

Technician's Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – 03/23/2018

AEM: Hours to date: January 50
February 28
March 27 (to date)
105 total x 42/hr. = \$4,410

AEM Workload:

- NYS Grown & Certified: Mike Groetoli asked to wait on the AEM verification as he is busy in the sugar house right now.
- At the WQS, Grown & Certified announced alcoholic beverages which include beer, wine, cider, spirits and beverage ingredient producers are eligible to use the seal.
- Other commodities coming soon are honey, other livestock and wood products.
- AEM Tier 3A Planning: I continue to work with Hick's Orchard, Joe Anuszewski and Brian Barbur on developing 3A Plans.

Grant Status

- CAFO Funding Round 1: On March 7th, Corrina and I met with Albert Marns, his wife and Mike Contessa to discuss a plan for financing his projects and any possible projects we may submit in the future. Their NBT bank loan officer did not show up.
- Round 20: I have field checks on the calendar for the four Granville farms participating in the cover crop portion of the grant.

Ag Assessments: I have completed tallying and filing the Soil Group Worksheets for this year. There are 6 or 7 still to be picked up. Paid worksheets since October total 203 parcels for 157 landowners. 203 x \$35 = \$7,105 income

No-till Drills:

- Status of drills – Sell One or Keep
- Here are my suggestions to streamline and improve the efficiency of the no-till program with both drills:
 1. Every Washington County landowner must have at least a 3-year or newer AEM Tier I on file or complete one before taking a drill. *Perhaps this would shift some drill time hours over to AEM and possibly open some new opportunities to work with landowners through AEM.
 2. Landowner Lease Checklist: I will develop a checklist that each landowner will complete at the conclusion of their usage of the drill. *Perhaps this will help cut down amount of time chasing people about missing draw pins, flat tires, broken disk, etc.
 3. Impose a cleaning fee if the drills have seed left in them. I would set the fee at \$50 to cover an hour to clean out the drill. Fee should be written in lease agreement. *Perhaps by imposing a clean out fee landowners would be more diligent in helping maintain the drills.
 4. Allow landowners to pick up drills from the parking lot as a first option. The drill must go through the checklist before it leaves and when it comes back. *Perhaps this will decrease time on the road with the drills.

Meetings Attended

- 02/05 – CaroVail Growers Meeting, Elks Lodge, Greenwich
- 03/08 – Whitman’s Soil Health Meeting, Greenwich
- 03/15-16 – Water Quality Symposium, Syracuse

Meetings Upcoming

- 03/27 – WQCC Meeting, USDA Service Center, Greenwich
- 04/06 – Conservation Reserve Program, Voorheesville