

# Conservation News

## Farm Highlights!

### What's Happening in Clinton County

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.

Through the State AEM Round 18 and other funding sources, the District implemented projects to protect local water bodies, improve soil health, and increase farm viability. Below are some of the projects that have been completed.



**Over 2,500 acres of Fall cover crops were implemented across the county**



**Fencing for Prescribed Rotational Grazing for beef herd**



**Covered Barnyard for Dairy Farm**



**Erosion Control System for feed storage**



To get involved & set up a farm visit contact the District at  
(518) 561-4616 ext. 3 and ask about our AEM Program!

## 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 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.**

## 2026 Tree and Shrub Sale

The District holds an annual Tree and Shrub Sale through the NYSDEC Saratoga Tree Nursery.

Landowners who place an order through us help make Clinton County a cleaner, greener, and healthier community for future generations. This year, approximately 6,000 bare root seedlings were purchased and planted throughout Clinton County promoting long term natural resource protection.

If you're interested in signing up for information on the Saratoga Tree Nursery Brochure for 2027, contact Sue Passino at [susan.passino@ccsoil-water.com](mailto:susan.passino@ccsoil-water.com)



## Equipment Rental

The District offers machinery to benefit conservation efforts in Clinton County. Below are some of our most popular machinery choices for agricultural use. For more information on renting a machine, please call us at (518) 561-4616 ext. 3.



**Wheatheart Post Pounder**  
\$25.00/ day \$125.00/week



**No-Till Drill**  
\$15.00/ acre + \$30 Delivery fee



**Aerway- Pasture Aerator**  
Free for AEM Participating Farms

# Clinton County Northern Tier Ash Tree Management Program

Over the past year, the District has worked on educating the public about the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle, that is affecting our native Ash trees while creating an inventory of infested trees along road right-of-ways and near public park boundaries. Now, the District has been working diligently on the removal of 1,200 Ash trees within Clinton County through a grant funded by the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Over the past 6 months, trees have been removed from town and village road right-of-ways and park areas within the City of Plattsburgh, the Town of Champlain, the Village of Champlain, the Village of Rouses Point, and the Town of Mooers. Removal of infected Ash tree's will be completed by the end of June, 2026.

The District has identified eligible public areas, such as parks, for potential replanting sites and is working with all municipalities to replant new trees. These tree plantings will consist of native trees that will strengthen and diversify our urban forest population and will be implemented through 2026-2027. Town and village events to help volunteer with tree plantings will be announced once replanting sites have been approved by the appropriate personnel.



Before: Ash Tree's Located in Rouses Point



Removal of Ash Tree's in Rouses Point




After: Ash Tree's located in Rouses Point

## Upcoming Events

Clinton County Soil and Water will be hosting and attending multiple events in the coming months. Here is a schedule of what is to come.

- **May 28<sup>th</sup> : Tire Recycling at Mooers Highway Garage 12-2pm**
  - 62 Atlas Rd, Mooers Forks, NY 12959
- **May 30<sup>th</sup> : Clinton County Cornell Cooperative Extension Plant Sale 9-12pm**
  - Clinton County Fairgrounds, 84 Fair Grounds Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
- **June 4<sup>th</sup>: Tire Recycling at Black Brook Highway Garage 12-2pm**
  - 208 Silver Lake Road Au Sable Forks, NY 12912
- **July 13th-18<sup>th</sup>: Clinton County Fair Informational Tabling**
  - Clinton County Fairgrounds, 84 Fair Grounds Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

For more information, check out our Facebook page for updates on upcoming events:

 Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District

6064 Route 22, Suite 1  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901-6264

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**(518)561-4616 ext 3**

#### District Board of Directors:

Sam Dyer, Chairman, Member at Large  
Bruce Dimock, Farm Bureau Representative  
Jerry Emerich, Member at Large  
Rob Timmons, County Legislator  
David Bezio, County Legislator

#### SWCD Staff:

Peter Hagar, District Manager  
Jillian Zajac, District Technician  
Brittany Bashaw, District Technician  
Susan Passino, District Clerk

#### NRCS Staff:

Tricia LaValley, District Conservationist  
Joe Wetzstein, Soil Conservationist  
Allison Holmes, Soil Conservationist  
Ethan Bentley, PE, Civil Engineer  
Josie Tripp, Administrative Assistant

Visit our Website at :  
**[www.clintoncountyswcd.org](http://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](mailto:clintoncountyswcd@ccsoil-water.com)

