again this year, Districts will be able to self-certify and must be completed and submitted to Albany by **July 7, 2018**. The required information and forms are available on the SWCC SharePoint site. Go to: “Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Base Program Materials > AEM Base Year 13 Materials”.

2018 Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees Conservation Award Nominations: The NACDE is currently accepting nominations for its slate of 2018 Conservation Awards. NACDE Conservation Awards are presented to recognize professionalism and dedication in the people behind the Northeast Region’s conservation programs. Nominations for the awards must be made through a state employee association or committee or one of the partner agencies at the regional level.

2018 Envirothon Winners: Congratulations to all the student winners of the 29th annual New York State Envirothon competition, which took place May 23 and 24 at Hobart and William Smith College. The team from The Mount Academy in Ulster County was named New York State Champions again this year. Allegany County’s Cuba-Rushford Central School and Onondaga County’s Skaneateles High School were awarded second and third place, respectively. The student team from The Mount Academy will now represent New York State at the NCF-Envirothon this summer in Idaho. Congrats to all and good luck Ulster County!

Upcoming Events

New York Soil Health Summit: Save the date: **Wednesday, July 18, 2018, Time TBD** - Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. This event, organized by the New York Soil Health project, is for farmers, researchers, agriculture service providers, government agencies, non-profits and policy-makers interested in advancing soil health efforts across the state. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with colleagues and contribute critical feedback to the NY Soil Health Roadmap. Registration, summit agenda, and other details will be coming soon. For more information, contact David Wolfe (dww5@cornell.edu) or Aaron Ristow (ajr229@cornell.edu)

Funding Opportunities

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Grant and Engineering Planning Grant: The Requests for Applications (RFA) for the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program and the Engineering Planning Grant are now available to view. Applications must be completed by **July 27 at 4:00 PM**. These grants are part of the NYS Regional Economic Development Councils Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The WQIP program has \$79 million available and the Engineering Planning Grant has up to \$3 million available. Multiple workshops on these and other grant programs offered through the CFA are being held around the state. More information about the workshops and the CFA can be found here: <http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>