



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year April 2006

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.”

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.”

12 Member Counties

Broome
Cayuga
Chenango
Cortland
Delaware
Madison
Onondaga
Otsego
Schoharie
Sullivan
Tioga
Tompkins

RC&D Honors Those Who Serve

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is a nation-wide U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The purpose of the RC&D program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources.

2005 Sojourners Awards

10 years and Over

Eleanor Ritter since 1994
Richard Warner since 1994
Carl Anderson since 1994

25 Years and Over

Robert Banta since 1979
James Jenne since 1979

5 years and Over

Robert Huot since 2000
Andrew Kiraly since 1999
Craig Schutt since 1997



Phil Metzger, USDA-NRCS—RC&D Coordinator
Robert Banta, Otsego County Representative
Madison Wright, Tompkins County Representative, 2001-2006 Chair

NEW YORK FEDERATION OF RC&D COUNCILS

“RC&D is local solutions for local problems.”

Greater Adirondack RC&D

Counties Covered: Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington

Hudson Mohawk RC&D

Counties Covered: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer and Schenectady

Lower Hudson Long Island RC&D

Counties Covered: Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Ulster, Bronx, Manhattan, Orange Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island Nassau, and Suffolk

Lake Plains RC&D

Counties Covered: Wayne, Monroe, Orleans, Niagara, Erie, and Genesee

Seneca Trail RC&D

Counties Covered: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Livingston and Wyoming

The mission of The New York State Federation of RC&D Councils is to coordinate and support local, state, regional and national priorities for resource, conservation and development.

www.nyrcd.org



Member Councils:

Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D

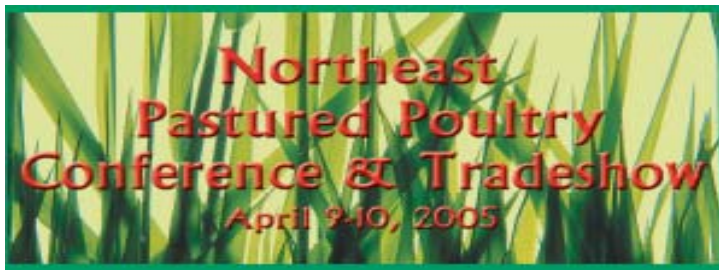
Counties Covered: Franklin, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, and St. Lawrence

Central NY RC&D Council

Counties Covered: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Onondaga, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, and Tompkins

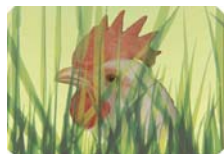
Finger Lakes RC&D

Counties Covered: Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben and Yates



The Northeast Pastured Poultry Conference on April 9-10, 2005 was hosted by The American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA), Cornell University, and Central NY RC&D and sponsored by: Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship, Cornell Small Farms Program, Cornerstone Farm Ventures, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative – NY, Heifer International, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The conference was located at the Wyndham Hotel Conference Center in Syracuse, NY.

Pastured Poultry producers through out the Northeast attended this conference to receive the latest information on pasturing poultry. The program included general sessions as well as 3 separate breakout groups during this two-day conference. Sessions covered production and marketing of laying flocks, meat bird operations and turkeys. Topics included production, processing, breed selection, feeding, bird health, soil health, marketing, as well as multi-species grazing, current management techniques and much more.



Presenters:

- Mike Carroll & Donna Jenny, Nature's Way Farm
- Darrel Emmick, USDA-NRCS
- Karma Glos, Kingbird Farm
- Judith Kleinberg, Farm to Chef Express
- Dr. Benjamin Lucio, Cornell University
- Mary Howell Martens, Lakeview Organic Grain
- Jeff & Dave Mattocks, Fertrell Company
- Peter McDonald; Pasture Pride Farm
- Jim McLaughlin, Cornerstone Farm Ventures
- Wayne Mellor, C.A.D.E., Inc.
- Phil Metzger, USDA-NRCS/Central NY RC&D
- Keith Morgan-Davie, Windhaven Farm
- Brian Moyer, Green Haven Farm
- Leon Moyer, Moyer's Chicks
- Ben Shaw, NE Pastured Poultry Association
- Karen Sullivan, USDA -NRCS NY



Planning Committee L-R

Jim McLaughlin,
Ag Consultant;

Phil Metzger,
*USDA-NRCS
RC&D Coordinator*

Yvonne Shaw,
BTI Travel

Missing:
Tro Bui,
Cornell University

Strategies for Going Grass-Fed Another Sellout

By Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer

The interest in grass-based farming blossomed like the coming of Spring. Over 200 farmers, household chefs and agency folks from all over the Northeast welcomed in a host of seasoned, practical farmer speakers on the subject of our most promising asset, pasture.

Marty Broccoli from Oneida County CCE Ag Development opened the program and Phil Metzger of USDA-NRCS and the CNY RC&D project introduced Assemblyman Bill Magee, Ag. Committee Chairman. He praised the ideas of using our grasslands more efficiently to stimulate the palates of the consumers who are asking for these products. Troy Bishopp, Madison Co. SWCD grazing specialist and Oneida Co. Farmer, introduced the Commissioner of Agriculture, Patrick Brennan. Mr. Brennan was excited about the passion for pasture, as well as its benefits environmentally, socially and financially for the farmers in this region. He and his staff continue to work for constituents to enhance this resource for the viability of New York agriculture.

Keynote speaker and author of No-Risk Ranching, Missouri grazier Greg Judy, was passionate about contract grazing on leased land. He uses over 500 beef cows, 300 hair sheep, goats, horses and Tamworth pigs on 1300 acres to reclaim and maintain idle land. Indiana seasonal dairyman Dave Forgey was just as enthused about having dairy animals on pasture and bringing the next generation into farming through a share-milking business partnership. Shannon Hayes, author of *The Grass-Fed Gourmet*, brought to light that Americans spent 68 billion dollars last year on kitchen renovations, but did very little cooking and only averaged 30 minutes together at the family meal. She emphasized the importance of locally grown meat, dairy and eggs raised on good pastures, and the associated health benefits with consuming them. The comradery and discussions at the lunch table among attendees was truly memorable.

The afternoon sessions featured more in-depth discussions on pastured poultry from Dr. Ben Lucio, Jim McLaughlin, Jeff Mattocks and Mike Carroll. The livestock session focused on contract grazing, marketing and multi-species grazing strategies. Mike Debach, artisan butcher from Leona Meats led a spirited group on the benefits of grass-based genetics as it relates to meat quality, flavor and cutout ratios of beef animals. The afternoon dairy tract featured Onondaga County grass-based dairyman Pete Mapstone and his thoughts on maintaining top production throughout the grazing season. An organic dairy farmer roundtable discussion consisting of farmers Kevin Engelbert, Paul Knapp, Dave Stratton and Charles Blood ended the day on a positive note.



HYCC Wins NYS Earth Team Volunteer Award

The **Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC)** contributed a great deal to the conservation of natural resources in both Chenango and Otsego Counties in Central New York State during 2005. **The HYCC Crew received the 2005 USDA-NRCS New York State Earth Team Volunteer Award.**



A total of 19 young adults from various backgrounds and experiences made up the “crew”, which was managed by Field Director Sean Ryberg. Sean was hired by the “The Place”, the lead agency of the HYCC program, because of his knowledge and experience in working with young people. The two summer Crew Leaders were Isaiah Suttan and Nate Morris. Key partner organizations in the HYCC Program included the Central NY RC&D, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rogers Environmental Education Center, NY State

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Chenango County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE).

During the eight-week summer program two separate work crews completed over a dozen projects ranging from dam maintenance, hiking and skiing trail construction (6 miles) and maintenance (20 miles), erosion repair (2 ponds), wildlife habitat improvement (on 10 acres) and 3 surface drainage improvements projects. All of these projects were done in consultation with natural resources professionals including those from USDA-NRCS and NYS DEC. Some of the other agencies and organizations they worked with included the Norwich and Oneonta YMCAs, Bowman Lake State Park, Village of New Berlin, NY. Some projects:

Millbrook Pond, New Berlin, NY
USDA-NRCS History: Mill Brook Site II is a USDA/NRCS PL-566 multi-purpose flood control structure located in Chenango County, NY. The flood control structure, completed in 1987, includes a 70 foot high earthen dam forming a 50 acre lake with approximately 60 acres of surrounding uplands. Since 1990, the Town of New Berlin in cooperation with the Chenango County Board of Supervisors and Soil and Water Conservation District has constructed

an access road, boat launch, and picnic and swimming area. The site provides year-round recreational opportunities including swimming, picnicking, fishing, hiking, boating, and wildlife observation.

Design and Completion of a perimeter trail: The HYCC crew began the project by flagging the proposed route and identifying critical trail elements that would require additional work or design features.

Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, NY:

Construction of a new hiking/cross-country ski trail: The HYCC crew worked under the direction of NYS DEC Foresters, Marsha Guzewich and Fred VonMechow. The HYCC begins all major projects with planning and research to conduct work consistent with best practices and high quality, efficient service. The focus of the stewardship planning process is to consider the client’s needs and vision with environmentally sound practices.

In total HYCC provided over 5000 hours of service as Earth Team Volunteers. Additionally, all crew members received a weekly educational component coordinated by Instructor Stacie Edick natural resource professional who provided information on conservation, forestry, environmental sciences and related career areas for the benefit of the crew members.



2005 HYCC Crew

*Back Row L-R:
Tim Finnegan, Norwich; Joe Wright, S. New Berlin;
Crew Leader Nate Morris, Sherburne;
Crew Leader Isaiah Suttan, Norwich;
Uriah Bennett, New Berlin; Leigh Frye, Norwich;
Sonja Streichert, Norwich;
Stacie Edick, Environmental Education Coordinator*

*Middle Row L-R:
Sean Ryberg, Field Director; Stephanie Deuel, Norwich;
Corey Weidman, Oxford; Katie Reagan, Cortland;
Matthieu Satterlee, Plymouth; Sara Lafayette, Guilford;
Erin Mechan, Edmeston; Anne Place, Oxford;*

*Front Row L-R:
Riis Gramstad, Oxford; Josh Ashton, Norwich;
Bob Wolf, Norwich;*

Missing: - Nicole Edick, Oxford

CARBON TRADING CONCEPT



CNY RC&D is exploring how landowners might be able to sell environmental (carbon), credits for addressing global warming. Landowners might sequester carbon in soil or biomass by changing farming or land use practices. They might reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous

oxide) by installing anaerobic digesters on dairy farms or reducing nitrogen fertilizer application. By pursuing carbon neutral, renewable energy resources, landowners or farmers can displace the combustion of fossil fuels. If the emissions reductions or carbon sequestration can be measured and verified, the

landowner may be able to sell the resulting carbon credits. CNY RC&D has been contracted by Environmental Defense to develop a protocol to assist landowners in this endeavor. carbongal@chenangony.net

By Stacie Edick

MARKET REPORT

“Nine auctions reporting each week as well as several auctions reporting special sales”

This year the market report in the *Country Folks Farm Weekly* has again expanded in the number of auctions reporting. Over the last 2 years we have seen new markets coming on line. This year we welcomed Empire Chatham from Chatham, NY. The report from Chatham brings us new information on alternative livestock each week. The Bath Livestock Market used to provide alternative livestock reports but discontinued them earlier this year, so this new market reporting was very much needed.

Currently we have up to nine auctions reporting each week

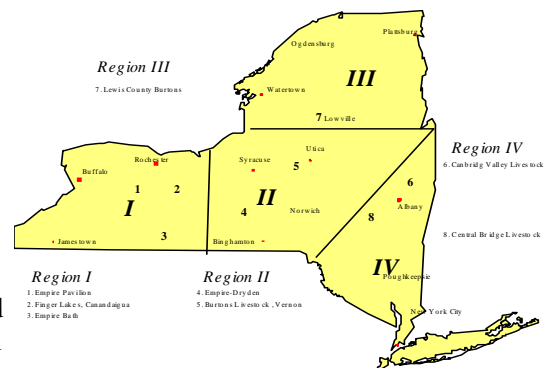
as well as several auctions reporting special sales, such as feeder cattle sales, special breed sales, and other dispersals that provide farmers with information they need to pursue profitability. Currently we have representation from all areas of the state.

The Alternative Livestock Report helps provide information to farmers such as the price of horses, lamas, donkeys and various fowl

that are seldom found in other publications. We appreciate all the auctions that report and look forward to bringing more on line in 2006.

jrmclaughlin@juno.com

By Jim McLaughlin



MARKET REPORT COLUMN



Continuing through her fifth year submitting Market Report columns for *Country Folks Farm Weekly*, editorial consultant Ann Spencer writes weekly about sustainable agricultural events and programs sponsored and supported by CNY RC&D. A look at this year’s columns reveals CNY RC&D’s varied projects. Columns were

published in support of programs sponsored by the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) and the Chenango County Agricultural Development Council. Many columns informed readers about carbon trading and in particular: Chenango Historic Cheese, LLC, Better Decision

Making with Holistic Management, Venison Donation Program and the Northeast Pastured Poultry Conference. Supported by an editorial board consisting of Phil Metzger, Bob Huot, and Steve Hoerz, Ann’s columns provided an ongoing snapshot of the difference CNY RC&D makes in its twelve counties.

By Ann Spencer



healthy land.
healthy profits.



An Educational Farm Sponsor

Holistic Management International will be working throughout 2006 with Horizon Organic. Under a new partnership, HMI will facilitate the planning for some of the facilities that produce milk for Horizon's line of products.

The purpose of this effort is to create a new standard for pasture and surrounding rangelands management for organic dairies. Faced with insufficient product to meet the growing demand, and working towards clarification

of standards for organic dairies that require the animals to be integrated with the land, Horizon Organic has engaged HMI as a key strategic partner.

The two companies hope to use the experience from the initial operations to create templates and models that can be used in the coming years with existing Horizon producers and/or with potential producers who need assistance making the conversion from conventional dairying to organic.

Byron Shelton, a Certified Educator in Colorado, will be the lead planner for this project and **Joel Benson**, also a Certified Educator from Colorado, will be a back-up planner/facilitator.

*Holistic
Management
International and
Horizon Organic
Partner up!*

IMPROVE DECISION MAKING—TESTING GUIDELINES

Improving decision making includes running potential actions through a filter prior to acting.

ASK YOURSELF:

Cause & Effect: Does this action address the root cause of the problem?

Social Weak Link: Have I/we considered and/or addressed any confusion, anger, or opposition this action could create with people whose support I/we need in the near or distant future?

Marginal Reaction (comparing two or more actions): Which action

provides the greatest return, in terms of my/our farm/family goal for the time and money spent?

Sustainability: If I/we take this action, will it lead toward or away from the future described in my/our farm/family goal?

FRIENDS OF HARRIET TUBMAN AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Central New York Resource Conservation & Development Project, Inc. (CNY RC&D) has a vital role in the Friends of Harriet Tubman Ad Hoc Committee's exhibition since CNY RC&D supplies one of the main Agri displays of the exhibition. The exhibition will be growing next year to become a part of the "New

Underground Railroad for Economic Freedom Agri-Heritage Tourism Initiative Link-Up."

The purpose of the exhibition is to expose the economic impact to be derived from a marriage between New York State Agriculture and Tourism identified as "Agri-Heritage

Tourism," to become an economic "Tiger" for local economic development throughout New York State according to the Committee.



www.freedomtrail.org

COMPLETED PROJECTS FISCAL YEAR 2005

Project Name	Local \$	State \$	Federal \$	CNY RC&D \$	Other \$*	Total \$
Carbon Credits Protocol Design Developed pilot protocol to allow landowners to sell environmental (carbon) credits for applying conservation practices on the land.	\$3,600	\$500	\$32,000	\$4,500	\$38,250	\$78,850
Foundation ESF Wildlife Study Completed a study of how land enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program affected waterfowl and invertebrate populations.	\$0	\$0	\$146,627	\$2,400	\$0	\$149,027
Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps Expansion Expanded existing program that provides high school & college students conservation service & educational opportunities in Chenango, Delaware, & Otsego Counties through completing conservation projects on public lands.	\$41,304	\$4,800	\$89,056	\$1,250	\$0	\$136,410
Northeast Pastured Poultry Conference Co-hosted with the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association & Cornell University a Northeast Regional Conference attended by 75 producers, agency & not-for-profit staff and board members and others.	\$18,400	\$9,250	\$10,000	\$1,500	\$3,250	\$42,400
Northeast Holistic Management Association Formed the regional Northeast Holistic Management Association to serve as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for providing information on Holistic Management in the Northeast.	\$1,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$600	\$1,200	\$4,800
NY Federation Administrative Assistance Provided bookkeeping and accounting services to the NY Federation of RC&D Councils.	\$0	\$0	\$9,600	\$1,250	\$1,800	\$12,650
NY Holistic Management Instructor Training Provided 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.	\$3,000	\$0	\$16,000	\$3,500	\$20,000	\$42,500
Venison Donation Program Attained local funding for and coordinated the 2004 Venison Donation Program in 10 participating counties resulting in over 8,000 pounds of venison being processed and distributed through regional food banks, resulting in over 32,000 meals for those in need.	\$11,400	\$0	\$7,200	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$30,600
TOTALS	\$78,704	\$14,550	\$312,483	\$21,000	\$70,500	\$497,237

All funds represent cash and in-kind contributions.

*Includes private foundations and other sources of funding.

For every dollar committed by CNY RC&D, \$24 in matching funds was leveraged from local, state, federal and other sources.

Ongoing & New Projects

Carbon Trading - \$40,000 new grant for the exploration of aggregation (buying & selling) of carbon credits in Central NY State.

Venison Donation Program - Over 12,000 lbs of venison processed for 2005, resulting in over 48,000 meals for those in need.

Northeast SARE Knapweed & Bedstraw Control - Entering 3rd and final year of evaluating control methods for minimizing the damage of 2 problem plants.

Local Food Opportunities - Working cooperatively with 30 organizations to address low income individuals' access to fresh locally produced foods.

Grazing and Fallow Land Conferences - Working cooperatively with Madison Co. SWCD & NY-Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative on grazing education.

CNY RC&D Consultants

Stacie Edick, Carbon Consultant
Debbie Hawkins, Bookkeeper
Ann Spencer, Columnist

Jeni Wightman, Carbon Consultant
Linda Kays, Webpage Design
Jim McLaughlin, Market Report

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

