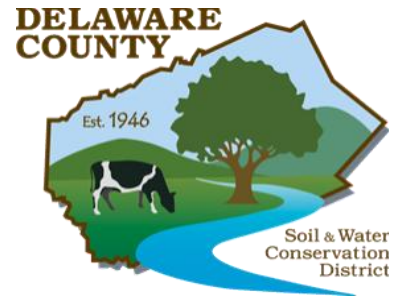


SOIL & WATER ADVOCATE



Winter 2025-2026

December 31, 2025

1946—2026

**80 YEARS OF
CONTINUOUS
CONSERVATION
PROGRESS**

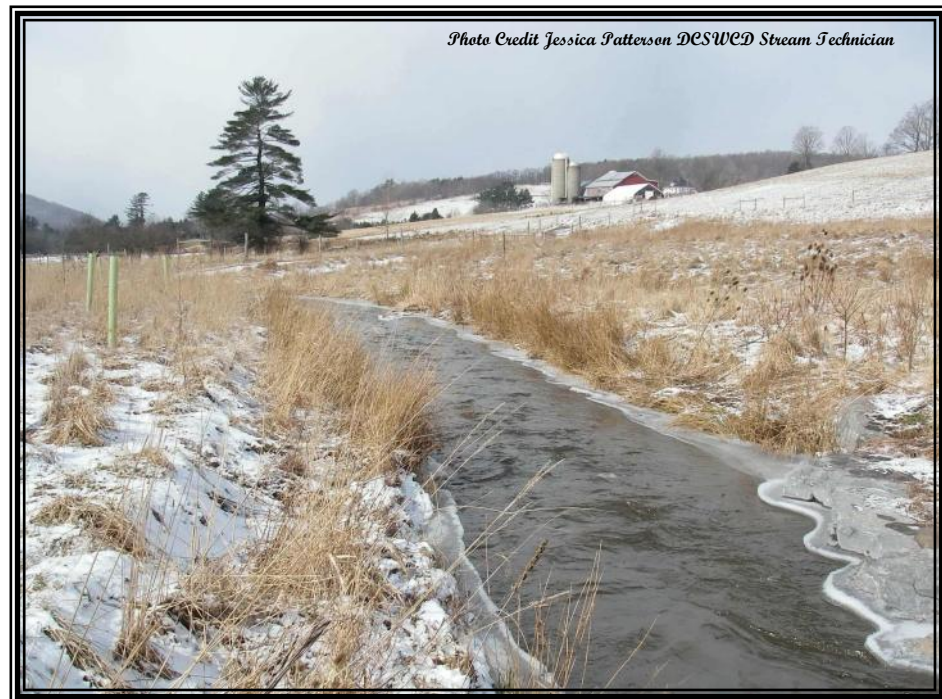
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- Tree and Shrub Info and Order Form ** 12-15
Now online ordering available at dcswwd.org!

*** Check out 2026 poster info contest on last page!

A Message from Graydon Dutcher, Interim Executive Director

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District will be celebrating its 80th year on November 18th, 2026. Celebrated are the many years of dedicated soil and water conservation, flood mitigation, assistance to our highly valuable farming community, local municipalities, organizations, and individual landowners throughout Delaware County as well as New York State and beyond. Our DCSWCD has successfully implemented and assisted in many programs throughout the region with the help of our many partnering agencies. We are looking forward to numerous changes within our district, and we are excited to explore new opportunities that will positively shape our vision and the values of environmental conservation going forward. We are always striving to make the most of every opportunity for Delaware County, and this dedication will drive our mission well into the future.



DCSWCD
44 West Street, Suite 1
Walton, NY 13856
607-865-7161

From all of us at Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District

Approach the new year with the resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.

Happy New Year to you and your family.



Delaware County SWCD

Directors

- Bruce Dolph, Chair**
Grange Representative, Town of Walton
- Andy Kiraly, Vice-Chair**
Farm Bureau Representative, Town of Franklin
- George Haynes, Supervisor Representative**
Town of Kortright
- Jim Ellis, Supervisor Representative**
Town of Meredith
- Jeff Taggart, Practical Farmer**
Town of Franklin
- Jerry Fraine, Member-at-Large Representative**
Town of Meredith
- Frank Bachler, Lifetime Honorary Member**
Town of Meredith

Staff

- Graydon Dutcher** —Interim Executive Director
- Mike Burud** —Secretary/Treasurer
- Danielle Morrell** —Data and Budget Specialist
- Donna Wood** —Administrative Aide, Editor

Susquehanna Watershed Program

- Nora Mosher** —Technician
- Jay Czerniak** —Technician
- Ian Gedicks** —Technician
- Olivia DeMott** —Technician
- Stevie Wrighter** —Technician

NYC Watershed Agricultural Program

- Kyle Buel** —Technical Coordinator
- Chris Savage** —Civil Engineering Technician
- Solvei Blue** —Technician
- David Adams** —Technician/P.E.
- Silus Weckel** —Technician
- Vacant** —Technician
- Justine McNeilly** —Technician
- Vacant** —Planner
- Brian Caruso** —Systems Manager

Stream Corridor Management Program

- Jeff Russell** —Program Coordinator
- Vacant** —Project Engineer
- Gale Neale** —Engineer
- Jessica Patterson** —Technician
- Vacant** —Technician
- Mike Coryat** —Technician
- Jay Dinga** —Data and Budget Specialist
- Julie Merwin** —Data and Budget Specialist
- Catherine Skalda** —CSBI Coordinator



PARTNERING AGENCIES

- Brian Sheridan** —County Executive Director
- Burkley Boest** —Program Technician



PARTNERING AGENCIES CONT.

- Tony Capraro** —ASTC - FO
- Vacant** —District Conservationist
- Quentin Gahan** —Area Resource Conservationist
- Brandon Dennis** —Resource Conservationist
- Dan Flaherty** —Resource Conservationist
- Rachel Buchner** —Resource Conservationist
- Paula Bagley** —State Conservation Engineer



- Dale Dewing** —CCE Team Leader
- Paul Cerosaletti** —CIG Coordinator
- Rich Toebe** —WAP Dairy/Livestock Educator
- Kim Holden** —Administrative Assistant
- April Wright-Lucas** —Feed Management Planner
- Jim Romack** —Feed Management Planner
- Meghan Potter** —PFM Team Leader



- Connor Young** —Agricultural Program Manager
- Brian LaTourette** —Program Operations Coordinator
- Nate Townsend** —Whole Farm Planning Coordinator
- John Jackson** —Database Manager
- Kristan Morley** —Economic Viability Manager
- Heather Magnan** —Communications Director
- Ben Hendee** —GIS Coordinator
- Sara Bolton** —Pure Catskills Specialist
- Jimmy Sietsma** —Database/GIS Specialist
- Chelsea Ingram** —WAP Procurement/Contract Officer
- Lorinda Pierce** —Executive Assistant
- Kaitlin Condon** —Executive Assistant
- Racheal House** —Admin. Ass't to the WAP
- Nate Whittaker** —Engineering Specialist
- Zachary Wildenstein** —Engineering Specialist
- Rick Hochuli** —Engineering Specialist
- Rob Orleski** —Engineering Specialist
- Ben Green** —Engineering Specialist
- Steve Steenland** —Engineering Specialist
- Pete Steenland** —Technician/Engineering Coordinator
- Tim Hebbard** —WIRC Specialist
- Cindy McCarthy** —Nutrient Mgmt./PFM Coordinator
- Nate Nero** —Nutrient Management Specialist
- Garrett Olsen** —Nutrient Management Specialist
- Kari Sheridan** —Sr. Nutrient Management Specialist
- Ben Hepler** —Nutrient Mgmt. Specialist
- Troy Bookhout** —Conservation Planner
- Dan Deysenroth** —Conservation Planner
- Dan Vredenburg** —Conservation Planner
- Dan Gehl** —Conservation Planner
- Tristan Tait** —Conservation Planner
- Jessica Davis** —Conservation Planner
- Erin Cornell** —Conservation Planner
- Camberly VanValkenburg** —Ass't. Whole Farm Planner
- Shylabeth Taylor** —Precision Feed Mgmt. Specialist
- Vera Neroni** —CREP/CSBI Planner
- Morgan Hughes** —EV Communications Executive Ass't

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Staff



Check out the New Business Signage for all of our partners!

Left to Right Front Row: Theresa Cerosaletti, Danielle Morrell, Mike Coryat, James Leo, Nora Mosher, Mike Burud, Julie Merwin, Ian Gedicks, Donna Wood, Silus Weckel, Jay Dinga, Olivia DeMott, Jay Czerniak, Dave Adams, Kiana Bacon
 Back Row: Kyle Buel, Graydon Dutcher, Gale Neale, Brian Caruso, Jessica Patterson, Rachel Davis, Justine McNeilly, Jeff Russell, Stevie Wrighter, Chris Savage

DCSWCD Welcomes New Hires



New hire at DCSWCD **Olivia DeMott** started with us as a Buffer Steward intern summer 2024; now she is a full-time Program Technician with additional District E & O duties.

Olivia graduated from SUNY Cobleskill Spring of 2025 receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management and minor in English writing concentration.

Olivia loves being outdoors, creating music, reading and writing! Welcome Olivia!



We also welcome **Stevie Wrighter**, new hire as a Program Technician for the Susquehanna Program. Stevie received her Fisheries and Aquaculture Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Cobleskill in 2024. She worked at the Fisheries and Aquaculture SUNY Cobleskill program and fishery and research with USGS NYS and in Iowa prior to joining our Sus crew first as a Buffer Steward Intern.

Stevie loves to be outdoors; especially when there is a waterbody nearby!

DCSWCD Staff in New Roles

Nora Mosher



New to the Susquehanna Watershed Program, I spent the last 7+ years as a DCSWCD technician with the NYC Watershed Ag Program; implementation being my primary focus. In my new position with the Susquehanna Watershed Program, my scope of work is from AEM Tier 1 inventory to implementation and beyond. I look forward to the new challenges as part of the "Sus Crew".

Jeff Russell



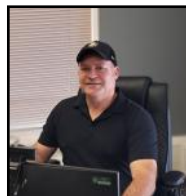
I have worked for the Soil & Water Conservation District for 16 years. I started my career in the Watershed Ag Program as an Ag Technician, I moved into the Stream Program in 2011 following Hurricane Irene and Lee as a Stream Program Technician. Over the last 14 years I have worked on the design and implementation of restoration projects, program SMIP grants, and LFA's. I'm excited to start my new role within the program as the Stream Program Manager.

Kyle Buel



In late October 2025, I have begun a new chapter in my career as the new Technical Coordinator within the Watershed Agricultural Program. Previously, I was a District Technician with the SWCD Core Program for fourteen years. I was heavily involved with the implementation of many conservation projects within the Susquehanna Watershed. I am excited for the new opportunities and relationships within the Watershed Ag Program.

Graydon Dutcher



DCSWCD has been my work home for 26 years. As a Civil Engineering Technician in the Watershed Agricultural Program I enjoyed learning about and designing all the farming engineering practices including the programs first covered barnyard. In 2009 I was asked to join our Stream Team as the Stream Program Coordinator to begin the implementation era of stream restoration in Delaware County. I learned a great deal from our staff and all of our communities alike through the years and am thankful to share in our programs' successes. I'm looking forward to leading the District by setting a high bar for our staff to reach with a vision of long term sustainability.



Federal Grant Allows Local Advancements in Farming Technology

Joleanna Holstein (Johnson Family Farm), Unadilla, New York
By Olivia DeMott, DCSWCD Program Technician and Edu. Outreach. 9/5/2025

Historical Delaware County is well-known for farming and crop abundance and modern-day technology brings mechanical advancements to enhance local farmer's abilities to grow and harvest their crops. These advancements include implementation of designed cow manure storage, as well as the implementation of prescribed manure injection on cropland during the growing season. Both of which allow for more effective manure nutrient recycling and reduced risk of nutrient loss to the environment.

On Friday, August 29, 2025, the local Delaware County community and further regions witnessed a pivotal event in the county's agriculture advancement at Joleanna Holstein farm (Derek, Erin, Luke and Janette Johnson and family) Unadilla, New York. The farm hosted the first Delaware County Manure Injection Field Day and the 2025 growing season had seen Delaware County's first-ever disc coultter manure injection using precision ag technology on agricultural cropland. This achievement was made possible through a \$3 million, 3-year federal Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) project awarded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services to the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD). Sustainable Chesapeake cosponsored the event as well. The project is coordinated and implemented by DCSWCD with the help of partnering agencies through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (CCEDC), Watershed Agriculture Council (WAC), PRO Dairy, Cornell University Nutrient Management Spear Program, USDA Natural resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The event consisted of informational presentations in the morning, lunch hosted by Brad Taggart (with the addition of locally loved, home-grown Johnson's sweet corn) and live manure injection demonstrations. There also was a manure spill response demonstration to close the day. Introductory statements and gratitude were opened by Paul Cerosaletti (CCEDC and CIG Project Coordinator), with further statements from Graydon Dutcher (DCSWCD interim Executive Director), Gideon Frisbee (NYS Department of Ag and Markets Environmental Analyst) and Tony Capraro (USDA NRCS NY Assistant State Conservationist). Presentations on the value of manure injection were made by Kirsten Workman (PRO Dairy nutrient management specialist) and Dr. Quirine Ketterings (Director, Cornell University Nutrient Management Spear Program), as well as a panel of local Delaware County farmers and agriculture businessmen.

The panel included farmers, Derek Johnson and Mark Kenyon of Marick Farms, Jim and Matt Gray of NelJean Farms (who provided their personal manure injection unit for demonstration), Frank Albano of Albano's Precision Application (APA), and Kirsten Workman of PRO Dairy. The afternoon session included the live manure injection demonstration into both sod and corn stubble, featuring both APA, and Gray's manure injectors. The last demonstration of the day was the manure spill response display. Thank you to Pro Dairy, the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Manure Spill Response team and the Watershed Agriculture Council for coordination of a safe, effective, and informative demonstration of techniques that farmers and agency professionals can use in real-life scenarios on the farm. Approximately 102 people attended the Manure Injection Field Day, including agency representatives, farmers, local community members, and even U.S. 19th district congressman, Josh Riley. Riley had even proudly taken his picture in one of the manure injector units with APA operator, John Albano.

Disc coultter manure injection technology includes a tool bar of multiple disc coultters attached to a liquid manure tanker. The tool bar includes multiple hose attachments leading to a rolling vertical, 20-inch disc coultters that create an incision 3-6 inches below the ground surface into which manure is injected from tubes that hover a couple inches above the incision. With a tractor pulling at a relatively slow speed (approximately of 3-6 miles per hour), the typical rate of application is anywhere from 4000 to 14,000 gallons per acre or more, depending on the crop. Precision ag-technology helps to maintain the desired rate across the field as well as create digital as-applied manure maps and records. Injection of manure keeps the manure below the soil surface with very minimal disruption, resulting in manure nutrients being more available to crops, increasing crop yields and reducing nutrient runoff risks. Additionally, injection greatly reduces odor and is appreciated by neighbors, which has alone raised popularity of this technique. For the manure spill demonstration, a ditch and culvert mechanism was pre-built for a tanker to "spill" a small volume of manure into. Staff then demonstrated various spill containment techniques. Cleanup of the spill was demonstrated using special pumps and a large vacuum truck; water from a firetruck (Unadilla Fire Department) was used to demonstrate dilution techniques.

The day was a success, leaving attendees in awe of the available technology that modern day agriculture brings, now making its way to Delaware County. The \$3 million federal Conservation Innovation Grant project will allow for local Delaware County farmers to have this technology at their fingertips for at least 3 years, through Albano's Precision Application, located in Stamford, New York. In the future, with concern for local farming, as well as environmental conservation efforts, additional grant funding will be sought in hopes of continuing the project for years to come after 2027.



CIG Project 2025 Implementation - By the Numbers

- 23 participating farms;
- 14,902,216 gallons liquid manure applied;
- 2,299 acres of liquid manure injected;
- 57 lbs per acre manure ammonia N conserved through injection
- 131,043 lbs total manure ammonia nitrogen conserved through injection;
- \$98,282 value of manure N conserved through injection;
- 7,104 tons of semi-solid manure applied on 1,047 acres;
- 15 manure storages emptied, 3 more than once;
- 277 attendees at 4 different educational events

Riparian Forest Buffers: A Multifunctional Tool for Ecosystem Services

By Catherine Skalda, DCSWCD CSBI Coordinator

The DCSWCD's Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) is a riparian (streamside) buffer planting program that assists landowners throughout the Cannonsville and Pepacton watersheds to implement practices that help improve and protect their streamside properties and habitats by planting native trees and shrubs.

Riparian buffers are like nature's superheroes when it comes to protecting our streams! Native trees, shrubs, and other plants in these buffers act as natural filters, soaking up harmful pollutants like fertilizers, animal waste, sediment, and road salt. They intercept these contaminants coming from agricultural fields, lawns, and roads, keeping them from polluting our streams and rivers. Native buffers also do a fantastic job of slowing down surface runoff, allowing rainwater to soak into the soil and replenish groundwater sources. This helps in reducing flood levels, too!

Riparian buffers are a great way to support our native wildlife. They offer a safe space for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles by providing food, water, and nesting areas. But it doesn't stop there! A healthy riparian buffer creates a cozy environment for aquatic life, like our native trout, keeping streams cool and free from harmful sediment and pollutants. It also provides food and shelter for all sorts of tiny creatures living in the water.



A newly planted riparian forest buffer along a stream. Restoring and protecting forest buffers can help in safeguarding clean drinking water while also providing long-term climate benefits.



Field crew monitoring a riparian buffer planting and wildflower meadow. A Multifunctional Buffer protects and filters upland flow from adjacent upland areas, and supports wildlife and pollinators with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.



Tree tubes protect the young plants from damage by deer and other critters. Weed mats and other weed-control methods help reduce competition from surrounding vegetation. Tubes are removed when plants grow large enough.



A native Virginia Ctenucha Moth (pronounced (ten-OOCH-ah)) on a native Buttonbush flower.



Catskill Streams
Buffer Initiative
At the Root of Streamside Protection

CSBI has helped many streamside landowners improve their streamside habitat and protect their streams. This past year, CSBI planted almost 7,000 trees and shrubs along our Delaware County streams, helping to protect over 25 acres of streamside habitat (more than 20 football fields in size), and over a mile of stream.

The DCSWCD's CSBI program has been helping landowners for over 17 years, and in that time the program has planted over 50,000 trees and shrubs along almost 18 miles of stream, improving over 200 acres of streamside habitat.

But planting isn't the only thing we do in order to install and maintain a working buffer and have a successful program. It takes a lot of work, time, and commitment to ensure the success of these buffer plantings. Another practice that is needed in many of our planting sites includes controlling invasive plant species, such as Japanese knotweed, which is often a multi-year process.

But it doesn't stop there. Successful buffers also require regular maintenance and monitoring for the first few years, to ensure that new plants are thriving. Tree tubes are checked and removed when it's time and plant survival rates are measured.

So, by installing, monitoring, and maintaining these buffers, we're not just protecting our waterways; we're also supporting a vibrant ecosystem for all kinds of wildlife! If interested in learning more contact Catherine Skalda at info@dcswcd.org.



Common invasive plants of riparian areas: Japanese knotweed, Multi-flora Rose, Bush honeysuckle, Autumn Olive. A lot of effort is involved with removing or controlling these species at some planting sites. These invasives do not support our native wildlife and pollinators and can quickly outcompete native plants for space and other resources. Many are also allelopathic and keep other plants from growing around them.

4 Generations on the Delaware River and Counting

~ Story of Schaefer Farms/Enterprises, Deposit, New York ~

By Olivia DeMott, DCSWCD Program Technician and Edu. Outreach



Lonny Schaefer and his family with one of their beefers in the background.

The ability to farm is a gift. Natural ecosystems where agriculture exists require conservation practices. A mindset that is not typically adopted by all farmers. New-generation farmers, however, are adopting advancing technologies, and even including farming approaches with modernization and extensive education and outreach. Schaefer Farms has set an example for generations in the local agriculture community with not only the variety of practices, but in their conservation approaches while reaching their agriculture goals.

A light conversation with any of the Schaefer's can lead to the conclusion that family comes first. In the Schaefer family, that cannot happen without a mindful and dynamic approach to this family's solid business practices. Soil and water health, as well as sound forestry practices have been a priority in their farming and forestry operations over the years. Lonny Schaefer, who not only has an education in Agricultural Sciences, but also has years of firsthand experience implementing these conservation practices on their farm. Lonny is happy to say that the quality of their operation has only increased by utilizing conservation practices. The family currently practices no-till on crop fields and multi-species cover crop rotations on their farm.

No-till and the use of cover cropping creates a healthy soil ecosystem. These practices increase soil stability through root development, assists in drainage, and assists in water and nutrient retention. This is knowledge that the Schaefer family farm acquired quickly and began utilizing. Success is often visible in outputs like crop yield, but it does not tell the whole story. Behind those numbers are countless challenges. The Schaefer Farm is no different.

A major, long-endured adversity that has ultimately stripped the Schaefer's of approximately 100 feet of river-front crop fields thus far, is the West Branch of the Delaware River. Butler Brook, a tributary to the Delaware River, is a small stream that once flowed from Broome County into the village of Deposit but was redirected in 1980 from its original, gradual flow. The brook no longer flows in its original path, but is now directed perpendicular to the Delaware River, and even pointing slightly upstream—a rather unnatural scenario but was ultimately done to avoid flooding within the village. This alteration has caused stress and severe erosion on the opposite, downstream bank of the Delaware River. With the help of this rather aggressively directed water flow of current Butler Brook, the power of the

Before streambank stabilization--highly erodible bank in which sediment was being deposited downstream.



Delaware River's flow has eroded at the riverbanks of the Schaefer's cropland for approximately 15 years to date, depositing bedload from Butler Brook downstream. Though the silty loam soils are ideal for growing the family's successful crops, it creates susceptibility to stream bank erosion—essentially the perfect conditions for the Delaware River to do its damage. In relationship with Delaware County's Soil and Water Conservation District, a streambank stabilization project was completed in the summer of 2025, on the banks of the West Branch of the Delaware River.

After years of noticing streambank erosion issues, the Schaefer's reached out to the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District in hopes of assistance. With this, also came their predetermined values in environmental conservation; the realization arose that this is not only threatening to the farmland, but is a conservation resource concern in sediment runoff, nutrient runoff, turbidity, and major downstream deposition. In 2017, an initial site visit was made to Schaefer Farms by DCSWCD; however, issues unexpectedly arose with design approvals and permitting. The Schaefer's plan was halted. Forward to the spring of 2024, the Schaefer's reached out to our Districts partnering agencies, and began the permitting process independently. A reconnection with DCSWCD was made in the fall of that year, and the project was approved in the fall of 2024. The Delaware County Soil and Water District was able to complete a design, grants fell into place, and Schaefer's streambank erosion restoration project became reality in the summer of 2025. Today, the silty loam soils are supported by approximately 300 feet of rip-rap or large rocks that are placed in the dug-out bank to serve as stabilization and water flow redirection. Between these large rocks, live willow tree stakes were planted a few inches below the waterline that will eventually blossom into another form of buffer between the river and their cropland. With these tactics, the streambank is now shielded, and cropland erosion concerns are drastically lessened, preserving the hard years work that the Schaefer's put into their crop success on their fields. Not to mention, this section of the Delaware River hosts one of the best trout fisheries in the state. That is due to the shallow waters and cold temperatures flowing out of the Cannonsville Reservoir. With this management practice, the unique stream ecosystem and ideal fishery is only enhanced with the presence of the rip-rap and eventually flourishing of the live willow stakes that will create habitat for the trout.

After streambank stabilization—large, durable rocks (rip-rap) installed into the bank with live willow stakes planted in between, to facilitate stream buffering.



Every farm in the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District database has a story, and Schaefer Farms sure have a long-lived story of their own. The families' primary goal is to keep progressing through their generations on the Delaware River, and a large part of the next generations success lies in the security of this generation—which means security of the Delaware River streambank, only mere feet from the river's edge is their farms livelihood.

DCSWCD prioritizes approachability, strategic technical support, and personalized assistance to each farm they assist. Credit to the hard work, dedication, and persistence of these farmers—the Schaefer's. Credit to the quality work of the DCSWCD, and credit to partnering agencies, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This is a prime example of where agriculture meets environmental conservation—Schaefer's Farm being one of many Environmental Best Management Practices (BMP's) with the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Welcome to the kids page!

Here's an idea for your next science project



Soil Filtration Experiment

Step 1&2-make filter

1. Cut bottle in half, cover end with coffee filter, secure with rubber band, invert and place in remaining bottle
2. Add layers of sand, soil, pebbles, and small stones

Step 3-dirty water

3. Dirty water (mix soil and water)
4. Slowly pour the dirty water into the top of the filter system you made

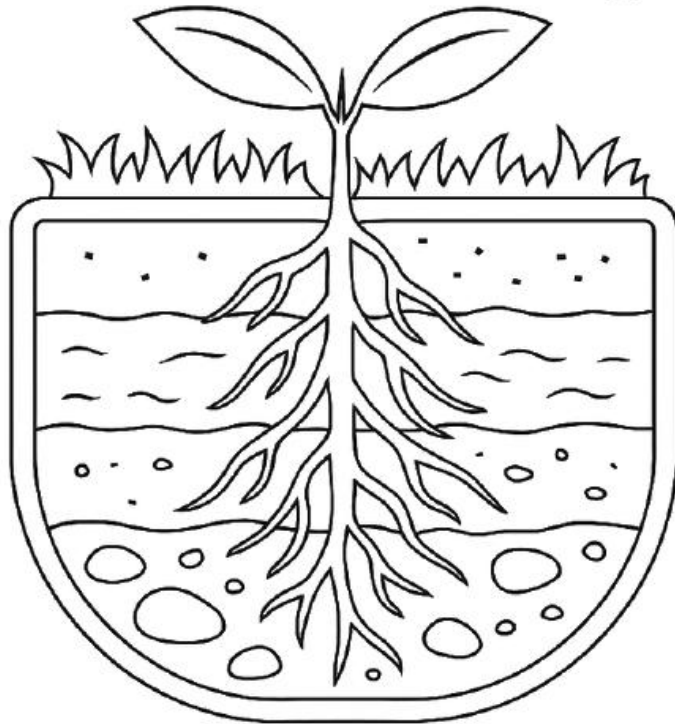
Lastly-conclusion

The water runs out of the bottom of the filter clean!

Soil

coloring activity

Where it all Begins



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Stewardship Week 2026

Artist: _____

Soil



Conservation districts across the country work every day to protect this vital resource. Through education, technical support, and local partnerships, they help landowners and communities keep soil healthy, productive, and resilient. Districts also provide free educational resources to schools, families, and community groups to inspire the next generation of soil stewards and help people of all ages connect with conservation in meaningful ways. Whether it is helping farmers manage erosion or supporting school gardens in town, conservation districts lead the way in caring for the land.

Calendar

Walton Agricultural Conservation Center

2026 Events

- ◆ **January 2026 - Catskill Regional Agricultural Conference**
- ◆ **January 2026 - DCSWCD Tree and Shrub Sale begins-get your order in!**
- ◆ **March 1, 2026 - Agricultural Assessment Paperwork due**
- ◆ **March 2, 2026 - DCSWCD Tree and Shrub ordering ends**
- ◆ **April 11, 2026 - DCSWCD Tree and Shrub Sale pick up**
- ◆ **April 2026 - SUNY Delhi Earth Day Planting**
- ◆ **May 2026 - NYS Envirothon Competition**
- ◆ **May 2026 - New Pure Catskill Guides issued**
- ◆ **May 2026 - National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week**
- ◆ **May 2026 - Walton Central School District Career Day**
- ◆ **May 2026 - Macroinvertebrate Activity with Stamford School**
- ◆ **June 2026 - Meredith Dairy Fest**
- ◆ **July 2026 - CCE 96th Annual Delaware County Farm Tour**
- ◆ **July 2026 - Crop Reporting due**
- ◆ **August 2026 - Delaware County Fair**
- ◆ **August 2026 - DCSWCD Fish Sale begins**
- ◆ **September 2026 - Clean Sweep**
- ◆ **September 2026 - NACD Poster Contest Starts! See us for poster boards!**
- ◆ **September 2026 - Cauliflower Festival**
- ◆ **September 2026 - Delhi Harvest Festival**
- ◆ **September 2026 - Bovina Farm Day**
- ◆ **October 2026 - DCSWCD Fish Program Sale pick up**
- ◆ **October 2026 - Hootenanny-Maple Shade Farm**
- ◆ **October 2026 - Belleayre Fall Fest**
- ◆ **October 2026 - Ag Program Farm Tour**
- ◆ **October 2026 - NACD Posters Handed into DCSWCD**
- ◆ **Economic Viability Micro-Grants/contact office for specific information**

Byebrook Farm gets much needed updates

By Nora Mosher, DCSWCD Program Technician

Byebrook Farm owned and operated by Paul, Gwen and Dennis Deysenroth, is an 8th generation dairy farm, home to 40 Holstein cows plus youngstock on 215 acres. The farm produces high quality raw milk that is bottled daily and sold at the farm stand alongside their Gouda Cheese and other local products.

Deysenroth's have been watershed participants since 1992 and were one of the original 10 pilot farms. There have been many Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented on the farm, such as a manure storage, calf facility and several grazing practices. The barnyard was identified as a resource concern in the original whole farm plan in the early 1990's, but was never implemented. It was not implemented due to the complexity of barnyard area and manure exit. It took several years of planning before a design was approved and finalized in 2021. The project was constructed April through August of 2025.

The design consisted of a covered barnyard, manure push off, manure room, culvert crossing, re-directed barn cleaner, and dairy stalls constructed at the Deysenroth's expense.

The first challenge for this project was to design a barnyard that could provide a common area for manure collection from 2 different barns with 24" difference in floor elevations, while keeping the concrete floor slope safe for dairy cow traffic. Also required was livestock access to their rotational grazing systems through and around the proposed barnyard. JESS Engineering PLLC, NRCS whole farm planner Daniel Flaherty and DCSWCD Program Technician Nora Mosher met with Paul and Dennis for many months and came up with a covered barnyard design that satisfied their needs and management objectives, while addressing the resource concerns.

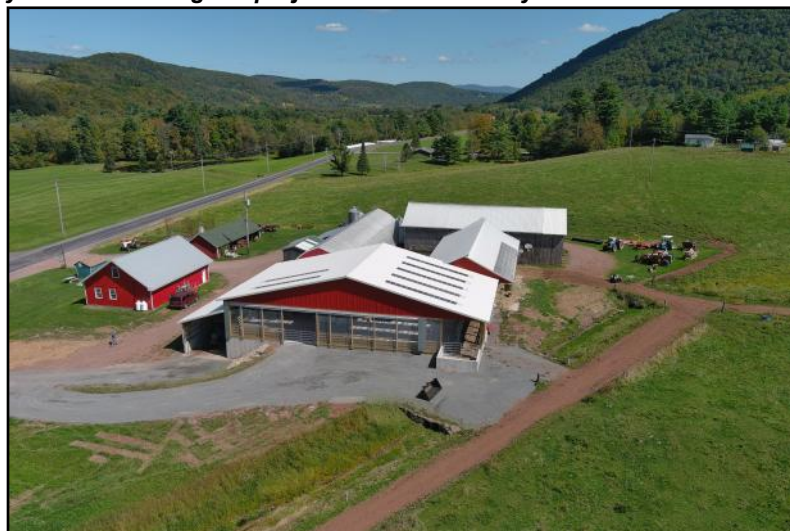
Designing began in earnest in 2021, and by July of 2024, a construction-ready design was completed: 51 FT X 92 FT covered concrete barnyard with a manure push-off and re-directed barn cleaner to a roofed manure transfer room sized to park the manure spreader beneath the push-off and barn cleaner. The milkhouse waste and cheese house waste is pumped to the manure transfer room for disposal as well. Access road/livestock walkway with re-paired/lengthened culvert crossing, management and diversion of clean water, board fencing, and retractable curtains to facilitate the existing dairy barn ventilation system complete the project.



Byebrook Farm barnyard before designed project.



Byebrook before retractable curtain installed.



Byebrook Farm after project completion drone photo.



NACD Calling all Delaware County Youth Artists!

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted our annual 3rd National Association of Conservation District Poster Contest. We received 122 posters from the talented kids in Delaware County! The fun posters featured this year's theme of "Home is where the Habitat is". This contest is open to **ALL** Delaware County youth grades K-12 (including homeschoolers, Boy/Girl Scouts, summer programs, FFA, clubs or any individual child).

One winning poster from each category will be picked by the employees at 44 West St. building to move on to the State Level. From there those winners have the potential to move on to the National Level. The national contest offers cash prizes to the top three posters in each category.

First-place \$200.00

Second-place \$150.00

Third-place \$100.00

Winners are announced in February 2026 at NACD's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

We hope that you enjoy the posters and the creativity of the students as much as we did. We are looking forward to seeing next year's posters. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Wood or Jessica Patterson.



Above artwork in February 2025 Shon K. from Franklin Central School was awarded 3rd place in the 10th-12th grade Poster Contest category from National Association Conservation Districts Annual meeting in Utah! Shon was awarded \$100.00 from NACD for his accomplishments! Awesome job Shon! You can preview his work on flickr at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nacd/54305047733/in/album-72177720323577625>

Our district held an office recipe contest this past October. The criteria were either a main dish or dessert with at least one local producer ingredient used in the recipe. Here's this year's winner: Cindy McCarthy-dessert!

Soil.
Where it all Begins



Apple Berry Crisp
by Cindy McCarthy

- 6 heaping cups of farm fresh apples(local)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries(local)
- ½ cup of sugar
- 1.5 tsp cinnamon

Layer ingredients in a 9 x 13 pan

Topping

- 1 cup oats
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup flour
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp cloves
- ½ cup butter(local)

Mix ingredients; place directly on top of apple mixture

Place in oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until top is brown


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Planning on buying fish next fall? Now's the time to be sure your pond permit is up to date! Contact NYSDEC at 607-652-7365 and find out!



TREE & SHRUB GENERAL INFORMATION

BAREROOT STOCK: Our trees and shrubs are bare root, with no soil attached to the roots. They are dipped in a gel, then packaged in damp shavings and heavy kraft paper to preserve moisture.

PLANT SIZE: Actual tree heights may vary slightly from those shown on the order form. Most orders may be easily transported in an average car.

PLANT AGE: The first number in the age indicates the number of years of growth in a seedbed; the second shows the years in a transplant bed. For example, 2-2 indicates a four-year old tree with two years in a seedbed and two in a transplant bed. Though transplants are more developed, seedlings are economical and much easier to transport and plant, making them a good choice for larger plantings.



Ten 12-inch, 3-year old seedlings



Ten 16-inch, 4-year old transplants

PLANTING TOOLS: Steel planting bars are 39" long with a footstep and blade "spike." The bars easily penetrate difficult and rocky soil cleanly; they work great for quickly planting bare root stock.

TREE SHELTERS: Shelters protect and foster young hardwood trees in the first crucial years of development. Shelters include a 5' hardwood stake and zip ties. Benefits include:



- ◇ Protection against deer and animal browse
- ◇ Minimizing wind damage to branches and foliage
- ◇ Reduction of drought stress through moisture retention
- ◇ Ventilation allows plants to acclimate to dynamic conditions

INSURING PLANT SURVIVAL: For optimum survival, trees and shrubs should be planted immediately, but bundles may be stored in a cool, dark place for up to a week. Bundles should not be immersed in water. Once planted, they should be watered and monitored regularly.

PLANT MORTALITY: The Delaware County SWCD is not responsible for the success or failure of plantings. We cannot check a planting location or guard against improper handling or storage, pests, or weather-related problems. We protect and maintain the healthy condition of plants in our care and cannot be responsible for refunding or replacing plants.

DATES AND DEADLINES: Place your order by **Monday, March 2. Pickup is Saturday, April 11. No refunds can be made for plants not picked up.**

PAYMENT: Please make checks payable to DCSWCD if not ordering online and must include paper order form. Please do not send cash through the mail.

2026

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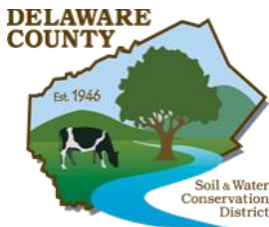
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APRIL 11 AT
SWCD OFFICE
IN WALTON**

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607-865-7161
for more
information



	Species (*New)	++Age	Size	Price for bundles of:		Total Number of Stems	TOTAL COST
				10	100		
CONIFERS	TRANSPLANTS						
	White Spruce	2.5-2	15-24"	\$35	\$259		
	Norway Spruce	2-2	15-24"	\$35	\$259		
	Fraser Fir	3-2	10-18"	\$35	\$259		
	Balsam Fir	2-2	10-18"	\$38	\$281		
	SEEDLINGS						
	Norway Spruce	3-0	10-15"	\$20	\$143		
	White Pine	3-0	6-15"	\$24	\$176		
HARDWOODS	White Birch	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Bur Oak	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Northern Red Oak	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Sycamore	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Sugar Maple	2-0	12-18"	\$54	\$396		
	Black Walnut	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
SHRUBS	Red Osier Dogwood	1-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Elderberry	2-0	24-36"	\$39	\$286		
	American Hazelnut	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
	Black Chokeberry	2-0	18-24"	\$28	\$204		
	Ninebark	2-0	24-36"	\$32	\$231		
FRUIT CROPS	BlueRay Blueberry	2-0	18"	\$40 for 5 plants			
	Jersey Blueberry	2-0	18"	\$40 for 5 plants			
	Fuji Apple		1/2-7/8"	\$25 EACH tree			
	Liberty Apple *		1/2-7/8"	\$25 EACH tree			
	Rainer Sweet Cherry *		3/8-1/2"	\$28 EACH tree			
	Summit Sweet Cherry		3/8-1/2"	\$28 EACH tree			
	Moonglow Pear *		1/2-7/8"	\$25 EACH tree			
	Golden Russett Bosc Pear		3/8"	\$25 EACH tree			
	Red Haven Peach *		1/2-7/8"	\$25 EACH tree			
SUPPLIES	Planting Bars			\$68 each			
	5' Tubex Combitube Tree Shelter w/5' Stake			\$8.50 each or \$75/10			
	Fertilizer Tablets (10 gram, 20-10-5)			15¢ each or \$115/box of 1000			

++ Age: First number is years in a seedbed; second is years in a transplant bed.

5' Tubex Combitube Tree Shelters are only recommended for use on Hardwood Tree species.

NOTE: 2026 pricing reflects increased costs from our suppliers

TOTAL ORDER \$

When ordering online there will be processing fees and contactless payment charges that will be added to your online Square payment.

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All major credit cards are accepted! **Don't forget the order online option!** Or:
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White Spruce

- Christmas trees, windbreak
- Slow to moderate growth to 100'
- Compact, regular branching
- Short, green needles
- Significant food/nesting source for wildlife
- Attracts butterflies
- Low deer browse
- Native to New York
- Well-drained soil to seasonal wetness



Norway Spruce

- Windbreaks, screenings, lumber, wildlife habitat
- Moderate growth to 80'
- Large, showy cones
- Branches droop with maturity
- Good roosting home for hawks and owls
- Easy to grow; fastest growing of the spruces
- Grows best in full sun
- Well-drained soil to seasonal wetness



Fraser Fir

- Very popular Christmas tree species
- Reaches height of 80'
- Pointed crown of silvery white aromatic foliage
- Dark blue-green needles
- Pleasant scent
- Intermediate in shade tolerance
- Softwood used for pulpwood, crates, and frame construction
- Prefers slightly acidic rocky to sandy soils



Balsam Fir

- Best known for use as Christmas trees
- Slow growth; 45-75' H to 20-25' W
- Evergreen, 4-6" cones, smooth bark
- Likes moist, well-drained, acidic soil
- Full or partial sun
- Lumber, wildlife habitat, windbreaks, essential oils, deer browse



White Pine

- Grows to 50-100' tall and 50-60' wide
- Blue-green, long, soft needles in clusters of five
- Tolerates most moist, well-drained soils
- Favorite food for deer
- Serves as shelter for forest dwellers
- Lumber



Black Walnut

- Fast growing to 80-150'
- Lumber used in furniture and gun stocks
- Fruits for food and wildlife in October
- Moist, rich, well-drained soil
- Shade intolerant
- Disease and pest free
- Inhibits other plant growth
- Native to New York



White Birch

- Grows to 50-90'
- Fast grower
- Full sun to part shade
- Pollinator plant that attracts song birds
- Moist, well-drained acidic soils
- Bark smooth, white and peeling as ages
- Used for timber
- Habitat/food for wildlife
- Native to Northern hemisphere



Bur Oak

- Mature height 70-80'
- Mature width 70-80'
- Slow growth rate
- Tolerates drought
- Full sun to partial shade
- Very adaptable soil range
- Large acorns (up to 1.5") with distinct fringed caps
- Leaves turn a yellow-brown in the fall
- Can live 200-300 years
- Food source for wildlife



Northern Red Oak

- 60'-75' Ht. at maturity
- 60'-75' Wdt. at maturity
- Fast growth
- Full sun
- Well drained soil
- Food and habitat for wildlife
- Tolerates polluted environments
- Used for timber
- Wonderful fall colors



Sycamore

- Average Ht. 75'-100'
- Typical wdt. 75'-100'
- Growth rate 2'+ per yr.
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Tolerates drought, occasional flooding, pollution
- Massive trunk
- Mottled bark
- Sap used for syrup and sugar



Sugar Maple

- Grows to 50' high, has spreading canopy
- Loved for its sap to make maple syrup
- Slow to medium growth rate of 12-24" per year
- Stunning red, gold and orange leaves in fall
- Provides habitat and food for several wildlife species
- Prefers well-drained soils



Red Osier Dogwood

- 7'-9' foot slender upright shrub
- Best in swampy conditions
- Red branches in winter
- White drupe fruit Mid-August
- Great structure for holding soil on sloped areas
- How do you tell it's a Dogwood? By its bark, of course!



Elderberry

- Vigorous, native shrub
- Grows to 6'-12' tall, 5-10' wide; fast-growing
- Used in streamside buffers
- Extremely winter hardy
- Great habitat and food source for wildlife
- Vitamin C rich fruit used in wine, jam and syrup
- Dark berries ripen in late summer; easy to harvest
- Hollow stems useful for hobby carving
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil



Fuji Apple

- Semi-Dwarf
- 12'-15' at maturity
- Moderate growth rate
- Blossoms mid-April
- Very sweet, juicy
- Crisp texture
- Best in full sun
- Late Fall ripening; mid to late October
- Benefits from a cross pollinator
- Known for long storage life
- Fresh eating, sauces, pies



Liberty Apple

- Semi-Dwarf
- 15'-17' Ht. at maturity
- Medium sized fruit
- More tart than sweet
- Great for fresh eating, cooking and canning
- No pollinator needed
- Ready to harvest in September
- Best in full sun
- Good apple for storing
- Disease resistant
- Can be used as an espalier.



Ninebark

- 5'-9' spreading shrub
- Full sun
- Tolerates dry conditions
- Exfoliating bark
- May-June blooms
- White flowers
- Red fruit ripens Mid-September
- Fast growing
- Pollinator & their berries feed the birds



Black Chokeberry

- Deciduous shrub
- Ht. 3-5'; Width 2-6'
- Upright, rounded plant form
- Vibrant autumn foliage colors
- Plant in full sun
- Dark green glossy leaves
- 2"-3" clusters of white flowers



American Hazelnut

- rugged, native, nut-bearing shrub
- Grows 10' high, 12' wide
- Extremely cold hardy
- Yellow and red fall colors
- Tasty nuts for eating, roasting, and oil-pressing
- Wood, shells, and husks have numerous uses



Moonglow Pear

- Semi-dwarf
- 12'-15' Ht. at maturity
- 9'-11' Wdt. at maturity
- Full sun
- Loamy soil
- Disease resistant nature
- Effective pollinator
- White blooms in Spring
- Fruit ripens in September
- Large smooth skin fruit
- Soft texture without being mushy
- Juicy with low acidity



Golden Russett Bosc Pear

- Semi-dwarf
- 12'-15' Ht. at maturity
- 15'-20' Wdt. at maturity
- Full sun; well draining soil
- Fast growing
- Blooms in spring with white flowers
- Needs cross pollination
- Harvest late summer/early fall
- Fruit excellent for baking, poaching, canning and snacking
- Sweet and spicy



Sweet Cherry Rainier

- 20'-30' Ht. at maturity
- Medium growth rate
- Large white blossoms mid-spring
- Abundant large golden-yellow fruit
- Needs pollinator
- Excellent choice for canning or preserves
- Delicious flavor



Sweet Cherry Summit

- Vigorous grower
- Excellent disease resistancy
- Abundant fruit with firm texture
- Partially self-pollinating
- Large heart shaped fruit
- Resists cracking
- White blooms
- Dark red fruit when ripe



Jersey Blueberry

- Late season berries
- Medium sized, sweet
- 4' - 5' tall at maturity
- Reliably vigorous producer
- Crack resistant
- Fast growing in acidic soil
- Cross pollinate for better yields
- Full sun



Blueray Blueberry

- Midseason producer
- Extra large berries with extra sweet taste
- Cold hardy
- Ripens in July
- Self pollinator; but ideal for pollinator for other varieties
- Abundant berry producer
- Light blue berries that will not crack



Red Haven Peach

- Disease resistant to Leaf spot
- Cold and drought tolerant
- Fast growing, easy to maintain
- Late blooming flowers
- Heavy fruit bearing tree
- Great for snacking, canning and freezing
- Almost fuzz free
- Medium sized red orange fruit
- Semi-freestone

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Soil.
Where it all Begins



Stay tuned for more 2026
Stewardship and Education
materials!

We're hard at work finalizing
the 2025 theme, Home is
Where the Habitat Is, which
will officially conclude on
December 1, 2025.

Make sure you're opted in to
NACD's e-newsletter,
eResource, to stay updated on
the latest releases and
upcoming announcements!



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30% PCW

**2026 NACD Conservation Poster Contest! Please
call 607-865-7161 with interest, questions and/or
comments. Or watch DCSWCD Facebook page!**

All orders
due
Monday
March 2

Pickup
Saturday
April 11

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