

Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Staff Report

Name: Paul Gier

Month: May

Agriculture (137.0 hrs)

- Reviewing the process and steps for creating Tier III plans that have resulted from meeting with cooperators seeking farmstead improvements. Site visits to existing cooperators seeking assistance in manure storage projects, silage leachate mitigation systems, heavy use and barn yard concrete pad areas, and fencing with stream crossing layouts. Meeting with new clients interested in AEM participation as a result of increased communication working among and between farmers.

Water Quality (0 hrs)

- I spent no time on Water Quality projects this month.

Stormwater (0 hrs)

- I spent no time working on Stormwater projects this month

Invasive Species (0 hrs)

I spent no time working on Invasive species projects

District Operations (23 hrs)

Staff Meetings (*Goal/Action/Activity)

- Attending scheduled staff meetings during May.

General Office operations

- Answering phone calls, emails.
- Continued training on AEM Tier III planning.

Personnel Development/Training (* Goal/Action/Activity) (11 hours)

- Attended pasture management and grazing workshop training at HighLands Farm, Marathon, NY. Attended by farmers and CCE staff. Excellent review on early season pasture management regarding extended grazing, mowing, and baling consideration. Continued focus on soil health and testing.

- Attended soil health workshop at Good Life Farm, Interlaken NY. Course focused on soil health with respect to tillage choices, intercropping practices in orchards and cover cropping. Rotational grazing practices for beef and turkey are integral to the soil health of the farm

Earned Income (0 hours)

Education & Outreach (8 hours)

- Participated in Envirothon event at Hobart and Smith College in Geneva. Represented Tompkins County as a team chaperone for the 6 test stations. Very rewarding experience as I had the chance to meet and work with talented students from several counties.
- Attended Southern Tier District meeting with State Ag and Markets regarding the status of the STAIEP program. Anxiously awaiting either acceptance or rejection of our 10 applicants during round 1 of the grant program.