



# Soil and Water Conservation News

United We Stand



Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District  
USDA Service Center • 903 Hanshaw Road • Ithaca • New York • 14850  
Phone 607-257-2340 FAX 607-257-7896

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[www.tcswcd.org](http://www.tcswcd.org)

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## 2009 Agricultural Assessments

The Tompkins County SWCD is continuing to accept requests for soil group worksheets in conjunction with the 2009 Agricultural Exemption application filed with the Tompkins County Assessment office. Landowners who meet the eligibility requirements are able to file for this exemption. The following is a general list of requirements that need to be met before an application is accepted by the assessment office:

- Land generally must consist of **seven or more acres** that were **used in the preceding two years** for the production and sale of crops, livestock, or livestock products.
- The annual gross sales of agricultural products generally must average **\$10,000** or more for the preceding two years. If an agricultural enterprise is less than seven acres, it may qualify if average annual gross sales equal **\$50,000** or more. (Rented land under a 5 year agreement with other farmland or lands affected by a natural disaster and adverse weather conditions may not have to satisfy this requirement).
- Horse boarding operations must meet the following requirements:
  - \* At least seven acres supporting the commercial horse boarding operation. \* Operation boards at least 10 horses regardless of its land holdings. \* The operation receives \$10,000 or more in gross receipts annually in the preceding two years from fees generated through the boarding of horses and/or through the production and sale of crops, livestock, and livestock products.

Once it is determined that you qualify for an agricultural exemption the first step will be to call the Tompkins County SWCD office and request a Soil Group Worksheet. We will then prepare a worksheet and associated map that will delineate your soil types, woodlands and any land that is not eligible (i.e. – residences and yards). This will be completed at a fee of \$25.00 for new worksheets and \$15.00 for any changes to an existing worksheet (*These fees will increase by \$10.00 after March 1, 2009 so please get requests in early*). This will then be attached to your application form RP-305 or RP-305-r which is filed with the Tompkins County Assessment office.

For more information on this program and to determine whether you are eligible for this exemption please visit <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/pamphlet/exempt/agassess.htm> or call the Tompkins County assessment office at 607-274-5517.

## Pasture Advice

Are you frustrated with the way your pastures are holding up? Maybe you are just looking for ways to make your good quality pastures even better. The Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District is teaming up with Janice Degni of Cornell Cooperative Extension to help improve Tompkins County's pastureland. If you would like to receive a pasture visit just call Adam Hills at 257-2340 and mention this article. In addition to receiving advice on improving your pastures during the visit at no cost, you will also receive a follow-up summary report highlighting the topics discussed along with some suggestions. There are no size limitations for farms seeking advice, so no farm is too big or too small. Soil testing is also available for a fee of \$20.00 per sample. Soil sampling is a good way to find out what you are dealing with on your land and aids in making good decisions for liming, fertilizing and planting.

### Attention!

The 2009 Tree & Shrub Seedling,  
Groundcover order form is included  
inside!



In order to be more conservative with paper, and postage costs we are not printing the tree descriptions this year. However, all tree descriptions will be available to you on our website at [www.tcswcd.org](http://www.tcswcd.org) for viewing or printing. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you.

## Contractors - Updated Phase II Stormwater Regulations will affect you!

By: Jessica Verrigni, CPESC/CPSWQ, Resource Conservation Specialist

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation updated their State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-08-001). The basics behind the law remained the same, requiring **anyone disturbing greater than 1 acre** (or less than one acre if part of a Common Plan of Development), must have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in place that at a minimum addresses Erosion and Sediment Control and obtain coverage under the General Permit.

An important change that will affect local contractors working under the General Requirements of the SWPPP is that the construction site owner/operator "shall have each contractor and subcontractor identify at least one *trained individual* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP. The owner or operator shall ensure that at least one *trained individual* is on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed."

The definition of a *trained individual* in the law "means an employee from a contracting (construction) firm that has received four (4) hours of training, which has been endorsed by the Department [Department of Environmental Conservation], from a Soil and Water Conservation District, CPESC, Inc. or other Department endorsed entity, in proper erosion and sediment control principles no later than two (2) years from the date this general permit is issued. After receiving the initial training, the trained individual shall receive four (4) hours of training every three (3) years. This individual is responsible for implementation of the SWPPP."

So maybe you're STILL wondering what this means for you. It means that any contractor working on a site that is required to follow the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity needs to have a **trained individual** on site by May 2010. The training that this individual must attend will only be held a limited number of times. There will be a fee associated with the training. After the class the **trained individual** will receive a wallet card that proves they have attended the training session. This wallet card will be good for three years.

I am currently working on organizing a training session for early 2009. If you are interested in getting some of your employees certified, please call me and get your name on the mailing list. Once the training session is organized you will receive the registration information in the mail with details on how to sign up.

## Envirothon Updates

By: Seth Dennis, Education Coordinator

The 2009 Southern Tier Regional Envirothon will be held on April 30th at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association in Owego, NY. Plans for this event are currently underway, and Tompkins County hopes to add a few new school districts this year. Last year, teams from Lansing High School, Newfield high School, T-S-T BOCES New Visions class and the George Junior Republic school participated. Lansing High School advanced on to the NY State Envirothon. The Current Issue topic for this year's competition is *Biodiversity in a Changing World*. For more information on the Regional Envirothon visit the Tompkins County Soil & Water website at [www.tcswcd.org](http://www.tcswcd.org). If your school would like more information on putting an Envirothon team together, please contact Seth Dennis at the SWCD office at 257-2340.

The 2009 New York State Envirothon will be held on May 27th & 28th at Keuka College, Keuka Park, NY. To check out more information about the NYS Envirothon event visit [www.nysenvirothon.org](http://www.nysenvirothon.org).

The 2009 Canon Envirothon will be held at the University of North Carolina, in Asheville, NC on Aug. 2nd - 8th . Last year's New York State team was Candor High School, from Tioga County, who was able to travel to Flagstaff, AZ for the competition taking 4th place. For more information about the Canon Envirothon visit [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).

## Fish Stocking

By: Jon Negley, Conservation Technician

Every year around late March to early April the Tompkins SWCD helps the NYS DEC stock local creeks with thousands of Brown Trout. This is a put and take fishery which means that most of the fish that are stocked each year get fished out by local and regional anglers. In order to keep this practice going, volunteers are needed to distribute hatchery raised fish up and down the stream from various points that the stocking truck will stop at. If you are interested in helping with the effort please contact the office at 257-2340. We will give you some information about the events along with specific dates and locations as the time gets closer.

A new requirement this year will be a "limited use volunteer application form". This form will now cover all volunteers under the Workers Compensation Law for the DEC and will be necessary each and every time you show up to help stock. The form will require the volunteers name, address, signature and emergency contact information. We will provide these forms to you at the site, or beforehand if requested. We know that this is a hassle, but is necessary to make sure that all help is covered under the law in case of an accident (which hopefully will never happen).



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- No-till Drill (fee for rental)
- Broadcast Seeder (loaned out for free)
  - Soil Sampling (fee)
- Pond Site Evaluations (fee)
- Streambank Erosion, Technical Assistance
- Drainage Problems, Technical Assistance
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

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Tompkins County SWCD  
 USDA Service Center  
 903 Hanshaw Road  
 Ithaca, NY 14850

Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
 in New York State



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WINTER NEWLETTER 2009

**ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE  
 SWCD OFFICE**

- BLUEBIRD BOXES ..... \$ 11.88 \*
- BAT ROOSTING BOXES ..... 17.28 \*
- WOOD DUCK BOXES - PINE ..... 38.88 \*
- KESTREL/SCREECH OWL BOXES ..... 27.00 \*
- FERTILIZER TABLETS ..... .16/EACH
- MARKING FLAGS ..... .13/EA .OR 100/\$8.64 \*
- TREE PROTECTORS - AVAILABLE AT TREE ORDER TIME ONLY
- RAIN GAUGES ..... 12.96 \*
- NYS STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS FOR EROSION &  
 SEDIMENT CONTROL. .... 65.00
- NYS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DESIGN MANUAL  
 HARD COPY ..... 50.00
- SOIL GROUP WORKSHEETS - NEW ..... 25.00  
 REVISED ..... 15.00
- TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS ..... 7.00\*
- TREE & SHRUB PROGRAM ..... VARIES
- FISH STOCKING PROGRAM ..... VARIES
- BARLEY STRAW (PER BALE) ..... VARIES

\* 8 % SALES TAX INCLUDED

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- Vicki Hendrix ..... District Secretary/Treasurer
- Jessica Verrigni ... Resource Cons. Specialist/CPESC, CPSWQ
- Adam Hills ..... Grazing Specialist
- Seth Dennis ..... Education Coordinator
- Jon Negley ..... Conservation Technician

**USDA - NRCS**

- Patrick Barry ..... District Conservationist  
 (Schuyler & Tompkins Counties)
- Lori Beach ..... Civil Engineer Technician (Area III)
- Josh Hornesky ..... Soil Conservationist

*Board meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Monday at 12:30 P.M. in the District office. The  
 public is always invited.*

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[www.tcsxcd.org](http://www.tcsxcd.org)

*The Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.*