

Conservation News

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

2026-2028 AEM Round 19 Project Funding

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.

Program Information:

A grant opportunity to implement smaller conservation projects on farms. This funding would assist farmers in implementing best management practice systems to protect the environment. 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 87.5% of the total project cost. Projects must be completed by 12-31-2028.



Improved Animal Trail & Laneway



Water Diversion Belt on Access Road

Who is Eligible?

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

Eligible BMP Systems include:

- Access Control Systems
- Agrichemical Handling and Storage System
- Prescribed Rotational Grazing System
- Erosion Control Systems
- Many other BMP Systems are eligible!

Applications can be found on our website:

clintoncountyswcd.org

For more information on this opportunity and to set up a farm visit contact the District at **(518) 561-4616 ext. 3** and ask about our AEM Program!

AEM Strategic Plan Meeting!

Help guide the Districts priorities for technical assistance and future funding in AEM!

OPEN TO ALL! LUNCH PROVIDED!

When: APRIL 30th @ Noon **Where:** CC Soil & Water District Office

Please let us know if you will attend.

New! Grant Funding for Ag Engineering

The *Lake Champlain On-Farm BMP Engineering program* can provide financial assistance towards engineering services to farmers in the NY portion of the Lake Champlain Watershed.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as waste storage, silage leachate treatment, milkhouse waste, agrichemical or fuel storage, water pipelines, stream crossings, etc. all need engineered designs to be eligible for additional grant funding.

This pilot project offers reimbursement for engineering services with no landowner match required. Preference points will be given for farms in priority watersheds that are ready to implement their project within the next year.

To qualify, the farm must participate in the AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Tier 3 Planning process. The Soil & Water District will be taking and locally ranking applications and will use the AEM planning process to prioritize projects that will have a water quality benefit.

The Soil and Water District will determine cost share based on funding available, # of applicants and determination of potential water quality and other conservation benefits.



Once awarded, the district will assist the farm to engage an engineer to design the project to NRCS standards. The District will update the conservation plan to include the approved engineered design. The conservation plan will then be utilized in future grant applications.

For more information, contact the Soil and Water District or visit our website for an application.



LET'S TALK POLLINATORS!

Why are pollinators important?

Pollinators such as bees, moths, butterflies, bats, flies, and birds have a symbiotic relationship with flowering plants. Pollinators help flowers produce fruits and seeds, while receiving nutrients to survive from pollen and nectar. Pollination supports 87% of the leading food crops worldwide.

What can you do?

You can help native pollinators thrive by planting native flowering plants at your home. Limit excessive use of pesticides and herbicides that harm pollinators and plants pollinators depend on. Regenerative Agriculture such as no-till farming and cover cropping are natural solutions to reduce pests and use of pesticides. Pollinators can help you too by pollinating your gardens and flowers! Leaving leaf litter on the ground and leaving dead trees standing (when safe to do so) provide shelter for native bees.

What is the District doing?

The District has been assisting the Town of Plattsburgh in a multi-organizational effort to create a pollinator habitat. The Guy Cedar Rec Park in Plattsburgh, is currently being converted into a pollinator habitat that will be open to the public to learn about pollinators, pollinator friendly flowers, and their habitat. We hope to get more community based projects like this one in the future!

Get Ready for Spring 2025! Funding Available!

The Soil and Water District has funding for environmentally beneficial agronomic practices on Clinton County farms.

Eligibility:

- Farms are required to participate in the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program, a voluntary farm planning program administered by the local Soil and Water District.
- Farm must be Non-CAFO
- Farm cannot be receiving payments from another grant or program for the same practice.



Eligible Practices

- Cover Crops
 - planting equipment provided no charge
- Cropland Conversion to Hay
- Conservation Tillage- No Till Planting
- No-Till Pasture
- No-Till Hay land Renovation
- Critical Area Seeding of eroded areas
- Rotational Grazing
- Vegetative Buffers



2025 Community Conservation Program

Clinton County SWCD would like to provide funding for conservation projects for educational purposes or resource protection through schools, organizations, and educational institutions. Project proposals should be related to conservation and/or conservation education. If you have an idea for a project, but are not sure if it is the right fit, please call us.



Public community area revitalization.



Free Mosquito Dunks

Clinton County SWCD will once again give away free Mosquito Dunks to help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus. To pick up your free packages stop by our office at 6064 Route 22, Suite 1, Plattsburgh, NY. Customers may pick up three packages while supplies last.

Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District

6064 Route 22, Suite 1
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Joe Wetzstein, Soil Conservationist
Allison Holmes, Soil Conservationist
Ethan Bentley, PE, Civil Engineer
Josie Tripp, Administrative Assistant

Visit our Website at :
www.clintoncountyswcd.org

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or if your address has changed, please notify our office at:

(518) 561-4616 ext.3

or email: clintoncountyswcd@ccsoil-water.com

