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Annual Conservation Banquet

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its Annual Luncheon at the media center of Watkins Glen International.

The purpose of the annual banquet is to showcase to the region's municipal officials the vast and diverse conservation implementation that the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District performs on an annual basis.

Over 130 attendees were on hand, and awards were co-sponsored by our State and Congressional officials.

Schuyler County SWCD 2018 Annual Report

THE 2018 STATE AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AWARD Presented to Lakewood Vineyards

Lakewood Farm and Lakewood Vineyards, located in Watkins Glen, Schuyler County, was the recipient of the 2018 State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award. Each year, the award honors a New York State farm for its outstanding efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality and ensure the next generation of farming. This is the first time a New York State vineyard has been recognized with this long-standing award.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Empire State Potato Growers, and the American Agriculturist Magazine presented the award to the Stamp family for implementing conservation best management practices that benefit the environment and protect the community. The award was presented at the annual Empire Farm Days event in Seneca Falls.

Lakewood Farm & Lakewood Vineyards has implemented various practices to address issues that will improve soil health and protect water quality in neighboring Seneca Lake. That includes cover cropping and mulching, both of which stabilize soil, replace nutrients and retain moisture in the ground.

Since 1951, the farm has grown from 52 acres to 85 acres while cutting its pesticide use nearly in half with a weather station that's connected to Integrated Pest Management data and the use of regulated flow sprayers with reduced drift nozzles. The Stamps have reduced erosion and helped protect Seneca Lake – a highly -rated drinking water source – from pollutants in storm water runoff with clean water diversions and permanently vegetated buffers.

The farm was one of the first to compost grape pomace with manure to create fertilizer and build organic matter into the soil. Today, the award-winning winery boasts 15 grape varieties and 100,000 gallons of production.

Lakewood has worked closely with the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District, which provides technical assistance to advance agricultural environmental management practices within the county. In the last 10 years, the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District has secured nearly \$16 million in funding for agricultural projects. That includes miles of lined waterways for erosion control, clean water diversions and grassed waterways, among other protective measures.

Since 1940, the District has been working to conserve and enhance natural resources in Schuyler County through education, planning and implementation, addressing issues like improving water quality, the prevention of soil erosion and the management of natural resources.



EDUCATION - A Key Focus Area

Pasture Education

Once again John and Jackie Wickham worked diligently to continue their efforts in pasture education throughout the region. Their participation with the Tri-County Grazing group has led to a substantial following throughout the region. The Tri-County Grazing group has nearly 40 participants per event, with many folks traveling from far away to participate in this farmer led group.

The pasture walks often focus on many topics throughout the evening events from management, planning, rotation, and dealing with the unknown of climate changes from droughts to floods.



Pro Education—Farm Tour

A hands on educational tour for students was held at Bergen Farms. The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District was one of the many participants for the kids at the farm. The Soil and Water display and talk focused on soils, erosion, and the importance of soil health



Invasive Species Education

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District through its participation in the Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee helped to support two invasive species events. The first focused on education and the second was a hands on water chestnut pull in Schuyler County.



EDUCATION - A Key Focus Area

Conservation Field Days

Once again our Conservation Field Days event was put on by Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District. This years event was held at the Millport Rod and Gun Club. The event is supported by many area volunteers that make this annual program possible. This year saw over 160 6th grade students attend the outdoor hands on event that had a multitude of stations.



Envirothon

The Odessa Montour Central School was the local county winner for the Schuyler County Envirothon this year, defeating 9 other Schuyler teams and coached by high school science teacher, Doug Chapman. The Odessa Montour 'Otters' also finished second overall out of 36 teams from around the region. Schuyler, Chemung, Broome, Tioga and Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Districts combine efforts to provide high schools in the 5 counties with a regional, Southern Tier Envirothon competition to determine county champions. Battling for the chance to represent their county at the statewide event, the students' knowledge was put to the test as the teams completed tough exams in Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's Current Issue: "Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse Views".

Two schools, ten teams, and 50 students from Schuyler County participated in the event held at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Center in Owego on April 30, 2018, involving a total of 36 teams from 12 regional schools. Odessa Montour had five teams, and Bradford Central School had five.



Soil Health - Farmer Forum

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District helped to put on two farmer education sessions focused on the benefits of Soil Health. One event was held in Horseheads, the other in Geneva. The events saw well over hundred area farmers participating.



Community Programs

Agricultural Pesticide Plastics Collection

The Schuyler and Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation Districts once again had a very successful free of charge collection of agricultural pesticide plastics from Schuyler and Chemung Counties. This plastic will be recycled and used for drain tile.



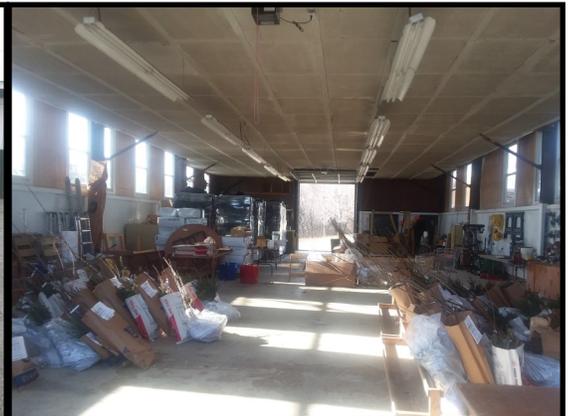
Hydro-seeding

The Soil and Water Conservation District continued its efforts of critical area seeding with the use of its hydro-seeding program. Over 120 acres were hydro-seeded to help prevent erosion of road ditches and conservation/municipal projects. The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to purchase a new hydro-seeder this year, and truck to tow the hydro-seeder to continue this very valuable program thanks to New York State Agricultural and Markets Part C funding earned by the Districts efforts throughout the year. This will allow for this very valuable program to continue for many years to come. This program saved over 360 tons of sediment from entering surface water bodies this year alone.



Annual Tree and Fish Sales

Once again the Soil and Water held an annual tree and shrub sale. Over 13,000 seedlings were sold. A spring fish sale was also held for area residents which included several species of fish sold including trout, and triploid grass carp.



NEW YORK STATE EPF LINE ITEM

Schuyler and Chemung Shared Services Infrastructure Protection Project

A special thanks to New York State Senator Tom O'Mara is greatly needed for his funding of this multi-county joint project. The EPF funding allowed for the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase a loader and for the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase a bull dozer. These two items will greatly assist in the continued growth of the two districts shared services effort to aid in installation of non-point source best management practices throughout the region. In less than five months these two pieces of equipment were utilized in over 25 projects and conserved over 12,000 tons of sediment and assisted 12 municipalities in the region. This funding will have a substantial impact annually for decades to come.



Municipal Assistance

Burr Road

A 145 tons of rip rap were utilized to stabilize 257' of eroded road ditch. This project will conserve 114 tons of soil annually.



Before



After

Dugue Road

Nearly 89 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize an eroded road ditch on Dugue Road in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve over a 126 tons of soil annually.



Covert Road

Nearly 230 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 1,100' of eroded road ditch on Covert Road in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve over a 496 tons of soil annually.



Municipal Assistance

Shuler Road

Over 695 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize over 1,736' of road ditch on Shuler Road in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve over 771 tons of soil annually.



Mathews Road Site 1

Over 269 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize over 1,400' of road ditch on Mathews Road in the Town of Hector. This project will save over 546 tons of sediment annually.



Municipal Assistance

Mathews Road Site 2

316 tons of rip rap were used to stabilize over 500 feet of road ditch on Mathews Road in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve over 384 tons of sediment annually.



Mill Hill

639 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 2,472' of road ditch on Mill Hill in the Town of Dix. This project will conserve over 915 tons of sediment annually.



Altay Road

471 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize over 2,141 feet of road ditch on Altay Road in the Town of Reading. This project will conserve 528 tons of soil annually.



Municipal Assistance

Pre-Emption Road

58 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 171' of road ditch on Pre-Emption Road in the Town of Tyrone. This project will conserve 126 tons of soil annually.



Carley Road

198 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 1,251' of road ditch on Carley Road in the Town of Catharine. This project will conserve 417 tons of soil annually.



After



Before

Hosenfelt Road

263 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 532' of road ditch on Hosenfelt Road in the Town of Catharine. This project will conserve 390 tons of soil annually.



Municipal Assistance

County Road 23

Over 1,000 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize over 2,500' of road ditch on County Road 23 in the Town of Tyrone. This project will conserve over 1,800 tons of soil annually.



Belle Cornell Drive

We replaced a collapsed cross culvert on Belle Cornell Drive in the Village of Montour Falls.



Kellogg Road

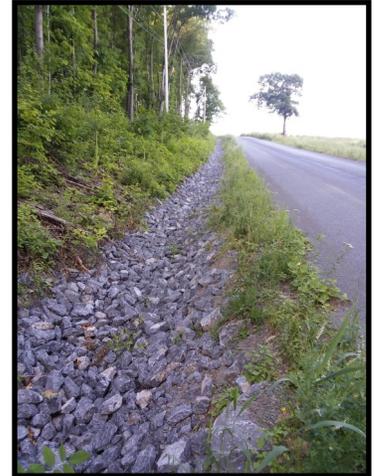
256 tons of rip rap were utilized to stabilize 690' of road ditch on Kellogg Road in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve over 300 tons of sediment annually.



Municipal Assistance

Oak Hill Road

Over 575 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 2,200' of road ditch on Oak Hill Road in the Town of Catharine. This project will conserve 489 tons of sediment annually.



Walker Road

We replaced a collapsed cross culvert on Walker Road in the Town of Cayuta. Inlet and outlet stabilization was also completed.



Town of Catharine Highway Department

The SWCD installed a diversion, buffer, and stabilized outlet to help control runoff from the Town of Catharine Highway Department



Bailey Hill Road

A small waterway was completed to aid in flood reduction of the Bailey Hill Road in the Town of Tyrone.

Stream Stabilization

Sirrine Road

113 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 200' of stream on a blueberry farm in the Town of Hector. This project will conserve 168 tons of soil annually.



County Road 13

181 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 157' of stream in the Town of Cayuta. The severely eroded streambank threatened several outbuildings and a home. This project will conserve 581 tons of soil annually.



Varney Hill Road

238 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 228' of stream in the Town of Cayuta. The severely eroded streambank threatened the septic system of the nearby home. This project will conserve 760 tons of soil annually.



NYS Route 409

A small waterway / tributary to the Route 409 flood control diversion was stabilized utilizing 293 tons of rip rap on over 600 feet of waterway. This project will help to conserve 342 tons of sediment annually.



Stream Stabilization

Ellison Road

We were able to stabilize over a 100' of stream by replacing a road cross culvert and stabilizing both the inlet and outlet areas at the end of Ellison Road in the Town of Dix. This important area has direct drainage into the Watkins Glen State Park.



County Road 17

317 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 330' of stream on County Road 17 in the Town of Dix, just outside the Village of Watkins Glen. The erosion of the stream and road ditch areas had caused the cross culvert to fill with gravel and restricted flow, along with significant bank erosion causing loss of a hay field. This project will conserve over 331 tons of sediment annually.



Mill Street

568 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 712' of failing streambank just below Mill Street in the Town of Tyrone. The failing streambank was causing a serious concern of a road collapse. This project will conserve 412 tons of sediment annually.



West Lake Road

330 tons of rip rap was utilized to stabilize 710' of eroded streambank on both sides of West Lake Road in the Town of Tyrone. This project will conserve 315 tons of sediment annually.

Agriculture

Pesticide Mixing Facility

A pesticide mixing facility was implemented on Atwater Vineyards in the Town of Hector. Atwater Vineyards is one of the larger vineyards in our county that is located directly adjacent to Seneca Lake. This new mixing facility allows for any spillage of pesticides to be collected and put back into the sprayer for labeled use of the pesticide.



Equipment Shop

An equipment shop/maintenance facility was constructed on the Sawmill Creek Vineyards in the Town of Hector. This project was funded through the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program (STAIEP). This project is for economic enhancement for area agriculture.



Drainage Project

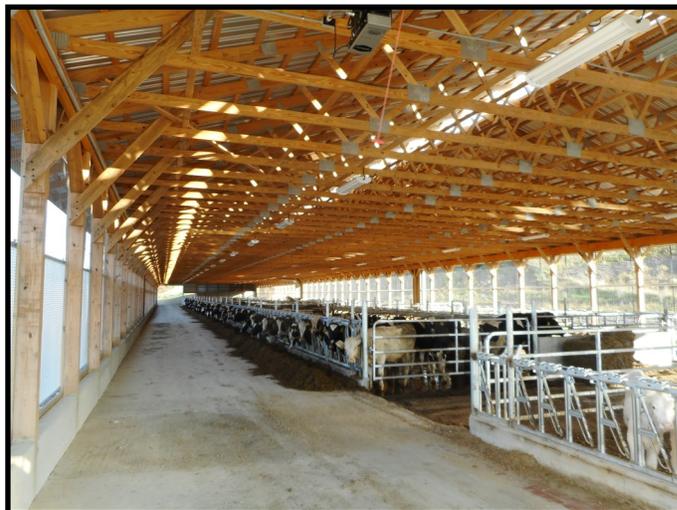
A small drainage project was completed on the Gunning farm. This project focused on a french drain to alleviate upslope and roof water from entering a barn.



Agriculture

Free-stall Barn

A new free-stall barn was constructed on the Gaige Farm in Alpine NY. This project was implemented with funding through the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program (STAIEP).



Cover Cropping Project—Upper Susquehanna Watershed

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District obtained funding from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) to implement cover crops in the Susquehanna River watershed in Schuyler and Chemung Counties. Cover crops provide an immense reduction in soil erosion and nutrient loading of surface water bodies by providing land cover during the non-cropping winter months. The cover crops also provide benefits to our area farms by benefitting soil health and at times providing an added crop to the rotation.

This year we were able to do some research and trials with an inter-seeder. This allows for cover crops to be planted while the corn, or soybean crops are still growing. This opens the timing window to plant this important crop which is a necessity with the often short or non-existent window for our area farms to harvest their row crops and to implement. This type of seeding is going to come with its own set of challenges. Timing will be key in order to hit proper moisture levels, and proper seed types that can withstand canopy cover. Planting in times where canopy won't be an issue, such as, late in the growing season on silage corn that will be harvested early enough for growth of the cover crop is also an option. This year we were able to plant 885 acres in less than a weeks time with this machine. We have obtained a grant to purchase our own inter-seeder which will allow for a greater amount of trials to determine the best timing and seed mixtures for our area farms.

We also did an immense amount of conventional cover crop work throughout the two county area. In total 1,350 acres of cover crops were planted through this valuable program. Conserving over 2,600 tons of soil. This project wouldn't have been possible without two excellent operators, Derrick Tanner and Scott Bush.



Agriculture

Barnyard Water Management

A covered barnyard was constructed on the Lafever beef farm in the Town of Dix. The covered barnyard is utilized in non-grazing periods, such as, the winter time. This allows for pasture areas to stay highly vegetated and productive. It contains manure and reduces the chance of runoff and impacts to water quality.



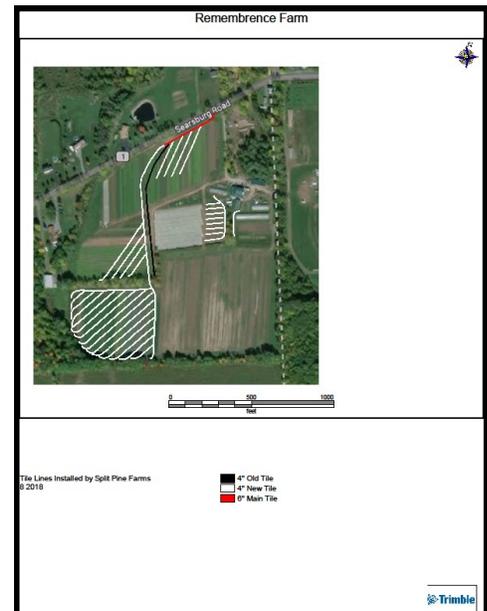
Joint Silage Leachate Control Project

A total collection silage leachate system is near completion on Lloyds USA Development dairy operation near Waverly. This project was co-funded by New York State agricultural nonpoint source pollution funding and Environmental Quality Incentives funding through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Final grading and backfilling will occur in the spring of 2019.



Greenhouse Expansion and Drainage Project

Three greenhouses were constructed and a drainage project was completed for vegetable production on the Remembrance Farm in the Town of Hector. This project was completed through the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program (STAIIEP).



Flood Recovery

Robertson Road

At the very end of Robertson Road in the Town of Hector, the road was washed out stranding residents. We were able to reset the double culverts and stabilize the inlet and outlet ends to get the road opened back up.



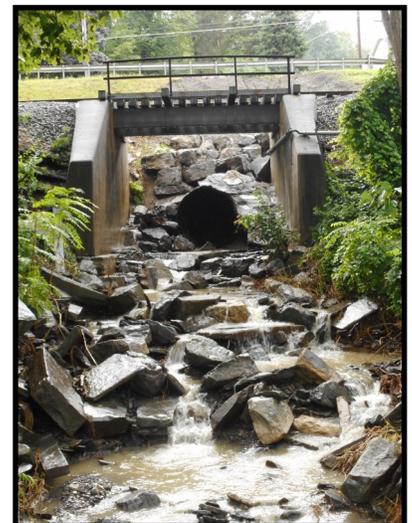
Seneca Road

The flooding caused a cross culvert collapse on Seneca Road which caused the road to be shut down. We were able to replace the culvert and get the road re-opened.



County Road 30

Salt Point Road was shut down from water crossing and damaging the road in several locations. We were able to work jointly with DOT to reopen the road.



Flood Recovery

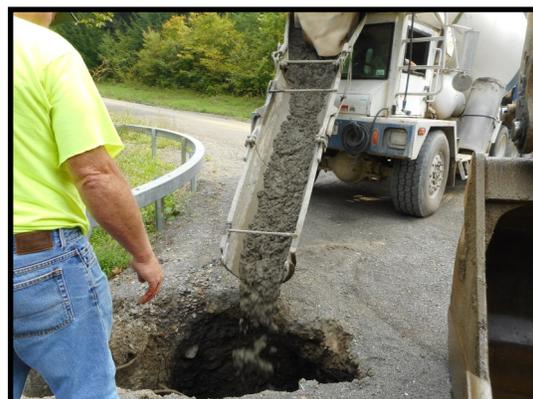
Dug Road

A 42' deep road collapse occurred on Dug Road in the Town of Montour. It took over 1,100 tons of rip rap to stabilize the site and to reopen the road. This was a very difficult and dangerous site that couldn't have been attempted without our highly skilled and experienced operators Jim Barrett, and Michael Manwaring. We are very fortunate to have them working for our Soil and Water Conservation District.



Decker Road

The flood waters caused a collapse of Decker Road near a box culvert. We were able to repair that issue with concrete tied to the box culvert. The road was then reopened.



Flood Recovery

Arnot Forest

We were able to replace two collapsed culverts that had closed down the forest.



County Road 1

A large culvert collapsed on CR 1 caused the need for road closure. A temporary pipe was put in place along with stabilization of the inlet and outlet areas so the road could be reopened. The County Highway Department is currently working with FEMA so a permanent pipe can be installed.



Hitchcock Road

We were able to work with the Town of Montour to replace a collapsed cross culvert on Hitchcock Road.



Flood Recovery

County Road 4

We worked with the County Highway Department to stabilize several thousand feet of road ditch on County Road 4.



Havanna Glen Park

We were able to stabilize over 200' of failed stream bank in Havanna Glen Park. This failure threatened structures in the park and took out the main trail to the falls.



Walsh Road

We replaced a cross culvert and repaired a ten foot collapse of Walsh Road, along with several hundred feet of road ditch..



Flood Recovery

Rock Cabin Road

A diversion was overwhelmed with the flood event directly above a home on Rock Cabin Road in the Village of Montour Falls. We were able to remove all of the debris and repair the diversion above the home.



Peach Orchard Point

A significant bank collapse threatened a large cross culvert causing the need for the road to be closed. We were able to stabilize the road, and 200' of eroded stream bank.



MacDowell Street

An immense amount of gravel filled a waterway located between MacDowell Street and Cotton Hanlon Road. We were able to remove the debris in the waterway and got the culvert unplugged.



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*THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2018
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All programs and services of the Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.



SCHUYLER COUNTY SWCD
 PO BOX 326
 MONTOUR FALLS, NY 14865

