

What farmers are saying about AEM:



Dutchess County SWCD



"AEM makes good environmental and economic sense!"

- Peter & David Coon,
Coon Brothers Dairy Farm
Dutchess County

"AEM benefits farmers, their workers and their neighbors, as well as our water supply.

Not only are the new methods safer and better for the environment, some of them even pay for themselves."

- Chris Kelly, Palmer Vineyards
Suffolk County



Long Island Farm Bureau

"If it wasn't for AEM, I'd be out of business.

AEM makes it possible to meet new, stricter regulations and remain competitive."

-Mark Adams,
Adams Hen House, Inc.
Ontario County



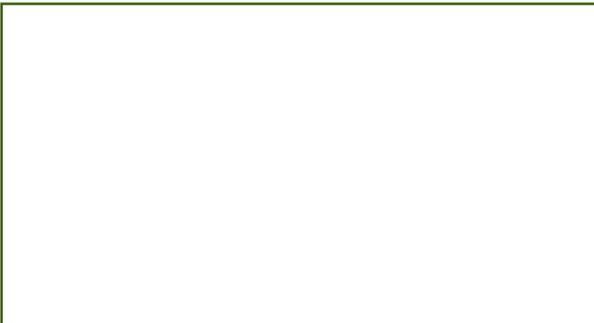
Ontario County SWCD

AEM Objectives:

- Provide a voluntary, incentive-based program to address water quality concerns on farms
- Coordinate a watershed-based approach
- Document environmental stewardship
- Adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with farm resources
- Increase farmers' awareness of their potential impact on the environment
- Increase non-farmer awareness of agriculture's multiple environmental benefits
- Address neighbor relations concerns

AEM Contacts:

- County Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Certified AEM Planners
- NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee



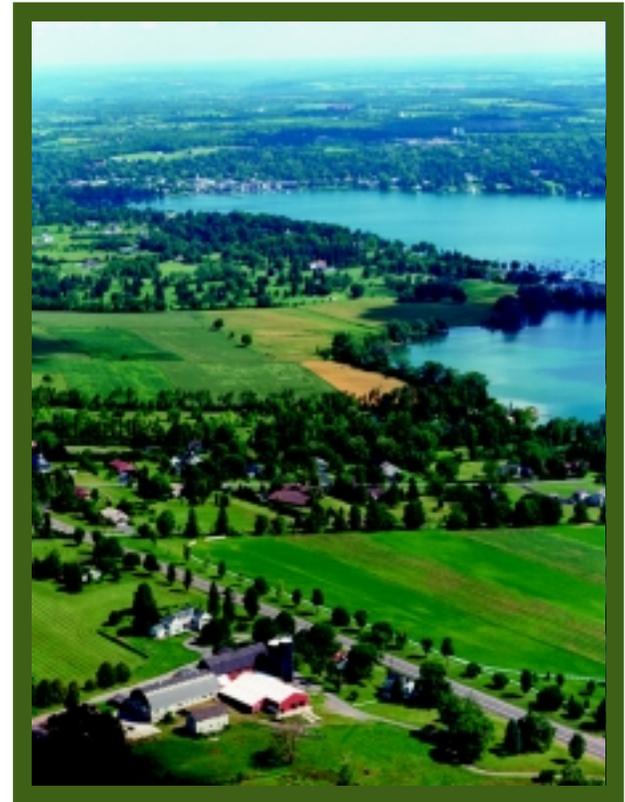
AEM

www.nys-soilandwater.org

NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee

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Agricultural Environmental Management



**Environmental Stewardship:
It's good business!**

What is AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers operate environmentally sound and economically viable businesses.

The AEM program coordinates agricultural and environmental conservation agencies and programs, as well as private sector consultants, to provide one-stop shopping for services. All agricultural counties in New York State are conducting AEM programs, and participation has grown to include nearly 8,000 farms.



Dutchess County SWCD

Why AEM?

Farmers utilize AEM to address water quality concerns originating from agricultural activities by:

- assessing environmental concerns associated with their farming operations
- documenting current stewardship
- developing environmental farm plans
- implementing environmentally sound practices to address identified concerns
- complying with state and federal environmental regulations

Local management of AEM program activities allows consideration of site specific agricultural practices, local environmental concerns, and individual business objectives.

How Does AEM Work?

Using AEM's 5-tiered approach, farmers work with local AEM resource professionals to develop and implement comprehensive, site-specific farm plans:

- Tier 1:** A short questionnaire identifies current farm activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.
- Tier 2:** AEM worksheets document current environmental stewardship while identifying and prioritizing environmental concerns.
- Tier 3:** A plan is developed providing solutions to environmental concerns identified in Tiers 1 and 2. Plans are designed with a farm's mission, goals, and objectives in mind.
- Tier 4:** Agricultural agencies and consultants provide farms with technical, educational and financial assistance to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Tier 5:** Ongoing evaluations ensure that AEM helps protect both the environment and the viability of farm businesses.

AEM Benefits Farmers & the Environment

AEM helps to:

- manage manure and fertilizer nutrients
- manage barnyard runoff and process wastewater
- conserve soil
- protect drinking water
- improve neighbor and community relations
- promote the economic and environmental benefits of farmland to the community
- comply with environmental regulations
- be consistent with permit requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

What Assistance Does AEM Provide?

AEM links farmers with programs to address environmental issues on the farm.

Financial Assistance

Sources of cost-share funds for environmental farm plans and BMP implementation include:

- NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program
- NYS Farmland Viability Grants
- NYS Energy Research & Development Authority Grants (NYSERDA)
- USDA Farm Bill Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee



"Cost-share funds have enabled us to be progressive in the way we take care of the farm for the environment and the next generation."

- Connie Patterson,
Patterson Farm, Cayuga County

Technical Assistance & Information

- Environmental farm plan development
- Best Management Practice design & installation
- Education programs to help farmers operate viable and environmentally sound farms

"Our voluntary AEM efforts to protect surface and groundwater benefit everyone. Public support through financial incentives reinforces our stewardship."

- Mike McMahon, E-Z Acres Dairy, Cortland County



Cortland County SWCD