

RENSSELAER COUNTY SOIL & WATER

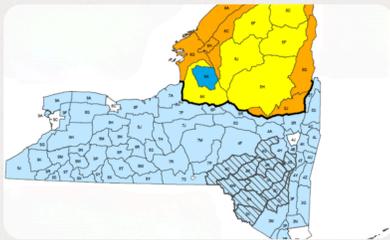
(518) 271-1740



rensosoilandstormwater.org



rensoconservationstore.com



NYS Hunting & Fishing

Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District will soon be approved to sell New York State Fish and Game Licenses. Visit our Facebook page and website to learn more about the programs and services we offer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Tree & Shrub Sale

April 17, 2026

Pre-order for the 2026 tree and shrub sale today. We have new items available so be sure to visit our site.

* Ag Assessments

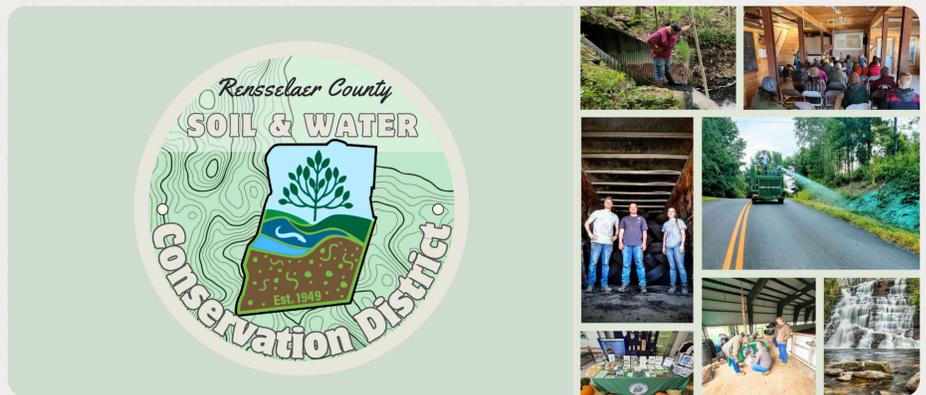
March 1, 2026

Reach out to the district to have your ag assessments completed for the tax season. Due March 1st.

* Tire Recycling Program

Summer, 2026

The spring tire recycling program will take place in June. Follow our Facebook page for updates.



A Year in Summary

Message from our District Manager - Megan Myers

At the RC SWCD, our dedicated professional staff are proud to offer a variety of successful programs that support both residential and agricultural landowners. Free services such as tire recycling, soil sampling and pond assessments help



landowners with their property while conserving natural resources. Our Spring Tree & Shrub Sale and Fall Fish Stocking Sale continue to be popular programs that enhance conservation, property value, and wildlife habitat. Our voluntary Agricultural Environmental Management Program is operating at full force in our County. Through this program the district is providing valuable technical assistance and project implementation for agricultural landowners to protect water quality. We appreciate the continued support of our community and encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities as we work together to protect our soil and water.

AEM Projects



New York State's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program is a voluntary, confidential initiative that helps farmers identify environmental risks on their operations and implement practical solutions to protect soil and water resources while maintaining productive farms. In Rensselaer County, producers can participate by contacting the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District, where staff provide on-farm assessments, technical assistance, and guidance on accessing cost-share funding to plan and implement conservation practices tailored to each operation.

AEM Projects

AEM

Short Term Waste Collection



This project implemented a heavy use area along with waste facilities. This project eliminates contaminated rainwater and washwater from entering an adjacent waterbody. Rensselaer County Soil and Water was able to fund this project by utilizing AEM Tier 4 BMP funding.

AEM

Erosion Control Systems



This project replaced a severely washed-out farm access road with a newly improved and stabilized roadway. Through the use of AEM Tier 4 funding, the new access road was constructed with erosion control systems designed to properly manage stormwater runoff and prevent erosion, enhancing both the road's durability and environmental protection.

AEM

Silage Leachate Transfer System



The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District recently replaced a failed silage leachate system with a new, properly engineered system designed to effectively collect, contain, and manage runoff from silage storage areas. The previous system was no longer functioning as intended, allowing nutrient-rich leachate to pose a risk to nearby soil and water resources. The newly installed system improves water quality protection by preventing contaminated runoff from reaching surface and groundwater, reducing nutrient loading, and minimizing environmental impacts. In addition to safeguarding natural resources, the upgrade provides the farmer with a more reliable, compliant, and low-maintenance solution that supports long-term agricultural productivity and environmental stewardship.

Sales & Programs

The district experienced strong success across its sales and programs this year. Both the fish sale and the tree and shrub sale saw high participation, reflecting continued community support and interest in conservation efforts. Our sales from our tree and shrub sale are up from the previous year which was also a major success. The efficiency of Fish Sale has been greatly improved with customers in and out with their fish in minutes.

In addition, the tire recycling program successfully accepted 1,900 tires, significantly reducing local waste and environmental impact. The pollinator program also thrived, with steadily increasing interest and participation, demonstrating growing public awareness, education, and long-term commitment to environmental stewardship throughout the district and surrounding communities.

Our Sales & Programs



Rensselaer County Soil & Water logged another successful tree and shrub sale. We look forward to our annual sale in April 17 - 18 2026.



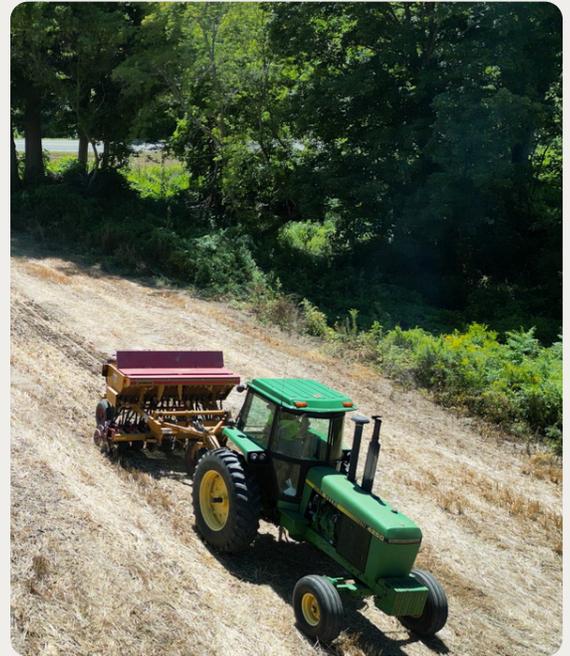
The district's annual fish sale was a huge success in 2025. One of our main species is Triploid Grass Carp. Fill out the DEC permit application to purchase on in 2026.



For the first time, this year the district offered two tire recycling programs with one in the north of the county and the other in the south.



The Rensselaer County Soil & Water Pollinator Program has continued to grow in its second year with a growing number of participants.



10' Haybuster 107C

Equipment Rental

Rensselaer County Soil & Water continues to offer equipment rentals for all county residents. We offer two no-till drills (One 10' and one 7'), Whitfield Tree Planter, and a hay mulcher. Demand for this equipment is high so call ahead to rent the equipment.

The No-Till Drill rental program continues to be a staple program for the district. Both drills are out being used nearly every week.

— Drew Hoag, District Tech

Rent Today!

If you are looking to rent either of the no-till drills call ahead to join the waitlist. At \$12 an acre renting one of our drills is an excellent option for farmers looking to get their crop in the ground in a cost effective manner.

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to the success of soil and water conservation districts because they expand resources, expertise, and community reach beyond what any single organization can provide. By working collaboratively with farmers, municipalities, state and federal agencies, schools, and local organizations, districts can implement more effective conservation projects, secure additional funding, and deliver stronger education and outreach programs that protect natural resources and support long-term environmental stewardship.

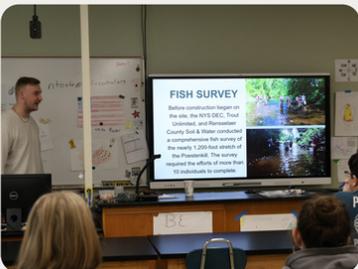
Highlights in 2025 Partnerships and Outreach



The district assisted the County Highway Department in the transport and planting of Norway spruce.



The Trees were planted with the optimal spacing to promote growth and provide a visual buffer from the neighbors.



This year the district paid a visit to Berlin High School to educate the students on some of the district programs. We discussed, hydroseeding and the importance of healthy streams.



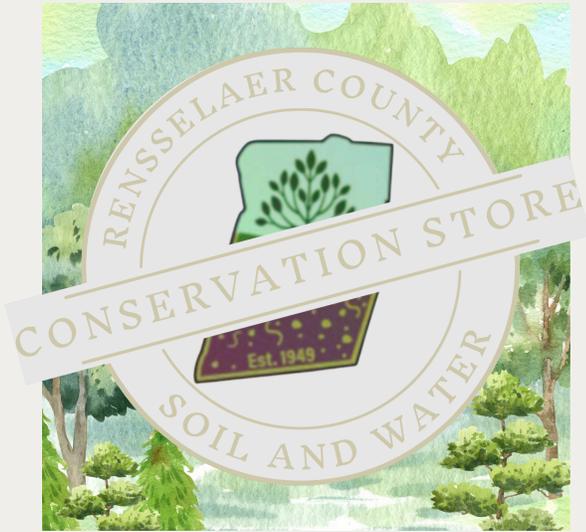
The main topic of this presentation was the districts Annual Eel Survey. Students learned about survey techniques and the life cycle of an American Eel.



Envirothon

Berlin High School wins Rensselaer County Envirothon

At the NYS Regional Envirothon competition the Berlin High School team “Birds Aren’t Real” came out victorious. Moving on to the finals the BHS students represented the county at the state level. The district wants to thank all participating schools for their efforts in this years Envirothon. We look forward to the 2026 competition. If you are looking to participate as a new team please reach out to our District Technician Laura Drogos.



Conservation Store

For the past year, the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation Store has served as the hub for our year-round sales of conservation products. The website offers a wide variety of items, including habitat boxes and pollinator seed mixes, all available for purchase throughout the year. In addition, items from our annual fish sale and tree sale are also offered through the Conservation Store website. These programs provide convenient access to resources that help residents support local conservation efforts.

It's great to have our online sale programs at one online location. Our new Conservation Store website is easy to navigate allowing all customers to find what they're looking for.

— Nate Woodworth, District Tech

Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District's



Water Testing Program

Certified Results

Common Water Quality Tests
 Total Coliform and E. coli – \$50
 Nitrate – \$40
 Lead – \$40
 Copper and Lead – \$55

Kit 1: Routine Physical & Chemical Examination – \$280
 Total Coliform and E. coli, Color, Turbidity, Odor, pH, Conductivity, Hardness, Nitrate, Iron, Manganese, Chloride, Sulfate, Sodium, Fluoride, and Arsenic.

Kit 2: Short FHA - \$115
 Total Coliform and E. coli, Lead, Nitrate, and Nitrite.

Kit 3: Long FHA - \$220
 Total Coliform and E. coli, Lead, Nitrate, Nitrite, Iron, Manganese, Iron Plus Manganese, Sodium, pH, Hardness, Alkalinity, and Turbidity.

Kit 4: PFOA / PFOS - \$605

Drop Off Water Samples!

Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District in Brunswick

Address: 1612 NY-7, Troy, NY 12180

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Drop off on the third Wednesday of any Month!

Make Checks Payable to RCSWCD



BRUNSWICK – The Drop Offs for the **Water Testing Program** will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month between 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District office, 1612 NY-7 in Brunswick.

District staff will deliver water samples to the Capital Region Environmental Lab in Rensselaer where lab analysis will be conducted by an NYS and EPA certified lab and results will be sent directly from CREL.

PICK UP WATER SAMPLING KITS AT THE RC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE

Water test kits and sample bottles with instructions are available for pickup anytime at 1612 NY-7 in Brunswick during office hours.

Typical Turnaround Time (TAT):

Bacteria: 1-2 business days

PFOA/PFOS: 20 business days

All other water tests/kits: 5-10 business days

Please refer to individual instruction sheets for sampling, acceptance, and hold-time requirements for specific analytes.

Pickup Free Water Sample Bottles & Kits Anytime During Office Hours

Contact Penni:

Phone: (518) 271-1740 x3

E-mail: Penni.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com



www.RenscoSoilandStormwater.org



Water Testing Program

The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Water Test Program provides residents with an easy and affordable way to assess the quality of their drinking water. By offering reliable testing services and clear results, the program helps identify potential contaminants, supports informed decision-making, and promotes the protection of public health and local water resources throughout the county. We provide a variety of free water test kits specialized to test for different contaminants for a fee. Visit our website for more information.



Drone Program

The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District Drone Program uses modern aerial technology to support local conservation and natural resource management efforts. Through the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, district staff are able to collect high-resolution images and video to assist with project planning, site assessments, and environmental monitoring. Drones provide an efficient way to evaluate hard-to-reach areas, document erosion concerns, map agricultural fields, and track the progress of conservation practices. This technology allows the district to gather accurate data while saving time and reducing costs for landowners and municipalities. By incorporating drones into its services, the district is enhancing its ability to protect water quality and better serve the residents of Rensselaer County.

2026 Drone Shots





Pond Assessments

The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District Pond Assessment Program provides local landowners with professional guidance to help maintain healthy and functional ponds. Through on-site evaluations, district staff assess factors such as water quality, shoreline conditions, vegetation, and overall pond management practices. Participants receive practical recommendations for addressing common issues including algae growth, erosion, invasive species, and habitat improvement. The program is designed to educate property owners on effective, environmentally responsible techniques that protect water resources and enhance pond ecosystems. By offering this service, the district helps residents make informed decisions that promote long-term conservation and enjoyment of their ponds.

Beaver Program

The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District Beaver Program assists landowners and municipalities in addressing problems caused by nuisance beaver activity. The program provides technical guidance and practical solutions to help manage issues such as flooding, blocked culverts, and property damage resulting from beaver dams. District staff work directly with landowners to evaluate problem sites and recommend effective, environmentally responsible management strategies. These may include water level control devices, habitat modifications, or coordination with licensed wildlife control professionals. By offering education and support, the Beaver Program helps protect roads, farmland, and natural resources while promoting balanced coexistence with local wildlife.



Our Team



**Drew Hoag District Technician (CCA)
AEM & Equipment Program Specialist
(518) 708-7228
Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com**



**Nate Woodworth District Technician
Certified NAACC Lead Observer
Aquatic Connectivity Specialist.
Drone Operator
(518) 801-3233
Nate.Woodworth.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com**



**Laura Drogos (Bornt) District Technician
NYSESCCP, Licensed Notary Public
Dry Hydrant & Soils Program Specialist
(518) 396-7008
Laura.Bornt.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com**



**Megan Myers
District Manager, PWS, CLM, CSE
(518) 380-0384
Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com**