



2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending April 2005

Mission:

“Central NY RC&D Project, Inc. will work cooperatively in educating and learning from landowners, organizations and other partners to improve our 12 county region’s economic, environmental and social vitality through the wiser use of human and natural resources.”

RC&D Officers

Chair

Madison Wright
Tompkins County

Vice-Chair

Dick Warner
Cortland County

Treasurer

Pamela Moore
Tioga County

Assistant Treasurer

Debra Hawkins

Secretary

Robert Huot
Chenango County

USDA-NRCS Staff

Phil Metzger

RC&D Coordinator
Kim Totten
RC&D Secretary

Vision:

“Central NY RC&D Project, Inc. is a catalyst for a healthy environment and population, living in thriving rural and urban communities integrated with diverse natural and agricultural landscapes.”

US Department of Agriculture Salutes Resource Conservation & Development 40th Anniversary

In 1964, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service embarked on a new adventure with rural America in initiating the Resource Conservation and Development Program that had been authorized in the 1962 Food and Agriculture Act. The first 10 RC&D Areas named became a significant contributor to the rural renaissance described by then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John A. Baker. The RC&D program was developed for “*carrying out a program of land conservation and use, under SCS (now NRCS) leadership, in areas where acceleration of the present conservation activities plus the use of new authorities would*

provide additional economic opportunities to the people.” (Soil Conservation, April, 1963) Donald A. Williams, then Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, stated that “The 1962 Food and Agriculture Act also provided authority to initiate Resource Conservation and Development projects that will enable farmers, city people, rural communities, and other groups to work together to improve land use patterns and develop the natural resources of rural areas.” Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman saw the potential for rural Americans when he said “... these projects will provide an exceptional opportunity for city and urban

people living within easy reach of a RC&D Area to join with local people to create new recreational outlets.” The partnerships created through the RC&D program continue to be a vital part of a vibrant United States of America by adapting to new opportunities and continuing to address new concerns. Central NY RC&D was established in 1966 with 7 counties and over 39 years has grown throughout to a 12 county region, becoming a 501(C)3 in 1991. Covering Member Counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Onondaga, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, and Tompkins . ■

Continuing Projects. . .



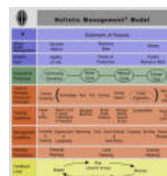
Knapweed and Bedstraw

CNY RC&D

successfully completed the first year of a three-year grant from the NE SARE Farmer/Grower Program. The aim is to find ways to control and/or eliminate knapweed and bedstraw. The project employs five basic approaches: mowing, spraying herbicides, two kinds of grazing and the use of insects. *Why is knapweed persistent?* One of its endearing qualities is the ability to create a personal herbicide. If you look beneath a clump of knapweed, the ground is bare, preparing for expansion. ■

Holistic Management—Improved Decision Making

Continuing its groundbreaking work to assist farms and organizations in improving their decision making, CNY RC&D secured another Northeast SARE grant “Whole Farm Planning & Holistic Management Phase II”. This \$87,000 three-year effort will develop in-depth case studies on how farms or organizations, using Holistic Management, improved profitability, production and quality of life. ■



Carbon Credits

Central NY RC&D has received funding from Environmental Defense for preliminary work on developing a carbon trading concept. It is the intention of Central NY RC&D to accomplish various activities including establishing a preliminary scaled project concept for the acquisition and sale of environmental (carbon) credits. Additionally, activities will be carried out which help develop the first steps toward establishing offer sheets, and the testing of a field manual for use in determining how carbon credits are measured, accounted for and bought and sold. ■



Northeast Grasstravaganza

By Dan Vrendenberg,
Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District

The **Northeast Grasstravaganza 2004** was an overwhelmingly successful event. The number and quality of speakers covering a wide range of topics made the conference unique and extremely informative. "I have been to many grazing conferences and, I have to say, this could be the best I have seen. My opinion may be a bit biased, since I was on the committee, but still it was an impressive undertaking," said Dan.

"Excellent Speakers on a variety of topics made the event a huge success"

Nearly 300 people were in attendance with an approximately 50-50 split between producers and agency/academia/consultant folks. Nineteen states (RI to OR and ME to NC) and New Zealand were represented. All breakout sessions were well attended, averaging 36 individuals (with a high of 81 in one session). The most popular sessions (by attendance) were grass-finished beef topics, beef grazing & land stewardship, alternative watering, pasture pitfalls, advanced pastured poultry, on-farm dairy nutrition, and grazing animal behavior. The double sessions of economics of grass-based dairying, ABCs of streambank grazing, and solar watering systems also had high attendance between both days that they were presented. In all, 8 general sessions were held by 6 different speakers and 30 individual breakout sessions were presented by 34 speakers over the 2 day event.

Other areas of interest included virtual tours of some NY grazing farms and county grazing programs, numerous exhibitor & sponsored displays, organic & local foods for breaks and the evening reception, and an interesting banquet. We would like to thank our exhibitors for participating including: Agri-Culver Seeds, Barenbrug USA,

CADE, Inc.; Fencing & More, Fertrell, Hanova Livestock Co., Kings Agri-Seeds, NOFA NY, and Voss Signs.

Those who did not attend the event missed a potential "once in a lifetime" opportunity to see a first rate grazing conference in your own back yard. The amount and diversity of information and wealth of knowledge gathered in one location was rather impressive and it is unlikely that a conference of this scope will return to the area for quite some time, if ever.



Picture L-R: John Roche, New Zealand; Ed Rayburn, West Virginia University; Chuck Kreuger, Penn State University; Fred Provenza, Utah State University; Angus Johnson, NH Farmer; Rich Remond, NRCS-NY; Dick Warner, CNY RC&D; and Tilak Dhiman, Utah State University.

Planning Committee: Dan Vrendenberg, Broome SWCD; Darrell Emmick, Karen Sullivan, USDA-NRCS; Phil Metzger, Kim Totten, USDA-NRCS/CNY RC&D; Karl North, Northland Sheep Dairy; Dan Flaherty, DelawareCCE Delaware; Janet Allard, CCE Broome; Shannon Nichols, Madison SWCD; Rob DeClue, Chenango SWCD; Richard Warner, GLCI-NY, CNY RC&D; and A. Fay Benson, CCE Cortland ■

Dick Warner, Vice-Chair, Central NY RC&D attended the National RC&D Leadership Conference where he met with several Representatives and State Senators, in promotion and education of our RC&D Program and the NY-GLCI program.

Pictured left: Troy Bischoff, Oneida County Farmer, Congressman Boehlert, and Dick Warner.



CNY RC&D Develops Organizational Goal

Central NY RC&D recently developed a broad based organizational goal to assist governing the Council in directing resources most appropriately. The process was facilitated by John Thurgood, Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware County. It includes the following statement: Quality of Life (what we value and desire for our organization): CNY RC&D will be recognized for our creative, innovative leadership, respect of the community and for our courage and farsightedness. We will advocate and encourage sustainable and ecologically sound communities. We value our relationships with other organizations and people and



encourage a diversity of opinions. We are dedicated to providing an organizational environment and workplace in which our members, employees,

volunteers and partners feel both valued and secure. We value our services to the community through evaluating and implementing traditional and new ventures.

July 2004
Left-right:
At the Broome CCE
Gardens

- Jim Pullano
- Greg Currier
- Carl Anderson
- Jim Jenne
- Dick Warner
- Craig Schutt
- Bob Banta
- Phil Metzger
- Steve Hoerz
- Eleanor Ritter
- Marty Broko
- Pam Moore
- John Waite
- Bruce Mathews



many recipients had never gardened or attempted to grow anything. Enthusiastic board

"To Plant a Seed Is To Believe in Tomorrow"
By Pam Moore Tioga County Board Member

"To Plant a Seed Is To Believe in Tomorrow" By Pam Moore Tioga County Board Member CNY RC&D and partner Heifer International cultivated seeds of hope, health and sustainability at the popular "Farm Days at the Mall" event March 2005. Approximately 5000 packets of free seeds were distributed at the Broome County shopping mall during its second most crowded gathering of the year. Event sponsors Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension were pleased by the significant public interest in planting seeds, as

members from CNY RC&D and Northeast Organic Farming Association were on hand to answer the many gardening questions and demonstrate indoor planting techniques. Children were particularly drawn to the booth, wanting to grow their favorite vegetables (carrots & broccoli). Immigrants were happy to find seeds for familiar fruits, vegetables and herbs, and many city dwellers without access to garden space will be planting potted herbs or sprouting grains. Parents, teachers, politicians and religious leaders were among those who applauded our efforts and expressed appreciation to CNY RC&D and Heifer International. ■

Agri-Heritage Tourism & Education By George Sands, IV

The Friends of Harriet Tubman Ad Hoc Committee are traveling New York statewide to exhibit the Underground Railroad display. The Exhibition exposes the economic impact to be derived from a marriage between New York State agriculture and tourism, as "Agri-Heritage Tourism." This could become an economic engine throughout New York State and promoting awareness, understanding, appreciation and education of the Underground Railroad History in New York.

This year, the exhibition will be displayed at Binghamton in February, Syracuse in April, the Bainbridge Canoe Regatta in May, Oswego Harborfest in July, Greenwich July 25th -August 1st and then in Norwich at the Council of the Arts in August.



The Freedom Quilt
was created
and quilted by
Vestal High School
students.



COMPLETED PROJECTS 2004

Project Name	Local \$	State \$	Federal \$	CNY	Other \$*	TOTAL
NE Holistic Management Certified Educator Training	\$108,000	\$67,500	\$235,000	\$22,500	\$61,250	\$494,250

Provided 3 years of training in whole farm planning and Holistic Management to 15 individuals in the Northeast. Trained Cooperative Extension, NRCS, Non-Profit & Farmer Educators and published case studies of farmers improving on-farm decision making using Holistic Management.

Madison-Chenango County Wetlands Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$103,720	\$5,000	\$0	\$108,720
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Assisted Madison & Chenango County landowners & USDA-NRCS in administering Wetlands Reserve Program.

Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps Expansion	\$102,700	\$43,125	\$188,500	\$8,240	\$0	\$342,565
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Expanded existing program that provides high school & college students conservation service & educational experiences in Chenango,

Central Unadilla Regional Agricultural Product Network	\$16,000	\$35,000	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$35,000	\$91,500
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Assisted farmers with distribution, marketing & selling of various value added products throughout the Central NY region

Chenango Cheese & Dairy Product Development	\$38,300	\$26,200	\$4,000	\$1,200	\$5,000	\$74,700
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Assisted value added dairy enterprises that are selling historic & other cheeses and value added dairy products such as bottled milk and

Northeast Grasstravaganza	\$30,750	\$6,000	\$22,850	\$1,950	\$5,200	\$66,750
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Hosted over 370 attendees at a regional grass based farming conference & tradeshow in Binghamton, NY

Sherburne Farmers Market	\$4,760	\$0	\$2,400	\$600	\$350	\$8,110
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Assisted a local economic development group in maintaining and attempting to expand a local farmers market.

Venison Donation Program	\$6,623	\$5,050	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$19,173
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Attained local funding for and coordinated the 2004 Venison Donation Program in 10 participating counties resulting in over 8,000

TOTALS	\$307,133	\$182,875	\$566,470	\$41,990	\$107,300	\$1,205,768
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*Includes private foundations and other sources of funding.

For every dollar committed by CNY RC&D, \$29 in matching funds were leveraged from local, state, federal, and other sources.

January 2005– December 2005 Meetings

(every third Tuesday @ 10:00am unless otherwise noted)

Jan 25—Norwich
 Feb 15—Norwich
 March 15—Norwich
 April 19—Annual Meeting
 May 17—Otsego County
 June 14—Norwich

July 19—Cayuga County
 August 16—Norwich
 Sept 20—Tompkins County
 Oct 18—Norwich
 Nov 15—Tioga County

CNY RC&D Project, Inc.
 99 North Broad Street
 Norwich, NY 13815
 Phone: 607-334-3231, x4
 Fax: 607-334-4744
 www.cnyrcd.org

