New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
October 2015

AgNPS Program: Congratulations to those Districts being awarded funds through Round 21 of the Ag Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. In the very near future, you will receive a memo regarding development of Plans of Work for your projects and more information about an upcoming Plan of Work Webinar. For planning purposes, your contract start date will be the date of your award letters (9/28/15). As a reminder, the SWCC strongly advises that you not incur any expenditures for which State reimbursement will be sought until you are in possession of an executed contract.

Interim Progress Reports for existing AgNPS projects are due November 1st.

Also, for any of you with Round 16 and 17 contracts, end dates are approaching (or have past) and close-outs need to be completed with 60 days of contract end dates. If you are requesting an extension on these grants (or any other amendment requests), they must be approved by the AEA and in Albany by October 9th to be considered for the next SWCC meeting. The newly adopted Amendment Procedure is now posted on the Sharepoint.

2016 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): Plans written for the 2016 calendar year should be submitted to your Regional AEA by November 1st, 2015. This will allow time for your AEA to review, provide feedback and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the December 2015 meeting. Plans submitted after 11/1 will impact your 2016 Performance Measures.

2016 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance – 2016 Part B proposals are due 11/1/15 along with a signed hard copy of the Claim for Payment form. Funds will be dispersed in December 2015 and projects are to be completed by 12/31/16.

Climate Resilient Farming: The RFP for Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) is due out any day. Plans call for applications for the CRF RFP are due Dec 7. The pilot program is intended to help farmers reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change. There is funding available for three tracks: manure storage cover and flare systems; on farm riparian, floodplain, and upland water management systems; and soil health systems. Applications must go through the Grants Gateway, and more information will be available on the Department website and SharePoint.

SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene on October 15th and 16th, in Batavia, NY. The 1st day will consist of the general business meeting with discussion items to include: formation of the Genesee River Coalition of Conservation Districts; NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Program and; other Great Lakes related initiatives. The 2nd day will consist of a morning conservation tour that will include site visits that focus upon: Soil Health and a WNY Conservation Tillage Alliance; the Genesee River Basin & the Trees for Tributaries Program and; Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Climate Adaptation. If interested in attending either day of the meeting, please RSVP to Marilyn Sanford by 10/9 (Marilyn.sanford@agriculture.ny.gov).

Upcoming Statewide Manager's and Program Administration Meeting – The SWCC is currently in the process of planning a Fall Statewide Manager's and Program Administration Meeting. The meeting is scheduled to convene on November 17th and 18th, at the Greek Peak Mountain Resort and Conference Center in Cortland, NY. Training topics will include, but are not limited to: State Aid to Districts; Contract/Grants Program Management; Ag Non-Point Source Grants; AEM Base Program; Climate Resilient Farming Program (note, this was listed in error as "Community Resilient Agriculture" on the recent announcement emailed to Districts); etc. Funding is available to support attendance of 3 individuals per District. It is strongly encouraged that at least 1 person per District attend this training. District Directors are also encouraged to attend this meeting. The meeting would qualify as attendance at a Regional/Statewide meeting for Performance Measures. More information about the meeting agenda, lodging, and meeting registration will be released shortly

NYACD Annual Meeting: The NYACD Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 20th to the 22nd at the Radisson Hotel in Utica. Information has been sent out already and reservations are due back to Lewis County Soil and Water by October 4th: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16mA7I4ySrE4Zn12D4_AOz4ZeDKwY-JSmJzE01IiiCow/viewform

Other Upcoming Events

Southern Tier Field Day – October 16th 2015, 9:30am – 3:30pm, Hosted by Big Flats Plant Materials Center, 3266 NY-352, Big Flats, NY 14814. This event is for Small Scale/ Organic Vegetable Growers and Grain Producers. There will also be a tour of Cover Crop Demonstration Plots. To register, go to:

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=fzz4ttqab&oeidk=a07ebazbqlv59c0ed3d. For additional information contact paul.salon@ny.usda.gov or by calling 607-562-8404.

Southern Tier Cover Crop and Soil Health Workshop - November 6th, 2015, 9:45am - 3:30pm, Hosted by Big Flats Plant Materials Center, 3266 NY-352, Big Flats, NY 14814. This event will focus on larger scale operations and will feature a number of presentations. There will also be a tour of Cover Crop Demonstration Plots.
To register, go to: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=fzz4ttqab&oeidk=a07eban6peya1a81ef5. For additional information contact paul.salon@ny.usda.gov or by calling 607-562-8404.

Floodplain Management and Coastal Erosion Training - NYSDEC is sponsoring floodplain management training across NY. Full day sessions are being offered to go over floodplain and National Flood Insurance Program topics, including understanding flood maps and floodplain development requirements. Separate half day sessions will cover FEMA levee mapping requirements and New York State coastal erosion hazard area standards. This training is free of charge. For a complete training schedule and to register please go to: http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/101275.html

SWCD Law Webinar – The State Committee will host a webinar on District Law Thursday, November 5th at 10am. To register for this webinar go to https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=r2178b669bf193cb32ce99ded02d4c70e. Upon registration you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the webinar. District Law training is required for Directors every three years. This training counts towards PM 1b & 1c training of District board members and employees. Contact Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov for questions.