



"Providing Today
Protecting Tomorrow"

Conservation News

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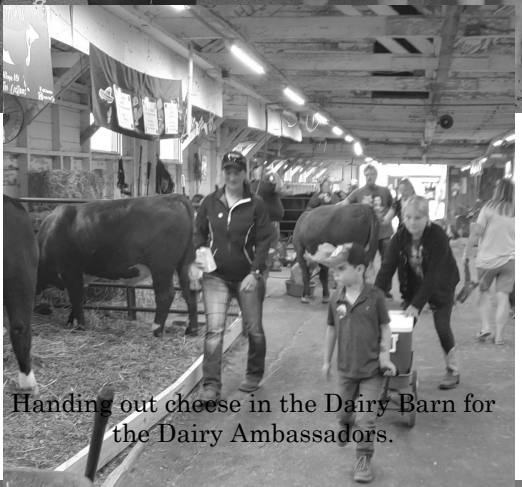
Franklin County Fair 2022



Anna and Landon Working the Dairy Booth (Chastity & Kristin's kiddos)

Devin and Mason Working the Dairy Booth

Kids Day fun, pollinators and chickens.. oh my!



Handing out cheese in the Dairy Barn for the Dairy Ambassadors.



In this issue:

Fair Recap
AEM Planning and Funding
Forestry Assistance
Ag Assessments Due March 1
Don't forget to do your renewal!
Drone Services
Check out these Cover Crops

We now have Free Tick Removal Kits!

Supported by NYSDOH
Limited supply so come get them while they last!

If you would like to be added to our mailing list please contact us at (518) 651-2097

Fair Booth! We are located in the Horticulture Building!



Kids Day FUN!

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Planning

This voluntary, FREE, and confidential program could help you and your farm meet business objectives while still protecting the soil and water resources your livelihood directly depends on. By working with Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District farmers can identify potential environmental concerns, take steps to plan for, implement appropriate courses of action, and even qualify for state and federal cost-share grants. A Conservation Plan, which can be written by a Soil and Water technician, is the minimum needed to aid your farm in securing these funds. Although they can be used to apply for state or federal funding, conservation plans can also be used as farm planning tools. Once a plan is written the farm is not required to look for funding to implement, but can use it to implement outside of funding. Here are a few plans that can be written by Franklin County Soil and Water:

- Prescribed Rotational Grazing/Silvopasture Management
- Forest Conservation (Pest and Disease Identification, Forestry BMPs, Forest Management Recommendations, etc.)
- Irrigation Management
- Soil Health (Cover Crops, Forage and Biomass planting, etc.)

If interested in planning or if you have questions please contact the Soil and Water office (518) 651-2097 and ask for Devin Normandeau.

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*. **2022 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 and with a **PLAN**. 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.

How to apply for this FUNDING? Any farm interested in this funding opportunity must call or stop in to the Franklin County Soil and Water office at 151 Finney Blvd. Malone, NY 12953, **before September 15, 2023**. District staff need time to do an assessment and a plan, so get in as soon as possible.

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
- Forest Conservation
- 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 Devin Normandeau by phone (518) 651-2097 or by email at dnormandeau@fcswwd.org



Ag Assessments It's that time of year again!

Have you recently purchased a piece of property that you are farming? Are your Ag Assessments older than 5 years? Are you tapping trees for maple production? If so, call the Franklin County Soil and Water office. We can do the soil group worksheets, provide needed maps, and aid in filling out the application. All new or updated Ag Assessments need to be to your assessor by March 1, 2023. Ag Assessments are \$25/parcel, before February 15th, after that it is an additional \$5. If you are renting land for Agricultural practices and it is at least 7 acres, it is also eligible for Ag Assessment.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Operation is *at least* 7 acres
- Farm makes *at least* \$10,000 in annual income from farm operation
- Land is being utilized for agricultural practices, or is rented to another producer that is Ag Assessed
- If applying for land utilized for bees and/or greenhouse/high tunnel: at least 1 acre of land and at least \$50,000 in annual income from ag practices

Please call (518) 651-2097 and ask for Devin Normandeau if you have questions regarding ag assessments and eligibility.

****Are you already Ag Assessed? If so, please remember to sign and return your renewal forms. These need to be returned to your assessor by March 1, 2023****

How can Forest Conservation Planning Benefit your Operation??

Soil & Water Districts can now work with maple producers, farmers with woodlots and private woodlot owners to on Forest Conservation Planning. This planning includes assisting woodlot owners with identifying areas of disease or invasive species concerns, identifying areas where forestry best management practices could be implemented and implementing forest management practices.

In 2020, a Clinton County maple syrup, honey and vegetable farm was the first Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) participant in New York State to implement forestry best management practices through this program, with the assistance of the Franklin County District Forester. A logging operation was conducted on this property in the Spring of 2019 to improve the health of the forest, improve the maple sap potential and increase the amount of desired regeneration. Following the harvest, no Forestry Best Management Practices were installed by the logging contractor. Trails were left rutted, existing culverts were crushed and broad-based dips were filled in. The main skid trail leaving the landing is on a 17% slope and extends for 900 feet. This trail was severely rutted and was acting as a major conduit for water and sediment transport. Once the flow reached the landing it entered a roadside ditch and travelled 1500 feet to Upper Chateaugay Lake.

The main goals of this project were to remove standing water on trails, cease rutting of substrate, and to cease the sheet erosion taking place. To accomplish these goals 14 diversions were installed including 1 rock lined ditch with rock check dams, 7 rubber belt deflectors and 6 culverts; and 1.1 acres of conservation cover was planted and mulched. This project has eliminated tons of sediment entering Upper Chateaugay Lake and would not have taken place without this program. Funding for this project was provided by the AEM Program. This is one of the many projects that we can assist you with through this program.

If you are interested in pursuing assistance with your woodlot contact the District Forester, Kristin Ballou, at (518) 651-2097 for additional information.



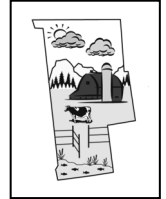
**FRANKLIN CO SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Ag Service Center
151 Finney Blvd
Malone, NY 12953

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

Permit No. 6

Do you have standing water? Mosquito dunks utilize a naturally-occurring type of bacteria to control mosquitos. They are recommended to use in backyard ponds or fountains. They last about 30 days and are used from April to September.



WE HAVE FREE MOSQUITO DUNKS

A New Service: Drone Photos

Have an area that you need mapped but it is too big, want to see the center of a field or a wood lot, a before and after construction project, just a photo of your land....contact us. For a small fee we will come out and take some photos, and then provide them to you electronically for your use or ability to print. Contact Mason for more information: 518-651-2097 or email him at mstine@fcsxcd.org.



This year the District assisted producers in the implementation of over 350 Acres of Cover Crops! What is a cover crop? A **cover crop** is a **plant** that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to farms. The District has a no till drill to assist with the planting of a cover crop like winter rye. If you have more questions about cover crops or potential funding please contact Devin!