



New York Association of Conservation Districts

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EPF Funding as it Relates to New York State's 58 Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Reimbursements to Districts: Continued funding at \$3 million to be dispersed among the State's 58 SWCDs.



The SWCDs employ over 300 people statewide. SWCDs have become the primary local service provider for many state natural resource conservation programs, meeting the needs for local governments, agriculture and nonagricultural landowners, and public infrastructure. This is particularly true in light of DEC staffing cuts.

Our goal is that we must continue to build District's capacity so as to be able to meet the demand for technical support and assistance that is asked of Districts, which will benefit all New Yorker's in preserving and protecting our natural resources.

In 2009, SWCDs provided \$11 million in reimbursable technical services to NYS, which is expected to increase in 2011.

Investment in SWCDs is a workforce multiplier as SWCDs employ trained technicians, contractors, and support more than 600 local businesses across the State so as to fulfill projects.

Please support level and or increased funding to SWCDs for 2011-2012

- SWCD funding attracts numerous outside funding sources, such as federal monies, which multiplies the impact of the original investment.
- With implementation of Chesapeake Bay TMDL, SWCDs must continue to build capacity to implement programs in response to EPA mandated requirements for water quality standards. Without the ability to implement water quality programs, EPA threatens to police all of NYS.

Agricultural Non Point Source Grants: Continued funding for 2011-2012 at \$13.2 million

81 RFPs totaling \$19 million for Round 17 (fy 2010-11) of the Ag NPS Grant program were submitted in December of 2010.

Currently, 138 contracts are active. This number of contracts represent 1,036 individual farm projects across the state.

Requests have always exceeded available funds, and requests will most likely increase as many farms continue to require resources for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), and as medium sized farms are mandated by NYS to become CAFO compliant.



Ag Environmental Management Program (AEM), a component of Ag NPS, works for all types of agriculture, is a proactive, successful program that provides the opportunity to avoid unnecessary, overburdensome regulation, and is a critical component to meeting the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements, thereby avoiding the backstops that EPA threatened on NYS.

Please support *at least* level funding for the Ag Non Point Source program at \$13.2 million.

- The Ag NPS program has a NYS Health and Safety designation and as such, should be given a high priority for funding.
- Due to funding cuts, NYS's agricultural industry has lost the ProDairy program where SWCDs work with professional partners developing and implementing farm nutrient management programs, and the AEM program. SWCDs will assume added responsibilities and delivery of technical services with the loss of the ProDairy Program, which further jeopardizes natural resource protection.

NYACD is a nongovernmental, nonpartisan, volunteer organization with over 50 years of experience representing NYS's 58 Soil & Water Conservation Districts, including the 5 boroughs of New York City. To contact the local SWCD in your county, visit nyacd.org for a complete listing of Districts