

Technician's Report – Ben Luskin – 03/23/2018

Grants and Projects:

- Round 17 - Completed the closeout review of paperwork and field checks with Brian Steinmuller. The closeout packet was sent to and reviewed by Bethany Bzduch at the state office. As of Wednesday she said that all of the paperwork looked good, but that she and Brian need to confer on some numbers regarding the Trinkle Farms payback money.
- Round 18 - I have completed the majority of the closeout paperwork and emailed the requested information to Brian Steinmuller 2 weeks ago. Brian said he would get to it as he has time, but I have not heard back. I am trying to set up a closeout meeting with him in the next 2 weeks.
- Round 19 - Closeout completed
 - Payment was received from the state and Lori cut the 3 checks that were remaining. The bank account can be closed out.
- Round 20 - I will be completing the Round 20 Final Closeout paperwork in April.
- Round 21 -
- Round 22 -
 - Woody Hill: Made payment on the engineering for the manure storage. Discussions with the farm and engineer regarding the sizing, location, and cost of the proposed reception pit. Implementation is on track for this summer. Once the weather clears Corrina and I will do a site visit for the proposed herbaceous buffer system so that a design can be assembled. Some preliminary design and map work was done for the buffer area.
 - Twin Brooks: Met with the farm and NRCS to go over the EQIP and AGNPS contracts and how they will work together to implement the Livestock HUA Runoff Systems. Designs need to be completed by the private engineer and then will be put out to bid. It is planned to implement the smaller of the two HUAs this year and the larger HUA in 2019.
I also discussed implementing the .5 acre Forest Riparian Buffer System this year and the farm was ok with that. NRCS & FSA have helped me regarding following the correct standards and planting guidelines as I begin the design work.
- Round 23-
 - Heritage Hill: Working with the farm planner and engineer to get the project designs completed so that they can gain NRCS concurrence for a VT RCPP application.
- CAFO Waste Grant - Round 1-
 - Battenkill Dairy: Reviewed the engineering proposal description and costs from the first engineer to look at the proposed Waste Storage System. Met with a second engineer, Corrina, and the farm to walk and discuss the proposed project. A contractor was on site with a large excavator to conduct test pits on the Slurrystore area to find out how deep the footer could be.

AEM

- Red Top: Waste management
- Landview: Waste management
- Twin Brooks: Waste management
- Brown, David: Discussed grazing plan and AEM

Miscellaneous

- Technician report
- Bank Reconciliations
- Environmental Education Foundation Teleconference
- Fertilizer Tablet sale for CDEA
- Helped organize things for the WQS

Meetings Attended

- A & K AgriServices Producer Meeting - Greenwich, NY - March 8th
- NY CDEA Water Quality Symposium - Syracuse, NY - March 13-16

Upcoming Meetings

- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition - Warrensburg, NY - April 12th