

"Providing Today
Protecting Tomorrow"

Conservation News

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Summer 2018

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In this issue:

- ⇒ Thank You!
- ⇒ Passing of Board member
- ⇒ Grown and Certified
- ⇒ Funding opportunities for Grown and Certified
- ⇒ What's Lurking
- ⇒ Enviorthon
- ⇒ Welcome Devin!
- ⇒ More?

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Spring Workshop Recap and a HUGE Thanks!

Here at Franklin County Soil and Water, we have had a busy spring, the staff were able to host 4 very successful workshops!

Kristin Ballou, the Districts Forester, coordinated with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for two workshops on the Emerald Ash Borer held in March. Topics covered were how to identify an ash tree, how to identify a tree that is infested, where there are known outbreaks and management strategies. A thank you to Christi Barber, Jason Denham and Justin Perry from NYS DEC for helping with this presentation.



The next event was Arbor Day! This was hosted by the Village of Chateaugay. On a cold, rainy May day, 25 people gathered at the Chateaugay Water Treatment Facility to plant trees and participate in various activities. A special thanks to Matthew Clarke and Wayne Knechtel for helping organize this event with District Forester, Kristin Ballou. Also, a huge thank you to DEC for donating some of the plantings!

We had over 34 attendees gathered at the Silvopasture workshop at North Branch Farm to listen to speaker Joe Orefice from Cornell Department of Natural Resources. He focused on species selection, canopy spacing and designing silvopasture areas. Representatives from the Lake Champlain Basin Program were available to discuss forage id, nutrient management and phosphorus issues. A thank you goes out to all the assisted Kristin in this workshop and North Branch Farm for hosting!



The last workshop of the spring was on the topic of grazing. It was hosted by Butterfield Farms and organized by Allycia Leach, District Technician. Troy Bishopp of Bishopp Family Farm and Madison County Soil and Water came up to the North Country to go over what a grazing plan is, why to have one and how to use it. This workshop included a pasture walk at the farm highlighting grazing plans, the farms current practices and grazing charts. Thanks to Butterfield Farms and Troy Bishopp on a fun day!

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of long time board member and friend David Vincent. David started on the board in January of 2000. He was the representative of Franklin County Farm Bureau. During his 18 years on the District Board, he played such an important role with providing support, advice and attentive decision making. He also served as treasurer for the District for a large amount of time that he was on our Board. Not only was David involved in Franklin County Soil and Water but many other agricultural organizations in the area. His smile, voice and support will greatly be missed around the office and at meetings.





Could the NYS Grown and Certified Program help your farm?

Customers have recently taken up an interest in the food that we eat, where it comes from and how it is grown/made. Due to this increased interest, New York State has created a voluntary program to help farmers take advantage of a growing market for high-quality foods. This program promotes New York State producers who are meeting growing market demands for food that is safely handled and grown in an environmentally responsible manner. This program is called **New York State Grown and Certified**, it creates a visual for consumers, ensuring them that they are buying New York-made products in stores, markets, supermarkets, and restaurants. Commodities eligible for the NYS Grown and Certified Program are...

Fruits/ Vegetables

Dairy

Eggs

Cut Flowers

Beverage Ingredient Producers: Beer, Wine, Cider, Spirits

Beef

Pork

Poultry

Nursery/Greenhouse

Christmas Trees

Maple Products

Shellfish

Qualifying participants will now be able to display a new high-impact label to clearly identify that they meet the quality standards of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) and food safety programs, such as USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program for produce. This seal of approval and recognition will be an important promotional advantage for all participants, clearly standing out and creating confidence in consumers, that the food is safer, fresher, and produced in ways that protect our environment's future.

How do you qualify?

Producers can qualify for the NYS Grown and Certified program by participating in required programs that may include the following:

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts' **Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)** program. (Information less than 3 years old)
- An independent annual food safety audit program such as:
 - o **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**
 - o Global GAP
 - o Safe Quality Food
 - o Primus

If this program is something you are interested in please fill out the AEM Tier 1 Worksheet. If you have any questions, please contact Franklin County Soil and Water District Technician **Allycia Leach** at the office:

Phone: (518) 651-2097 or by **email** at aleach@fcsxcd.org

New York State Grown and Certified Grant Opportunity!

In partnership with local County Soil and Water Conservation District offices and Cornell Cooperative Extension offices, the Development Authority of the North Country has launched the regional New York State Grown and Certified Agriculture Producer's Grant program. This program will help producers meet food safety standards necessary for participation in the Grown and Certified program.

The program is open to agricultural producers who want to become grown and certified. Eligible commodities for this grant are produce, dairy, shellfish, eggs, beef, poultry, pork, maple products, alcoholic beverages, and beverage ingredients.

Applicants are required to contribute 10% of the total project cost in the form of cash equity. Eligible producers can apply for up to \$50,000.

For assistance or the application please contact **Allycia Leach** at **(518) 651-2097** or at our **Franklin County Soil and Water office at 151 Finney Blvd. in Malone.**



What's Lurking in Your Woods??



The Forest Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria Hubner*) is a native insect and is found in hardwood forests throughout North America. The forest tent caterpillar DO NOT construct tents. The larvae (caterpillar) emerge in early spring thru June. Once the larvae emerge they begin feeding on the leaves of their host trees. In New York the host trees for this insect are sugar maple, aspen, apple, oak, birch, ash, alder, elm and basswood. The forest tent caterpillar has white "feet" on its back. Outbreaks in New York tend to occur at 10-year intervals and vary in severity, and an outbreak typically lasts 3 years. Minor defoliations typically do not harm a tree but repeat complete defoliations can kill a tree. Trees defoliated early in the spring often grow a new set of leaves in July. Defoliated trees often have decreased wood production. In sugar maples sap flow and sugar content may decrease in the year following a defoliation. The photo on the left is of a forest tent caterpillar and the photo on the right is defoliated maple leaves. Both photos were taken in Duane in June 2018.



The forest tent caterpillar has been found in portions of Franklin County this year. Some areas are seeing heavy defoliations and others are minor.

Franklin County Soil & Water has a program that provides assistance to landowners with forest insect and disease identification, forest management planning and forest management implementation. Applications are being accepted at this time for forest management planning and implementation for 2019. If you are interested in this program please contact Kristin Ballou, District Forester.

Local and State Envirothon

On May 16, 2018 the North Adirondack Regional Envirothon (NARE) was held at Paul Smith's College. The NARE program brings schools from Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties together to compete for the opportunity to participate in the New York State Envirothon.

The Envirothon involves teams of 5 students from each school in understanding environmental stewardship and protection. The environmental knowledge is gained through a competition based on the subjects of Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife and Current Issues. The current issue for 2018 was Rangeland Management which comes from the North American Envirothon. The students are required to answer questions and demonstrate hands on application of these topics.



From left to right: Tom Shafer, Ben Senter, Callahan Rogers, Mitchell Miletich, and Nick Croteau

The program is put together by the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St Lawrence Counties. The regional program is sponsored by the Paul Smith's College along with other local supporters such as Stewarts, ESF Ranger School, Ellsworth Homestead, International Paper Foundation and Essex & Franklin County Water Quality Committees.

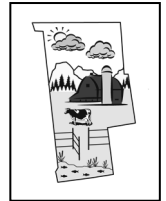
Franklin Academy was the Franklin County winner and the overall NARE winner, and joined the other winners from the NARE counties and traveled to Hobart Williams and Smith College for the New York State Envirothon. The NYS Envirothon was held on May 22nd and 23rd with over 40 other teams from all over New York. Franklin Academy placed 9th, and also won the Aquatics Category! Fantastic job Franklin Academy!

For more information on the Envirothon contact Franklin Co. Soil and Water Conservation at (518) 651-2097.

**FRANKLIN CO SOIL AND WATER
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Franklin County Soil and Water Welcomes Devin as our Summer Intern

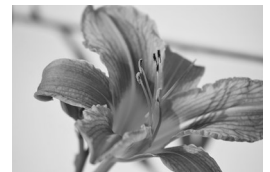
Hi! My name is Devin Normandeau and I'm the intern this summer with the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. I've lived in Constable, NY for most of my life and I'm a 2016 graduate of Franklin Academy. The previous two summers I worked as a summer laborer for the Malone Village Department of Public Works. I graduated from SUNY ESF Ranger School in Wanakena, NY in May 2018 and am returning to SUNY ESF in Syracuse this fall to finish my Bachelors in Natural Resources Management. My education is in forestry and environmental conservation but I enjoy learning about farming operations and services that the county can provide. This summer the district has me busy with conducting culvert assessments, forest inventories for management planning, roadside erosion assessments and visiting farms when I have time. I'm passionate about enjoying the outdoors so on the weekends you can find me camping, hiking, biking, or playing soccer during the summer and skiing or playing hockey during the winter.



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www.fcswcd.org



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