

2023 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Conservation Skills Workshop is a collaboration between the NYS Conservation District Employee's Association, NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The goals of this workshop are to offer field-based training sessions to conservation professionals operating in New York State.

The 2023 Conservation Skills Workshop will be held September 18 – September 21 in Auburn, NY at the Holiday Inn (75 North St, Auburn, NY, 866-238-4218). This packet includes registration information, class descriptions and the class schedule.

This year we have several 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. **Classes start at 10:00 am on Monday morning, and 8:30 AM on Tuesday through Thursday.**

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

This year's registration rate is \$100 per person.

Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2023, however, payments must still be mailed to the address below. Registration is due by September 4th, 2023.

If you plan on staying at the Holiday Inn Auburn, your registration is due by **August 14th** in order to ensure your reservation. Your full registration isn't needed, just whether or not you will need a room. If you register later and need a room, we cannot guarantee your reservation at the Holiday Inn Auburn.

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSCDEA

PLEASE PUT ATTENDEE NAMES ON MEMO LINE OF CHECK

MAIL CHECKS TO: CHENANGO COUNTY SWCD

99 NORTH BROAD STREET

NORWICH, NY 13815

C/O KATY KEMMEREN

Questions?

- Classes – Tom Eskildsen, Yates County SWCD – (315)536-5188, tom@ycsoilwater.com
- Registration or hotel – Chastity Miller, Franklin County SWCD – (518)651-2097, cmiller@fcsxcd.org
- Payment – CDEA Treasurer Katy Kemmeren, Chenango County SWCD – (607)371-7101, kkemmeren@chenangosxcd.org

DIRECTIONS: Classes will be held at the Auburn Holiday Inn, unless otherwise noted in the class description. Address: 75 North Street, Auburn, NY 13021. Please read the class description for location information. Further information on location may be provided by class coordinator at a later date.

DINING: Snacks are provided in the registration fee. All other meals for the workshop are on your own. Participants should be prepared for lunch in the field if site visits are necessary. A restaurant is available at the hotel. Breakfast is provided as part of the overnight package if staying at the hotel.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Auburn. Registration is required by August 14th to reserve a room (class registration not due until September 4). A single room is \$120 additional cost and a double is \$75/person additional cost per night. Breakfast can be purchased for \$20 each day at the hotel if you do not book a room.

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Please remember, 1) you are visiting these field sites as part of the 2023 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 Surveying

Sept 18th 10:00 – 4:30

Sept 19th 8:30 - 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5 Max – 25

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Tom Eskildsen – Yates County SWCD and Al Fagan – Wyoming County SWCD

This course provides basic skills for surveying, such as note taking, instrument care, instrument use, reducing notes, plotting, and staking. This is a great course to learn surveying or brush up on your skills. Students should dress appropriately for the weather and bring an engineering scale, #2 pencil, and survey equipment including instrument, tripod, and rod.

2. Introduction to Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

Sept. 18th 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10 Max – 35

CLASS

Instructors: Greg Albrecht, Ron Bush, and Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC

Welcome aboard! The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee partners with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to deliver the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program with farmers in your county. We are excited that there have been so many District staff hired recently to work on AEM, so we wanted to offer a quick session to formally introduce the AEM Program, especially the key concepts that make up the AEM framework, the planning process, working with farmers and landowners through AEM's 5-Tiers, its connection to funding programs, and how it is locally lead and delivered by you...SWCD planners, technicians, and Board Members.

The goal for the day is to spend time getting to know each other and tour through many of the moving parts and key concepts that have made the AEM Program successful, and how to understand and engage with the Program in each of your own counties. We hope that you will join us and there will be plenty of time to interact, discuss, and ask questions. FYI – some of the materials and real examples will be related to the following session: AEM Tier 3A Farmstead Planning; in case you were interested in taking these two classes in succession.

This session will be held in a meeting room at the Hotel or Facility nearby (no field work); AEM Tier 3A Farmstead Planning will be out in the field.

CCA CEUs: 1.5 NM, 2 SW

3. Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP)

Sept 18th 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max – 45

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Chastity Miller and Kristin Ballou – Franklin County SWCD, and Maren Stoddard – Warren County SWCD

The Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP) has been created to provide county and municipal highway departments and private associations with techniques to improve travel corridor risk assessments, project prioritization, and a plan to address concerns. An app has been created to assess sites and rank them. This course starts in the classroom where you will get a roadmap on the how the app works, what it collects, why, and how. We will also talk about what options there are for restoration of sites. From hydroseeding to full blown plans. Then in the afternoon we will go to assess a site and then look at a site that has been restored. Please be sure to bring a smart phone or tablet to work on the app with and be prepared if it rains.

4. Pollinators 2.0

Sept 18th 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Christina Ripplinger – NRCS NY State Biologist, Kass Urban-Mead – Xerces Pollinator Conservation Specialist/NRCS Partner Biologist, and Lacey Smith – P2 Pollinator Partnership/NRCS Northeast Regional Partner Biologist

Join the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with their partner biologists from the Xerces Society and Pollinator Partnership (P2) to learn about pollinators and how to create and maintain their habitat. Participants at this workshop will learn about the following: Creating and maintaining pollinator habitat using Conservation Practice Standard 420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting, common site preparation methods [organic and conventional], seed/plant selection, sharing information on what seeds/plants to avoid and maintaining the site once established. The class has a field portion, so please dress appropriately and bring boots and rain gear.

CCA CEUs: 1.5 PM, 1 CM

5. AEM Tier 3A Farmstead Planning

Sept 19th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 35

FIELD

Instructors: Greg Albrecht, Ron Bush, and Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC; Aaron Buchta – Onondaga County SWCD

During this one-day course, participants will work through the NRCS / AEM planning process starting with an introduction to the core planning component, on-farm assessment (Tier 2 Worksheets), making maps for AEM plans, and fundamentals of Tier 3 Planning. Planning exercises will focus on the farmstead, encompassing livestock heavy use areas, feed storage, process waters, manure management, clean water management, petroleum and pesticide storage, and connections to other farm management areas. Participants will form small groups to develop mock farmstead conservation plans for a nearby farm and discuss their resource concern determinations and Agricultural BMP System

recommendations with the full class. This is a critical course for those who are starting to work with farms on NRCS / AEM conservation planning and are interested in building their planning skills.

Information and planning skills will support and build-upon key concepts covered in the Introduction to Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) session being held Monday the 18th. Experienced Conservation Professionals are welcomed and encouraged to attend as well; your participation, sharing of knowledge, and hopefully future networking and collaboration on projects is valued and appreciated.

We'll be walking around a farmstead and nearby pastures/fields, so please be prepared for seasonal weather (boots, raingear, sunscreen, water, etc.). A clipboard for field notes will be helpful as well as a collapsible chair.

CCA CEUs: 2 NM, 3 SW

6. Forest Songbird Management

Sept 19th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 8, Max – 25

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Suzanne Treyger – New York Audubon

Spend the day with Audubon NY at the Montezuma Audubon Center learning about songbird management in forested settings. The morning will begin with a synopsis of forest songbird ecology and strategies for incorporating bird-friendly features into forest management prescriptions. Then tour the facility and see these habitat features at work. Lunch will be followed by additional site tours where in small groups, we will assess forestland habitat and discuss potential management alternatives using guidance from the morning's session. Participants can receive partial credit toward the "Audubon Forester Training and Endorsement Program". Participants interested in using this course towards that certification should reach out to Suzanne Treyger for additional guidance on fulfilling certification requirements. Participants should come prepared with appropriate footwear and gear for walking off-trail in the woods.

7. Stream Corridor Planning Utilizing AEM Tier 3a Assessment Tools

Sept 19th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 25

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Tim Schneider – Cayuga County SWCD, Ben Dates, and Graydon Dutcher – Delaware County SWCD, Angel Hinickle – Tompkins County SWCD, and Lydia Brinkley – Upper Susquehanna Coalition

In 2018, Stream Corridor Planning was specifically added to the suite of AEM Tier 3A planning components and launched at that year's Conservation Skills Workshop. This year's class is intended for new employees who missed the 2018 class or as a refresher for those looking to brush up on stream planning skills. Mixed between classroom and field site visits we will step through assessment and planning of stream corridor areas, with a focus on: channel; banks; riparian areas; floodplain; and upland contributions. Participants should be prepared to be outside in stream corridor environments (regardless of weather) and pack their own lunch and water, as we may not have access to food venues mid-day.

CCA CEUs: 2 SW

8. Applied Hydrology & Hydraulics

Sept 20th 8:30 – 4:30

Sept 21st 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max - 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Paula Bagley – NRCS NY State Engineer, and Tim Clark – NYS SWCC State Engineer

This course will cover the application of hydrologic and hydraulic principles in conservation and stormwater work. Students should have a basic understanding of Hydrology prior to the course (such as completing the SWCC YouTube Course at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@nysdepartmentofagriculture9462/playlists>). The class will be a combination of field trips to sites to take measurements and class exercises processing that data. Laptops are recommended. Students will visit a waterway or ditch in order to compute existing capacity, a wascob to discuss function and flood routing, a culvert installation to determine capacity, and a stream crossing to measure bank full capacity to compare with stream stats. If time allows, we'll tour a barnyard with multiple water control structures. Students should bring waterproof boots or waders and dress appropriately for the weather.

CCA CEUs: 3 SW for Day 1 and 3 SW for Day 2

9. AEM Forest Conservation BMP

Sept 20th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max - 35

FIELD

Instructors: Kristin Ballou – Franklin County SWCD, Greg Albrecht NYS SWCC, and Joe Chairvolotti – Oswego County SWCD

This course will be offered entirely in the field and provide an overview of the AEM Tier process specific to forestry, including the following:

1. An overview of AEM and how it relates to forest management on farms;
2. Preparation and practice with Tier 1 and Tier 2 inventory and assessments for farms with forestland;
3. Overview discussion of Tier 3 BMP system planning to address resource concerns and available support materials for planning (e.g., Tier 3A Forest Conservation Planning protocol in the AEM Manual, Forest Conservation Sample Tier 3A Plan, NYS Forestry BMP Field Guide (https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/forestrybmp.pdf); and
4. Discussion of potential forest soil and water conservation BMP options to address resource concerns identified at the field site.

District participants are encouraged to review the AEM forest management materials listed above within the AEM folder on the SWCC SharePoint site

(<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>) as well as the NYS Forestry BMP Field Guide (https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/forestrybmp.pdf) in advance of the training (welcome to reach out to Greg Albrecht 607.229.4654 or greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov for any help with SharePoint). Please come prepared to be outside in seasonal weather (boots, raingear, sunscreen, water, etc.). A clipboard for field notes may be helpful.

CCA CEUs: 2.5 SW

10. Stormwater Construction Permit GP-0-20-001 Review & Ag BMP Basic SWPPP Development

Sept 20th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 50

CLASS

Instructors: John Dunkle, PE – Dunn & Sgromo Engineers, and Matt Kazmierski, Julie Melancon, and Matt Widay, PE – NYS DEC

Come join NYSDEC Region 7 stormwater professionals for a review of the Construction Stormwater Permit GP 0-20-001 and how it relates to agricultural BMP implementation. The morning session will include an overview of the stormwater permit requirements, changes to agricultural stormwater permitting and what projects require permit coverage. Instructors will also explain how to obtain permit coverage, site inspection requirements and trained contractor requirements.

The afternoon portion of the course will feature professional engineer and stormwater expert John Dunkle, PE. John will provide instruction on how to develop a basic stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for agricultural best management projects to include inspection and maintenance procedures.

There will be plenty of time for discussion so please be prepared to ask questions.

11. Soil Health & Equipment Field Day

Sept 20th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 35

FIELD

Instructors: Jason Cuddeback – Cayuga County SWCD, Kirsten Workman – Cornell ProDairy, Josh Hornesky – USDA NRCS; Ron Bush and Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC

This one-day course will focus on key aspects of soil health BMP systems primarily in row crops. Participants will view and discuss various tillage, planting, and nutrient application implements and their effects on soil health. This will be coupled with how equipment can work with other practices, such as cover crops, conservation crop rotation, and organic matter amendments, to improve soil health across its physical (soil structure, stability, erosion, compaction), biological (diversity of soil flora and fauna), and chemical (nutrient retention, release, sufficiency) aspects. Linkages will be made between the tools used for planning soil health systems (RUSLE2, NRCS conservation practices standards, soil tests) and observations in the field to help best characterize field conditions while planning.

Please come prepared to be outside in seasonal weather (boots, raingear, sunscreen, water, etc.). A clipboard for field notes may be helpful.

CCA CEUs: 1.5 NM, 2.5 SW, 1 CM

12. Forest Identification and Afforestation Basics

Sept 21st 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 15, Max – 40

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Gloria Van Duyne and Jason Drobnack – NYS DEC, Mike Fournier – NRCS NY, Lydia Brinkley, Ava Glasser, and Ranier Lucas – Upper Susquehanna Coalition; Teresa Link and Chris Travis – Onondaga County SWCD

This class will include basic tree identification, invasive species identification and treatment options, funding sources for projects, tips for identifying healthy forests, and afforestation. This class will discuss forests in both urban and rural forest settings. Participants will have to drive or carpool to the site ~20 minutes away. Wear sturdy hiking boots and weather appropriate field attire. Bring a bagged lunch and water.

13. 590 Field Risk Assessment Skills

Sept 21st 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 35

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Kirsten Workman – Cornell Pro-Dairy, Josh Hornesky – USDA NRCS, Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, and 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 held at the 2023 Water Quality Symposium as well as the 2023 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).

CCA CEUs: 2.5 NM, 2.5 SW

14. Pasture BMPs

Sept 21st 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 40

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Paula Morse and Karen Hoffman – USDA NRCS NY

This day-long course will focus on planning of pasture BMP's, including pasture infrastructure for rotational grazing, fencing, livestock watering facilities. You will also learn about how to maintain pasture in a state of good health through management strategies that promote good forage quality and quantity, weed control, infiltration of precipitation, and erosion control. 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.

CCA CEUs: 0.5 NM, 2 SW, 2.5 CM

2023 Conservation Skills Workshop

	Monday, Sept 18th Class Time 10:00 – 4:30	Tuesday, Sept 19th Class Time 8:30 – 4:30	Wednesday, Sept 20th Class Time 8:30 – 4:30	Thursday, Sept 21st Class Time 8:30 – 4:30
10:00 – 12:00 (Monday only) 8:30 – 12:00 Tues - Thurs	(1) Basic Surveying (2) Introduction to AEM (3) RRAMP (4) Pollinators 2.0	(1) Basic Surveying (5) AEM Farmstead Management (6) Forest Songbird Management (7) Stream Corridor Planning	(8) Applied Hydrology & Hydraulics (9) AEM Forest BMP (10) Stormwater Construction Permit & Ag BMP SWPPP (11) Soil Health & Equipment Day	(8) Applied Hydrology & Hydraulics (12) Forest ID & Afforestation basics (13) 590 Field Risk Assessment (14) Pasture BMPs
1:00 - 4:30 PM	(1) Basic Surveying (2) Introduction to AEM (3) RRAMP (4) Pollinators 2.0	(1) Basic Surveying (5) AEM Farmstead Management (6) Forest Songbird Management (7) Stream Corridor Planning	(8) Applied Hydrology & Hydraulics (9) AEM Forest BMP (10) Stormwater Construction Permit & Ag BMP SWPPP (11) Soil Health & Equipment Day	(8) Applied Hydrology & Hydraulics (12) Forest ID & Afforestation basics (13) 590 Field Risk Assessment (14) Pasture BMPs

Note: Some of these courses have time frames that overlap. If you wish to take more than one course during the week, please check to make sure that your choices do **not** overlap.

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, SAF, ISA and other credit approval is pending for certain classes.

The New York State Conservation District Employees’ Association, Inc. is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of workplace sex discrimination. All attendees of the Conservation Skills Workshop are required to work in a manner that prevents sexual harassment at this event.