

# 2022 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

The 2022 Conservation Skills Workshop will be held September 26<sup>th</sup> – September 29<sup>th</sup> in Cortland, NY. Included in this packet you will find the 2022 Conservation Skills Workshop registration information, class descriptions and class schedule.

This year we have a number of classes that cover multiple days. Please read each class description carefully and be aware that classes will overlap. All classes run from Monday to Thursday. In addition, **classes will start at 10:00 am on Monday morning. Classes start at 8:30 am on Tuesday – Thursday.**

This workshop is sponsored by the NYS Conservation District Employee's Association, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

**This year's registration rate is \$30 per person.**

***Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2022, however, payments must still be mailed to the address below. Registrations is due no later than September 9, 2022.***

**[Click here to fill out registration form](#)**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSCDEA**

**PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO: FRANKLIN COUNTY SWCD**

**151 FINNEY BLVD**

**MALONE, NY 12953**

**C/O CHASTITY MILLER**

**QUESTIONS???** PLEASE CONTACT CAITLIN STEWART AT HAMILTON SWCD

**(518)548-3991 OR [caitlinstewart@frontier.com](mailto:caitlinstewart@frontier.com)**

**ISSUES WITH REGISTRATION OR PAYMENT CONTACT CHASTITY MILLER AT FRANKLIN SWCD**

**(518) 651-2097 OR [cmiller@fcsxcd.org](mailto:cmiller@fcsxcd.org)**

**DIRECTIONS:** Classes will be held in Cortland, unless otherwise noted in the class description. Please read the class description for class location information.

**LODGING:** **\*New this year\* - The NYS Conservation District Employees Association has voted to reimburse Conservation Skills Workshop SWCD Employees' up to 3 days of hotel room costs at the hotels listed below. In order to receive reimbursement attendee(s) must send a copy of their hotel receipt, following the event, along with a completed NYSCDEA reimbursement form ([Click Here](#)) by Oct 14 for reimbursement. See reimbursement form for further instructions.**

Lodging nearby includes: Hampton Inn 607-662-0007; Quality Inn University Area 607-756-5622; Holiday Inn Express 607-299-0099; Clarion Inn & Suites 607-218-1968. You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements.

**DINING:** All meals are on your own. Participants should be prepared for lunch in the field if site visits are necessary.

## 2022 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

*Please remember: 1) you are visiting these field sites as part of the 2022 Conservation Skills Workshop for educational purposes, 2) these sites are open to you as a courtesy to help accommodate your training needs, and 3) by participating in this training you agree to utilize information for training purposes only and to keep all information confidential.*

### Course List

#### 1. Basic Soils

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 4:30

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30 - 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10 Max - 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Dan Ufnar – USDA NRCS State Soil Scientist; Amy Langner – USDA NRCS Soil Scientist

Conservation professionals routinely use soil information from both soil surveys and on-site planning. This course provides an overview and introduction to relevant soils topics. Topics will include soil surveys, updates to soil data, accessing soils data, dynamic soil properties, USDA soil classification system, and more. There will be field exercises to practice performing soil health assessments, identifying hydric soil indicators, and classifying soils in the field to improve site assessment for conservation practice design.

#### 2. Manure Management Systems for Water Quality, GHGs, and Renewable Energy

Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10 Max - 45

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Lauren Ray, Peter Wright, Kirsten Workman – Cornell ProDairy; Greg Albrecht – NYS SWCC; Brian Hall – Cayuga SWCD

This day-long course will focus on several topics related to managing manure for water quality, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, and renewable energy to support work in developing cover and flare projects with producers through programs like the Climate Resilient Farming Program, as well as discussing more general questions from the farm- and broader-communities about anaerobic digestion and renewable natural gas projects.

The course will start at 10AM at the Cayuga SWCD (7413 County House Rd, Auburn, NY 13021) with a classroom session covering the following:

- basics of greenhouse gases and manure management;
- overview of major policies and programs in NYS;
- gaining familiarity with anaerobic digestion systems (ADS) and renewable natural gas (RNG) systems;
- logistics for Districts when involved with the cover/flare portion of ADS/RNG projects; and
- key factors when considering manure storage cover and flare projects.

Lunch will be provided at the District before departing for farm visits in the afternoon (lunch details, including costs, dietary options, etc., will be emailed to course registrants).

After lunch, we'll travel short distances south from Auburn to tour farms and hear from farmers and industry experts about implementing and managing ADS/RNG systems as well as manure storage cover/flare systems.

The course will be held rain or shine, so please bring clothing/footwear for the forecast and walking farmsteads. We'll drive our vehicles to farms, so please also plan to carpool as much as possible to limit vehicle miles and parking space at farms.

### 3. The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC)

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 4:30

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min–5, Max–30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Kamryn Cahill; Corbin Gosier – NYS DEC; Joshua LaFountain – The Nature Conservancy

The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) maintains a public database ([streamcontinuity.org](http://streamcontinuity.org)) of road/stream crossings across 13 states. It serves as a consolidated and comprehensive database for culverts and bridges intended to assess aquatic organism passage (AOP), flood capacity and structure condition. This database provides a very valuable tool towards addressing AOP and providing an asset management system for environmental and infrastructure planning, and also offers an excellent link to potential funding sources. Structures are assessed on the ground and entered into the database by observers trained in the NAACC protocol. This workshop will provide field and shadowing training necessary to qualify as a NAACC observer. **An online training module is also required and should optimally be completed before field training (please contact Kamryn Cahill prior to attendance: [Kamryn.Cahill@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Kamryn.Cahill@dec.ny.gov).** This will primarily be a field training event over two days; attendees should bring lunch, waterproof boots or waders. All other field equipment will be provided.

### 4. AEM Forestry Tier 1 & 2

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 30

FIELD

Instructors: Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC; Kristen Ballou – Franklin County SWCD; Joe Chairvolotti – Oswego County SWCD; Pat Crast – Jefferson County SWCD

This field training will build on forestry concepts introduced at the prior training. No prior knowledge of the topics is required to participate in this training.

This course will focus on the AEM Tier 1 & 2 process specific to forestry. We will be visiting a maple operation and a farm woodlot. For each site we will begin the AEM Tier 1 and 2 process and discuss the AEM Tier 2 worksheets that best fit the operations, others that may be considered, components that will be assessed and how to tie into a full Tier 2 assessment for a farm. Discussion will also include Tier 2 pre-planning for these assessments, coordinating with others working with the farmer on woodlot management, gaining familiarity with different woodlot management approaches and specific

industry practices, assessing and prioritizing forest tracks and identifying and prioritizing risk. We will end the day with a discussion on the next steps, what 3A assistance could be provided and potential funding sources to implement projects.

The course will be held rain or shine, so please bring clothing/footwear for the forecast and walking farmsteads. We'll drive our vehicles to sites, so please also plan to carpool as much as possible to limit vehicle miles and parking space.

## **5. Practical Principles of Pasture Planning**

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Karen Hoffman, Mike Fournier – USDA NRCS; Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC

This 2-day class will cover the basics of planning a grazing system, from working with landowners to identify resource concerns, to calculating acreage needs and paddock layouts, to infrastructure needs such as watering systems and laneways. Special attention will be given to understanding how pasture plants thrive and/or struggle and how this relates to season long management opportunities and challenges. We will also discuss various types of livestock and unique considerations for managing them on pasture. This class is geared towards those who have no or minimal experience with grazing systems, or feel they need a refresher of the basics. We will examine the PGM workbook, pasture condition scoresheet, NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, specifically NRCS CPS 512 – Pasture and Hay Planting and the new 512 NY Seed Mix Calculator, along with related NYS Agricultural Management Program materials. We will spend morning sessions learning in the classroom and look forward to visiting a local pasture system each afternoon to continue discussions, make observations, and hopefully have fun applying and practicing skills. Although this class will span over two days, participants may have the opportunity to select one or both days, depending on schedules and other training needs.

We'll be walking fields, so please be prepared for seasonal weather (boots, raingear, sunscreen, water, etc.).

## **6. Farmstead BMP's**

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 40

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Rick Rinaldo, Carrie Hoffa, Paula Bagley, Jerry Lewis – USDA NRCS

The planning of farmstead BMP's, from inventory and evaluation to the importance of O&M. We will supply some tools for inventory and evaluation as well as discuss equipment which may be helpful during planning. You will learn about clean water exclusion and the collection and treatment of "dirty" water around the farmstead. A few practices discussed will be, but not limited to, barnyards, bunk collection, VTA, storage, roof water management, and diversions. As part of the training, we will be doing site visits. Make sure you bring appropriate gear. We will also drive our vehicles to the farms so please plan to carpool as much as possible to limit vehicle miles and parking space at farms.

## 7. 590 Field Risk Assessment Skills

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 35

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Kirsten Workman – Cornell Pro-Dairy, Josh Hornesky, Dale Gates – USDA NRCS, Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, Greg Albrecht – NYS SWCC

This day-long course will focus on assessing fields for risks of runoff, erosion, leaching, and groundwater connection per the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard. We'll start the course in the classroom to familiarize (or refresh) with 590 risk assessment methods, with special emphasis on Phosphorus Runoff Index 2.0. We'll then shift to nearby farms and spend the majority of the course walking and assessing fields for 590 nutrient management planning, including observations and measurements necessary for planning P Index 2.0, RUSLE2, gully erosion, groundwater, runoff risks, and manure application setbacks. This course will be helpful for those just starting with nutrient management as well as experienced planners and will complement the CropwareNet class at the 2022 Water Quality Symposium as well as the 2022 CNMP Training.

We'll be walking fields, so please be prepared for seasonal weather (boots, raingear, sunscreen, water, etc.). A clipboard for field notes will be helpful and, if you have one in your office, please bring a clinometer to measure field slopes for RUSLE2 (no worries if not, as we'll have clinometers to share).

## 8. **Stormwater – Stormwater Construction Permit GP-0-20-001 Review and Construction Site Inspection**

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max - 30

CLASS

Instructors: John Dunkle, P.E. – Dunn & Sgromo Engineers

Come join professional engineer and stormwater expert John Dunkle, PE as he reviews the NYS DEC Stormwater Construction Permit GP 0-20-001. John will provide a review of the permit to include permit coverage, stormwater pollution prevention plans and inspection and maintenance requirements. The session will conclude by traveling to an active construction site and completing a site inspection.

**Please bring appropriate field clothing for rain or shine to include boots, hard hat, safety glasses and safety vest**

## 9. **Nutrient Management and Soil Health Planning Skills: Spreader calibration and Sampling for Soil Health, Soil Nutrients, and Manure Nutrients**

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max - 35

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, Greg Albrecht – NYS SWCC; Joseph Amsili – Cornell Soil Health Program; Kirsten Workman – Cornell ProDairy; Josh Hornesky – USDA NRCS

This course will focus on key, sampling and calibration skills used in developing crop nutrient management plans, whether as a part of an AEM Tier 3A NM-Core plan, a 590 plan, or a CNMP. While not a pre-requisite for this course, it will build on the topics covered at the CropwareNet class offered at the 2022 Water Quality Symposium, the 2022 CNMP Training, and recent soil health trainings.

This will be a full day course in the field, meeting on a farm in southern Onondaga County (Apulia Station). We'll learn how to calibrate a manure spreader, take a Cornell Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) sample, practice soil and manure nutrient sampling and discuss test results, and tour through common field equipment found on farms to build familiarity.

Please bring a soil probe and bucket if you have them, a lunch (lunch can also be purchased nearby), drinking water, and clothing/footwear for the weather (rain or shine).

## **10. Equipment Safety**

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 20

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Jim Carrabba, William Lindloff – NYCAMH, Mark Burger – Onondaga County SWCD; Bobcat of CNY representatives

The Field Equipment Safety Training will include speakers from NYCAMH, Onondaga SWCD, & Bobcat of CNY. There will be an in-class review of topics including general site visit safety, chainsaw use/safety, small equipment do's and don'ts for skid loader and hydro seeder and spill response for environmental management. The goal at the end of the class is to have awareness of general safety concerns and proper operation.

## **11. Pollinators**

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 35

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Christina Ripplinger – USDA NRCS, Kass Urban-Mead - Xerces

This day course will revolve around both classroom and field teaching of successful pollinator plantings as denoted in Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) and Xerxes' NY Wildflower Establishment Guide. The class will start in the classroom and review site prep/smother crops, seeding/planting dates, methods of seeding/planting, establishment and success criteria. The class will then move to the field to identify sites with successful pollinator plantings and/or observe non-successful sites (and review what problems might have arisen during the planning process to correct these site conditions).

## 2022 Conservation Skills Workshop

	<b>Monday, Sept 26th</b> Class Time <b>10:00 – 4:30</b>	<b>Tuesday, Sept 27th</b> Class Time <b>8:30 – 4:30</b>	<b>Wednesday, Sept 28th</b> Class Time <b>8:30 – 4:30</b>	<b>Thursday, Sept 29th</b> Class Time <b>8:30 – 4:30</b>
10:00 – 12:00 (Monday only)  8:30 – 12:00 Tues - Thurs	(1) Basic Soils (2) Manure Mgt Systems (3) NAACC (4) AEM Forestry	(1) Basic Soils (3) NAACC (5) Practical Principles of Pasture Planning (6) Farmstead BMPs	(5) Practical Principles of Pasture Planning (6) Farmstead BMPs (7) 590 Field Risk Assessment (8) Stormwater construction permit and site inspection	(9) Nutrient Mgt and Soil Health planning (10) Equipment Safety (11) Pollinators
1:00 - 4:30 PM	(1) Basic Soils (2) Manure Mgt Systems (3) NAACC (4) AEM Forestry	(1) Basic Soils (3) NAACC (5) Practical Principles of Pasture Planning (6) Farmstead BMPs	(5) Practical Principles of Pasture Planning (6) Farmstead BMPs (7) 590 Field Risk Assessment (8) Stormwater construction permit and site inspection	(9) Nutrient Mgt and Soil Health planning (10) Equipment Safety (11) Pollinators

**Note:** Some of these courses have time frames that overlap. Please take that into consideration when selecting your classes.

**Field trips and off-site classroom locations will require transportation – be prepared to drive or carpool.**

**Be prepared for unpredictable fall weather.**

**Off-site locations will be provided prior to the beginning of the session.**

**\*CCA CEU credit approval is pending for certain classes. \***