



# RENSSELAER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Department of Agriculture & Life Sciences Building  
61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 271-1740

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

## 2022

# NEWSLETTER



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Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District

### Meet Our Staff

Megan P. Myers has recently assumed the role of District Manager for Rensselaer County's SWCD. Megan is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), a certified Senior Ecologist, and Certified Lake Professional (CLP). She has 15 years of experience as a Wetland Specialist in the field with an engineering firm, primarily throughout Berkshire County, MA and



Laura Bornt has a bachelors degree from Siena College in Environmental Studies and has taken on the role of Conservation Technician. She has been immersed in agriculture since a young age and has grown up on her family's pork and beef farm, Bornt Family Farms.



Drew Hoag has an Associates degree in Ag Business from SUNY Cobleskill and is one of our newest Conservation Technicians. Drew is from North Hoosick and has been working in the farm community his whole life on his family's dairy farm, Hoacre Farm.



Nate Woodworth has a bachelors degree from SUNY Oneonta in Environmental Sustainability and Geography and is starting as a Conservation Technician this summer. Nate has a passion for sustainability and preserving the environment through agriculture and new technologies.



## Agricultural Assessments and Soil Group Worksheets

If you are in need of an Agricultural Assessment to receive an Agricultural Exemption on your property, we provide the Soil Group Worksheet required by your tax assessor. An Agricultural Assessment is a plan to determine if a farm has the ability to gain tax exemption on land that is in agricultural production.

Soil Group Worksheet Requirements Include:

- Land must consist of seven or more acres and have been used for agricultural production in the last two years.
- Annual gross sales (AGS) of agricultural products must average \$10,000 or more for the last two years. AGS means the actual proceeds from the sales of Agricultural (Ag) Products.
- A start-up operation may qualify if its AGS amount is \$10,000 for 7+ acres or \$50,000 for operations less than 7 acres.
- Rented land also qualifies for an Ag exemption as long as it meets the above qualifications.

Submissions are due by March 1st of every year to your local town Assessor. The Agricultural Districts Law allows reduced property taxes for land in agricultural production by limiting the property tax assessment of such land to its prescribed agricultural assessment value.

For more information and to fill out the request form, please call Laura Bornt, Conservation District Technician (518) 396-7008 or email [Laura.Bornt.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.Bornt.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com).

## No-Till Drill Rental Program

For rent to Rensselaer County residents is our Haybuster 107c No-Till Drill. This equipment allows you to plant small grains, legumes, and grasses on your fields while saving the time, money, and labor costs associated with tillage operations. By switching to No-Till, you also help conserve and build soil organic matter, improve soil moisture, reduce soil erosion, reduce soil crusting, and potentially reduce the amount of fertilizer lost and needed each season due to improved soil conditions. For more information including seed questions and planting guides, call Drew Hoag at (518) 708-7228 or email [Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com). The cost is \$12.00 per acre. For this program, we only ask that the district is named as an additional insured on your liability and property insurance for the specific piece of equipment.



## Hay Mulcher Rental

The District is equipped with a Hay-Mulcher that allows for the efficient application of chopped hay bales to ground that has been seeded and fertilized to help aid in germination of grass seeds to minimize soil erosion. The Hay-Mulcher is mounted to a small equipment trailer that allows for easy transport. This method is affordable and easy to use and is more suited for small areas where larger equipment cannot access. For more information call Drew Hoag at (518) 708-7228 or email [Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com).



## Tree Planter Rental Program

The District has recently purchased a new 2021 Whitfield Tree Planter to be rented out by residents of Rensselaer County. District staff delivers and picks-up this equipment at no charge within the county. This equipment can plant thousands of bareroot saplings, up to 6' tall! The District has expanded this tree rental program to abutting counties for a \$100 'out of county' fee. Call Drew Hoag at (518) 708-7228 or email [Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com) to schedule the delivery of this rental equipment.



## Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)



Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers make common-sense, cost-effective and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving natural resources. Farmers can work with local AEM resource professionals from the district to develop comprehensive farm plans using a 5 tiered process. For more information and if you are interested in completing an AEM Assessment, please stop in or call Megan Myers at (518) 271-1740 ext. 3.

### Best Management Practices offered in the AEM System:

- Access Control System
- Agrichemical Handling & Storage System
- Composting System– Animal
- Erosion Control Systems– Structural
- Feed Management System
- Integrated Pest Management System
- Irrigation Water Management System
- Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management
- Manure & Agricultural Waste Treatment Systems
- Nutrient Management System– Cultural
- Pathogen Management System
- Petroleum & Oil Products Storage System
- Prescribed Rotational Grazing System
- Process Wash Water Management System
- Riparian Buffer System
- Silage Leachate Control & Treatment System
- Soil Health System
- Stream Corridor & Shoreline Management System
- Waste Storage & Transfer System

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The NRCS EQIP program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, you can voluntarily implement conservation practices, and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you. For more information, contact Dianna Stanton, District Conservationist for NRCS at (518) 598-2344 or stop in to the USDA NRCS Service Center at 61 State Street Troy, NY 12180.





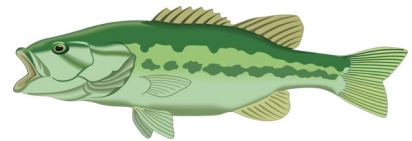
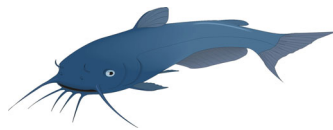
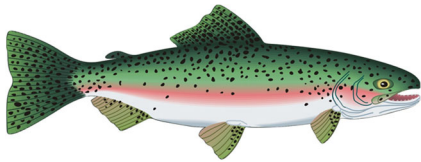
## District Fish Stocking Program

Each spring and fall, the Conservation District offers a fish sale, supplied by Fish Haven Fish Farm. These fish species include but are not limited to: Largemouth Bass, Catfish, Rainbow Trout, Grass Carp, Bluegill, Black Crappie and Fathead Minnows for recreational fishing, educational programs, and wildlife habitat improvement. We will also have rain barrels, bluebird boxes and bat boxes available for purchase.

Follow us on Facebook and check out our Fish Sale website (<https://renscofish.square.site>) to be informed of our next fish sale!

For more information, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list for the next sale; contact the Conservation District at: 518-271-1740(office)/518-708-7228(mobile) or E-mail Drew Hoag [Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Drew.Hoag.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com).

A stocking permit from the DEC is required for stocking any water of the state, including [stocking private waters](#). Fill out the [stocking permit application \(PDF\)](#) and return it to the appropriate DEC office. An [additional stocking permit](#) is needed for stocking Grass Carp. For more information, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html> or contact the NYS Bureau of Fisheries at 518-402-8890.



## Pond & Fisheries Program

The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a free service to landowners who are interested in learning more about the health of their pond or lake.

During the visit, our District's very own Certified Lake Professional (CLP) by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) and internationally certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) by the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) will provide a description of the site and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) identified. The site will also be assessed for aquatic invasive species (AIS). This program helps landowners gain a better understanding for the condition of their waterbody and how they can make improvements.

For more information, resources, or to request an evaluation, contact

Megan Myers 518-380-0384 or e-mail her at [Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com).

## Tree and Shrub Sale

The District is happy to announce the return of our tree and shrub sale. Our sales will include but not be limited to a variety of species including sugar maple, white oak, elm, sycamore, birch, dogwood, lilac, winterberry, blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, strawberry and rhubarb. All of our plants are offered as bareroot. The trees average a height of 6' upon pickup to ensure a hardy survival rate. We will also have rain barrels, bluebird boxes and bat boxes available for purchase.

Follow us on Facebook and check out our Tree and Shrub website (<https://renscoplants.square.site>) to be informed of our next plant sale!

For more information, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list for the next sale; contact the Conservation District at: 518-271-1740(office)/518-396-7008(mobile) or E-mail [Laura.Bornt.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.Bornt.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com).



## BOD SWCD Meetings

The Rensselaer County SWCD Board of Directors (BOD) meets the second Tuesday of each month and is made up of the following individuals:

Chairman: David Schmidt, Grange Representative  
Vice Chairman: Jeff Wysocki, Legislative Representative  
Secretary: Bruce Patire, Legislative Representative  
Megan Swartz, Farm Bureau Representative  
Treasurer: James Sullivan, At Large

The Board of Directors meet at the Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District's conference room, located on the second floor of the USDA Service Center, Department of Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, 61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180.