

New York NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting

April 2, 2026
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 3, 2026

Attending (MS Teams): Blake Glover (NRCS), Alana Covington (NRCS), Daniel Ufnar (NRCS), Kim Farrell (NRCS), Erica Stach (NRCS), Dianna Stanton (NRCS), Vaun V Evarts (DEC), Christina Ripplinger (NRCS), Karen Hoffman (NRCS), Lacey Smith (NRCS), Sarah Tuori (NRCS), Mike Shaw (NRCS), Linda Garrett (AFT), Tim Clark (Ag & Markets), Valerie Podolec (NRCS), Tony Capraro (NRCS), Sean M Alexander (DEC), Christy Arvizu (EPA), Paula Bagley (NRCS), Michele Fafette (EPA), Bruce Bennett (Landowner), Christopher Deets (NRCS), Emily Ringen (NRCS), Greg Albrecht (NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets), Gian L Dodici (FWS), Kirsten S.M. Kurtz (Cornell), Gabby Taylor (NYFB), Antony Tseng (EPA), James LaGioia (NRCS), Chris Kemnah (NOFA), Caitlin Tucker (AFT), Jonah I Saitz (FWS), Anna Elizabeth Wallis (Cornell), Emmaline Long (Alleghany Services), Sandra J Van Vranken (DEC), Kristin Ballou (Franklin Co. SWCD), Jonathan Matthew Russell-Anelli (Cornell), Mia Park, Emily Berkowitz (Cornell), Dale R. Dewing (Cornell), Sue Keister (Forester), Renee Bouplon (Agricultural Stewardship Association), Carol Loopstra (NRCS), Luke McNally (Ruffed Grouse Society), Brianna Rosamilia (Rockland Co. SWCD), Marie Ross (NRCS), Tom A. Langen (Clarkson University), Tim Russell (Forester)

New York NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting April 2, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m., MS Teams

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:00 – 1:15 pm	State Conservationist Welcome	Blake Glover
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Partnerships Update • Overview • Updates	Alana Covington
1:45 – 2:00 pm	Interim Conservation Practice Standards • Conservation Practice Standard Silvopasture (381)	Karen Hoffman
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Soils • Soil Subcommittee Report	Dan Ufnar
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Farm Bill Program Updates • Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) • Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Kim Farrell
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Easements • Last Year's Accomplishments • Updates	Kim Farrell
3:30 – 3:45 pm	STC Sub-Committees	Committee Leads
3:45 – 3:50 pm	Closing Comments	Alana Covington

Opening Remarks:

Alana Covington, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS-NY

- Housekeeping points for virtual meeting.
-

Welcome:

Blake Glover, State Conservationist, NRCS-NY

- Welcome. Blake Glover explained that the State Technical Committee is used to drive technical and program decision-making at the field level, with input from partners such as NY Ag & Markets, NY Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and other organizations. The committee meets twice a year, with additional meetings possible for special program activities.
 - **Membership Process:** Alana described the process for joining the STC, noting that interested individuals can access the 'How to Become A Member' section on the updated NRCS New York STC webpage, submit an email request, and receive approval from the State Conservationist, typically within a short timeframe.
 - **Committee Webpage Updates:** Alana highlighted the recent overhaul of the STC webpage, completed by Chris Deets, which now features meeting announcements, direct links to meetings, and prominent contact information to facilitate communication and access for current and prospective members.
 - **Subcommittees Structure:** Alana explained that subcommittees are formed to address specific topics such as water quality, easements, and tribal representation, with each subcommittee reporting updates to the main committee during meetings.
-

Partnerships Update (See slides for details)

Alana Covington, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS-NY

- **Partnerships and Agreement Updates:** Alana provided updates on the NRCS New York Partnerships Team, including the rebranding of Climate Smart Commodity agreements to the AMP Initiative, the state's involvement in reviewing environmental compliance forms, and the impact of a national review on agreement actions and funding opportunities.
 - **AMP Initiative Rebranding:** Alana explained that the Climate Smart Commodity agreements have been rebranded as the AMP Initiative (Advancing Markets for Producers) under the new administration, with oversight by the NRCS Partnership Division and the Office of the Chief.
 - **State Role in Agreements:** Alana described the state's role in reviewing and approving CPA-52 environmental compliance forms for each project, with the State Resource Conservationist's (SRC) team responsible for completing these reviews.
 - **National Review and Temporary Pause:** A national review of all active agreements at the national, regional, and state levels will take place from April through July, resulting in a temporary pause on agreement actions except for payments, with exceptions requiring approval from the Assistant Chief's Office.
 - **New Agreement Process:** Alana outlined the new two-step process for creating and amending agreements, which now requires submission to the Assistant Chief's Office for approval and documentation through the Power App process before proceeding with submitting to the Grants and Agreements Division (GAD).
 - **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):** NRCS- NY has prepared a NOFO but is awaiting national approval to release it, with partners encouraged to monitor updates regarding funding opportunities.

- **External Funding and Partner Programs:** Greg Albrecht and other participants discussed state-level cost share programs and external funding opportunities, including the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program, Climate Resilient Farming, and Ecosystem-Based Management, with input from local partners and Soil and Water Districts.
 - **State Cost Share Programs:** Greg Albrecht described several New York state cost share programs under the Agricultural Environmental Management umbrella, including the AIM-Based Program, Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement Control Program, Climate Resilient Farming Program, and Ecosystem-Based Management Program, all locally led by county Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
-

Interim Conservation Practice Standards *(See slides for details)*

Karen Hoffman, State Grazing Specialist, NRCS-NY

- **Silvopasture Conservation Practice Standard Update:** Karen Hoffman presented on the adoption and implementation of the Silvopasture Conservation Practice Standard (381) in New York, detailing its history, management requirements, eligible practices, and financial assistance scenarios, with input from partners on current needs and challenges.
 - **History and Adoption of Standard:** Karen explained that while silvopasture has been practiced in New York, the official standard was not previously used due to concerns about its flexibility. The state required both grazing and forest management plans for projects and recently adopted the standard as part of the Regenerative Pilot Program.
 - **Management Requirements:** Karen emphasized that successful silvopasture requires intentional, integrated management of trees, forage, and livestock, with both grazing and forest management plans identifying silvopasture as a goal.
 - **Eligible Practices and Scenarios:** Karen outlined five eligible scenarios for financial assistance: thinning established forests, native grass establishment in forests, and tree establishment in old fields or pastures, with payments available for both hired and self-performed work.
 - **Partner Feedback and Program Limits:** Partners discussed current program limits, focusing on introducing trees into existing pastures rather than converting forests to pasture, citing environmental risks and the need for intensive management plans.
 - **Invasive Species Control:** An attendee raised a question about controlling invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle using prescribed grazing, and Karen confirmed that NRCS Practice Standard 314 (Brush Management) allows for biological control with grazing animals.
-

Soils *(See slides for details)*

Dan Ufnar, State Soil Scientist, NRCS-NY

- **Soil Subcommittee Report and Cooperative Soil Survey:** Dan Ufnar delivered the first report from the newly established Soil Subcommittee, covering the Cooperative Soil Survey's history, project priorities, technical service activities, and partner presentations on soil health, urban soils, and restoration projects.
 - **Cooperative Soil Survey Background:** Dan explained the Cooperative Soil Survey's origins, its mandate to inventory and interpret soil resources, and the agency's responsibility to keep data

- relevant and accessible, with opportunities for partners to join subcommittees and provide feedback.
- **Project Priorities:** Dan listed current project priorities, including the Lewis County update, Long Island Sound coastal zone soil survey, and database work for hydric soils and ecological site descriptions, emphasizing the need for travel authorization and partner collaboration.
 - **Technical Service Activities:** Dan described the technical soil service program's support for planning staff, compliance and eligibility determinations, outreach, and training events, highlighting recent urban soil mapping efforts in Ithaca and subaqueous soil mapping for restoration and aquaculture.
 - **Partner Presentations:** Dan summarized partner presentations on topics such as trafficability research, soil health assessments, organics recycling, and urban-rural soil property studies, noting their relevance to NRCS planning and conservation goals.
 - **Annual Data Refresh and Communication:** Dan reminded participants of the annual October 1st data refresh for soil survey information and encouraged users to sign up for notifications and update their databases accordingly.
-

Farm Bill Program Updates *(See slides for details)*

Kim Farrell, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, NRCS-NY

- **Farm Bill Program Updates and Financial Assistance:** Kim Farrell provided an overview of NRCS New York's financial assistance programs, including EQIP, AMA, CSP, and RCPP, detailing funding levels, program requirements, application processes, and recent accomplishments in contract obligations and easement stewardship.
 - **EQIP Program Overview:** Kim described the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as the largest financial assistance program, supporting conservation practices such as grazing, pollinator habitat, reduced tillage, and cover crops, with contracts averaging five years and payment rates up to 75% (90% for historically underserved participants).
 - **Regenerative Pilot Program:** Kim explained that 25% of EQIP funding is dedicated to the Regenerative Pilot Program, focusing on soil health and water quality practices, with additional funding targets for livestock, wildlife habitat, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and source water protection.
 - **AMA and Urban Agriculture Focus:** Kim outlined the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program, available in 16 states including New York, with a focus on urban agriculture and high tunnel funding, limited to \$50,000 per contract and targeted to urban areas and their buffers.
 - **CSP Program Details:** Kim presented the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for landowners already practicing good stewardship, offering five-year contracts with minimum annual payments, separate pools for agricultural and forestry land, and opportunities for input on priority resource concerns and resource-conserving crops.
 - **RCPP and Partner Collaboration:** Kim described the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) as a mechanism for NRCS to co-invest with partners on conservation activities not covered by other programs, with current projects including forest land easements and anticipation of new funding opportunities.
-

Easements *(See slides for details)*

Kim Farrell, Assistant State Conservationist for Easements, NRCS-NY

- **Easement Programs and Stewardship:** Kim provided updates on agricultural and wetland easement programs, including recent enrollments, funding levels, and the ongoing stewardship of over 1,200 conservation easements in New York, with annual monitoring and boundary remarking supported by partners.
 - **End of 30-Year Easements:** Kim answered a question about the expiration of 30-year easements, explaining that landowners can convert to permanent easements or revert to private land status, with ongoing stewardship and funding available for permanent conversions.
-

STC Sub-Committee Reports

Committee Leads

- **Subcommittee Updates and Tribal Partnerships:** Subcommittee leads provided brief updates, with Chris Deets reporting on tribal partnerships, including work with New York's eight federally recognized tribal nations, sweetgrass plug distribution, and upcoming meetings, while Kim and Dan noted future meetings and ongoing projects in their respective areas.
 - **Tribal Partnerships:** Chris reported on NRCS engagement with tribal nations, including projects with the Seneca Nation and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, sweetgrass plug distribution, and the role of the Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee, with plans for a subcommittee meeting in the coming weeks.
 - **Wetland Reserve Easement Subcommittee:** Kim announced that the WRE subcommittee, led by Peter Gibbs, will meet soon to discuss beaver issues on easements, inviting interested participants to attend.
 - **Soil Subcommittee Next Steps:** Dan confirmed that the next Soil Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 29th, with agenda development and partner input to follow.
-

Closing Comments

Alana Covington, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS-NY

- **Website Updates and Meeting Documentation:** Alana concluded the meeting by highlighting ongoing updates to the NRCS-NY STC website, the posting of meeting minutes and future meeting dates, and the importance of information sharing and partner contributions.
 - **Website Improvements:** Alana described enhancements to the STC website, including a new section for additional documents and meeting minutes, with protocols for public posting and approval.
 - **Future Meeting Announcements:** Alana stated that future meeting dates will be announced at the top of the website, with email notifications and agendas sent in advance to committee members.
 - **Future meeting:** September 3, 2026
 - Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.
-

Partner Program Information Sharing

Compiled are partner program links and resources shared with meeting participants:

- STC website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/new%20york/technical-committee>

- Submitted by NYS Ag & Markets- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) related funding programs from the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets / NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and locally led and sponsored by the 58 Soil and Water Conservation Districts across NYS.

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-committee>

- Submitted by AFT- Some upcoming work on silvopasture from our team, specifically researching tree fodder as an alternative forage and hosting some live stake demonstrations in the next couple of months. Our team will be organizing several other silvopasture-related events this year.

<https://www.morningagclips.com/experience-agroforestry-in-action-with-tree-fodder/>

- USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1078-010

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/sm-1078-010.pdf>

Follow-up Tasks:

- **Website Update and Document Posting:** Post the meeting minutes and all referenced documents to the State Technical Committee website after internal review and approval. (Alana, Chris)
 - **WRE Subcommittee Beaver Issues:** Organize a WRE subcommittee meeting to discuss and develop approaches for managing beaver issues on easements. (Peter Gibbs)
 - **Soil Subcommittee Next Meeting:** Prepare and distribute the agenda for the next Soil Subcommittee meeting scheduled for July 29th. (Dan)
-



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW YORK STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) MEETING**

Date – April 2, 2026, 1:00 PM - Virtual

1:00 PM	State Conservationist Welcome	Blake Glover
1:15 PM	Partnerships • Overview • Updates	Alana Covington
1:45 PM	Interim Conservation Practice Standards • Conservation Practice Standard Silvopasture (381)	Karen Hoffman
2:00 PM	Soils • Soil Subcommittee Report	Dan Ufnar
2:30 PM	Farm Bill Program Updates • Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) • Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Scott Travis
3:00 PM	Easements • Last Year's Accomplishments • Updates	Kim Farrell
3:30 PM	STC Sub-Committees	Committee Leads
3:45 PM	Closing Comments	



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

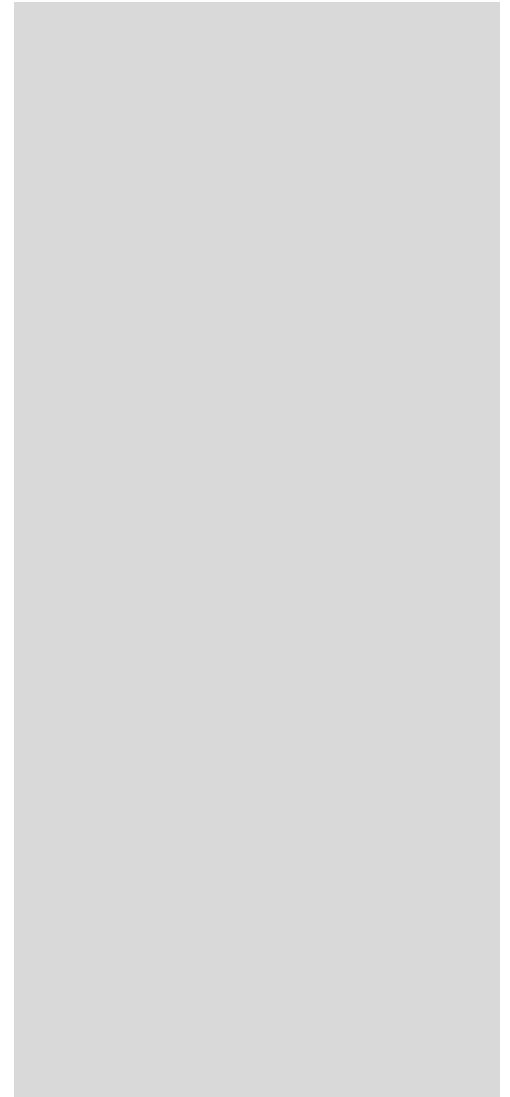


Alana Covington, ASTC-Partnerships
alana.covington@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) Initiative

- National agreements- initiative housed in NRCS' Partnerships Division and overseen by the Office of the Chief (OOC)
- Previously titled Climate-Smart Commodities agreements
- Champions the mission of USDA and NRCS by utilizing policy priorities of Farmer First, Market and Value Chain Development, and Community and Cooperative Development



Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) Initiative

- NRCS-NY has agreements with 32 partners
- Partners must complete a CPA-52 (Environmental Compliance) form for each project
- Each state's primary involvement has been reviewing and approving CPA-52 forms
- NRCS State Resource Conservationist's (SRC) staff complete the reviews



Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP)

- Go to website & click “Project Dashboard”
- [Quick Link: Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities | USDA](#)

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Finalized Agreements

To learn more about active Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities projects, please view the project dashboard link below.

Project Dashboard

Website Content

Overview Project Detail Data Download

USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects
Expanding Climate-Smart Commodity Markets

Progress Report How to Enroll An In-Depth Overview Overview Brochure FAQs

55 States & Territories 135 Projects 102 Major Commodities 198 Practices \$3.09 B Federal Funding*

Click on a state to filter the map or use drop-down menu. (All) To reset filters, click the Reset View button on the toolbar.

*Total funding for all projects that potentially impact this area, commodity(ies), practice(s) and project(s) as filtered.

COMMODITIES	PRACTICES	LEAD PARTNERS
Agroforestry	310 Bedding (Archived)	A Greener World
Alfalfa	311 Alley Cropping	Accelerating Appalachia, Inc.
Almonds	313 Waste Storage Facility	Adirondack North Country Association
Apples	314 Brush Management	AgriCapture, Inc.
Avocado	315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment	American Farmland Trust

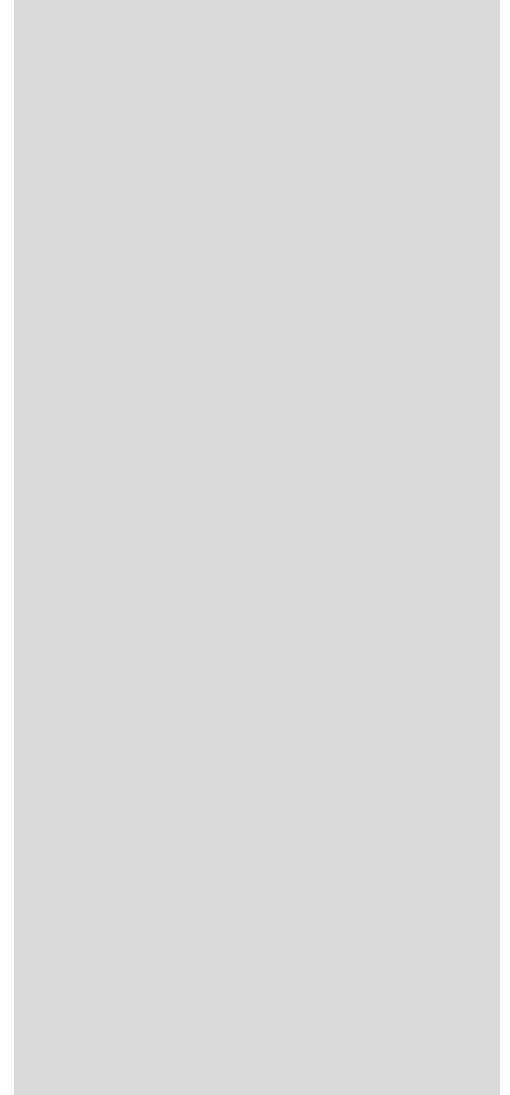
Follow link to Partnerships for Climate Smart Website

Click “Project Dashboard” button

Overview tab (top) provides state information

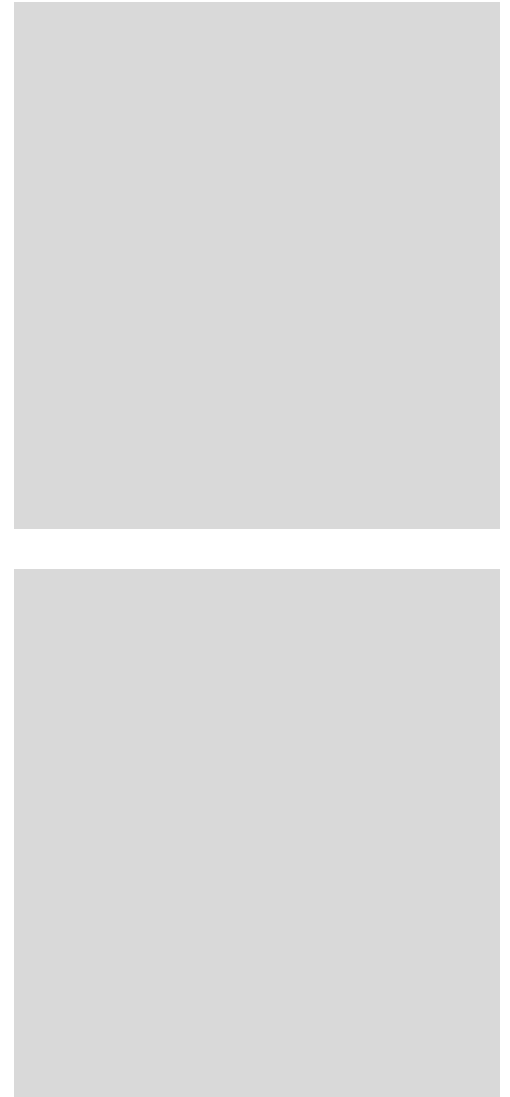
Upcoming National Review

- Partnerships Division will be launching a full review of all active partner agreements at the national, regional, and state levels from April through July.
- There will be a temporary pause of agreement actions.
- Payment actions will still be processed as previously directed.



- Does not apply to program specific awards such as :
 - RCPP
 - EWP
 - Watershed Program
 - Conservation Innovation Grants (CIGs)
 - Congressionally Directed Spending

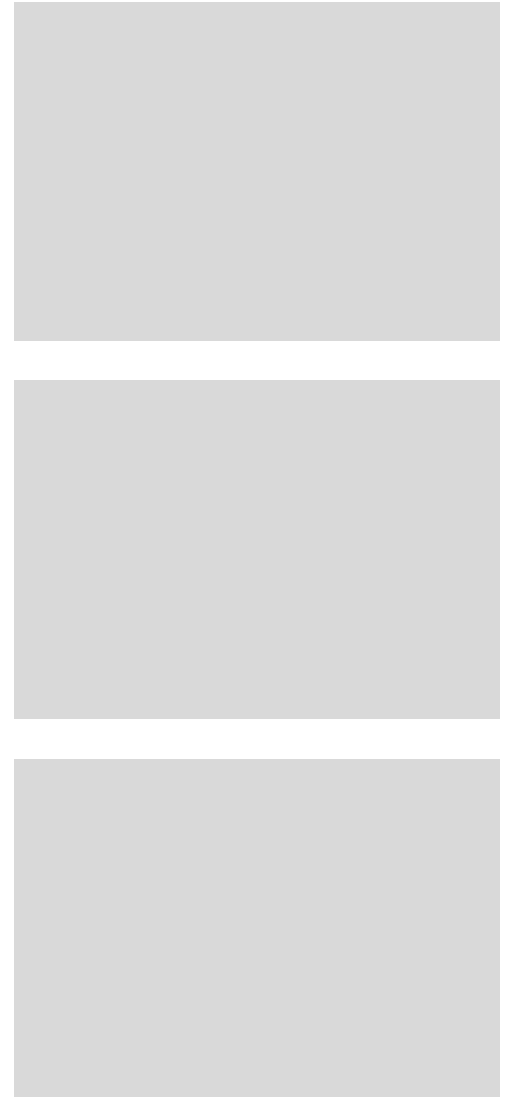
- Exceptions by the Chief/Associate Chief will only be considered for mission critical needs.



Agreement Updates

2 step review process for new agreements and amendments

- Assistant Chief's approval
 - PowerApp approval process
-
- New agreements and amendments due to Grants & Agreement Division (GAD) by June 15, 2026.





USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Karen Hoffman
State Animal Husbandry & Grazing Specialist

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Silvopasture Standard 381

- NY-NRCS has not traditionally used CPS 381
 - As Conservationists, we have been taught for generations that allowing livestock in the woods was BAD!
- Determined that one conservation practice is not flexible enough to address our diverse landscapes without creating additional resource concerns
- Instead, we have required both a grazing management plan and a forest management plan to create “grazed forestland”
 - Pulled in forestry practices to thin existing forest or for tree planting

As CCE encouraged good graziers to incorporate this management into their grazing system, knew we farmers were going to try it with or without our guidance – so this was the best compromise to ensure resource concerns were not created.

Silvopasture is a land management system that combines timber, livestock and forage production with resource management on the same acreage.



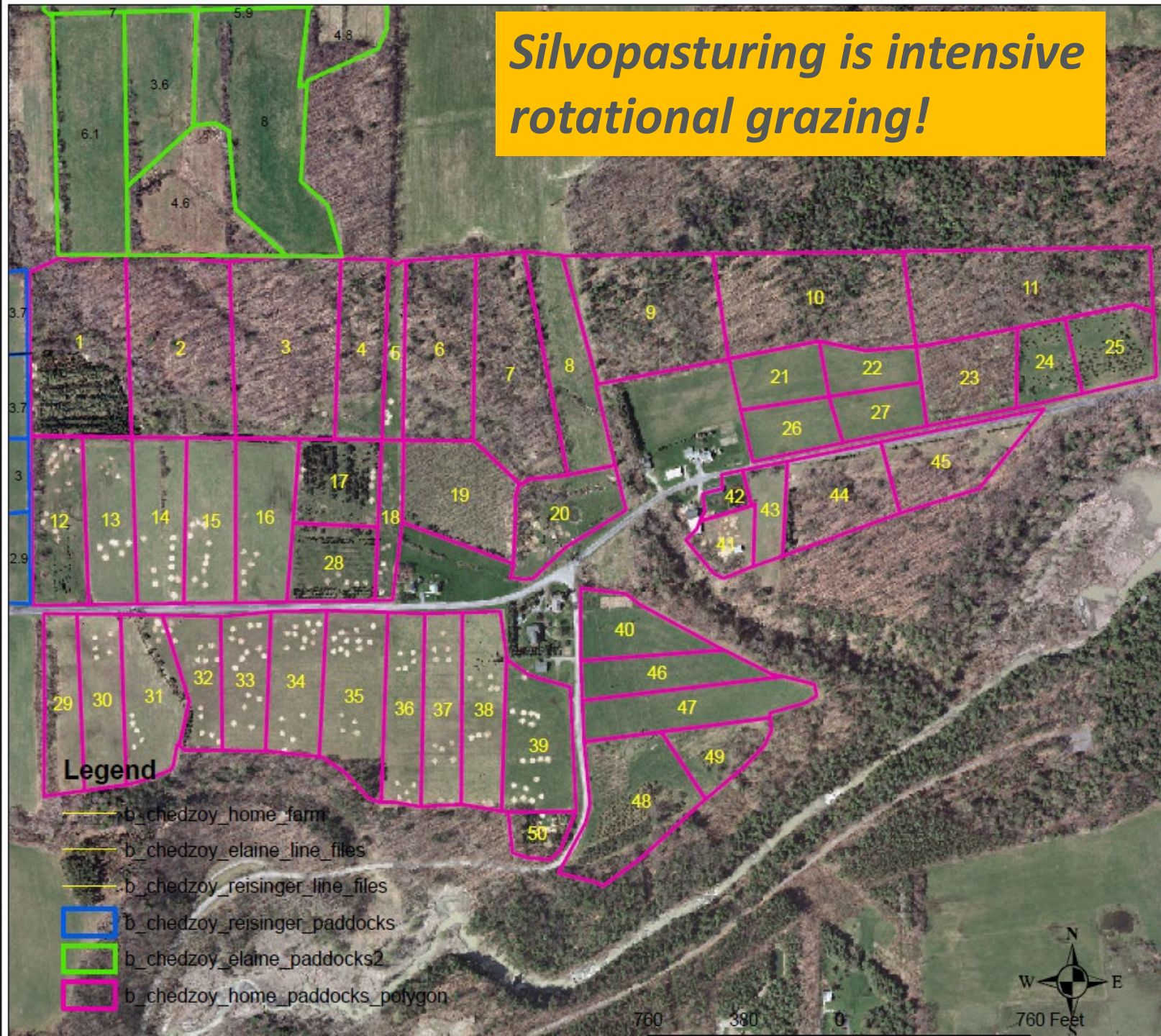
Silvopasture is Not!



Silvopasture

- Silvopasture is NOT just turning livestock into the woods, but is the intentional, integrated, interactive and intensive management of the trees for forest products and forages for livestock production.
- Silvopasture systems are intensively managed and therefore require regular and consistent attention.
- A producer must understand each of the three primary components (trees, forage, and livestock), and how they interact in order to be successful.
- Trees provide long-term returns, while livestock and forages generate an annual income.

Silvopasturing is intensive rotational grazing!



1	6.2
2	6.6
3	6.8
4	3.0
5	1.2
6	4.5
7	5.4
8	3.4
9	5.9
10	6.5
11	6.6
12	3.2
13	2.9
14	3.0
15	2.9
16	3.4
17	2.5
18	1.2
19	3.8
20	2.8
21	1.8
22	1.4
23	2.7
24	1.6
25	2.2
26	1.6
27	1.5
28	2.3
29	2.3
30	2.6
31	3.2
32	2.0
33	2.3
34	2.8
35	3.7
36	2.6
37	2.7
38	2.9
39	3.3
40	2.2
41	1.2
42	0.5
43	1.1
44	3.2
45	3.0
46	2.2
47	3.1
48	4.6
49	1.7
50	0.9

Silvopasture Benefits for NY

- **Improved plant vigor:** *faster tree growth, healthier trees, improved nutrient cycling, high forage quality, lengthened forage growing season, invasive control*
- **Lower animal stress:** *increased weight gain, increased milk yields, higher conception rates, lower veterinarian bills, lower heat stress, parasite management*
- **Improved wildlife habitat:** *sufficient food supplies, suitable cover, well distributed water, adequate habitat*
- **Income:** *economic risk is reduced because the system produces multiple products both annually and long-term.*

NY Program History

- **Starting in 2021, NY NRCS added the following to Forestland for EQIP:**
 - 382 – Fence
 - 516 – Livestock Pipeline
 - 614 - Watering Facility
 - 528 – Prescribed Grazing
 - 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

Facilitate the development of grazing management

There are Two Paths to Grazed Forestland / Silvopasture



- **Pasture to Silvopasture:** trees are deliberately introduced or enhanced to a forage production system
 - Also referred to as “silvopasture by addition”
- **Forest to Silvopasture:** forage crops are deliberately introduced or enhanced in a timber or tree crop production system
 - Also referred to as “silvopasture by subtraction”
 - Note that this is not a land use change – remains forest with a grazed modifier

Silvopasture Standard 381

- Standard adopted in February
 - Required to by National HQ
 - Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
 - We will still require the grazing and forest plans
 - Standard is being updated nationally – hoping will be a much better fit for NY

General Criteria

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Use plant species (i.e., trees and forages; shrubs where desired) that are adapted to the climate, soil, and biological conditions of the site and compatible with its planned use and management.

Establish and maintain silvopasture in a forested condition that is at least 10-percent stocked by single-stemmed woody species of any size that will be at least 4 meters (13 feet) tall at maturity.

Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weeds lists.

Manage grazing as outlined in a CPS 528 Grazing Management Plan to establish and maintain silvopasture productivity and function. Facilities for providing water, minerals, or supplemental feed will be located and distributed such that livestock will properly utilize forages in the silvopasture. Control livestock access to areas with sensitive soils (e.g., wetlands, riparian zones, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.).

When establishing silvopasture in existing forestland, follow a forest management plan that adheres to Federal and State forest stewardship plan guidelines. Remove a sufficient number of trees, and/or prune existing trees, to allow adequate light penetration for forage establishment and growth. For tree pruning, use criteria in NRCS CPS Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660). For establishment of forage species, use criteria in NRCS CPS Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512).

Practice Scenarios

- Five scenarios available
 - Commercial thinning
 - Non-commercial thinning
 - Native grass establishment in existing forest
 - Tree establishment in a field
 - Tree establishment in a pasture

Silvopasture Summary

- Staff will plan and contract:
 - 381 Silvopasture
 - 528 Grazing Management Plan
 - Facilitating practices as needed
 - 382 Fence, 575 Trails and Walkways, 516 Pipeline, etc.
 - Forest Management Plan
 - **IF** planning on forest land use
 - Facilitating practices as needed
 - 666 Forest Stand Improvement, 660 T/S Pruning, 512 Pasture and Hay Planting, etc.
 - Tree planting practices if planning on pasture or old field
 - 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment, 490 T/S Site Prep
 - Pick scenario that fits best

Questions?





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Soils Subcommittee Report

April 2, 2026

Dan Ufnar, NY State Soil Scientist, daniel.ufnar@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Agenda

- NY CSS and Soil Subcommittee formation
- NY CSS Project Priorities
- Subcommittee meeting minutes & Partner Highlights

What is National Cooperative Soil Survey

What does the NCSS Do?

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/partner-with-us/national-cooperative-soil-survey>

- ***NCSS cooperators collaborate on efforts to increase our understanding of soils through field studies, soil mapping projects, soil database development, and other technical soil services.***

What is the NCSS?

- The National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) is a nationwide partnership of Federal, regional, State, and local agencies and private entities and institutions.

Who can join?

- Anyone can join the NCSS. View our [ArcGIS Story Map](#) to learn more about us!



Public Law (PL 89-560-Sept.7, 1966)

The legislative authority of the Soil Survey Program as defined by PL 89-560 and directed by the Secretary of Agriculture :

- (i) **make an inventory** of US soil resources;
- (ii) **keep the soil survey relevant to changing needs;**
- (iii) **interpret soil information** and **make it available in a useful form;**
- (iv) **promote the soil survey and provide technical assistance** for a wide range of... issues.

How to identify project priorities?

- Annual NY CSS Work planning meetings
- Is there an opportunity to engage a broader group of stakeholders?
- How can we help ensure NY CSS products are meeting current needs and emerging soil related topics?
- Can we better align with the statewide technical advisory framework we currently utilize?

That framework is the State Technical Committee

Soils Subcommittee – Topics and Focus

- NY Cooperative Soil Survey
- Soil Health
- Emerging Topics—TBD (*Contaminants? Farmland Protection? Urban soils?*)

Meeting Schedule

- 2 Formal Meetings/Year
 - One Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning meeting
 - One Partner driven/emerging topic focused

Meeting Minutes/Recommendations/Requests reported to State Technical Committee for consideration

Soils Subcommittee—Current Members

- NRCS-NY and NRCS-SPSD
- USFS
- NY Ag and Markets
- CCE
- SWCD
- University partners—Cornell, SUNY-ESF
- Producer
- Urban Soils Institute

Point of Contact:

Dan Ufnar, State Soil Scientist
daniel.ufnar@usda.gov

Inaugural Soil Subcommittee Minutes

- Virtual meeting held March 12
- 51 attendees
- Agenda included a split of NRCS-NY and NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division reports, followed by Partner presentations
- Highlights to follow...



2025 TSS Activities



Herkimer County
Conservation Field Day



State Envirothon



Crab Meadow Salt Marsh Mapping



Soil Health Field Days-
Seneca Falls



SUNY
Morrisville
Hydric Soils
Class



Oswego County Ag Awareness Day

Priorities for Remainder of FY26 and into FY27

- Lewis County Update
- LIS CZSS
- Hydric soil components lacking landform information
- Wet ESD development

Considerations

- Staffing
- Travel
- Opportunities for collaboration/cooperation

Annual Soils Data Refresh

- Annual soils refresh was completed on time for October 2025
- Remember to update the GIS soils data you use, yearly!!
- St. Lawrence (NY089) and Cattaraugus (NY009) Update Issues—**FIXED March 2026**
 - No impact to WSS data
 - Muaggatt table missing data, limiting use of database in GIS tools
- Sign up for updates in GovDelivery: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil/govdelivery-topics>

Annual Soils Data Refresh-NY eFOTG

- eFOTG, Section 2, Soils Information: spreadsheets updated after the refresh each year (if changes apply)
- Spreadsheets include Farmland Class, Flooding and Ponding Frequency, Hydrologic Soil Groups

NRCS-SPSD Updates

- City of Ithaca
- LIS CZSS
- Urban Soils Data Updates
- Lewis County Update (Black River Corridor)
- Hydric Soil Landform Data Population
- Wet ESD development

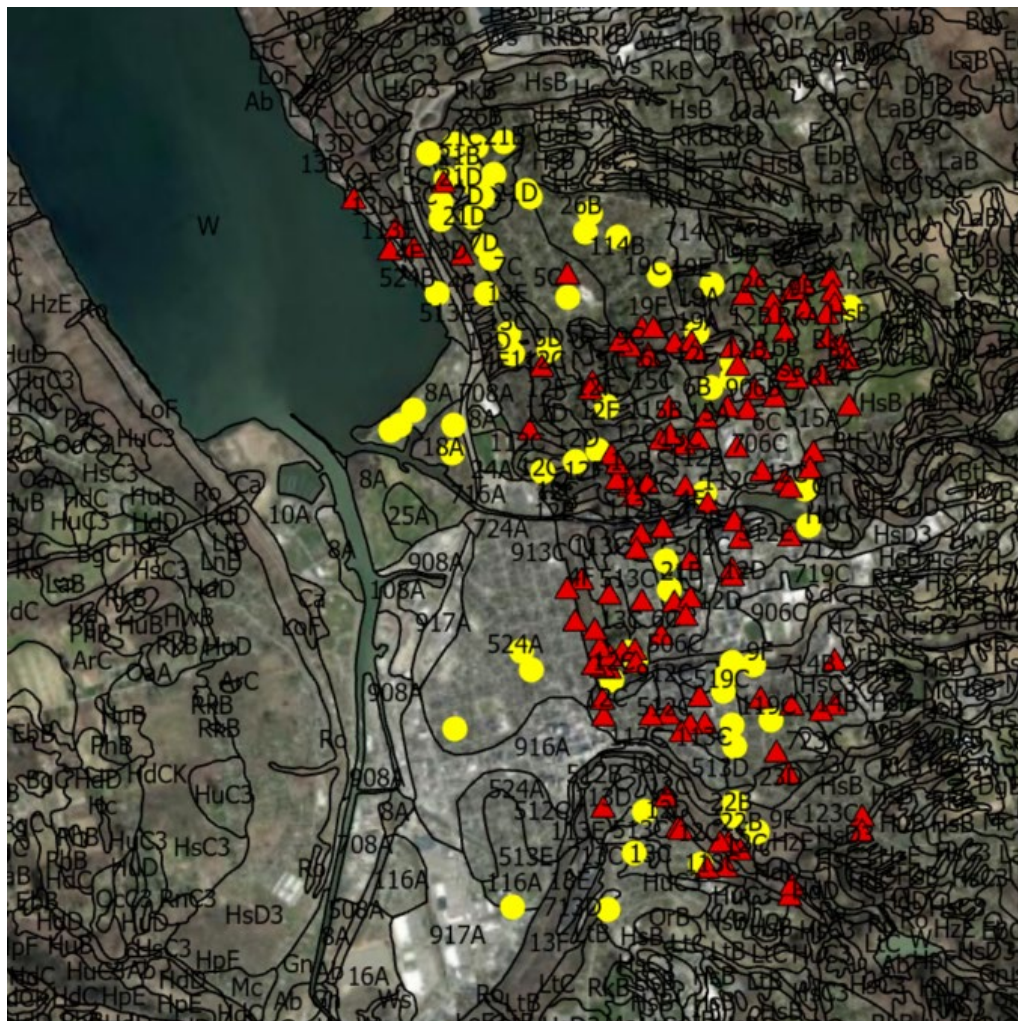
City of Ithaca—NRCS SPSD NE-Belmont Office

Project Timeline

- June 2022 initial planning
- Created pre-map (compilation of slope, PM, Imperviousness)
- April 2023 Project Kickoff Meeting with Partners and Stakeholders and some field work started
- May 31-June 1, 2023, Initial field review
- Field work ends October 2024 (2 field seasons)
- Database work 12/2024 through 1/2026 (1 staff mostly)
- Completed March 2026
- Going through final QA



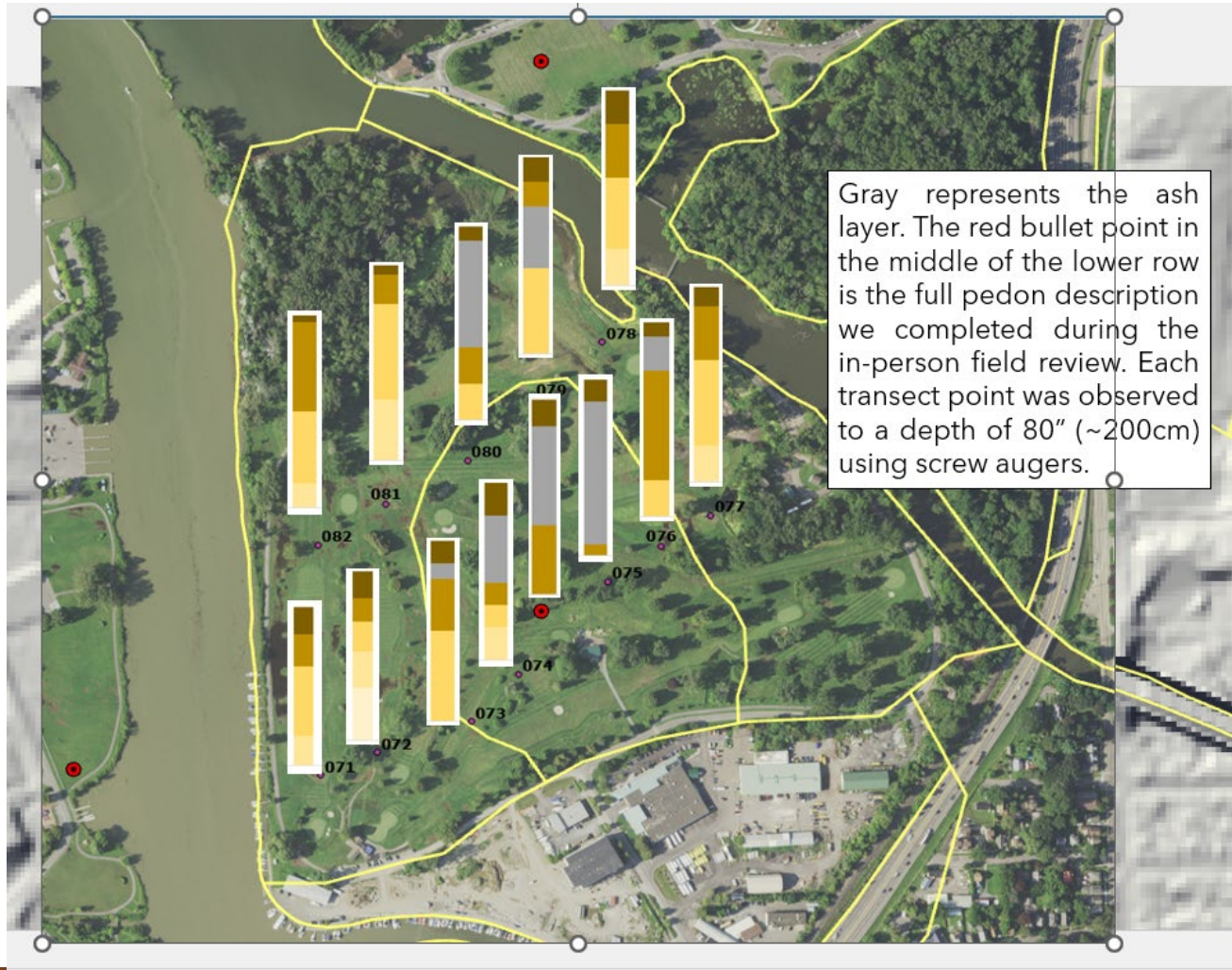
Data Collection-2 field seasons



Human Altered, Human Transported-Ash Dump site Newman Golf Course



Transect-Newman Municipal Golf Course



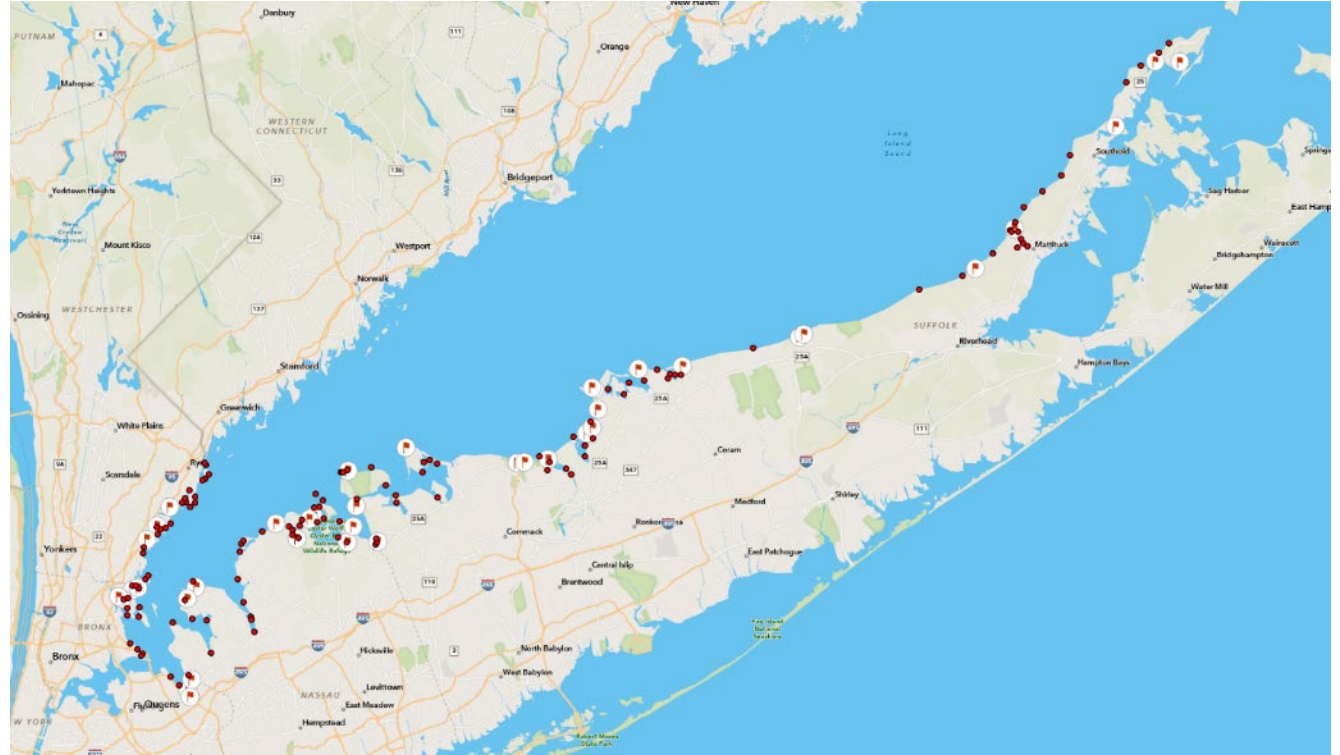
Long Island Sound CZSS in Connecticut-NRCS SPSD Special Projects Region

- On March 11, 2022, the congressionally directed funding bill for the Long Island Sound CZSS was signed into law, authorizing NRCS to begin work.
- Fieldwork was conducted during 2022 and 2023 with tabular and spatial data completed by the Annual Soils Refresh deadline in 2024.



Moving to the NY side of Long Island Sound: Logistics Update

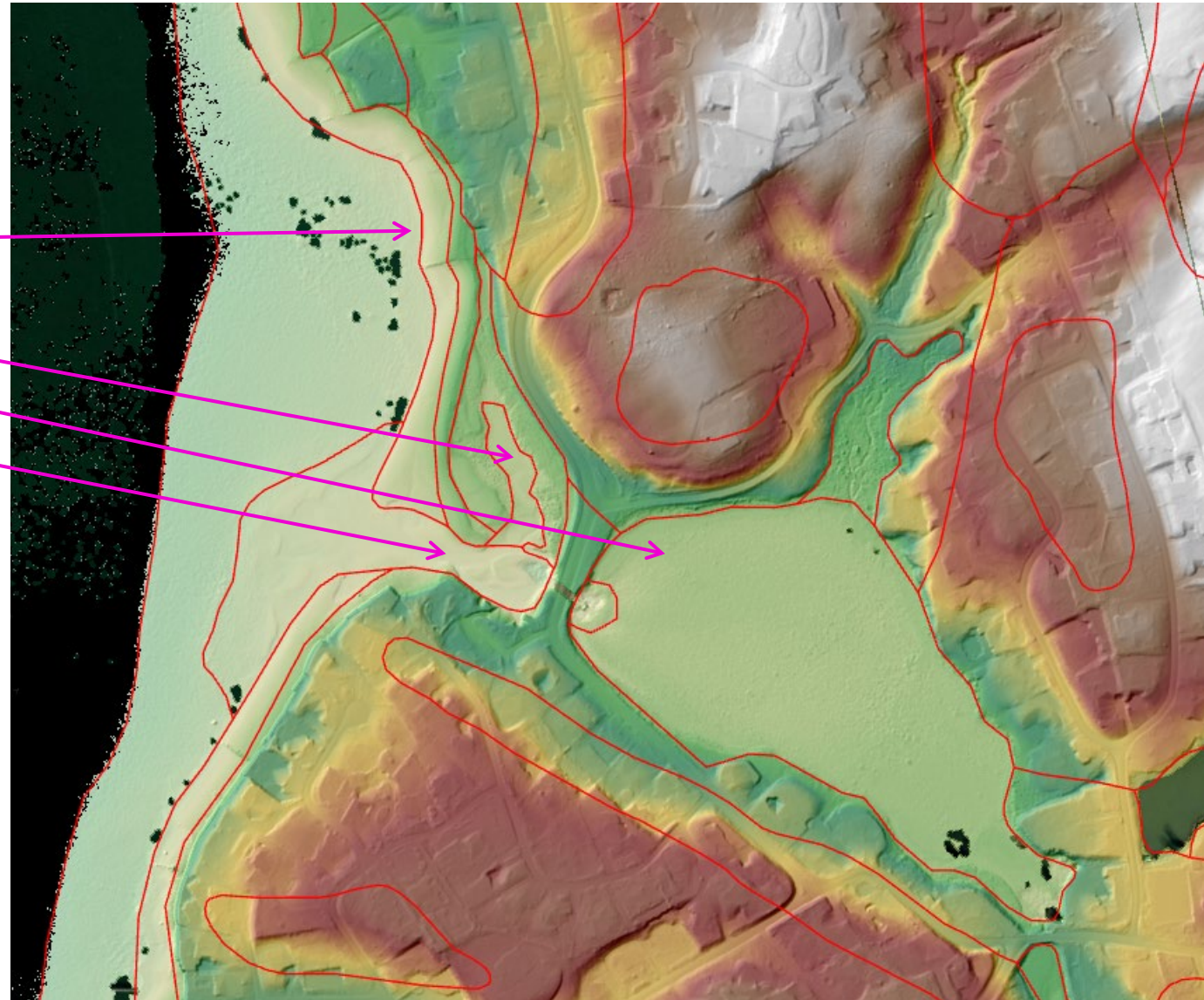
- Partner engagement
- Equipment staging locations
- Boat ramp access
- Marsh access and permitting
- Gaining local knowledge for efficiency of fieldwork
- **Travel authorization needed to begin field work in FY26.**



Subaqueous and Salt Marsh Target Sites

Landform Mapping

- Submerged mainland beach
- Mainland cove
- Lagoon bottom
- Flood tidal delta





Urban Soil Updates

- Inclusion of Anthropogenic Soil Attributes in the Soil Data Mart (User Facing Data)
- Modernized Anthropogenic Geomorphic Descriptions
- Soil Taxonomy
- There is an NCSS proposal to include new data aggregation methods and choices in Web Soil Survey and other data platforms to more easily focus reports on soil components rather than miscellaneous areas such as Urban land.



Coal ash and a thin topsoil cap in a filled marsh at a golf course in Ithaca, New York.

NRCS SPSD NE-TOL, STJ and PAS Office: Project updates

Lewis County Black River Corridor Update

- 3 soil scientists working on the tabular data workload in FY26.
- ***There are 2 parent material groups of soils in need of field work.***
- Field work needed to collect 115 points from this last group of map units.
 - **Travel needed to provide support from NRCS field staff.**
 - Field planning in process for summer and fall 2026.
- Project completion is estimated for FY 2028-2029.

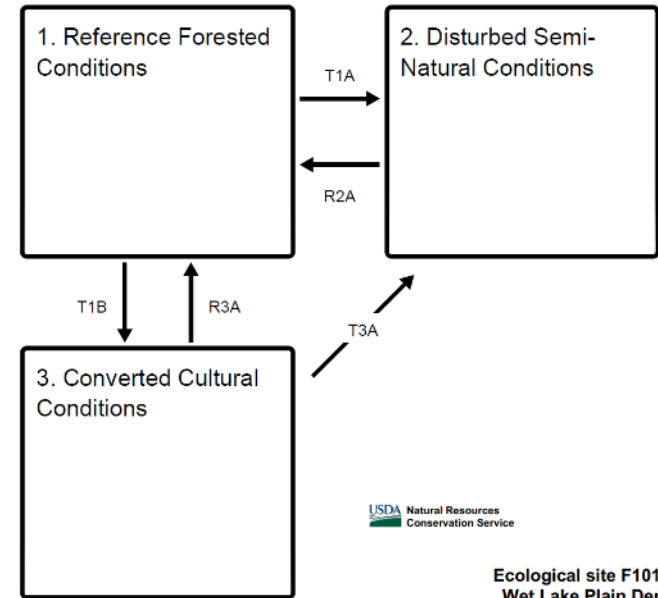
Hydric Soils Missing Landforms

- Some hydric soil components were populated with minimal data, and the geomorphic position information is missing.
- Landform information is needed due to NY's wetland compliance policies - >900 wetland determinations requests per year
 - Field staff must document the landform and compare it with populated data in Web Soil Survey to utilize State Off-Site Methods.
- Landscape and landform will be populated for 148 map units.

Ecological Site Description Projects

- MLRA 101 – Wetland ESD STM Updates
 - Wet Lake Plain Depression
 - Wet Till Depression
- MLRA 143 Wetland ESD STM Updates
 - Open Wetland Group
 - Marsh Wetland Complex, Semi-Acidic / Acidic Peat Wetland Complex
 - Wooded Wetland Group
 - Loamy Till Swamp, Mucky Swamp, Acidic Swamp, Wet Flat
- MLRA 142 ES Verification
 - Clayplain
 - Wet Clayplain Depression - Update

Ecosystem states



USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Ecological site F101XY010NY Wet Lake Plain Depression

Last updated: 10/03/2024
Accessed: 03/27/2026

General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 101X—Ontario-Erie Plain and Finger Lakes Region

Most of the MLRA is a nearly level to rolling plain. Low remnant beach ridges are commonly interspersed with a relatively level lake plain in the northern part of the area. Drumlins (long, narrow, steep-sided, cigar shaped hills) are prominent in an east-west belt in the center of the area. The Finger Lakes Region consists of a gently sloping to rolling till plain. Elevation increases gradually from the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Oneida to the Allegheny Plateau, the southern border of the area. The bedrock underlying this area consists of alternating beds of limestone, dolomite, sandstone, and shale of Ordovician to Devonian age. Most of the surface of the area is covered with glacial till or lake sediments. The texture of the lake sediments is silt, loam, or sand. Ancient beaches, formed at different lake levels, form ridges along the shoreline of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Stratified drift (eskers and kames) and glacial outwash deposits are in many of the valleys. A large drumlin field occurs in the Finger Lakes Region.

Classification relationships

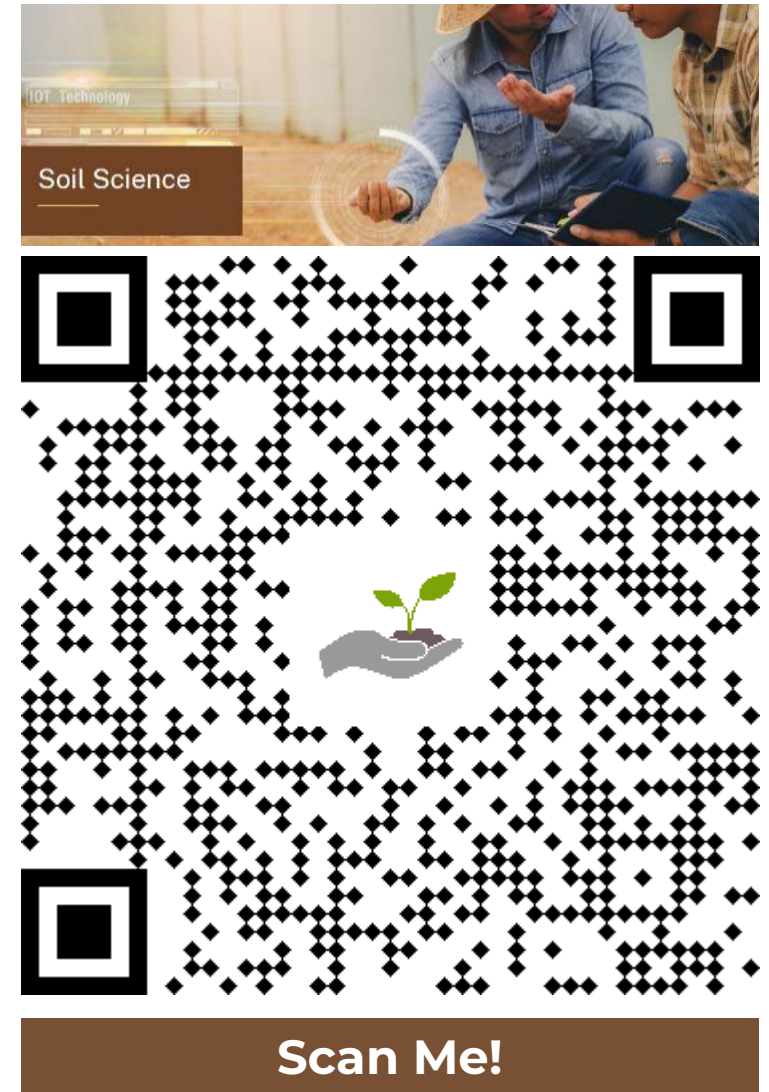
USDA-NRCS (USDA, 2006):
Land Resource Region (LRR): L — Lake States Fruit, Truck Crop, and Dairy Region
Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 101— Ontario-Erie Plain and Finger Lakes Region
USDA-FS (Cleland et al., 2007)
Province: 211 — Northeastern Mixed Forest Province (in part)
Section: 211J — Mohawk Valley (in part)
Subsection: 211Jd — Mohawk Valley
Province: 222 — Midwest Broadleaf Forest Province (in part)
Section: 222i — Erie and Ontario Lake Plain



Connect with us!

- Scan the QR code and visit our website at soils.usda.gov
- Follow us on X, formerly known as Twitter, @USDA_NRCS_SPSD
- Check out our YouTube channel @nrcssoilandplantscience

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





NCSS Partner Updates

- SUNY ESF
- NY Soil Health
- NYCORE
- Cornell
- USFS
- NY Ag and Markets

SUNY-ESF Updates—Dr. Russ Briggs

Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF) Trafficability Study

- Fundamental question: how will spatial distribution of forest soil moisture change as a result of extreme weather events?
- Primary deliverable: Watershed-scale hydrologic model w/ post-processing script for trafficability interpretations

Cornell Soil Health Program—Michael Glos, Dr. Harold Van Es

- Education and Outreach Efforts
- Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health
- Production Environment Soil Health (PESH) Benchmarks
- Soil Health Benchmarking Reports for the Farmer and Service Provider
- Soil Health Benchmarking infographics
- Soil Health Testing

NY CORE—Dr. Debbie Aller

- New York Center for Organics Recycling and Education
- **Mission:** provide NYS stakeholders research, outreach, training, and technical assistance related to organic residuals management
- **Vision:** be the leader in providing science-based research and outreach on organics management to NYS stakeholders and beyond
- New Website and Updated Resources coming soon!

Cornell Updates—Dr. Jonathan Russell-Anelli

- SoilNOW— <https://blogs.cornell.edu/soilnow/>
- IRIS—Institute for Resource Information Sciences
- CCE—Cornell Cooperative Extension
- URGE—Urban Rural Gradient

USFS Updates—Kaitlyn Mroczka Soil Scientist

- Updates from the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest
- Grassland restoration
- Nonnative invasive species (NNIS) treatments
- Riparian fencing inside of pasture
- Vernal pool creation
- Partnering with SUNY ESF to initiate a project examining the role of native bees and honeybees on the landscape
- Removing 1700 linear yards of hedgerows
- Finger Lakes Landscape Assessment Soils Analysis
- Prescribed Burning
- Long-term Ecological Monitoring Project (LEMP)

NY Ag and Markets—Jason Mulford, Ron Bush

- Master soils list for agricultural assessment
- Importance of updated soil data for nutrient management, conservation planning, and other use and management needs

Questions?





USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Scott Travis, Financial Assistance Programs
EQIP/AMA program manager, NRCS
scott.travis@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- what is it?

Provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserve ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

What's it for

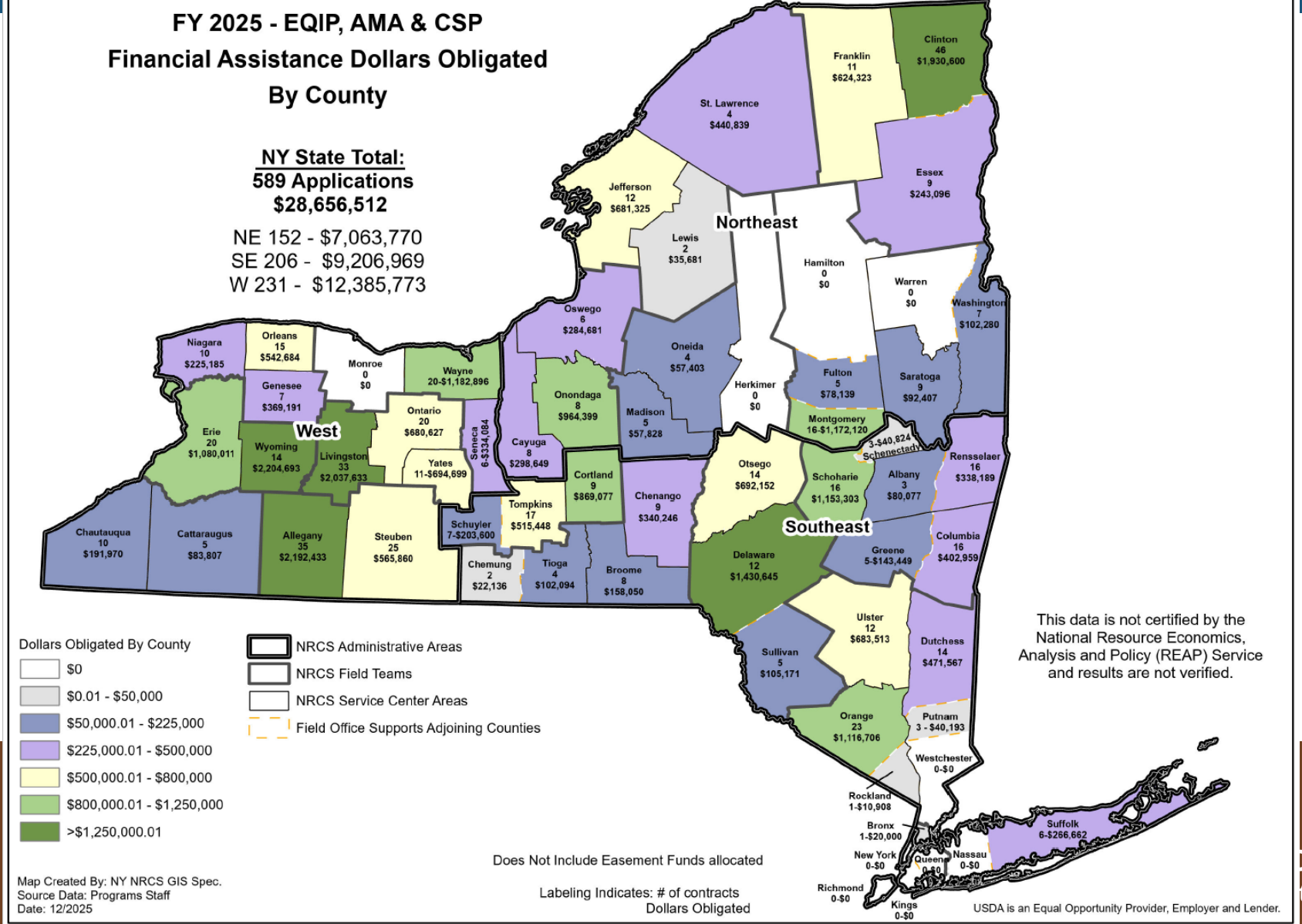
- EQIP works well for those who are new to working with our financial assistance programs
- Short or long-term agreements
- Can assist with simple or complex projects
- Flexible to best fit the participants needs
- Can be combined with other non-USDA funding
- Have increased payment rates for Historically Underserved populations (HU)

EQIP- payments

- EQIP uses flat rate per unit implemented payment in our agreements (i.e. \$1.30/ft, \$231.72/ac)
 - Payment Rates are created from payment scenarios which are built based on a typical scenario to implement the practice, considering labor, materials, equipment, mobilization, acquisition of technical knowledge, and forgone income
 - NY uses the maximum allowed payment rate of 75% of typical scenario cost for practices (90% for HU participants)
 - Payment rates are created/updated on a yearly basis by a national payment schedules team

FY2025 Accomplishments

~ \$28.6 million in funding for NY



FY 2025 Contracts

- A total of 443 applications were selected for funding
- For a total value of \$23,382,665
 - Cropland – \$1.1 mil
 - Farmstead – \$8.1 mil
 - Forest – \$940K
 - Pasture – \$800K mil
 - Wildlife – \$1.6 mil
 - Other \$10.8 mil
 - Urban, initiatives, energy, etc.
- Thing about LWG question was added



FY2026 Program Rollout

Program	Application Deadline**	Target Obligation Date
AMA	January 15, 2026	August 7, 2026
EQIP General	January 15, 2026	August 7, 2026
EQIP Initiatives	January 15, 2026	August 7, 2026
CSP Classic	January 15, 2026	August 7, 2026

**NRCS accepts applications on a continuous basis but has application cut-off dates to establish funding periods.

Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) (New to FY26)

Regenerative agriculture is a conservation management approach that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities. The Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) is a farmer-first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency to its core mission, helping people help the land, by addressing whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture Conservation Plans.

NRCS website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regenerative-pilot-program>

FY26 Funding Target

- 25% Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)
- 50% benefitting livestock
- 10% benefitting wildlife/habitat
- 5% for beginning farmers
- 5% for socially disadvantaged farmers
- 10% source water protection

- These targets can overlap

FY 26 Funding levels

- Total EQIP funding ~\$18.7 million
 - RPP ~\$4.68 million
 - Farmstead ~\$6.38 million
 - Cropland ~ \$725K
 - Pasture ~\$360K
 - Forest ~\$865K
 - Wildlife ~\$1.8 million
 - Tribal ~\$120K
 - CPA ~\$450K
 - High Tunnels ~\$750K
 - Urban ~\$400K
 - Beginning Farmer ~\$930K
 - Socially Disadvantaged ~\$930K
 - Initiatives ~\$350K

EQIP - Initiatives

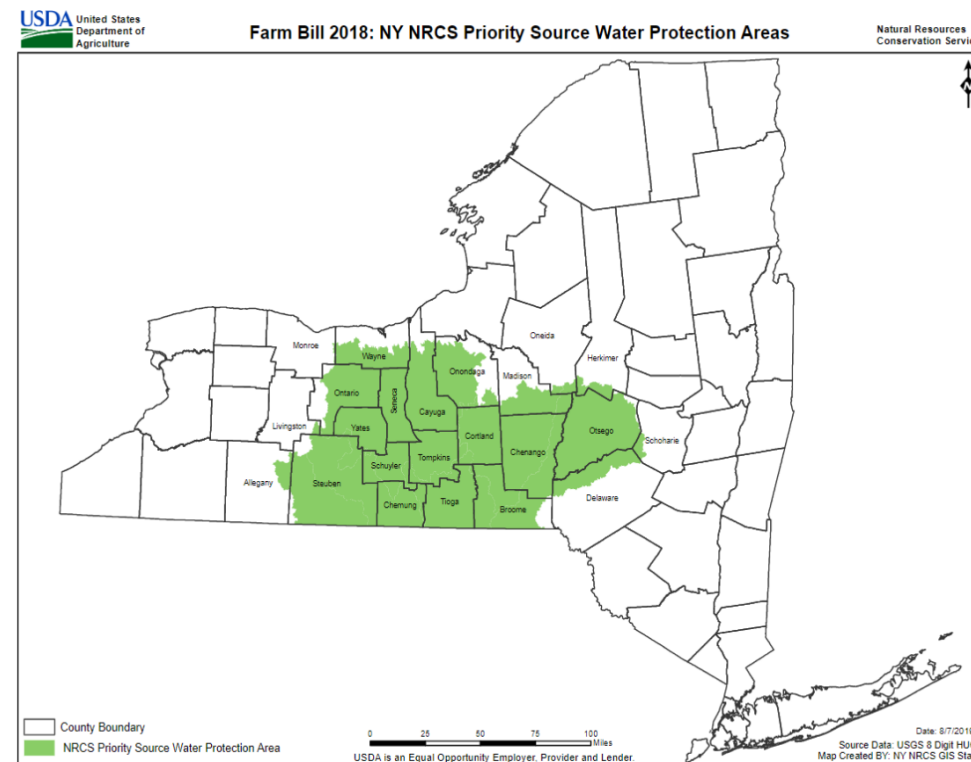
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) ~\$3.6 million
- National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) ~\$200K
- Working Lands for Wildlife
 - NY – Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) ~\$150K

Source Water Protection

- The 2018 Farm Bill included specific provisions to protect sources of drinking water by identifying practices that have a significant water quality or water quantity benefit and implementing those practices where source waters can be protected or improved.
- The Chesapeake Bay watershed and portions of the Finger Lakes watershed have been selected to focus on in the past.

Source Water Protection

Code	Practice Name
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility
313	Waste Storage Facility
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
340	Cover Crop
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
367	Roofs and Covers
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
590	Nutrient Management
635	Vegetated Treatment Area



High Priority Practices

- Below are the High Priority Practices which would receive a higher payment rate FY2026. These practices would receive high rates in all parts of the state.

Priority Resource Concerns	
Practice Code	Practice Name
327	Conservation Cover
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
396	Aquatic Organism Passage
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
657	Wetland Restoration

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

- Mitigate financial risk through production or marketing diversification or the implementation of resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or the transition to organic farming.
- NRCS administers the conservation provisions while Agricultural Marketing Service and Risk Management Agency implement the production diversification and marketing provisions.
- Construct or improve watershed management structures or irrigation structures.
- Plant trees to form windbreaks or to improve water quality.

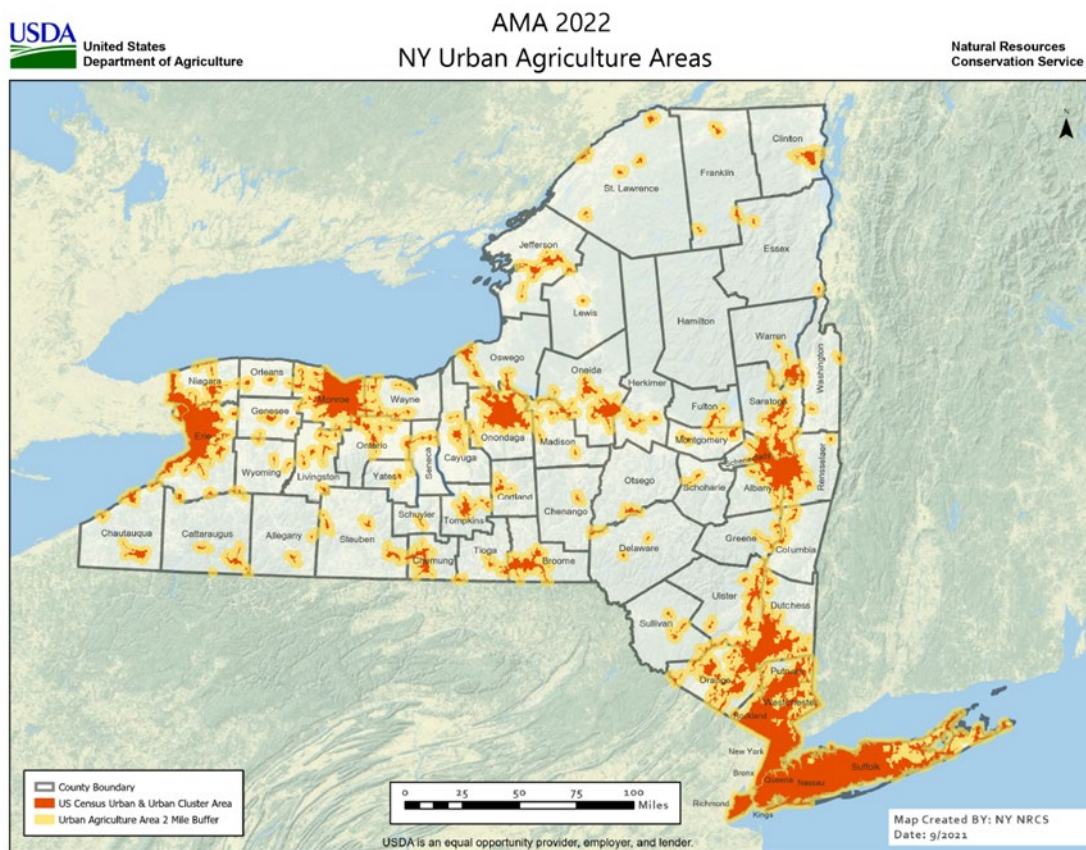


Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

- \$50,000/Fiscal Year cap
- The payment rate for AMA is the same as EQIP
- FY26 available funding ~\$207,000

AMA

- FY26 NY plans to continue to use the identified Urban Ag Areas with an additional 2-mile buffer for AMA implementation





Any
Questions



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Conservation Stewardship Program

- Purpose:
- To encourage participants to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and condition of natural resources by maintaining a baseline of good conservation practices and adopting additional conservation activities.
 - For Agland and Forestry
 - NY has added a unique and separate Urban funding pool
- Participants enter into contracts for 5 years
- Participants earn CSP payments annually.

Conservation Stewardship Program

- Payments are in two parts
 1. The first is the Stewardship annual payment.
Participants will receive this part of the payment by meeting all programmatic requirements of CSP.
 2. The second part of the payment is for what the participant agrees to do, to go “above and beyond” that benchmark stewardship
- Payments are capped at \$300,000 over the life of the 5- year contract.



Conservation Stewardship Program

2026 Required Ranking Pools

Ag Land

- Agricultural land - Classic
- Agricultural land - Urban
- Agricultural land - BFR
- Agricultural land - SDFR
- Agricultural land - Organic

NIPF Land

- NIPF Land – Classic
- NIPF Land – BFR
- NIPF Land - SDFR

Conservation Stewardship Program

2026 CSP State Priority Resource Concerns across all land uses

- Soil (Concentrated Erosion)
- Soil (Soil Quality Limitations)
- Water (Storage and Handling of Pollutants)
- Water (Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss)
- Water (Field Pesticide Loss)
- Plants (Degraded Plant Condition)
- Plants (Pest Pressure)
- Animal (Terrestrial Habitat)



Per policy in CPM 530.301
A – need to ID 8 PRC for the
State. 7CFR Part 1470.2
need to ask STC for advice.

Conservation Stewardship Program

- Resource Conserving Crops
 - To encourage a change in rotation by adding in a Resource Conserving Crop. These are currently as follows:
 - **Perennial Cool Season Grasses:**
 - Kentucky Bluegrass; Meadow Fescue; Orchard grass; Perennial Ryegrass; Redtop; Timothy; Smooth Brome grass; Tall Fescue
 - **Cool Season Legumes (Cool Season Broadleaves):**
 - Alfalfa; Alsike Clover; Birdsfoot Trefoil; Ladino White Clover; Red Clover; Sweet Clover.
 - **Grass/Legume Mixes:**
 - Use combinations of the above listed species in accordance with Cornell University Guidelines found at forages.org
 - **Warm Season Grasses:**
 - Big Bluestem; Coastal Panic Grass; Deer Tongue; Eastern Gammagrass; Indiangrass; Prairiegrass; Switchgrass; Sorghum/Sudan Grass (drilled 7-10 in rows)
 - **Small Grains (Annual Cool Season Grasses) Drilled at 7-10 in. Row Spacing, Straw Unharvested:**
 - Winter Wheat; Winter Rye; Winter Triticale; Spring Oats; Spring Barley

Per policy in CPM 530.301 B – Develop list of RC crops. 7CFR Part 1470.2 need to ask STC for advice.

FY2026 CSP ACT NOW

- Immediately preapprove a ranked application
- Do not need to wait until all applications are ranked in a specific ranking pool
- NY must designate ranking pool(s):
 - All CSP ranking pools
- Meets or exceeds a NY determined minimum ranking score – 45 points
 - That got us to moving faster on the top 25% of each ranking pool
- Allows for more efficient processing of applications and contract obligation



Any
Questions



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Enables NRCS to work with eligible partners to co-invest to implement conservation activities.
- Conservation activities are accomplished via a combination of partnership agreements and contracts or agreements with eligible landowners, entities, and individuals.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Conservation activities are implemented according to one of these eligible activity types:

- Land management/land improvement practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- US-held easements

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- A single RCPP project can propose to employ any combination of those activity types just mentioned
- RCPP projects must be carried out on private agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land
- New York currently has 2 active agreements
- There is another notice of funding opportunity coming. No timeline on when it will be released.



Any
Questions



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A large background image of a pond with several trees in the foreground and a small house visible in the distance under a clear blue sky.

FY25/FY26 EASEMENTS UPDATES

A background image of a pond with trees and reeds, similar to the main title image but with a different composition.

State Technical Advisory Committee April 2, 2026

Kim Farrell, ASTC-Easements, kim.Farrell@usda.gov

Peter Gibbs, Easements Program Manager, peter.gibbs@usda.gov

Erica Stach, Management and Program Analyst, erica.stach@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

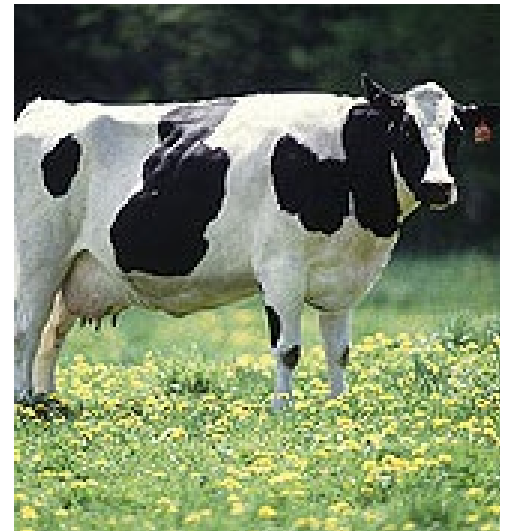
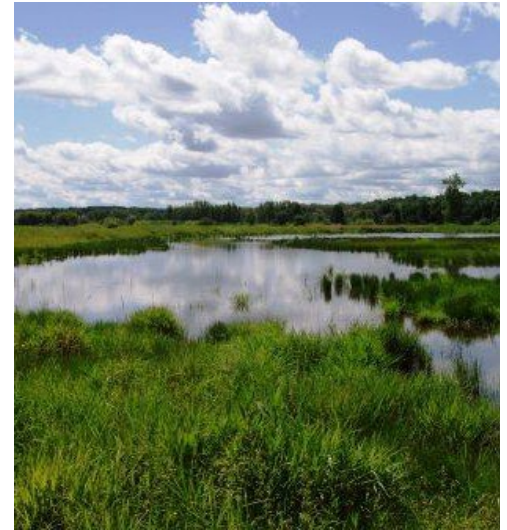
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance **wetlands** or protect **working farms** and ranches through conservation easements.

Two components:

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)



Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

- Private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities such as state and local governments
- Protects croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.





Agricultural Land Easements FY2025

- 4 new farms enrolled.
- Protected 981 acres of farmland.
- \$1.4 million obligated.
- Counties: Dutchess, Franklin, Livingston and Orange





Agricultural Land Easements FY2026

- 2 new farms being enrolled.
- Will protect **282 acres** of farmland.
- **\$469,000** estimated to be obligated.
- Counties: Orange and Livingston



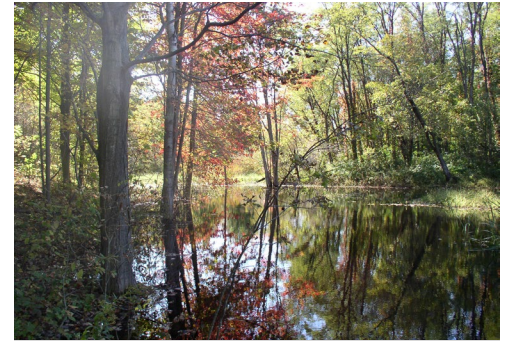
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

- Private and tribal landowners
- Protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.



Wetland Reserve Easements FY25/26

- 1 parcel enrolled in FY25, working to close in FY26.
- 4 applications being processed for FY26
 - 2 “rolled over” from FY25
 - 2 new applications
- Still determining acres and funding.



NY NRCS

Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC)

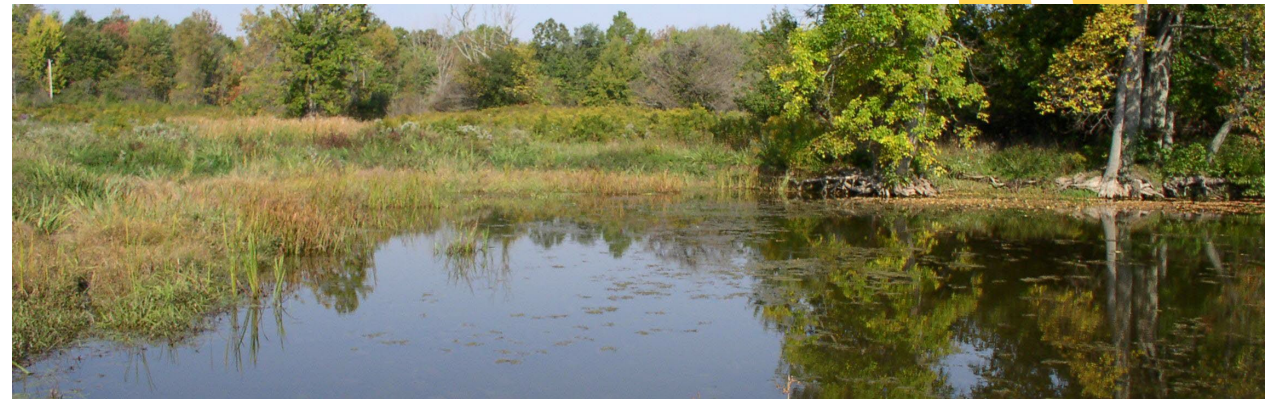
Approved on December 17, 2025

Per Acre payment rates for property enrolled into Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

[illegible]



EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP



NRCS New York Easement Portfolio

- **177** Farm & Ranchland Protection (FRPP) **32,638.57 ac.**
- **20** Ag Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) **3,116.76 ac**
- **2** Regional Cons. Partnership Program (RCPP-ALE) **132.53 ac.**
- **1002** Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) **51,134.2 ac.**
- **35** Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) **1,815.15 ac.**
- **45** Emer. Water. Fldplain Easements (EWPP-FPE) **116.73 ac.**
- **8** Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) **555.16 ac.**
- **3** Other Stewrdshp Lands (OSL – Food Security Act) **15.23 ac.**

Total: 1,292 NRCS Conservation Easements in NY
89,524.33 acres

Easement Stewardship

- **1103** easements require annual monitoring by NRCS
- Combination of on-site and remote monitoring
- **100%** completion in FY2025; supported by many partners (NGOs and SWCDs)



Easement Stewardship

- **1037** wetland easements held by NRCS in NY
- Repairs and maintenance, supported by partners
- Preventing encroachment through boundary remarkings
- FY26 working to remark 30 easement boundaries



