

# CONSERVATION NEWS



Contact us: Phone 483-4061 ext. 3 Fax: 483-1682 [www.fcsxcd.org](http://www.fcsxcd.org)

## Soil and Water Districts: The County's Best Kept Secret!

Many people often wonder what The District can do and why they may need them. The key duties of a District is to: assess the resource needs of the County, develop long-range and annual plans, with goals and objectives designed to meet prioritized needs, and provide linkages between land users and conservation service providers. **So what does that mean?** The District works to preserve soil and water resources, improve water quality, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floodwater and sediment damages, control and abate nonpoint sources of pollution, assist in the control of floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, maintain navigability of rivers and harbors, assist in the drainage and irrigation of ag lands, preserve wildlife, protect tax base, protect public lands, protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of people of this state and encourage use of ag land for recreational uses.

The mission of The District is to promote wise management of our natural resources through a wide variety of quality conservation and educational programs to the landowners, land-users and municipalities of Franklin County. Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 58 Conservation Districts in New York State and one of many in the United States. Working together with individuals and coordinating with other agencies, the District provides technical assistance as

well as educations on soil, water, and related natural resources.



### Here Are Some of the Programs the District Provides:

Stream Bank Stabilization,  
Grazing Plans,  
Erosion Control,  
NYSDEC and US Army Corps Permits,  
Erosion and Sediment Control,  
Agricultural Waste Management,  
Barnyard Designs,  
Hydroseeder Rental,  
Culvert, Pipe, and Tile Sale,  
Farm Conservation Practices,  
Agriculture Plastics Collection and Bailing,  
Conservation Planning,  
Water Test Pick-Up/Drop-off Location,  
Mine Land Reclamation Plans,  
Stormwater Recommendations and Development,  
Agricultural Environmental Management Services,  
GIS Mapping,  
USGS Topographic Maps and Current and Historic Aerial  
Photography for Franklin County

## Troop 27 Clean-up and earn Their Badges!

The local Boy Scout Troop (Troop 27) earned their Soil and Water, Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Science Badges with the help of Franklin County Soil and Water! In July the troop worked on their Soil and Water badges by learning about how soil is formed, the different types of soil, erosion, watersheds, pollution and soil and water sampling. They also learned why soil conservation is important. In August The District set up a display at the Bombay Baseball Field about Flooding, it's hazards, how to be prepared and how to prevent it.

On Saturday October 31 the Troop worked for 3 hours cleaning up a portion of the river bank along the Salmon River in Fort Covington. They pulled out many pounds of metal, glass, plastic and more. I think we may be able to even assemble a complete car! The Town of Fort Covington also participated making the event extremely successful!!! After the clean-up the Troop helped to plant willow stakes along 200 foot section of the river bank that was just cleaned up. The intention of the willow is to

establish some natural vegetation that will secure the eroding river bank. We would like to thank Isaac Lamica, Peter Taylor, Cody Pickering, Dustin Taylor, Austin Lamica, Cole Phillips, Dylan Stagnitta, Kyle Lamica and Michael Gibbons.



# DO YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR DRINKING WATER TESTED?

Franklin County Soil and Water serves as a drop off location for safe drinking water sample testing. The samples are processed by Life Science Lab, Inc, a certified water testing laboratory. The samples range in price from \$10 to \$ 25 each. **Who should test their drinking water and when?** You should test if: Anyone in the household suffers recurring bouts of gastrointestinal illness, if there is a infant living in the house, if you are moving to a new residence, purchasing a new home, and wishing to assess the quality of the drinking water, if you wish to monitor the performance of home water treatment devices, if you have a new well or new equipment has been installed. Drinking water should be tested yearly or if there is any change in the taste, color or odor of your water.

**Do you need special bottles for water samples?** YES! They are available at the Soil and Water office at 151 Finney Blvd, Malone, NY. Please pick-up bottles anytime then collect your sample and drop them off as instructed below.

**Are there special times to bring samples?** YES! Drop off time is after 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Mondays and 7:00 am to 8:45 pm on Tuesday morning. Our lab picks up at 9:00 am on Tuesdays; therefore it is important the samples are here before that, some samples cannot be older than 24 hours.

**What do the results mean?** If the sample is positive for E.coli or total coliform your water requires immediate action. You must disinfect your well to eliminate bacteria. Chlorine, ultra-violet light or ozone treatments will kill or inactivate E. coli and other harmful germs in drinking water. Treatment systems must be properly maintained to ensure water quality. For specific instructions on how to disinfect your well please call: Life Science Lab, Inc (315) 388-4476. Please do not disinfect your well without specific instructions.

## Drinking Water Interpretations and Causes

Sample Type	Acceptable Levels (MCL)	Some Causes
Total coliform	0	Human and animal wastes
E. coli	0	Human and animal waste
Nitrate	10 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic, sewage
Nitrite	1 mg/L	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from septic
Lead	0	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits
Sulfur	250 mg/L	Decay of organic material/not a health hazard
Iron	0.3 mg/L	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	20 mg/L	Runoff, erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1.3 mg/L	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits/ blue-green stains
Turbidity	1 NTU	Soil Runoff
Alkalinity	500 ppm	Calcium carbonate, being leached from rocks and soil
Iron + Manganese	0.3 mg/L	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits
pH	6.5-8.5	Corrosion of pipes, erosion of natural deposits



Hardness	mg/l or ppm
Soft	0 - 17.1
Slightly hard	17.1 - 60
Moderately hard	60 - 120
Hard	120 - 180
Very Hard	180 & over



For additional information please feel free to contact Jane at (518) 483-4061 ext. 3 or check out our website at [www.fcswcd.org](http://www.fcswcd.org).

## New from NRCS: Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by: undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary. CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land.

**For more information contact Kent or Heath at (518) 483-4061 ext.3 or their website at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html)**



## Do you Need a Agricultural Assessment?

- **Do you have 7 acres or more** used to produce crops or livestock products for sale?
- Are you a landowner that is in an agricultural district or has committed his land to agricultural production for at least **8 years**?
- Does your land produce **gross sales of \$10,000 or more** for the past two years?
- Did you answer yes to the above questions, then you need to come to our office and sign up for an ag assessment. To apply you need:



1. **Bring or mail copies of your current tax bills to the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) as soon as possible or by February 1, 2010 at the latest.**
2. Soil Group Acreages will be determined by district staff and will be recorded on APD-1, the soil Group Worksheet.
3. If you are leasing land to a farmer please get a signed, notarized lease agreement between you and the farmer to take to your assessor.
4. The assessment applicant will receive a copy of APD-1 and the soils map from the SWCD office.
5. Applicant the must submit a RA-100, the soils map and form APD-1 with all the necessary information to their town assessor by March 1, 2010 so parcel eligibility can be determined.

The Ag Assessment program was established under Agricultural District law to provide a means of preserving farmland. This program was designed to provide a partial exemption from taxation for farmland where pressures from competing land uses cause the market value of the land, and in turn, the assessment to exceed the economic value of the land.

Agricultural Assessment applies only to agricultural land, which includes cropland, pasture, orchards, vineyards and support land. Land that is used to produce maple syrup or land used to produce Christmas trees is also categorized as agricultural land. The following eligibility requirements must be fulfilled in order to qualify for an assessment:

Farmland that is eligible for an agricultural assessment is exempt from real property taxation on any assessed value, which exceeds its agricultural assessment value. If you have already received an exemption, it is necessary to fill out a renewal form each year, with your assessor, to keep receiving that exemption. If there have been any changes to a parcel since last year, a revised worksheet should be completed through the SWCD and a new application submitted to the assessor. From time to time soil groups change, so it's a good idea to have your soil group worksheet checked for any changes every few years. **If you have any questions you can call the SWCD office at 518-483-4061 ext 101.**

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, biobased products or biofuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Our local facility is Boralex New York, LP. **For More Information Please call: Jen at 483-2850 ext. 2**



### ***Invasive Alert: Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)***

Purple loosestrife is a hardy, herbaceous perennial that thrives in marshes or ditches. Introduced as an ornamental, it escaped gardens to colonize disturbed wet and disturbed areas. Mature plants grow to heights of 1.5 - 8 ft. Leaves are lance-shaped and either grow opposite or in whorls of three or four around the stem. Stems are stiff and angular, often square-sided. In mid-late summer purple loosestrife produces pinkish purple terminal flowering spikes.

**Invasive species are those which establish a population, reproduce rapidly, and displace native species. An invasive species can be a native species that becomes locally aggressive, usually because of some human-caused habitat change, or an invasive species may be a non-native species. For information on invasives and what you can do please contact: Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, c/o Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943, (518) 576-2082 ext 119,**

<http://www.adkinvasives.com/Index.html>



FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AG SERVICE CENTER  
151 FINNEY BLVD.  
MALONE, NY 12953

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit No. 6

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Dan Crippen  
Raymond Susice

**SWCD**

**Personnel**

Chastity Miller  
Jane Robinson  
Patricia Decosse

**NRCS Personnel**

Kent Frary  
Heath Eisele

*“Providing Today  
Protecting Tomorrow”*



**Franklin County Soil and Water would like to  
thank the following organizations for all their  
support:**

**Franklin County Board of Legislators  
Franklin County Highway Transportation Dept.  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Cornell Cooperative  
Farm Bureau  
Franklin County Grange  
Paul Smith's College  
Franklin County Emergency Services  
Franklin County Office of Real Property  
Troop 27 of the Boy Scouts  
New York State Department of Transportation  
New York State Department of Conservation  
US Army Corps of Engineers**

## **Want Trees, Ground Cover and Conservation Plantings**



**Our annual Tree & Shrub sale order  
forms will be ready in January. We will  
be accepting orders until late March.  
Please call soon and let us know you  
would like to be on our mailing list,  
stop by the office or go on to our  
website at [www.fcswcd.org](http://www.fcswcd.org) for the  
order form!**

Visit our website at: [www.fcswcd.org](http://www.fcswcd.org)