

Winter/Spring 2020

Conservation Update

from the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District -

Phone #: (607) 724-9268 ext. 5

ASSISTING WITH THE COUNTIES' NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS — www.broomeswcd.org

Operation Arbor Green



Broome County's 51st Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway



Enclosed in this newsletter is this year's tree/shrub order form and information. The order form includes over 40 species of conservation trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and wildflowers, as well as, different variety pacs. New species for this year's sale include: Chinquapin Oak, Black Willow, Streamco Willow, Silky Dogwood, Spice Bush, Am. Hazelnut, Nannyberry, and Berry Pac. Also, included are some pollinator species: Redbud, Tulip Tree. Quantity conifer seedlings are available in groups of 25, 100, 250, 500, & 1000. Limited quantities of Fraser Fir and Sugar Maple are available. Refer to the species descriptions included with the order information for further details on the different plants. These bare-root seedlings are excellent for starting wildlife habitat, improving woodlots, and establishing protective cover on critical areas.

The order deadline is April 3rd with the pick up (at the District's shop facility) scheduled for Friday, April 17th. Quantities are limited and we tend to sell out of several species early. Therefore, please place your orders promptly as we may not be able to accommodate later orders. However, orders after the deadline will be accepted based on species availability. Some of our more popular species and/or those that tend to sell out quickly are: blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, cranberry, black cherry, black walnut, sugar maple, butterfly bush, fountain grass, day lilies, and fern pacs. All extra trees are sold at the pickup. Feel free to contact the District if you have any questions regarding Operation Arbor Green, the different species offered, and/or species selection. (607-724-9268 x5) or check our website: www.broomeswcd.org

Conservation Tree Spotlight: "Chinquapin Oak"



A worthy specimen for larger lawns, estates, or parks. A medium to large size oak with 4"-6 1/2" glistening dark green leaves in summer turning yellow-orange to orangish-brown in fall. Produces 1" sweet acorns that mature in a single season. The acorns are at the top of the food preference list for many wildlife species. The bark is an ashy light gray that breaks into narrow, thin flakes. As this species matures, it becomes a magnificent specimen and a conversation piece. Grows 40'-50' high with a similar spread under landscaping conditions, becoming 70'-80' high in the wild. Does best in well-drained soil and adapts to many different soil types. Grow in full sun. This tree grows at a slow to medium rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12" to 24" per year.

For more information on this tree and other trees the District offers visit www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide.

(information taken from Arbor Day plant website)

For more information on trees—check the District website - visit www.broomeswcd.org.



SPRING FISH SALE: Keep an eye on the Broome Soil & Water website for the spring fish sale. Trout, bass, catfish, minnows, bluegills, perch, crappie and grass carp will be offered again. There is only **ONE** fish program this year!
www.broomeswcd.org

News & Notes



HYDROSEEDING - 2019 REVIEW

By: Justin Puglisi



The Broome County SWCD completed the implementation phase of their Round XI - DEC Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Project – Continued Critical Area Seeding Grant. Since the award of this grant the district was able to do critical area seedings for local municipalities and school districts on a cost share basis with the State. Funding from this grant cycle was received in the Fall of 2015 and was used through the 2019 hydroseeding season. During the 2019 season, the District was able to hydroseed over 10 acres of critical areas for 6 different municipalities in the County. In total \$9,000.00 in State money was spent with contributions from the district, and the municipalities exceeding \$12,000.00 of in-kind labor match. Through the life of this grant the District was able to seed over 60 acres of critical areas in Broome County.

The District's hydroseeder is used to apply seed, fertilizer, and fiber mulch to local sites in need of stabilization. Such sites include: landfills, construction sites, stream banks, road banks, and ditches. The application of hydroseeding materials facilitates grass and legume growth, thus stabilizing these areas; preventing erosion, and ultimately reducing sediment and nutrient loading of our watersheds.

Looking ahead, the Broome SWCD has submitted an application to the DEC for another round of funding. The District expects monies from this round of funding to be used for implementation over the next couple years, depending on the amount of work requested each construction season. Any school district or municipality in need of a critical area seeding should contact Justin Puglisi at the Broome County SWCD at (607) 724-9268 x5.

Agricultural Environmental Management Program Update (AEM)



Funding through Round 26 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program available

By: Chip McElwee

New York State Agriculture and Markets announced that \$15 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State through Round 26 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program.

The Agricultural Nonpoint program awards projects that focus on either environmental planning or the implementation of best management practice systems on working farms to protect New York's watersheds. Projects include conservation measures, such as nutrient management through manure storage, vegetative buffers along streams and conservation cover crops.

Contact the Broome SWCD for further information regarding this grant program.

The Broome County Agricultural Environmental Management Implementation Program

Additionally, the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District partnered with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to deliver an AEM Implementation grant program supporting agricultural projects in Broome County.

The Broome County Agricultural Environmental Management Implementation Program awarded funding to eleven landowners for projects that increase farm production, advance on farm conservation or environmental goals. Projects funded included: Fencing, livestock watering improvements and buffer enhancements. The projects were funded up to \$15,000 per farm and required a 20% match of in-kind services or cash. All the projects were implementing parts of an AEM Tier 3 farm conservation plan.

(Continued on next page)



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Upcoming Events

Show Me the Money-Agriculture Tax Abatement & Incentive Programs— Thursday, January 28, 5:30-8 pm. \$ CCE -Broome County, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton. Come learn about a variety of agriculture tax abatement and incentive programs available to you! For more info contact CCE- Broome County Laura Biasillo (607 584-5007).

Exploring the Small Farm Dream— 4 Tuesdays, Feb. 4 -25 6-8:30 8:30 pm, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY. Participants will begin to think through small scale farming as a business, learn what it takes to start & manage a farm business & decide whether that is something you want to pursue. Classroom education, peer support & self study participants will finish the series being able to answer whether farming is for them & move onto working through a business plan. \$75/farm or family(2 registrations included) (light dinner provided), For Registration contact Laura Biasillo at CCE—(607)584-5007 or email lw257@cornell.edu

Annie's Project: Risk Mgmt for Farm Women— Thursdays, January 23—February 27, 9:30 a.m.-1:30pm - CCE Broome County—6 wk course designed especially for farm women to help them develop their mgmt & decision-making skills for their farms. For more info contact Laura Biasillo at CCE (607) 584-5007.

Develop a Business Plan for Your Farm—5 Saturdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1-4 pm— CCE Broome County, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY. Participants will work through the various sections of a business plan for their agricultural venture. Using a set of templates created by the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture as well as the NYS Small Business Development Center, sample worksheets will lend a practical perspective & illustrate how real farm families set goals, research processing alternatives, determine potential markets & evaluated financing options. Cost is \$100/farm, includes workbooks & other handouts provided at each meeting. For registration Contact Laura Biasillo at CCE (607)584-5007.

Winter 2019 Produce Safety-Alliance Grower Training—Monday March 11 9-5:30 and Tuesday March 12 9-3—\$100—CCE 840 Upper Front St. Binghamton, NY. Interested in produce safety? Markets asking for food safety plans or 3rd party verification? This training will give you the tools to create an on-farm food safety plan & complete 1 requirement of either FSMA or NYS Grown & Certified branding program. \$100/farm—Contact Laura Biasillo at CCE at (607)584-5007 to register and for more info.

2020 NY Farm Show, - February 27-29, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY,

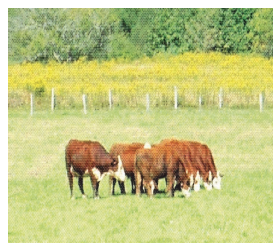
Ag Assessment Paperwork Due to Town Assessor by March 1st

District Tree Order Deadline - April 3 (orders will be accepted after this date if species is available)

District Tree Order Pick-Up - April 17; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon - April 30

2020 Empire Farm Days – Seneca Falls, NY - July 29-31, more info www.empirefarmdays.com



AEM - Continued

Since 1996 the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has had active participation in the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. The voluntary AEM program is a planning and implementation tool that provides a framework to address agriculture natural resource concerns and enhance farm sustainability. Historically, farmers as stewards of the land have done their part to protect soil and water resources. Through this stewardship, coupled with effective best management practices (BMPs) recommended by the AEM process, farms become the preferred land use to improve water quality and protect valuable natural resources. Additionally, through the AEM program federal, state, and local conservation programs are made to complement each other, allowing farmers to combine conservation practices to suit their operation.



Don't forget the Broome County Regional Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 840 Upper Front Street Binghamton, New York

AG ASSESSMENTS

- The paperwork needs to be to your assessor by March 1st, therefore you should contact the District and complete the necessary forms before Feb. 21. To learn more about the NYS Ag Assessment program & criteria go to www.orps.state.ny.us (look under tax policy & exemptions), contact your town tax assessor or contact the District office. (Eligibility: Land must consist of 7 acres or more & annual gross sales from agricultural products must average \$10,000 or more for preceding 2 years)(\$30 for new parcel, \$15 for revised parcel) (607-724-9268 x5).

Broome Co. Cornell Cooperative Extension contact info: 607-772-8953; <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/broome>

District Staff District Directors

Charles McElwee: Exec. Director
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Justin Puglisi: Grazing Specialist
vacant: Nat. Resource Asst.
Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.
Phil Zurheide: NRCS Soil Con.

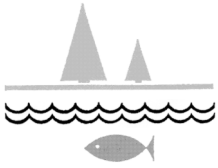
Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Erin Heard: Urban At-Large
Pete Shafer: Urban, At-Large
Scott Baker: Co. Legislative Rep
Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislative Rep
Alex Urda: (Vice-Chair) Agricultural Rep
Lester Price: (Treas.) Farm Bureau Rep



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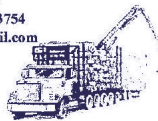
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