

CDEA News

Winter 2025



NEW YORK STATE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Cover Photo

Doug Kierst, Executive Director of the Cayuga County SWCD, was awarded Willard F. Cronney Distinguished Service Award during the Conservation District Employees' Association Awards Banquet.



The CDEA Corner

Caitlin Stewart, President, NYS CDEA, Inc.

Greetings! Please take a few minutes to refill your mug or water bottle and enjoy the Winter CDEA News.

The **March CDEA Annual Meeting** was held at Water Quality Symposium, on March 12, 2025. The meeting packet is on SharePoint, and I can email it to those interested. Thank you, Vic DiGiacomo, for providing the SWCC report. A resolution for the NYCDEA and NYACD representatives to promote and support efforts for reform of the NYS and local retirement system was unanimously approved, and I emailed Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt feedback from Districts who have cited NYS retirement as the main reason for employee resignation. The CDEA Executive Committee, Member-At-Large, and odd Division Representatives were reelected.

Save the dates for upcoming **CDEA meetings**, with agendas and minutes available here: <https://www.nyscdea.com/agenda-minutes/>

- June 4 and 5, Division VI
- August 19 – 20, Division VI
- October 22 – 23, Division VIII

CDEA Vice President Jessica Armstrong and board, track committee chairs and members, and presenters put on an incredible **Water Quality Symposium** March 11 through 14, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester. A record thirty-six courses in Ag, Non-Ag, Clerk / Admin, Forestry, and Education tracks were offered in addition to the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control review course and exam. Three hundred and eighty-seven people attended the training session. We thank our NYACD, SWCC and NRCS partners for their continued support of this effective and valuable professional development experience! I give special recognition to Ryan Cunningham and P.J. Emerick who co-presented the New Employee Orientation class and provided an overview of SWCC. **Ronnie Raindrop®** was born in Oswego County in 1990, celebrated his 35th birthday during the Symposium, and made special guest appearances throughout the 4-day event. He made his debut in a brand-new costume with streamlined shoes that are efficient for walking and a raindrop that is easy to assemble. Jess emailed the evaluation form, and the board will review the event at our next meeting.

I met with SWCC AEAs to discuss agenda items for the **Municipal Assistance Subcommittee**, and we will focus on the DEC wetlands regulations. I have been logging feedback from Districts to report on during the meeting.

Attended a **CDEA SPAC** meeting to discuss priority agenda topics and other issues of concern.

A **4-Way Partnership meeting** was canceled, and I look forward to attending the next meeting.

NYACD's Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt and I are working together to gather feedback from

Continued on page 3.

Directors and employees regarding **Senate Bill S5759**: Relates to the management of PFAS in biosolids in the state by establishing a moratorium on land application of biosolids and requiring testing and reporting of certain groundwater, biosolids, and soil. District employees are concerned about legacy pollutants that could adversely impact farmland. Fertilizers marketed as organic contain PFAS. Two SWCDs support the PFAS and PFOS ban because biosolid application is poorly monitored, there is little research on how much many pounds per acre of biosolids fields can take, and well, surface water, and groundwater contamination is a major concern. Some waste management companies are against PFAS and PFOS monitoring and testing. Some towns are advocating for a ban on biosolids land application.

CDEA board members and I attended the following meetings and provided updates to ensure CDEA's support of and contribution to the **4-Way Partnership** and beyond:

- CDEA Managers' and Partners' meeting
- NYACD Legislative Day and March meeting
- Technical Advisory Committee meeting
- State Programs Advisory Committee meeting
- Soil and Water Conservation Committee April meeting

The CDEA Board agreed to publish **CDEA News** quarterly, and the next edition will be released at the end of March. Back issues can be read here: <https://www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/>

Upcoming events:

- **New York State Envirothon**
May 28 - 29, 2025 • SUNY Cortland
Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated! Sign up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfolzWMhXKcvHS4n0l_0EDro7I1Q2glOFRIBE9Bn4_yK6FQAw/viewform
- **CDEA Golf Tournament**
August 7, 2025 • Casolwood Golf Course, Canastota
Information to follow

Please contact your Division Representative or me with questions or concerns. I wish you the absolute best with your upcoming programs and projects as we say goodbye to winter and welcome vibrant spring.

Kindest regards,



Caitlin Stewart, MS, President, NYS CDEA



To the dreamers
who inspire us to
sail uncharted
waters, to the
doers who lead
with tenacity and
courage, and the
visionaries who
remind us that by
shining brightly
together, the best
will always be
ahead of us.

**~ Jennifer Kelly,
Chenango County SWCD**

Investing in Human Capital Helps Local Conservation

Troy Bishopp, NatGLC Northeast

Rochester, NY-- “Training is not an expense, but an investment in human capital.” ~ Roy H. Williams.

To serve diverse communities and farming customers effectively, your local New York State Conservation Districts continually “train-up” to meet folks where they are on the land and implement practices and projects that are locally-led. “Our Ag industry is a key priority here at our department”, said NYS Ag Commissioner Richard Ball. “We appreciate the efforts our Conservation Districts play in achieving New York's leading climate goals and preserving our natural resources for all who contribute to our local food system while protecting the long-term future of New York's environment”.

It's a big job to meet the expectations on the ground for the customer, but the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYS CDEA) and their 58 respective Districts from every county and borough in New York State rise every day to the opportunity.

Meeting this constant workload takes technical, practical and personal training. Every year professionals gather at an intensive, four-day, (WQS) New York State Water Quality Symposium to hone their skills. The 2025 WQS, coordinated by CDEA Vice-President and Oneida County SWCD District Manager, Jessica Armstrong, was attended by another record-breaking number of over 400 conservation professionals, extension educators and service providers.

The 36 training classes included the nuances of bale grazing, Agroforestry, leading effective meetings, AEM conservation planning regimes, erosion control techniques, invasive species management, mapping and using ArcGIS Pro, water sampling and monitoring, keeping water on the land, using Cropware-Net software, advanced Hydro-CAD design, MS4 permitting procedures, equine management and communication strategies to name a few. Each class was taught by a cadre of accredited engineers, seasoned mentors and extension educators.

In addition, a resource fair featuring producers, partner vendors and businesses provided a networking forum to learn about different strategies, equipment and products that help staff provide affordable, quality conservation practices to customers.

The NYS CDEA also takes the time to honor employees, conservation partners and special projects with a celebrated awards banquet. Hamilton County's SWCD Manager & NYS CDEA President, Caitlin Stewart, welcomed Shino Tanikawa, Executive Director of the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District to announce the Willard F.

Crony Distinguished Service Award for the state's highest conservation achievement. This year's honoree was Doug Kierst, Executive Director of the Cayuga County SWCD who has led the large and complex district for over 25 years with exemplary leadership. Because of his experience, candor and patience on the ground and in the water, he engages regularly with a variety of passionate watershed groups, partners, and local farms to enhance water quality and soil health practices within their three Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario watersheds.

“I'm excited for this honor because it really pays homage to my staff and predecessors for allowing me to start as an AmeriCorp member, staying as a working technician from



Doug Kierst, Executive Director of the Cayuga County SWCD awarded Willard F. Crony Distinguished Service Award.

See Human Capital, page 5.

Human Capital (from page 4)

the ground up and work my way into leadership roles for a community I love, said Kierst. You don't get an award by yourself; it's a team effort”.

This year's awards banquet also honored other deserving conservation professionals. The President's Award was presented to Warren County SWCD's Marren Stoddard. The Partnership Appreciation Award was bestowed on Amy Langner, Soil Scientist at USDA-NRCS. The District Director Award honored Daryl Heiby, Board Chairman of the Wyoming County SWCD for his years of dedicated service. The Special Project Award went to Suffolk County SWCD.

Division Merit Awards were awarded to Sharon Boyd of Wyoming SWCD, Tim Schneider of Cayuga County SWCD, Brian Reaser from Tioga County SWCD, Katie WhitKovits from Hamilton County SWCD, John Vanderwerken of Montgomery

County SWCD, Olivia Cunningham from Nassau County SWCD and Travis Ferry from Ulster County SWCD. Rebecca Campbell and Emelyn Fagan from Wyoming County SWCD were honored for their local heroic action award.

“This year's Water Quality Symposium was another one for the history books”, said Stewart. “With record numbers of employees learning to put conservation into action on a local scale, the training is an ongoing effort to meet the diverse workload across New York. The expert instructors and seasoned mentors cultivated professional development for all levels of experience in the field. The invaluable networking opportunities allow staff the space to solve problems, build relationships across the state and work together to help agriculture, rural, suburban and urban customers”.

To learn more and get connected with your local conservation district or NYS CDEA staff personnel, visit nyscdea.com.



2025 NYS CDEA Water Quality Symposium trains conservation professionals.

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2025

Division I

Megan McAnn	Orleans	District Technician	January	2015	10
Scott Torrey	Allegany	Executive Director	May	2010	15
Sharon Boyd	Wyoming	Secretary/Treasurer	January	2005	20
Mark Seider	Niagara	District Engineer	June	2000	25

Division II

Megan Webster	Ontario	District Manager	May	2015	10
Jason Cuddeback	Cayuga	Conservation Grazing Specialist	June	2005	20
Kelly Emerick	Monroe	Executive Director	May	2005	20

Division III

Carl Bartlett	Madison	District Technician	April	2005	20
---------------	---------	---------------------	-------	------	----

Division IV

Christopher Andreassen	Otsego	Conservation Technician	January	2015	10
Alex Marks	Tioga	Conservation District Technician	April	2015	10
Lydia Brinkley	Tioga	Buffer Coordinator	May	2015	10
Paul Gier	Tompkins	Natural Resource Program Specialist	November	2015	10
Brian Reaser	Tioga	AEM Specialist	November	2010	15
Jon Negley	Tompkins	District Manager	May	2005	20
Jerry Verrigni	Schuyler	District Manager	March	2000	25
Wendy Walsh	Tioga	District Manager	August	2000	25
Brian Caruso	Delaware	Network Manager	March	1995	30
Mark Richer	Chemung	District Technician	July	1990	35
Richard Weidenbach	Delaware	Assistant to the Executive Director	July	1980	45

Division V

Pete Hagar	Clinton	District Manager	January	2015	10
Susan Passino	Clinton	District Clerk	September	2015	10
Rhonda Jarvis	Warren	Office Manager	April	2000	25

Division VI

Scott Davis	Montgomery	District Technician	January	2015	10
Joe Slezak	Montgomery	Resource Conservationist	December	2005	20
Lisa Kuehnle	Schoharie	Nutrient Management Specialist	August	2000	25

Division VII

Christine DeGroot	Ulster	Program Assistant	September	1995	30
Kevin Sumner	Orange	District Manager	June	1980	45

New Employees January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Division I

Michael Kalinka	Erie	District Technician	December	2024
Richard Tilyou	Niagara	Natural Resource Technician	June	2024
Brian Ettinger	Orleans	Heavy Equipment Operator	June	2024
Hannah Guindon	Wyoming	District Technician	February	2024

Division II

Tehya Kloster	Cayuga	Watershed Conservation Specialist	May	2024
Abbey Hai	Cayuga	Watershed Conservation Specialist	May	2024
Carina Coleman	Onondaga	Administrative Assistant	July	2024
Andrew Hudnut	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	September	2024
Todd Anderson	Yates	District Technician	April	2024

Division III

Alexis Sprague	Herkimer	Natural Resource Conservation Technician	January	2024
Patricia Shulenburg	Jefferson	Executive Director	November	2024
Thomas Conklin	Madison	Program Specialist	January	2024
Jeff Miller	Oneida	AEM Outreach Coordinator	January	2024
Alivia Bleau	St. Lawrence	District Manager	July	2024

Division IV

Charles Lanfranchi	Broome	Natural Resource Assistant	June	2024
Hailey Feusner	Chemung	District Technician / Ag Specialist	April	2024
Jacob Sullivan	Chemung	District Technician	October	2024
Kim Seymour	Chemung	Secretary/Assistant Treasurer	April	2024
Brandan Aschmutat	Cortland	Conservation Assistant	April	2024
Jake Lynch	Cortland	Conservation Assistant	March	2024
Danielle Morrell	Delaware	Data and Budget Specialist	January	2024
Julie Merwin	Delaware	Data and Budget Specialist	January	2024
Robin Mosier	Otsego	District Secretary	April	2023
Shamar Fitzpatrick	Otsego	Riparian Buffer Coordinator	March	2024

Division V

Noah Weber	Essex	Conservation Technician	July	2024
Allisa Blanchard	Franklin	Secretary to the Board	November	2024
Sarah Otis	Franklin	Conservation District Technician	December	2024
Shayla Pfendler	Franklin	Conservation District Technician	December	2024
Theresa Hajos	Warren	District Technician	September	2024

Division VI

Laura Groundwater	Albany	Conservation District Technician	July	2024
Jessica Hill	Schoharie	Office Manager	January	2024
Ashley Leemans	Washington	District Technician	March	2024

Division VII

Michaela Johnstone	Columbia	Natural Resource Specialist	July	2024
George Scherer	Greene	Heavy Motor Equipment Operator	April	2024
Sean Wille	Greene	Laborer	July	2024
Amber Gray	Sullivan	District Technician	January	2024
Gillian Matthews	Sullivan	Watershed Planning Coordinator	April	2024
Cooper Hemsdorf	Ulster	Junior District Technician	August	2024
Gabe Bonse	Ulster	Watershed Technician	July	2024

Division VIII

Adam Bradford	Rockland	District Technician	March	2024
Jill Dieterich	Suffolk	Environmental Planner	January	2024
Jesenia Laureano	Westchester	Associate Environmental Planner	October	2024
Matthew Castro	Westchester	District Manager	October	2024

Save The Date

1st Annual NYSCDEA Skeet & Trap Tournament To Benefit CDEA Programs

**Friday, September 12, 2025
Pompey Rod & Gun Club
Fabius, NY**

*Open to all SWCD, SWCC, NRCS, & NYACD employees,
their families and all of our conservation partners*

*Anyone interested in assisting with planning, email
Joann Burke at joann-burke@madcoswcd.com*





Soil and Water Conservation District
5 Park Lane
Highland, New York 12528
(845) 883-7162

UCSWCD Soil Health Equipment Rental Program

We are excited to announce the newest addition to our Soil Health Equipment Rental Program: The Pequea SL6 six-ton lime spreader. This initiative stems from our March 2024 meeting with Ulster County farmers, held in partnership with Ulster County Economic Development. During the meeting, agricultural producers expressed a strong interest in a lime spreader rental program, as purchasing such equipment—used only a few days per year—is often not cost-effective for individual farmers.

The Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (UCSWCD) has stepped in to fill this gap. Liming agricultural soil provides numerous benefits, including improving soil structure, increasing nutrient availability, and reducing the need for conventional fertilizers, all of which contribute to healthier soils and more sustainable farming practices.



UCSWCD staff and board of directors

A heartfelt thank you to Kathy Nolan and Herb Litts for championing the allocation of ARPA funds for agricultural crisis relief. We also extend our gratitude to Ulster County Economic Development for collaborating with the District to meet the needs of Ulster County farmers, and to the County Executive's Office for their steadfast support of agriculture and their efforts to ensure the timely availability of funds in times of great need.

FRANK BRATT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

DUE BY:

March 1st,
June 1st,
September 1st,
December 1st
2025

TO

Division I Rep

Rebecca Campbell

rcampbell@wcd.onmicrosoft.com

36 Center Street – Suite D, Warsaw, NY 14569

Every round of funding has an available \$1500 for training purposes. The max request per person/ per round is \$750. Available to all district staff.

CDEA WEBSITE » RESOURCES »
FRANK BRATT SCHOLARSHIP

FEATURED COURSES:

ARCGIS

ESRI Academy
<https://www.esri.com/training/catalog/search/>

DRONE TRAININGS

SUNY Corning:
Intro to Drone for
Commercial Users
<https://www.corning-cc.edu/community-business/drone-training.php>

WETLANDS

Wetland Training
Institute
<https://wetlandtraining.com/>

TIME TRACKING

DovicoU – Coming
Soon!
<https://dovico.com/dovicoU/#virtual>

Wise Words from our District Family

*Interviewing experienced District employees
who share some words of wisdom*

John Persch, District Manager

Fulton County SWCD

28 years

Q. How long have you been working at your SWCD? If you have worked for more than one District, please let us know the counties, positions, and years worked.

A. *Montgomery County SWCD, 4/97 – 8/09, and Fulton County SWCD 8/09 - present.*

Q. What have you accomplished over the years with your District that you are most proud of?

A. *Increasing capacity with great employee's and growing our programs by thinking outside the box. Most of all, securing property and building our own SWCD Complex.*



Q. Why have you continued to work at your Soil and Water Conservation District?

A. *I really enjoy working outdoors in the conservation field and love being able to work with the landowners and municipalities on projects that preserve & Enhance our natural resources.*

Q. How have you seen District programs, or their focuses, change over the years?

A. *The Districts have become the go to group to get funding and put Conservation on the ground our funding and grant opportunities have grown exponentially over the years. The Districts are able to multitask and make changes as focuses and times change.*

Q. What words of wisdom do you have for a newly hired District employee?

A. *You chose a great career field don't be afraid to ask questions and think outside the box your District family is a great source of knowledge get to know them and get involved in the CDEA everything you don't know or need to know is available thru the SWCD family network.*

Q. When did you first learn or hear about Soil and Water Conservation Districts?

A. *1997 my surveying teacher Barb Silvestri was a previous District manager in Hamilton County.*

Q. What made you decide to apply for a job with your District?

A. *I was a Machinist at GE and after being laid off I went to College for Natural Resource Conservation. My Surveying teacher (Barb Silvestri) was on the Fulton County WQCC and asked me to volunteer where I was told of a job opening at Montgomery County SWCD.*

Continued on page 12

Wise Words (from page 11)

The rest is History :-)

- Q. Did your education prepare you for your job as a District employee?
- A. *It gave me the basics. I was lucky to have some of the best on the job teachers and mentors that showed me what I needed to know.*
- Q. Please share with us a memorable conservation moment while working for your District.
- A. *Utilizing our Part C monies to Get our Shared services program up and running we are able to go out with our heavy equipment and assist our County, Towns and surrounding counties to assist with FEMA and other BMP projects. This program has done the most for us in getting who we are and what we do in the eyes of the County legislature and the public eye.*
- Q. What is your most epic memory from a Water Quality Symposium?
- A. *OMG where do I start Whistling Willy, Evil Knievel, SUMO suits, Mechanical Bull, Singing with Gaston, The bands, Watching the taste testers get hammered during the Farmers Market. So many I can't mention but I'm sure the ones that read this that know will KNOW. (Hospitality, Pool, Hot tub, Etc.)*
- Q. Please share with us a humorous moment from your time at your District.
- A. *I have been at this for 28 years nothing compares to working every day for 13 years working with Corey (Boss Man) Nellis.*
- Q. If you were snowed in at your District office for a week with no hope of evacuating, who would you want to be snowed in with and what would be your top 3 survival items?
- A. *Jim Lieberum with a week's worth of newspapers, He likes to read to us. Tom & Jerry cause we all need something to laugh at*

and they bring booze. My Chrissy of course.

- Q. Do you have a hidden talent?
- A. *I'm not one to brag but I think I'm pretty good at planning and getting everyone together for a fun-filled event usually involves Alcohol and sometimes a trip to the ER.*
- Q. Tell us about what you will miss when you retire.
- A. *Soooo many but most of all I will miss my statewide District family, the numerous friends and colleagues I have made through the years have made this ride one of the best. 19 months to go but who's counting. :-)*
- Q. Any concluding remarks?
- A. *As I come closer to the end of my career, I would like to thank everyone who has made this an enjoyable ride and I will see you all soon at the WQS for more Epic memories. Tom Eskildsen said he is buying the first drink at the bar on Tuesday for everyone.*





2025

Wednesday, May 28 &
Thursday May 29, 2025

The State University
of New York at Cortland
Cortland, NY

Hosted by the New York
State Envirothon
Committee

A subcommittee of the
New York State
Conservation District
Employees Association

7413 County House Road
Auburn, NY 13021

Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair
JoAnn Kurtis, Co-Chair
Katy Kemmeren, Treasurer
Susan O'Dell-Pepe,
Secretary

FROM: Danielle Parker, Volunteer Coordinator

The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at the State University of New York in Cortland, NY May 28th and 29th. We are excited to continue the Envirothon's mission to promote environmental literacy among North America's youth, and we need your help!

We truly appreciate your support of past NYS Envirothons. Volunteers like you are the heart of this event, and we couldn't do it without your efforts. We are reaching out to you again this year for your continued support. It is our hope that you will be willing to volunteer your time.

Please see the list of available volunteer positions. You may volunteer for one or more positions. If your time allows you may volunteer for both days or come for one day.

Overnight accommodations on campus, housing, and meals will be provided for our volunteers. You will receive a volunteer t-shirt to wear during the event.

The Envirothon affords our high school students hands-on learning experience that may open doors to careers in natural resources. On behalf of the NYS Envirothon Committee, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for your consideration to volunteer and make this an incredible event for our students.

When completing the volunteer registration form, participants will be asked to upload a copy of their medical insurance cards in case of emergency on site.

Online Registration: [Volunteer Registration Form](#)
Volunteer Descriptions: [Envirothon Volunteer descriptions](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nysenvirothon@gmail.com or leave a message at (607)267-2099.

Thank you!

Danielle Parker

2024 Schoharie Reservoir Kayaking Program: A Successful Launch

Amanda Cabanillas, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

The 2024 boating season marked the launch of the Schoharie Reservoir Kayaking Program – an initiative designed to connect the Watershed community with outdoor recreation and watershed education. Funded by the Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP), Greene County SWCD worked in partnership with Screaming Eagle Outdoor Adventures and Rip Van Winkle Adventure Guides to offer two paddling events on the scenic Schoharie Reservoir – one in the spring and one in the fall.

Each event provided unique opportunities to experience the beauty and biodiversity of the Schoharie Reservoir. In the spring, participants observed juvenile bald eagles on the hunt for their prey and a mama merganser leading her ducklings across the water. In the fall, the autumn foliage created a brilliant show of color along the water’s edge.

Non-motorized boats are welcome on the Reservoir, provided they have been steam-cleaned and tagged before entering the water. For the Schoharie Reservoir Kayaking Program, the collaboration with Screaming Eagle Outdoor Adventures ensures participants have access to high-quality, steam-cleaned kayaks and equipment – eliminating potential logistical barriers and making it easier for all to enjoy this opportunity.



Kayakers on the Schoharie Reservoir, September 28, 2024.

Looking ahead to the 2025 boating season, we plan to build on this successful program and offer even more chances to participate in this one-of-a-kind recreational experience. We invite you to stay tuned for event announcements and join us on the water in celebration of Catskill streams and the Watershed!

This program is offered free of charge by the Schoharie Reservoir Stream Management Program at GCSWCD, in partnership with the NYC DEP. A DEP Access Permit is required to participate, and to recreate on DEP-owned lands. More information about boating on the reservoirs can be found at cwconline.org/boating

One Year of Monitoring Bank Erosion with SfM

Amanda Cabanillas, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

In 2023, Structure from Motion (SfM) photogrammetry became the newest addition to the stream surveying toolbox here at GCSWCD. SfM allows for the construction of a highly detailed 3D model of a landscape using a series of photographs and GPS data points. This relatively low-cost and effective approach to conducting a topographic survey was first introduced to the Schoharie Reservoir watershed by

SUNY Oneonta’s Dr. Les Hasbargen, and the Catskill Science Collaborative’s Research Fellow, Adrian Maleszewski. Their project, Pole-Mounted SfM Surveys of Erosion Sites in the Catskills Watershed, was supported by DEP’s Stream Studies Coordinator/Geologist, Dany Davis, and led them to a monitoring site on the East Kill.

During the 2024 field season, GCSWCD and the DEP Stream Program’s Watershed Conservation Corps (WCC) used SfM to study five sites throughout the Watershed, including the East

Continued on page 15.

Bank Erosion (from page 14)

Kill site. With this being the second year of data collection at the East Kill site, we were able to analyze the data to estimate how much material, if any, had eroded from the land surface.

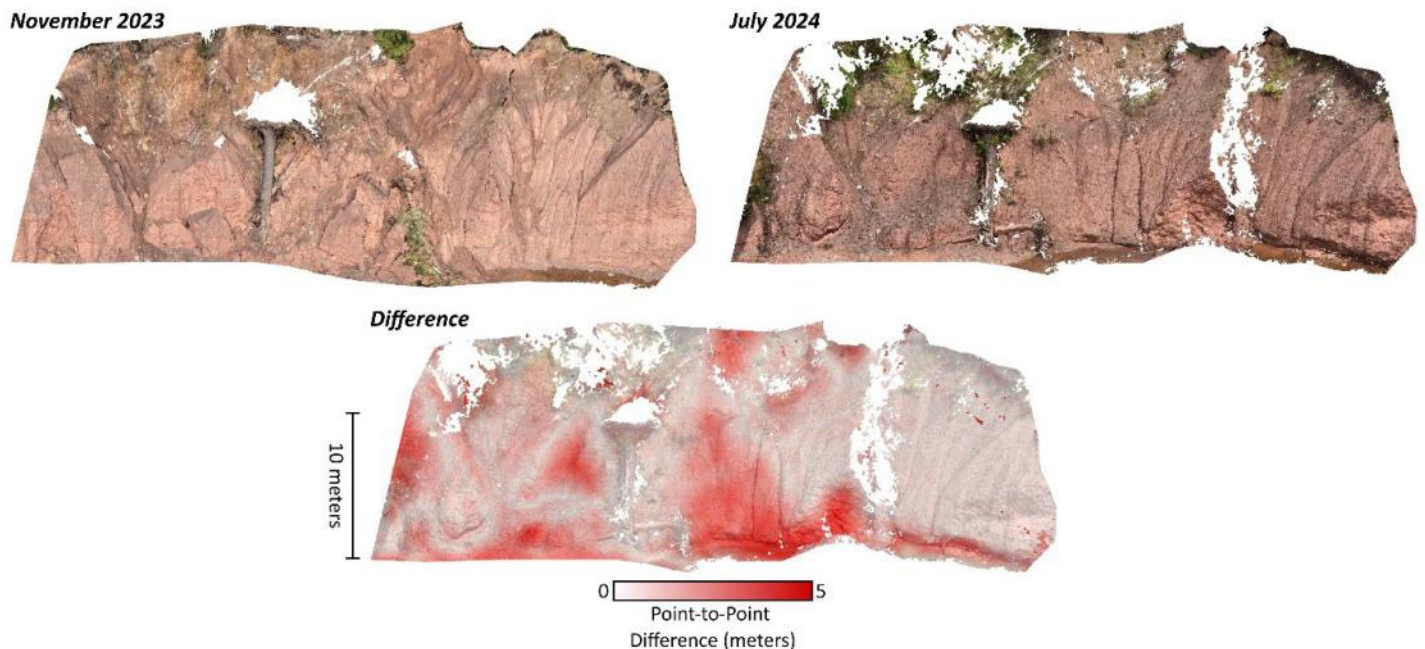
This analysis, conducted by WCC Coordinator, Telemak Olsen, used the “Compute 2.5D Volume” tool of the free, open-source 3D point cloud processing software, CloudCompare. The tool creates a detailed grid of the land surface, breaking it into small sections based on a chosen cell size. For each section, CloudCompare calculates the average height from survey data, then compares it to previous surveys to measure any changes. By summing these differences across the entire area, the program estimates the total volume of material lost or gained over time. The East Kill analysis resulted in a conservative estimate of approximately 100 cubic meters of material lost

between November 2023 and July 2024. If a standard bathtub can hold 0.3 cubic meters of soil, that would be 333 bathtubs full of earth material!

The two notable sources of this material loss were large knobs that had formed in the cliff face breaking off at the bank. The areas where these knobs had been located were undercut (worn away at the base) by hydraulic forces between surveys. These findings contribute to our understanding of short-term bank failure mechanics, provide valuable insight into how this stretch of stream is changing over time, and highlight the importance of continued monitoring.

It is important to note that these results are estimates, and the method used is just one of many tools that inform site selection for monitoring and restoration. As we prepare for the 2025 field season, we continue to aim to refine our methods and expand our understanding of how natural processes shape the streams around the Watershed.

The Summer 2024 edition of The Stream Line provides more information on SfM photogrammetry. You can find all archived newsletters on our website: gcswcd.com/media-archive/newsletter



The point cloud differencing figures for the East Kill site, with the red in the bottom figure showing areas of material loss.

Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Kevin Rishel, Water Quality Technician Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

How long have you been working for your Soil and Water Conservation District?

I started working for the district on January 15th, 2025.

Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

Originally my friends were the ones that encouraged me to pick the Environmental Studies major because they saw how passionate I was, even though it was not a very well-established program at my university at the time. I've been fortunate enough to have met so many people through my experiences in school and with internships that helped confirm it was the right choice.

What are your hobbies?

I love to golf, playing on my school's golf team enhanced my college experience immensely. I also love to play the guitar, and I'm a huge football fan.

What's on your bucket list?

Making a hole in one.

Hawaiian pizza with ham and pineapple: super gross or supersize my pie?

I love mixing salty and sweet foods, so I'm all for a Hawaiian pie.

What is the best advice you could give to other new District employees?

Be a sponge. There are so many great resources for new employees. Know where to find them and take in as much as you can.

How would you describe your job to a group of 5-year-olds?

My job is to help the environment. I do many things and work with many people but its all for the sole purpose of helping the environment.

What's the most epic thing you're working on right now at work?

Doing an exercise where I hand built a watershed in GIS and used the EFH2 to calculate peak discharge so that we can work on a culvert.

Coffee or tea?

Both!

Share a humorous or memorable moment you have experienced while working at your District.

My whole office sitting back in utter confusion after watching the first DEC updated wetland regs webinar.

Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Hannah Guindon, District Technician Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District

How long have you been working for your Soil and Water Conservation District?

1 Year.

Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

I think my childhood inspired me in a way. I grew up on a sheep farm in rural Pennsylvania, so farming has really been all I've

known. I've always had an interest in environmental conservation and when this opportunity presented itself to help farmers environmentally, I said, "why not try something new" and I've really grown to love this job and the people that come along with it.

What are your hobbies?

In my spare time you'll find me at the barn riding horses or at the gym.

What's on your bucket list?

Traveling through Europe.

Hawaiian pizza with ham and pineapple: super gross or supersize my pie?

Federal Offense! Jail Time! Absolutely NOT

What is the best advice you could give to other new District employees?



Take it day by day learning the ins and outs of what districts do. It can seem like a lot, but eventually you will get the hang of things and don't be afraid to ask questions when you don't understand something. Chances are the people you are working with had the same questions at one point.

How would you describe your job to a group of 5-year-olds?

We help farmers make choices to help the environment and keep our water clean.

What's the most epic thing you're working on right now at work?

My first grant that I got funded for a solid separation facility.

Coffee or tea?

Tea.

Share a humorous or memorable moment you have experienced while working at your District.

I feel like we are always having some kind of fun that it's hard to choose just one moment. Each day is a new adventure whether we are out doing field work, having lunch out in the shop, or stuck in the office doing computer work. I guess if I had to choose one memorable moment though...it would have to be when I was out having a meeting with a farmer, and he told me his mini donkeys just had babies and I got to see them.

Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Andrew Hudnut, Conservation District Technician, Revegetation Specialist Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

How long have you been working for your Soil and Water Conservation District?

I've been working with Onondaga SWCD since June 2024. I started as a summer intern, but when the "Revegetation Specialist" position became available, I was excited to transition into a full-time role.

Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

Many of my colleagues in the natural resources field recommended I explore a career at a SWCD, as they're great entry-level opportunities to build experience—and they're everywhere! Since I started at Onondaga SWCD, I've been continuously growing as a professional.

What are your hobbies?

Like many in our field, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and spending time outdoors. I also love cooking and gardening. In my free time, I'm passionate about wildlife photography, which combines my love for nature with creativity. If you'd like to see some of my work, check out andrewblake.photos on the web!

What's on your bucket list?

Traveling the world is high on my bucket list, and I'd also love to become a Certified Bird Bander. One of my long term goals is to open a banding station in the Adirondacks, focusing on Passerine and Owl research.

Hawaiian pizza with ham and pineapple: super gross or supersize my pie?

I haven't really tried it, so I don't have much of an opinion on it yet!

What is the best advice you could give to other new District employees?

My advice to a new district employee would be to gain as much experience as possible and network with as many people as you can. You never know what opportunities can arise from a simple conversation.

How would you describe your job to a group of 5-year-olds?

Picture this: You're playing in a big sandbox, and the wind and water keeps blowing and moving your sand away. My job is kind of like keeping the sand in the same place so you can keep playing! I help plant special "green blankets" (grass and plants) on the ground, so the dirt doesn't get washed or blown away in the wind or rain. I help make sure trees get planted every year, so animals have nice places

to live. Sometimes I help stop bad plants for taking over our rivers. I figure out where they are, find the best people to remove them, and make sure it's done the right way. I also make maps that help farmers understand their land better. Its kind of like drawing treasure maps, but for adults!



Continues on page 19.

Andrew Hudnut (from page 18)

What's the most epic thing you're working on right now at work?

Personally, for me, the most epic thing I'm doing is creating soil group worksheets. I'm having fun teaching myself ArcPro to improve my work on these worksheets and other projects. Another exciting task I'm working on is hiring an intern for the summer!

Coffee or tea?

Hmmm, this is a tricky one, because it depends on the situation! I enjoy coffee in the morning to wake up, and tea in the evening to wind down. Throughout the day, I typically prefer tea since it's light and refreshing, but sometimes I'll opt for iced coffee when I want something more refreshing than hot coffee.

Share a humorous or memorable moment you have experienced while working at your District.

Some of my most memorable moments have been simply enjoying the outdoors. I've loved exploring the county and seeing the unique feel of each town. One experience that stands out was marking and injecting ash trees in local parks and public right of ways - it was a peaceful way to discover hidden spots around town and observe some cool wildlife along the way.

Soil Health Meeting

Danielle Singer, Water Quality and Nutrient Management Specialist, Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Tioga County SWCD held its 3rd annual Soil Health Meeting on February 18th. It was a chilly day and the attendees were glad to cozy up with coffee, soups and sandwiches while we dug into soil health topics. Danielle Singer from our office started the meeting off with some basics of soil health and updates about how to get involved with our AEM Program and funding opportunities. Bryan Brown from NYS Integrated Pest Management shared thoughts about weed management in crop fields with soil health BMPs in mind. We discussed how cover crops could assist with weed suppression, but could also be a source of weeds if you aren't using clean seed or if your cover crop gets away from you in the spring. Kristen Workman from PRO-DAIRY shared experiences working with farmers on soil health in heavy clay soils in Vermont, as well as some case studies with her work with New York farms on nutrient management, cover cropping and reducing tillage. She showed us that farms of all sizes and soil types are making soil health BMPs work for them. Colleen Mezzano (FSA) and Tess Flynn-Belles (NRCS) shared some program updates

from USDA for Tioga and Chemung counties. Kelly Jackson and Kristi Snyder gave program updates from CCE Tioga and Kelly presented about some online pest management tools and how she can assist farmers in utilizing those resources. Emily Dekar from the USC spoke about upcoming opportunities to work with Tioga SWCD at a basic nutrient management workshop, get soil and manure samples taken and participate in a pilot of a phone app for record keeping related to manure spreading and cropping as part of a USC grant. The meeting, with lunch provided, was free to attendees through a state Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grant awarded to Tioga SWCD.



Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

Please note: black pants and a black long sleeved shirt must be worn with the costume.



Ronny Raindrop® is celebrating his 35th birthday!



Ronny Raindrop® at the 2025 Water Quality Symposium.



Ronny Raindrop® at the 2025 Water Quality Symposium.



Ronny Raindrop® at the 2025 Water Quality Symposium.

Work Hard, Play Hard: Ronny Raindrop® Attends a Local Washington County FFA Event

Amber Luke, Natural Resource Technician, Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District

Recently the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District was



asked to participate in the Granville Future Farmers of America (FFA) Agriculture Fair at the high school. This is an annual event organized by FFA students with help from their advisor.

The students reach out to community members in hopes to showcase the great diversity and impact of the agricultural industry with their peers and the public.

Washington County SWCD graciously accepted the offer to table at the event and they even had a surprise guest for the students. Ronny Raindrop attended the event as a guest of district. Washington County SWCD, along with the help from Ronny Raindrop, was able to educate over 700 students in varying grade levels about how watersheds work and how potential pollutants can impact our water resources utilizing an EnviroScape Model. The role different soil types and soil health plays in keeping our water clean was also discussed. Washington County staff also gave examples of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are often utilized to help address water quality resource concerns through the use of project photographs and engineering designs.

Ronny Raindrop had fun hanging out with the students of all ages taking photos, giving hugs and high fives, showing kids how to use the EnviroScape Model and most importantly promoting the importance of clean water. He even had a chance to take a break and try his hand at some corn hole, he was a little rusty but will have practice for next year's event. Washington County SWCD and Ronny Raindrop had a great day at this annual event and can't wait to return next year!





Photo Album

Conservation remains in action, even on snowy days in Wyoming County. The District team trekked out on to two (slowly progressing) construction sites! Photos by Rebecca Campbell, District Technician, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District.



An AEM Tier IV Implementation Project for a pond expansion in the Town of Perry.



Becca's favorite farm dog Shep, who was braving the weather with us during an on-farm walk through with NRCS and ACS.



A preliminary evaluation of a streambank erosion site on a Boy Scout Camp in the Town of Pike.



A project in the final stages of completion for a waste storage and transfer project in the Town of Covington.



The walking towards the pond expansion project as the sun is coming through clouds in between white out conditions.

CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour

We all love our CDEA wine and pint glasses. Here they are in action across New York State. Cheers!

Niagara County SWCD Natural Resource Technician David Reckahn with his CDEA pint glass at the Moose Lodge in Lockport cheering for the Bills. He bartends here in his spare time.



**CDEA News
needs YOUR news!**

Email your stories, photos, save the dates,
and fun moments
to Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD

Special columns!
Cover Photo
CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour
Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?
Good Eats

Visit www.nyscdea.com for newsletter back issues

Annual NYS CDEA Fish On Challenge

The NYSCDEA is sponsoring a fishing challenge to all anglers out there.



Participation Fee is \$10.00 per person and each participant will receive a NYSCDEA pocket tape measure (**If you haven't received a tape already). Registration is available for NYSCDEA members only.

Submission form [HERE](#) for the Fish On Challenge

There are Seven Categories and prizes in each: *New* Saltwater Fish

Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth Bass

Northern Pike

Trout Special

→ Comradery Catch!
For the spirit of friendship and good times with the family!

Jokers Wild

General Rules

- You are not eligible to enter a fish if you caught it while in a professional tournament.
- Only one prize per fish.
- Entries are limited to those caught from NY waters only (including boundary waters).
- Entries will be scored based on length except for
 - **Jokers Wild** will be judged on uniqueness of species, size and location of catch. Participant will have to specify why they think the fish is unique and why it should win.
 - **Comradery Catch** will be judged based on species, fishing story (optional), location, etc.
 - **Trout** will be judged based on length, species, and location of catch.

Enter a Fish: the participant is required to submit the following information to [Google Forms](#) or Fishcdea@gmail.com:

1. Name
2. Date caught
3. Species
4. Length
5. Location (waterbody)
6. Picture of fish with you or a measuring tape!
7. If entering the... Jokers Wild category you must include why the fish is unique and why it should win the category.

*All entries need to be submitted between
March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025*

Examples for pictures:



Winners of all categories will be announced at the 2025 WQS Banquet.

Register for the Fish On Challenge [HERE](#)

If you have any questions, comments or if you are interested in registering, contact Katie WhitKovits at: Fishcdea@gmail.com.

Tic-Tac-Toe---Bales in the Snow

Troy Bishopp, NatGLC Northeast

Watkins Glen, NY---When you drive by Angus Glen Farms, across the way from the iconic Watkins Glen International Speedway, you'll see big round bales staged like race cars throughout selected pastures, ready for the infamous words: "Gentlemen start your "bale-grazing". The ironic part was the absence of engine sounds as the cows do all the work.

The Chedzoy family have been long-time

proponents of this burgeoning practice to feed cows in the winter by just moving a fence. Friend, practitioner, and University of Kentucky associate extension professor in agricultural economics, Greg Halich

says "Bale grazing is a winter-feeding method where bales are set out on pasture and fed in a planned, controlled manner with temporary electric fencing, somewhat like rotational grazing, typically exposing new bales to the animals every 1 to 7 days."

Seems simple enough, however every farm's context, goals and tools to implement are different; from how many bales per acre and animal nutritional needs to weathering adverse conditions, controlling hay "waste" and impacting the land you want to improve. With a multitude of considerations to think about, it was time to see it in person.

On a picture-perfect day for out-wintering; frozen ground, twenty degrees and 6 inches of snow, over 50 farmers gathered at Angus Glen to

learn from the experiences of owner, Brett Chedzoy and Cornell's SCNY Dairy Extension Specialist, Betsy Hicks who are part of a national USDA-NRCS CIG Grant by the University of Kentucky Research Foundation. "Bale Grazing: A Practical, Low-Cost, and Environmentally-Sound Management Strategy to Winter Beef Cattle" is a project that partners researchers and farmers from Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia with New York.

Brett's candor about feeding animals was blunt. "You need a strategic plan, watch your animals and the 10-day forecast closely, be adaptive in your management to changing

conditions and have fun." He strongly emphasized his "three big reasons for bale grazing" as: "Nutrient management, (soil health improvement, less waste cleanup, and watershed protection); convenience (can lay out weeks of hay in advance when time and ground conditions allow); and animal welfare (clean, comfy animals that are out where they want to be)."

The beauty of his message is in his experience. He was an early adopter to the practice and has built his practical farming systems around labor savings, soil fertility and profitability utilizing a 500-acre pasture system equipped with wire subdivisions and strategic winter waterers for his 100 head cow/calf

herd, spent a life time building "living barns" and silvopasture areas, minimizing equipment and barns, and penciling out what works for a busy family with grandchildren to visit.

The large contingent first visited a herd of first calf heifers using 2nd cutting hay enclosed by poly hay feeders to minimize waste of the higher quality, expensive feed. Chedzoy said, "He has no problem using other tools, like bale feeders, to enhance site specific bale grazing adjustments". This group was being managed differently from the main herd to accommodate the higher level of nutritional needs of the young mothers and calves. Betsy Hicks brought her expertise in body condition scoring, matching feed quality to animal needs and managing for animal welfare during changing weather events, to the conversation.

The next stop was amongst the Locust and Black Walnut tree silvopasture where bales were strategically placed for "fence-line" weaning later in the winter. Brett, who is also a



The clean well fed cows seemed unimpressed with the large group of farmers.

Continues on page 26.

Tic-Tac-Toe (from page 25)

regional extension forester with Cornell, pointed out trees that had been marked for a fence post thinning later in the season. “Many of the fences on our farm have been built from locust posts from past thinnings, and are also necessary to maintain good forage growth in these silvopasture areas,” he said.

The final stop in the 2-hour winter pasture walk was where the farmers, mature cow/calf pairs, bales and questions came together. Taking on the “waste” topic was very much appreciated by the large group as a gnawing issue on most farms thinking about implementing this strategy.

Chedozy commented, “It’s something you need to come to terms with on your own farm because of soil types, topography, fertility needs, distance to water courses, animal needs, etc. etc. For us, the labor savings is key as well as the animal’s health. These animal’s hides are thick and dry and no caked mud with lungs that breathe fresh air. It’s what we value in our stewardship stemming from this practice.”

Like any good, farmer-centric conversation, other issues were well vetted by the group among the bales and animals including: Ruminant and non-ruminant bale grazing strategies, what to do with mud issues, spring renovation ideas and reseeding, the fertilizer value of “wasted” hay (@ \$34/bale), winter watering practices, bale spacing ideas, bale grazing in warmer months, bale twine or net-wrapped questions, pre-planning animal hay needs and finally, “what about rolling out hay vs grazing static bales?”

At noon, friends were treated to a hearty bowl of Angus Glen chili with all the fixins’ from Maria Chedozy’s kitchen with ole fashioned networking

around the fiery hearth as conversations ensued for another hour. A sign of a good pasture walk!!

“The goal of the pasture walk was to give farmers an intimate look at bale grazing as a tool or as part of an overall

feeding strategy for livestock said,” Chedozy. “Peer to peer learning and seeing what’s happening on the ground is a great way to help farmers make informed management decisions. We’re just paying the mentoring forward from other farmers we learned from.”

Betsy Hicks said, “The benefits from seeing a new practice first-hand are immeasurable for farmers considering its

implementation. In the instance of bale grazing, the Chedozy’s offer to open their gates and share the good, the bad and every nuance in-between is invaluable.” While our day here at Angus Glen was nearly picture perfect, farmers need the opportunity to talk about best practices for not-so perfect situations such as the unfrozen, wet winter of 2023.”

She added, “I think one of the most important parts of our winter pasture walk is the fact we tried to highlight that there is no “one size fits all” strategy. There are lots of different ways to graze bales and different strategies can be employed based on conditions and management capacity.” “As echoed by Brett, often bale grazing in non-ideal conditions will feel like it will look worse before it gets better – but it will be better!”

Beef Farmer, Roger Leach and his daughter, Alycia said, “It was nice to be able to meet like-minded farmers and professionals who out-winter livestock in a New York context. It was helpful to hear the pros and cons of this practice from people with boots on the ground who are utilizing bale grazing on their farms and seeing at a larger scale than our own farm.”

Farmer John Keidel commented, “I found the winter pasture walk very welcoming, informative and intelligent! A winning combination and time well spent.”

The bale grazing workshop was supported by Angus Glen Farms, The Northeast Region-National Grazing Lands Coalition, Cornell Cooperative Extension SCNY Dairy & Field Crops Team, and the NRCS-USDA CIG Grant #NR223A750013G01. To learn more visit: <https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/usda-innovation-grant-bale-grazing-study-yielding-positive-results-kentucky>



Over 50 farmers attended a bale grazing winter pasture walk at Angus Glen Farms



Save the Dates!!!

The NYACD and NACD NE Annual Event will be
held on

Sunday, September 21st to Thursday, September
24th, 2025

At the

DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse
6301 State Route 298
East Syracuse, New York

More information will be provided as the committee meets throughout the coming year. Any questions please contact Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director or any NYACD Board of Directors.

Karen Hoffman receives National Pastureland Conservation Award

Marissa Curtis, State Public Affairs Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The National Pastureland Conservation Award is given each year to recognize NRCS employees who have shown outstanding service to the NRCS, to their clients, and to science through development and implementation of sound technology transfer on grazing land resources.

This year's National Pastureland Conservationist of the Year award goes to Karen Hoffman.

Karen received her BS in Animal Science at Cornell University and obtained her M.S. from Penn State, and then spent 6 years with Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Dairy Management educator. For the past 20 years Karen has been the NRCS's Animal Science and State Grazing Specialist for New York and has been very instrumental in moving the grazing program forward with the State.

I had the privilege to work with Karen when she recently served a 120-day (10/8/23-2/10/24) detail as East Region Grazing Specialist after the retirement of Kevin Ogles and the hiring of Tammy Swihart. We successfully worked on several CSP enhancements that addressed questions on payment scenarios, policy issues, and IR reviews. She also coordinated monthly calls for all grazing specialists in the East Region and assisted with grazing planning principles training for NRCS staff in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

(Although Karen majored in Animal Science, she has always been drawn to the grazing land resource. In an article written by Karen that was recently shared with us she states: **And I quote**.....*Almost 30 years later and working for USDA-NRCS as a grazing and animal nutrition specialist, soil plays a big part of how I think about pastures now. There is so much more going on below the soil surface than I remember learning about in college. Interactions between plant roots and soil micro-organisms, earthworms aerating the soil, plants working together to bring nutrients up from different root zones – these feed the plants that feed our animals. (very well said!!) (We have come along ways since the silt, sand and clay, and taxonomic nomenclature era).*



Karen has her own livestock operation “**Peaceful By Nature Farm**” a grass-fed lamb and beef operation. Through the passion she has for her own livestock operation, she easily passes it on to NRCS staff, partners and livestock producers in trainings as well as other presentations.

Some of her specific accomplishments include:

She has written numerous articles for various publications such as: Cornell Extension-Ag Informer, On Pasture, e-Organic, Cornell University-Cornell Small Farms Program.

She has coauthored the following publications: Prescribed Grazing and Feeding Management for Lactating Dairy Cows, Transitioning to Organic Dairy Self-Assessment Workbook, The Organic Dairy Handbook and she writes for *Graze* magazine addressing current feeding and grazing questions from livestock producers, and has given presentations for the American Solar Grazing Association (ASGA) webinars.

Regarding training, Karen has exceeded 100 pasture walks over the years training NRCS Staff, partners and producers and has worked with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) through multiple agreements to hold 3 field days every year and a winter conference for organic producers in NY.

Continues on page 29.

Conservation Award (from page 28)

She has taught/presented at the pastureland Ecology II course for many years, and has trained hundreds of NRCS, county, and partner employees in Prescribed Grazing over the past several decades.

Finally, Karen has collaborated with university professors, Extension Educators, SWCDs, wildlife conservation partners, and many others all to aid in the application of pastureland management. For example, she has worked on agreements over the years to hold the annual Grasstravaganza event (*The event is a one-day conference that features panelists, lectures, and a robust trade show to help producers make their operations and grazing management more resilient to short and long-term changes in climate, economics, soil health, and more*) in Morrisville, NY.

Karen is also a member of the Northeast Pasture Consortium and has led and assisted with New York Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) to promote grazing management practices to improve soil and pasture health.

She has revised/updated grazing land practice standards: Prescribed Grazing, Pasture and Hay planting, Brush Management, and Herbaceous Weed Treatment, adding New York's own requirements and leads and is responsible for the National Resource Inventory (NRI) Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection in the state of New York. Karen has been a valuable subject matter expert and team member for the Grazing Lands Resource Analysis System (GRAS) since the inception of the tools business requirements development.

And she is also a member of the Oxford farmer's market and recent recipient of the 2023 Farm Queen Podcast:

In concluding, for those that know Karen, she has always gone above and beyond to educate staff, the public and partners and is the type of person that always makes herself available for assistance, and provides a wealth of information to other pasture grazing specialists around the country, and has been a primary technical and promotional lead for modern, conservation grazing land management for several decades. There are few grazing operations in New York that have not benefited either directly from the work or from the people Karen has trained.

NRCS is grateful to have such an outstanding advocate for grazing over the years, and her conservation efforts and impact on the landscape will be cherished for many more years to come. On behalf of NRCS I am honored to present the Pastureland Conservationist of Year award! and thank you for all you have accomplished and will continue to accomplish into the future!



Executive Committee Members

Division Representatives

President: Caitlin Stewart
Hamilton County SWCD

Division I: Rebecca Campbell
Wyoming County SWCD

Vice President: Jessica Armstrong
Oneida County SWCD

Division II: Jason Cuddeback
Cayuga County SWCD

Secretary: Joann Burke
Madison County SWCD

Division III: Carla Yaw
Lewis County SWCD

Treasurer: Katy Kemmeren
Chenango County SWCD

Division IV: Lydia Brinkley
Tioga County SWCD

Member At Large: Alice Halloran
Essex County SWCD

Division V: Maren Stoddard
Warren County SWCD

Partners

Division VI: Nicholas Klemczak
Schenectady County SWCD

Natural Resources Conservation Service:
Blake Glover

Division VII: Travis Ferry
Ulster County SWCD

New York Association of Conservation Districts:
Blanche L. Hurlbutt

Soil and Water Conservation Committee:
Bethany Bzduch

Division VIII: Olivia Cunningham
Nassau County SWCD