



CONSERVATION NEWS

Celebrate Arbor Day

You're invited to Franklin County Soil and Water's
Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration!



Friday, April 30, 2021

Event will begin at 12:00 pm

Village of Malone

3rd Street Park

36 Third St, Malone, NY 12953

Register by April 23, 2021 space is limited

Call (518) 651-2097 or email kballou@fcswcd.org

Each participant will receive FREE handouts AND a seedling to take home.

Please join Franklin County Soil and Water as well as Village Mayor Andrea Dumas for activities, a **memorial tree planting ceremony in honor of Bess Hannah**, and tree planting knowledge.

1st Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest

Hosted by:
Franklin County
Soil and Water

2021 Contest Theme:

“Trees help me Breathe”

2021 Poster Contests
is open to all K-6 students
and youth programs

Posters due April 27, 2021. Winners announced and prizes given at
Arbor day event April 30, 2021. Posters must follow Rules and Guidelines
found on our website fcswcd.org or on our Facebook page.

Mail in your poster to FCSWCD office @ 151 Finney Blvd. Malone

Please include your name, age, and phone number



Funding Opportunity through AEM Program

Over the past decade Soil and Water Districts have worked diligently with their farming communities on implementing agricultural environmental management (AEM) best management practices (BMPs) to further farm viability. Due to each party's hard work in 2019 a new component was added to the AEM Program; a cost-share program to aid in funding projects on farms. Districts can receive funding to implement projects within their county with *a cap of \$50,000 per farm*. **2021 has started the second round of this funding availability.**

What is it?

A grant opportunity to implement small projects on farms. This funding would assist farmers in implementing best management practice systems on their farm. This means that the **applying farm must have a conservation plan written before applying**, and that, if funded, the farm must upfront the initial cost of the total project, and upon completion of that project, to standard, the district reimburses the farm up to 75% of the total project cost; leaving the farm responsible for at least 25%. Projects must be completed within 2 years.

Who is eligible?

Any farm within Franklin County Soil and Water's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Must be a farmer in Franklin County, a U.S. Citizen and at least 18 years of age. Previous funding does not make you ineligible for this round of funding.

Soil and Water employees as well as Board Members are NOT eligible for this funding

How to apply?

Any farm interested in this funding opportunity must fill out an application and return it to the Franklin County Soil and Water office at 151 Finney Blvd. Malone, NY 12953, either by mail or hand delivery, **before September 24, 2021 by 4:30pm**, emailed applications will **NOT** be accepted. Applications can be found at the Soil and Water office or on our website fcswcd.org. Applicants may add additional pages to the application, if necessary. If completing the application by hand, please fill it out legibly as we cannot fund your project if we are unsure of what it is.

If the application is returned to the District after **September 24, 2021 at 4:30pm it will be deemed ineligible for it was returned after the deadline**

BMP Systems Eligible are.....

Access Control Systems	Agrichemical Handling and Storage System
Irrigation Water Management System	On-farm Secondary Containment System
Prescribed Rotational Grazing System	Process Wash Water Management System
Soil Conservation System	Erosion Control System (Cultural)

If you have any questions or concerns about applying, your eligibility, eligibility of projects, etc. Please don't hesitate to contact Allycia Foote by phone (518) 651-2097 or by email at afoote@fcswcd.org.

Examples of eligible projects are as follows.

Examples of eligible projects....

Prescribed Rotational Grazing System

This is for any farm that is currently grazing or wants graze to livestock: goats, sheep, chickens, pigs, cows, horses, alpacas, etc. A plan would be written with recommendations on rotationally grazing livestock using 5 or more paddocks during the grazing season. Alternating paddocks allows for forage vigor and regrowth, decreases the reliance of supplemental feed, potentially decreasing feed costs, improving soil health, potentially decreasing fertilizer cost, improving herd health, and decreasing soil erosion in areas where livestock tend to congregate. The plan would be written based on the current animal numbers that the farm has and a scenario would be included that showed the number of animals the land could support. Cost share funding for implementation of a Prescribed Rotational Grazing plan could be utilized for fencing, watering systems, laneways, etc.

Erosion Control System (Structural)

This is for any farm that manages a farm woodlot or sugarbush. A Forest Conservation Plan would be written for the property and would include Forestry Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations for forest trails, landings, stream crossings, etc. to address erosion issues. These recommendations would include water bars, gravel, culverts, rubber belt deflectors, etc. that would assist the producer in addressing water quality impacts. Cost share funding could be utilized to assist in implementing forestry best management practices to divert water from trails and roadways such as water bars, culverts, rubber belt deflectors, etc. or to fix ruts or other soft spots that impede access and cause unnecessary erosion. If you are interested in improving the health of your woodlot through thinnings there are other cost share programs that can address those concerns.

Soil Conservation System (Cover Crops)

This is for any farm who utilizes cropland, pasture, vegetable and fruit production, orchards and vineyards. Soil Conservation Plans use management-based measures such as crop rotation, tillage, cover cropping, etc. to reduce/control soil erosion, reduce run-off, enhance soil health and improve productivity of land. This plan is utilized to assess risk of water and wind erosion and make specific recommendations for how various practices will work together to address concerns. Farms may rent Soil and Water's 10ft Great Plains No-till drill to implement practices. Cost-share funding could be utilized to assist in cover cropping, contour farming, forage and biomass planting, strip cropping etc.

On-farm Secondary Containment System

This is for any farm who utilizes petroleum products on their farm. A conservation plan can be written to implement a permanent facility designed to provide secondary containment for oil and petroleum products. Having secondary storage minimizes the risk of accidental release of these products to prevent contamination of groundwater and surface waters, as well as to provide measures for safe, effective, and timely cleanup of a spill or leak. If your farm store petroleum or oil products on your farm and there is a threat of contaminating soil, groundwater or surface water contact the office.

Many other BMP Systems are eligible!

Upcoming Summer Workshop Series

Dates and times are TBA, however, if you're interested please call ahead and pre-register as space will be limited! (518) 651-2097

April 30th

Arbor Day

June

Pollinator Palooza

Irrigation Management



July

“Soil Your Undies”: Soil Health

Christmas Tree Pruning

Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge

August

Blueberry Pruning

Need Mosquito Dunks

We have them! What are they? Mosquito Dunks are a safe, non-toxic way to kill mosquitoes. Using a bacterium toxic only to mosquito larvae, they kill mosquitoes within hours and last for 30 days or more. Mosquito Dunks are a highly effective, low impact mosquito killer. Mosquito Dunks are safe to use around people, pets, birds, wildlife and fish. Come on in and get them! We have cases!

NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant

Franklin County Soil and Water is excited to announce that we were recently awarded \$6,035 from the National Association of Conservation Districts Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant. This grant will be used to educate the urban and rural community through a series of three educational workshops. These workshops will cover soil health management, irrigation management, and creating pollinator habitat to aid the back yard gardener as well as the rural commercial farmers.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Franklin County Soil and Water was forced to cancel three much anticipated workshops. The funding the District has received through this grant, funded through a joint partnership between NACD and the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will allow us to host a triad of interactive workshops. The first of these three workshops will be our Pollinator Palooza, a workshop for the whole family, right at our office. Topics such as what a pollinator is, current state of bees and other pollinators, attracting pollinators by using native plants, discussion on ways to support pollinators in your gardens, fields, and community, including woodland border habitat and shady areas will be covered. At the end of the workshop participants and families will be given a pollinator tote bag filled with materials to build their own native pollinator house and a packet of seeds to start their own pollinator garden. Please keep an eye out for a publication of when this workshop will be! The second workshop will be on irrigation management. Participants will have a chance to learn about micro irrigation (drip) systems and aerial irrigation systems that are used on small and large-scale operations. Following COVID and biosafety protocols, participants will travel to two farms to see first hand how these systems work and speak with the farmers on benefits and draw backs of each. The third and final workshop will be one you won't want to miss- our "Soil Your Undies": Soil Health workshop. This hands-on, interactive workshop puts a twist on soil health, by having participants bury cotton underwear in their gardens or fields to educate them on the health of their own soil. This activity serves as a visual of poor or healthy soil as the workshop progresses through basic soil health, soil compaction, managing soil microbiology and so much more. Door prizes will be handed out at each workshop along with informational packets.

Call ahead (518) 651-2097 to reserve your spot at one or all of our three summer series workshops as space is limited.

"Soil Your Undies": Soil Health Workshop

What's your soil look like? Call ahead to pre-register for this workshop and we will mail you a pair of cotton underwear to bury and a green marking flag to stake out where you buried them.

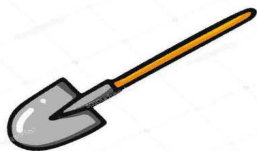


HAVE YOU EVER SOILED YOUR UNDIES

Put Your Soil to the TEST with our "Soil Your Undies Challenge"

Best Soil Health/Category Wins a Prize

GROWERS, uncover the secrets of soil health with the "Soil Your Undies Challenge". **It's as simple as counting to 5!**



1. Grab the Rules/Regulations & UNDIES from Soil and Water Office
2. Bury Undies
3. Wait two months
4. Dig up undies
5. Bring undies to Soil Health Workshop in July 2021



**The challenge will have three categories- Commercial Farming, High Tunnel Farming, Home Gardening*
Winning farm's undies will be showcased at Soil and Water booth at the County Fair*

PRIZES VALUED AT \$100



Tick and Lyme Disease

It is that time of the year again! Ticks! Why is this important? Ticks can carry pathogens that can cause human disease like Lyme Disease. If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic—the key is to remove the tick as soon as possible. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers work very well. Lucky for you and if you are interested, we have some “tick kits” here in the office. It is a small kit with some essential tick removers, publications and information.

How to remove a tick

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
- After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

If you are interested in a kit or more information please call our office (518) 651-2097

What's in your water?

Does your water have a strange color or odor? Do you need a water test for a mortgage? Or do you just want to know if you can drink it? Franklin County Soil and Water can help!

What we need to know to help you:

Do you have a dug or drilled well? Traditionally, dug wells are formed and built by the use of a hand shovel until it reaches lower than the water table. Dug wells have a large (3-4' diameter) pre-cast concrete casing sticking out of the ground. A spring or a point is also considered a dug well. A drilled well is formed and built by the use of machinery and can be as deep as 1,000 feet. Drilled wells have a 8" diameter metal pipe that sticks out of the ground six inches to a foot.

What do you want to test for?

If you want to just know if you can drink it you want to test for bacteria (total coliform and *E. coli*). Concerned about septic, fertilizers, surface water...add nitrates and nitrites. Eggy/sulfury smell? Could be sulfur but more likely high iron in Franklin County. Need to set your water softener, you need to check hardness.

Sending to lab vs. in-house testing:

Franklin County Soil and Water has *At Home Test Kits* that you can purchase in the office. The at home test kits are like pool test kits, most of the tests are conducted with dip sticks that the homeowner completes. This is a great place to start if you just are not sure what you want.

If you want to send a sample to the lab you will need a special bottle, please call and we can get them for you!

Our office works with *Life Science Laboratory*, a certified lab in Waddington, NY. Pick up a special bottle at our office and drop it back off here for the lab to pick up. The lab can provide you with detailed results and we can provide you with assistance on what the results mean and how to fix any problems that are discovered.

Questions, please call the office and ask for Chastity at (518) 651-2097



PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND
OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS.
PLEASE WATCH FOR OUR
STAFF WHILE THEY ARE
HARD AT WORK ON THE
ROADSIDE, HYDROSEEDING
OR MONITORING FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES!!



FRANKLIN CO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ag Service Center
151 Finney Blvd
Malone, NY 12953
518-651-2097

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Malone, NY

Permit No. 6

Board Members

Bill Wood
Steve Gokey
Ralph Child
Tom Derouchie
Paul Lauzon
Edward Lockwood
Dennis Egan

SWCD Personnel

Chastity Miller
Kristin Ballou
Allycia Leach
Chris Ballou
Donna Wright

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8AM to 4PM

Water Drop off Days

Tuesday & Thursday
by 9AM

Check out our website: www.fcswcd.org or find us on **Facebook**

Pruning Workshop 2021 Highlight

On March 27, 2021 we were able to hold our first workshop in over 12 months. This workshop was a Fruit Tree Pruning workshop and focused on general tree physiology, general tree care and maintenance, how to deal with diseases and plant health with pruning and care NOT chemicals, fruit tree pruning and maintenance for newly planted trees and how to bring an older tree back into shape and increase production.

This workshop was limited to 30 participants due to COVID Guidelines, registration for this workshop filled within the first week and a waiting list was created in case someone backed out and as a pre-registration for a 2022 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop. A huge thank you goes out to Peter Landau, Northeast Arboriculture Associates for hosting and running the workshop. Peter provided a wealth of knowledge and great hands-on demonstrations for the attendees. Peter demonstrated how to improve tree structure, how to choose a leader, what a water sprout is and what buds are flowering buds, along with many other helpful tips and tricks.

Keep your eyes open for the 2022 fruit tree pruning workshop, if you are interested in attending you can call the office now and get on the list and we will notify you of the date and location once that is set.

