

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Ontario County SWCD
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Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



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Canandaigua Lake Barnyard Runoff Management Project Completed

The Round 28 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Program (Ag NPS) Canandaigua Lake Near-Shore Runoff Management Project was a partnership effort with Ontario County SWCD and a local livestock farm that is located adjacent to Canandaigua Lake, a class AA drinking water supply for over 70,000 people. This farm runs a 100 animal beef operation that rotationally grazes animals on almost 200 acres of pasture in the spring through fall, and brings the animals back to the farm for the winter months. Prior to this project, the animals were overwintered in a 2 acre open feedlot. This open feedlot directly upslope of Canandaigua Lake was exposed to rain and snowmelt and had several concentrated water flow paths, creating a resource concern for the watershed. The outdoor feedlot also made it difficult to collect the manure from the barnyard and apply it to the farm cropland. Ontario County SWCD, Tamberlane Farm, and



Runoff Management Project Continued...

an engineer worked together to create a system of Heavy Use Area Protection, Roofs and Covers, and Roofwater Runoff Control Structures to resolve this resource concern. After completion, this project entirely eliminated the outdoor barnyard, created a short-term manure storage for the farm allowing all manure to be collected off the barnyard to be applied to cropland, and now provides livestock with stable access to the pasture.



Project site before: District staff had plenty of company during the barnyard survey portion of the project!



Project site after: completed roofed Heavy Use Area

After the project was completed, we wanted to celebrate and showcase this project so we held a grazing workshop at the farm in June. Thank you to Tamberlane Farm and their family for their amazing hospitality and all of the hard work they did to host this workshop. Ontario County Farm Bureau sponsored the dinner with burgers from Tamberlane Farm and sides from Finger Lakes Plates. Ontario County SWCD's Tucker

Kautz presented on the new completed barnyard area and shared information about our Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Thank you to Nancy Glazier from the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Cops Team for leading the pasture walk and thank you to Jacob Maslyn from Ontario County CCE for partnering on this event's coordination and planning. We had about 65 attendees and the weather was perfect for an evening out in the pasture.

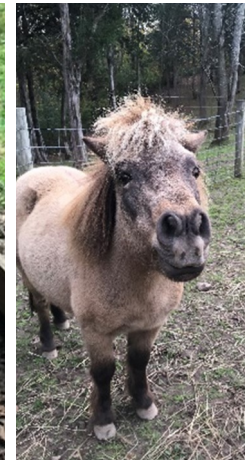


At completion, SWCD worked with CCE and Farm Bureau to host a barnyard and pasture walk at the project site

Let's talk about your farm!



Over the last year the District has grown by adding a staff member, Jenny May, who has expanded District capacity to offer more assistance through the AEM program to the County's new farms, smaller farms, and equine facilities. This is a voluntary, farmer-led, farm driven process that is confidential. The AEM program uses a 5-tier approach, which provides on-farm environmental assessments, conservation planning, and technical assistance.



For example, farms may have questions on how to set up a rotational grazing system with fencing, establish a watering source for animals, use cover crops, or plan crop rotations. Farms may have resource concerns regarding soil health, water management, drainage, or livestock stocking rates. The District can provide technical support to farms dealing with these issues. One goal this year is to establish a relationship with the local equine farms/facilities and get to know what the current issues and needs are so we can offer more technical support in the future. Farms participating in AEM may also qualify for the New York Grown & Certified program, which helps farmers market their products.

If you are interested in learning more about the AEM program, check out the website to fill out a Tier 1 questionnaire or give the office a call.



Mud Creek Erosion Control Project

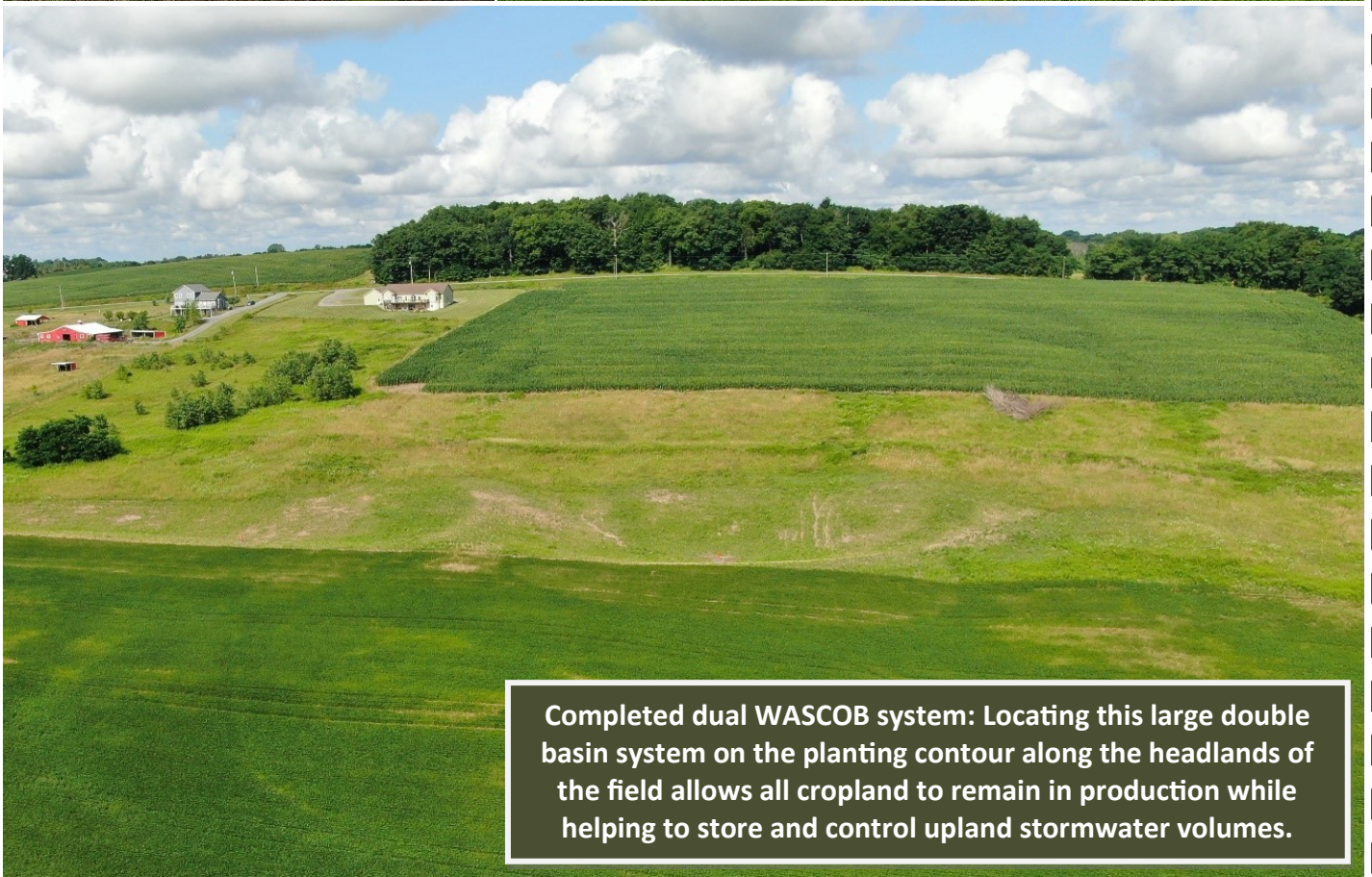
Ontario County SWCD recently completed our final project funded through Ag NPS Round 24 in the Mud Creek watershed. This was a large multi-field structural erosion control project that included two large upland Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs), a grassed waterway and an underground outlet system. This project captures and controls a large water volume in two WASCOBs at the headland of the field and stores and releases it through an underground outlet system to a grassed waterway located on the other side of the road. The grassed waterway then conveys this water across another tract of cropland in a non-erosive manner.



Waterway site before construction



Grassed waterway site after construction



Completed dual WASCOB system: Locating this large double basin system on the planting contour along the headlands of the field allows all cropland to remain in production while helping to store and control upland stormwater volumes.

Canandaigua Lake Erosion Control Projects

As part of our GLC Finger Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Project, Ontario County SWCD recently installed 2 broad-base Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs), a grassed waterway, and an underground outlet support system. These projects store and convey damaging stormwater volumes across cropland in a non-erosive manner. The projects specifically treated areas of visible gully erosion on active row cropland that is located directly upslope of Canandaigua Lake. The completed projects have a sediment loss reduction of 31 tons of soil saved per year, a phosphorus savings of 19 lbs. per year and a nitrogen savings of 49.5 lbs. per year. The projects were all strategically placed on the fields in a manner that allowed the farmland to remain in full production.



Site before: Facing north; gully erosion washing out active cropland

Prepping the fields for planting soybeans in the WASCOB



Canandaigua Lake Erosion Control Projects Continued...



The broad-based WASCObS were built on a rolled 10:1 slope berm design allowing for farming through the entire basin storage area with large equipment. The basins remove all water within 6 hours of a large storm event minimizing crop damage.

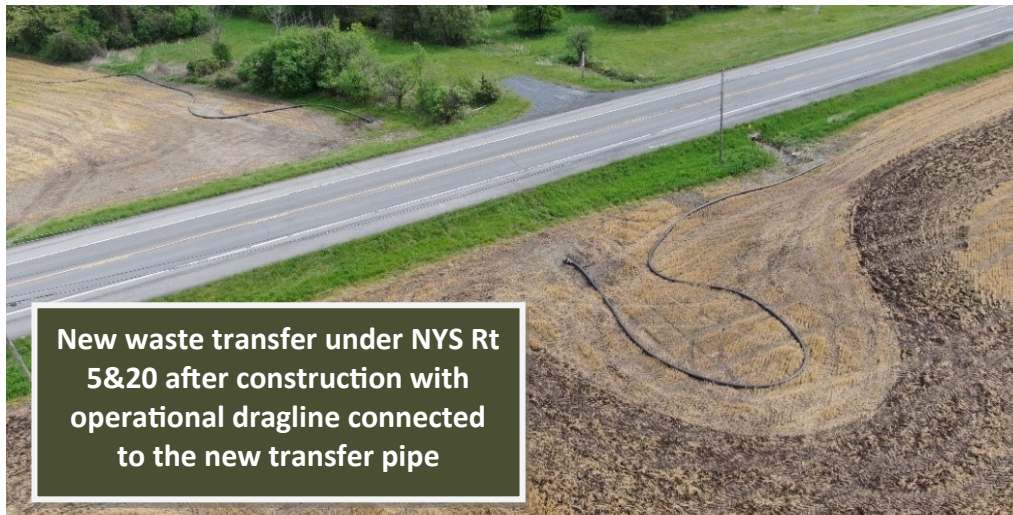


Manure Transfer Project



Boring a 10" SD11 manure transfer pipe sleeve under NYS Rt 5&20

Using a New York Grown and Certified Program Implementation Grant, Ontario County SWCD recently worked with a local dairy farm to install a waste transfer line under State Routes 5&20 in the Town of Canandaigua. This crossing will allow a local farm to drag line apply nutrients to an additional 86 acre tract of cropland a mile from the farmstead, directly from the manure storage facility. The completed project will take up to 140 loads of manure handling equipment traffic off the busy state highway each year. Having an efficient manure application system assures that nutrients can be applied at the right place and the right time to help grow the next crop in rotation.



New waste transfer under NYS Rt 5&20 after construction with operational dragline connected to the new transfer pipe



Farm dragline injecting manure to the field using the new manure transfer system

Septic System Replacement Program – Round 4 Funding Awarded to Ontario County

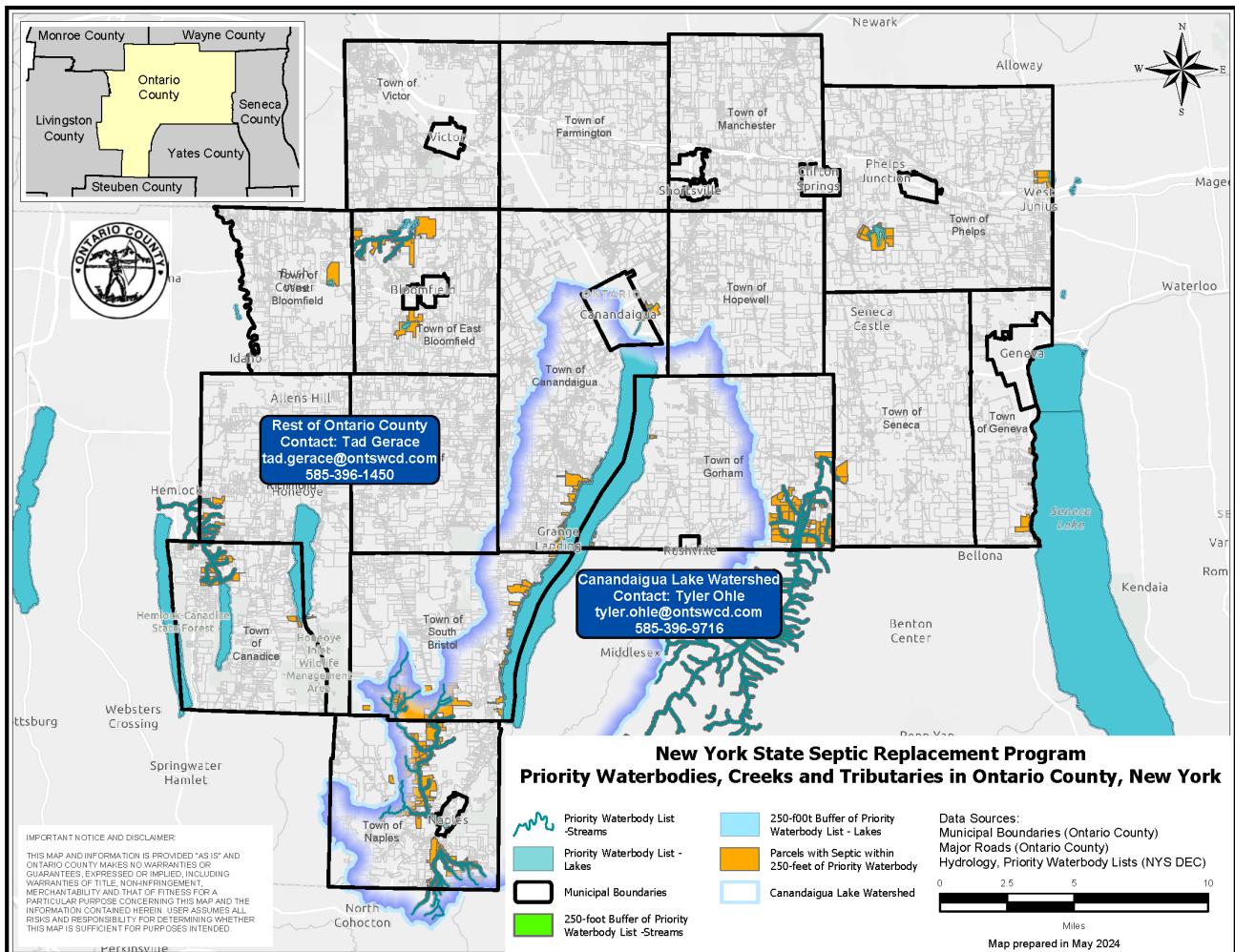
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation has awarded Ontario County funding to assist homeowners and small businesses with funding to replace cesspools and failing septic systems within 250 feet of priority waterbodies. Check out this [map](#) to see who is eligible for the program.



Ontario County is partnering with the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District in the administration of this program. More information can be found [here](#).

Under the program, Ontario County can access monies from the Fund to provide grants to reimburse property owners for up to 50% of the eligible costs (up to a maximum of \$10,000) of their eligible septic system projects. The program seeks to reduce the environmental and public-health impacts associated with the discharge of effluent cesspools and septic systems on groundwater used as drinking water as well as threatened or impaired water bodies such as Seneca, Canandaigua, Honeoye and Canadice Lakes. Eligible property owners will have received a letter from Ontario County Department of Public Works regarding the program and eligibility.

Maintaining a functioning septic system is one of the key ways homeowners can help protect drinking water sources for themselves and their communities. Special thanks to Senator Pamela Helming for her work in helping secure the funding to help preserve our valuable Ontario County lakes.





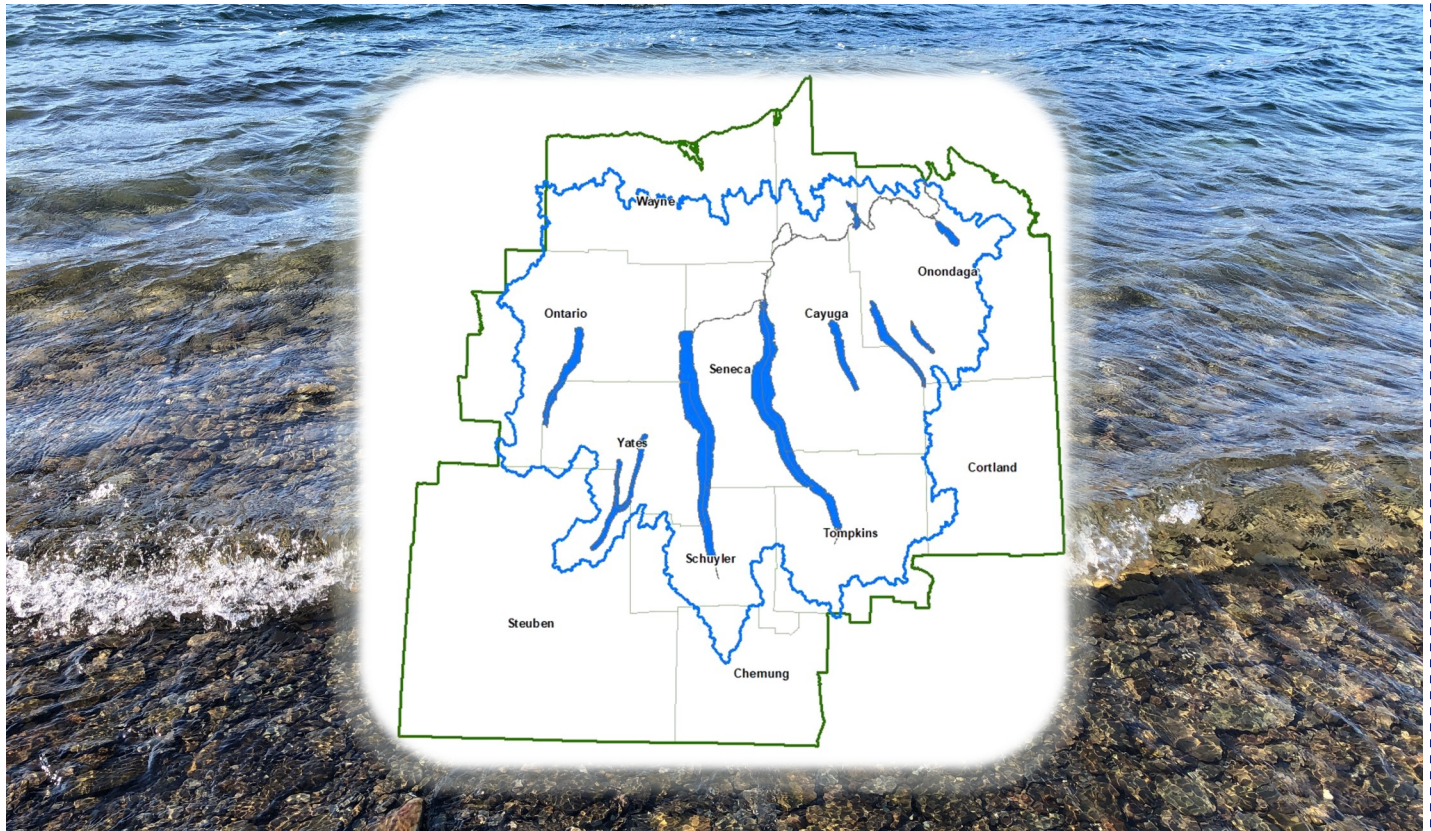
EASTERN FINGER LAKES COALITION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates Counties

Conservation Districts have a long history of working together to protect water quality through targeted action. Recently, New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Agriculture and Markets (AGM), and the 11 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Eastern Finger Lakes, announced funding for the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition to accelerate watershed protection and restoration measures to improve water quality and combat harmful algal blooms (HABs).

The County Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Eastern Finger Lakes (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates) have planned for, written, and implemented hundreds of millions of dollars of competitive grants to protect and improve water quality in the region, yet more work needs to be done to help achieve water quality goals; working together to share resources and technical capacity helps further advance our shared goals.

Funding for the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition strengthens and enhances the SWCDs ability to plan and implement locally-led conservation initiatives in response to evolving environmental challenges associated with a changing climate. With the support of New York State, Ontario and partnering SWCDs will continue to plan common sense conservation practices and accelerate their implementation throughout the Eastern Finger Lakes Region, supporting the State's environmental goals while protecting valuable natural resources.



International Envirothon in NYS!

During the week of July 28, 2024, New York State hosted the NCF Envirothon here in Ontario County. There were teams representing almost every state throughout the U.S. as well as teams from Canada, China and Singapore! Two of our employees helped out with the test creation for the Aquatic Ecology and the Forestry Exams. This included almost a whole year of preparation with their teammates. They helped create resource materials, key topics and learning objectives, the exam and then worked with the students last Monday for an entire day of training and preparing the students for testing. They also had to help with proctoring the exams and grading the exams on Tuesday. We are so excited that the New York team came in 2nd Place overall which is an amazing achievement



Outreach in the Community

We have been very busy working with the community! Here are some recent photos where you might have seen staff from Ontario County SWCD at events around the County.





Backyard Conservation Conversation



Getting to Know the Purple Martin

A Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is a super cool “yard bird” in the eastern part of the United States. A colony of Purple Martins is even better! According to “A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies” by Roger Tory Peterson, Purple Martins are North America’s largest swallow, around 8” long with a 15” wingspan. The adult female is light bellied; grayish throat and breast. The adult male is blue-black (purplish iridescence) above and below; no other swallow is black-bellied. Their call is the most unique sound a bird can make, sounding like eloquent robot clicks and chirps.



Is it too late to put up a martin house to attract breeding pairs this year? Yes, it probably is a bit late. However, if you live near one of our awesome lakes or own a good-sized pond, think about installing a



condominium for martins next spring! Having a full martin house is like having a tiny neighborhood of aerial acrobats that eat thousands of flying insects. Martins not only eat on the wing, they drink lake or pond water that way too. They skim and scoop water while in flight!

Work hard to discourage starlings and house sparrows from overtaking your martin house in early spring. One way to do so is to lower the house to just above the ground in late winter to clean it and be sure it is ready to be raised come spring.

Dime sized, pure white and smooth eggs (3-6) will be laid during their nesting period. Incubation is 15-16 days. Once the chicks hatch, the parents will be extra busy flying high above in circles to catch insects to feed the family. Once the young fledge (~28 days after hatching), martins roost in massive numbers. As they leave their roosts, it is said they can be seen on weather radar. Our Purple Martins will eventually migrate south for the winter, hopefully to return to fill our skies with the fabulous sounds only martins can create.



Residential Tire Recycling Event:

Saturday, September 7, 2024
8:00am – 11:00am
Town of Farmington Highway
985 Hook Rd
Farmington, NY 14425



****Advanced Registration Required****

Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

The registration period is from August 19 to September 4.

[Click here to register](#) or use the QR code!

This event is a free event for ALL residents of Ontario County.

- Maximum of 10 tires per household permitted
- **MUST PRE-REGISTER** and bring ID to Event
- Only car and light truck tires will be accepted
- All tires must be clean and free of debris
- No tires on rims will be accepted
- Tires will not be accepted from commercial facilities

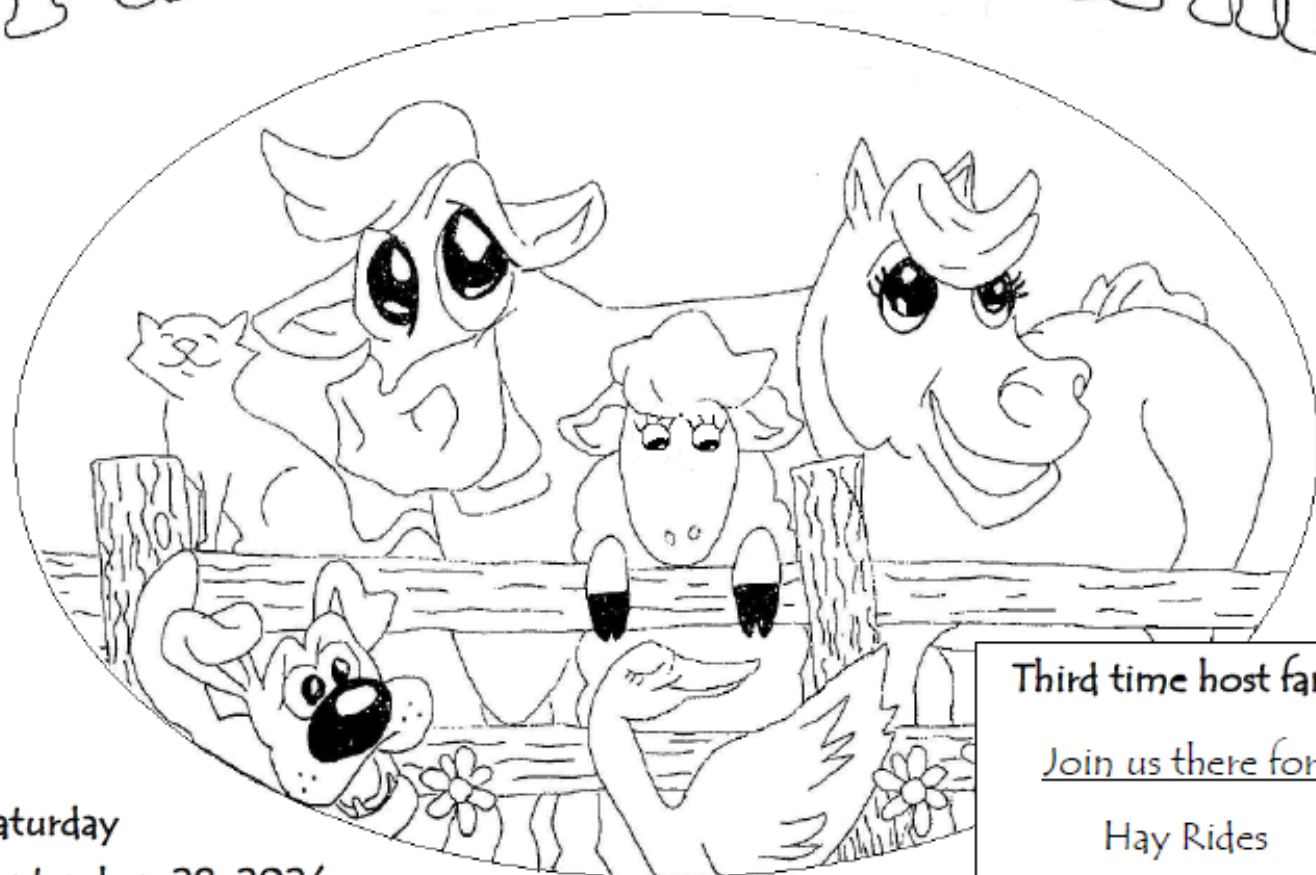


Tires not meeting these requirements will not be accepted. For questions, please call Ontario County SWCD at (585)396-1450.



Ontario County Agriculture Presents

Fun on the Farm



Saturday
 September 28, 2024
 11am - 4pm

Hemdale Farms

2801 Orleans Road, Seneca Castle



www.ontariocountyfunonthefarm.com

Third time host farm

Join us there for:

Hay Rides

Games

Food sampling

Free ice cream

A tour of the farm

Free Admission!

Thanks to your
 agricultural community!!

*Bringing Agriculture
 And the community
 Together!*

2024 SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS SCHEDULE



*For Details on Preregistration,
Visit the Events Page at:
OntarioCountyRecycles.org



Household Hazardous Waste 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	4/20	Landfill	7am to 3pm	3/25-4/18
	9/21	T. Bristol Highway Facility	7am to 3pm	8/26-9/19
Electronic Waste 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	5/18	T. Farmington Highway Facility	8am to 2pm	4/29-5/16
	10/12	Landfill	8am to 2pm	9/16-10/10
Tires 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	5/4	T. Seneca Highway Facility	8am to 11am	4/15-5/1
	7/20	T. Richmond Town Hall	8am to 11am	7/1-7/17
	9/7	T. Farmington Highway Facility	8am to 11am	8/19-9/4
Paper Shredding 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	4/12	County Transportation Center	10:30am to 1:30pm	3/25-4/10
	5/3	T. Victor Highway Department	10:30am to 1:30pm	4/15-5/1
	6/8	T. Hopewell Highway Facility	8am to 11am	5/20-6/6
Mattress 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	4/13	T. Geneva Highway Facility	8am to 11am	3/25-4/11
	8/24	T. South Bristol Highway Facility	8am to 11am	8/5-8/22
Rigid Plastic 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	6/15	Landfill	8am to 12pm	5/20-6/12
Pumpkin 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration
	11/2	Canandaigua, Geneva, Victor	8am to 11am	N/A
	11/9	Canandaigua, Geneva, Victor	8am to 11am	N/A



ONTARIO COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.ontswcd.com

480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424

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Secretary-Treasurer to the Board: **Diana Thorn**

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Water Resource Technician: **Katie Lafler**

Conservation District Technician: **Tad Gerace**

Conservation District Technician: **Jenny May**

Conservation District Educator: **Alaina Robarge**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspector: **Tyler Ohle**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Administrative Assistant: **Jamie Noga**

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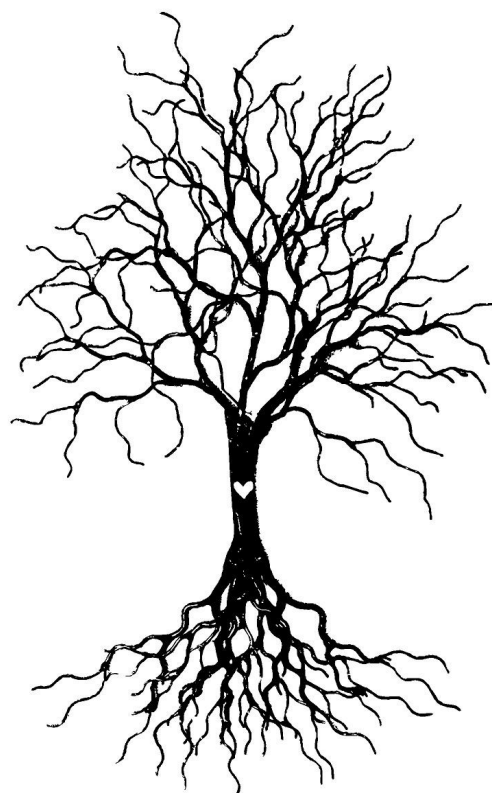
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