

# Conservation News

Newsletter of the  
Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Spring 2018

## New Equipment available to Clinton County farmers and landowners

The District recently acquired a new Wheatheart trailer mounted post pounder. The trailer mounted post pounder offers the convenience of towing posts with you as you work.

The Honda powered hydraulic system with telescoping hitch, telescoping mast and four-way tilt direction provide the flexibility of working on uneven surfaces, allowing you to pound posts exactly where they need to be.

With a mast that raises up to 11' 11" with 660 lbs of hammer impact, this will be ideal for pasture



fence building, exclusion fences, vineyards, trellis posts and small orchards. For more details about how you can use the post pounder on your next fencing project, contact the District office at 518-561-4616 ext 3.

## Soil Testing 75/25 Cost Share

The District would like to lend a hand locally to farms that wish to manage their farms through an ecosystem based management approach.

This whole environment approach looks at your soil health from a long-term perspective and will help you build that plan for your individual needs.

The District will pay 75% of the cost of soil testing up to a \$100 benefit per farm. This would be about 10 soil tests per farm.

Samples can be taken by the farmer or by District Staff as part of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) planning program.

## Agricultural Environmental Management

The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program is a voluntary planning process by which farms can work the Soil & Water District to inventory and assess conditions on their farm that may need improvements.

AEM planning is the gateway to both Local, State and USDA-NRCS funding of Best Management Practices to improve environmental issues on your farm.

Planning for improved grazing, better barnyards, cover crops and much more can be done in cooperation with District staff to make common-sense, cost-effective, and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State's natural resources.

*Working for the restoration, enhancement, and protection of our soil, water, and other natural resources.*

## ANNUAL TREE SALE

2018 was another successful year.

The District working with the NYS Tree Nursery helped deliver more than 2,500 seedlings to Clinton County residents.



If you would like to be put on our mailing list for 2019 just contact our office.

Thanks to all of you that ordered, you are helping keep our community greener for future generations.



### Rent the District's No Till Drill

Are your hay fields or pastures looking a little worn out? Did your alfalfa suffer over the winter? Reseed or overseed with the District's Great Plains 10 foot No Till Drill.

Rental rate is \$15/acre + \$30 delivery/setup

Saves time, fuel and your back...no till = no picking rocks!

Call the office and get on our list. 561-4616 ext 3

## Got Tires?

Get ready now for our upcoming Tire Roundup Events this summer.

### June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Town of Beekmantown Highway Garage,  
599 Spellman Road,  
Hours: 9:00 am until Noon

### June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Town of Black Brook Highway Garage,  
208 Silver Lake Rd  
Hours: 9:00 am until Noon

**Cost: No Charge    Residents only—No Businesses**



**Limit:** 10 tires per household. \*\*\* Space is limited- our event will end when the trailer is full\*\*\*

**NO** tires on rims

**NO** excessive dirt, mud or stones

**NO** tractor, loader or heavy equipment tires

**NO** solid rubber tires

The District reserves the right to reject non-passenger and non-pick-up truck tires. Our primary targets are residential passenger and pick-up tires, normally referred to as R13, R14, R15, R16, R17 and R18 sizes.

## **Cover Crop Program Sign up NOW!**

Cover crop establishment helps reduce spring runoff and soil erosion, improves soil health, conservation of nutrients, and increases soil organic matter.

Our Cover Crop program reimburses farms who establish fall cover crops following silage corn harvest. The District's no-till drill is available to any producer that is interested. Contact the District or visit our website for more details about how you can participate.

If you have not tried cover crops before and are willing to give it a go, we have a new opportunity for new users who are located in the Lake Champlain-



Isle La Motte segment of the watershed.

Eleven agricultural producers successfully participated in Clinton County SWCD's 2017 Cover Crop Program. A total of 642 acres were planted on tillable acres last fall. The most common application was Winter Rye with a grain or no till drill. This program was utilized by farmers of different sizes and operation types.

The AEM Tier 3A Cover Crop Planning, Implementation, and Planning Tool was utilized to plan each farm participating



## **Lake Champlain HAB Initiative**

In late 2017, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a \$65 million, 4-point initiative to aggressively combat harmful algal blooms in 12 New York State waterbodies. Lake Champlain, with its public beaches, recreational opportunities, multi-national setting, as well as documented water quality issues, was selected as one of the priority lakes.

As a member of the Lake Champlain HAB Steering committee, the Soil & Water District has been involved in the development of an Action Plan to reduce sources of pollution that spark algal blooms.

Harmful algal blooms in freshwater generally consist of visible patches of cyanobacteria, also called blue-

green algae (BGA). Cyanobacteria are naturally present in low numbers in most marine and freshwater systems.

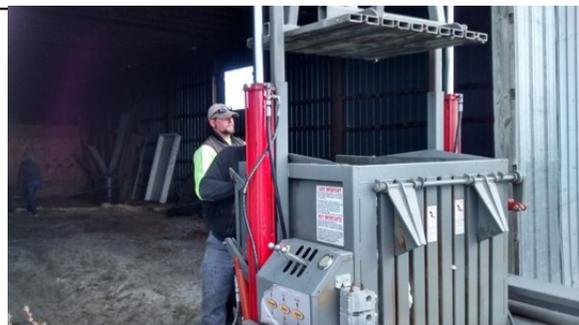
Under certain conditions, such as high nutrient concentrations (e.g., phosphorus) and warm temperatures, cyanobacteria may multiply rapidly and form blooms.

What does this mean for our region? There may be increased opportunities for funding of practices that can help both the environment and our local farms and communities.

Practices such as Cover Crops, Riparian Buffers, and improved waste storage systems all help to reduce nutrients and soil erosion from reaching the lake. To plan now for the future, contact the District and take the first steps.

## **Ag Plastic Recycling Program**

The District's Ag Plastic Balers are still out and about; The baler is available at no cost to any local farm that wishes to use it. District staff assists with delivery, set up and training to use the baler. The farm is responsible for collecting, baling and storing the plastic bales on site until a recycling pickup is arranged.



Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District  
6064 Route 22, Suite 1  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901-6264

**Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District**

Located at:  
6064 Route 22, Suite 1  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
(518)561-4616 ext 3

**District Board of Directors:**

Sam Dyer, Chairman, Member at Large  
Larry Brooks, Vice Chairman - Member at Large  
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Rob Timmons, County Legislator  
Mark Henry, County Legislator

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David Wilfore, District Technician  
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**NRCS Staff:**

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Joe Wetzstein, Soil Conservationist  
Ethan Bentley, PE, Civil Engineer  
Josie Tripp, Administrative Assistant

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](mailto:clintoncountyswcd@ccsoil-water.com)

