



SARATOGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Saratoga County SWCD Announces AEM Project Funding Available

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a framework that helps farmers make common-sense, cost-effective, and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State's natural resources. Farmers work with local AEM resource professionals from their Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate conservation practice systems to address environmental risks on the farm.

The AEM framework uses a tiered approach to help farmers make decisions about their land:

- **Tier 1** – Inventory current activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.
- **Tier 2** – Document current land stewardship; assess and prioritize areas of concern.
- **Tier 3** – Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals.
- **Tier 4** – Implement plans utilizing available financial, educational and technical assistance.
- **Tier 5** – Evaluate to ensure the protection of the environment and farm viability.

The State is now offering a new Base Program that allows Soil & Water Districts to assist farms to implement projects they have identified in their Tier 3 plans. This is a cost sharing program that allows a \$50,000 maximum reimbursement. The farm is required to pay a minimum of 12.5% of project costs. Once a project is awarded the Project must be 100% complete before reimbursement is allowed. All projects for this round must be 100% completed & all paperwork must be submitted to District Staff by November 1, 2021. There will be NO extensions on awarded projects. If an awarded project cannot be completed within the required timeframe, the award becomes invalid and no reimbursement will be given.

The first round of the new Base Program is January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021. Any farm that wishes to apply must be currently involved in AEM & have a Tier 3 plan in place to be considered. The deadline to submit an application is **Friday, September 6, 2019 at NOON**. Any applications submitted after this time will not be accepted. All submitted requests will be ranked and project funding will be awarded based on the rankings. All Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be considered, however in this round priority will be given to BMPs that include Grade Stabilization Structures, Cover cropping (including strip cropping), Pasture & Hay Planting, Access Roads & Herbaceous Buffers. For more information about BMPs, please go to https://www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem/forms/Ag_BMP_Catalogue.pdf.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Victoria Garlanda•Jen Koval•Jay Matthews•Donald Monica•Darren O'Conor•Steven Ropitzky•Ed Kinowski



Agriculture Environmental Management

BMP project Implementation

Application



Farm Name _____

Owner _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Is the Farm involved in the AEM program? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, Do you know what Tier AEM has the farm completed?

Tier 1__ Farm over view Tier 2__ Summary report Tier 3__ Conservation plan

Has the farm participated in any grants before? State Yes ___ No ___

Federal Yes ___ No ___

Was the project funded complete? Yes ___ No ___

If no, please describe the circumstances why project wasn't completed:

What projects are you interested in implementing?

What is the cost estimate for the project? \$ _____

Is there an engineered design in place for the project? Yes ___ No ___

Total amount Farm is applying for \$ _____