

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 1 Report – March 2020  
Submitted by: Victor DiGiacomo – Region 1 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2020:** NYSDAM is partnering with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's first award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award at the annual Leadership Luncheon at Empire Farm Days. What Soil and Water Conservation Districts need to know:

- Conservation Districts will continue to be the only eligible applicants, applying on behalf of a farm.
- The applications will be submitted to Ag and Markets.
- Applying District of winning farm will receive \$1000.
- The AEM Leopold Award will replace the statewide AEM Award.
- The award application will be very similar to the 2019 AEM award application.
- The winning farm will be featured in a professionally produced 5 minutes video that will feature the farm.
- The winning farm will be featured in a broad scope of media outlets and publications.

The deadline for applications is **April 1, 2020**. Any questions? Please contact Judy Littrell at 518-457-6320 or [judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov)

**Grant Funding Opportunities:** Multiple funding opportunities are currently available, including:

**AGNPS Round 26:** \$15 million is available this year to support projects across the State. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to [Bethany.Bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Bethany.Bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) by **March 30, 2020**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC Sharepoint website by **4:30 PM April 13, 2020**.

**Implementation of High-Efficiency Agricultural Irrigation Water Management Systems:** Approximately \$700,000 is available for the Implementation of High-Efficiency Agricultural Irrigation Water Management Systems. Questions must be submitted in writing to [Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov) by **March 16, 2020**. Proposals must be submitted in the Grants Gateway <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/> by **4:00 PM, April 6, 2020**.

**Implementation of AEM Plans on New York State Grown and Certified Farms (NYS G&C):** Approximately \$700,000 is available for the implementation of AEM Plans on farms enrolled in the NYS G&C program or farms that provide commodities to NYS G&C processors. Questions must be submitted in writing to [Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov) by **March 16, 2020**. Proposals must be submitted in the Grants Gateway <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/> by **4:00 PM, April 6, 2020**.

**Source Water Buffer Program:** \$5 million is available to support the purchase of development rights on agricultural land to support the protection of active public drinking water sources. The RFA and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>. Questions regarding the RFA must be submitted in writing to [bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov).

### **Other Events**

**2019 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference & Meeting** - The 2020 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference and Meeting will take place on **April 28 & 29** in Clayton, NY. This year's meeting will focus on Rising Waters: Issues Facing the Great Lakes & Other New York Waters. Online Registration is now available. <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>

**Riparian Buffer Training:** The Stroud Water Research Center is partnering with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) to host this 2-day event at the Grange Auditorium in Cortland, NY on **June 17th & 18th**. Training will address the importance of buffers as a priority practice, how to implement buffers and measure their functionality in an agricultural landscape. This

training is free and available for conservation professionals across New York - please share widely. For additional information or questions e-mail Lydia Brinkley, USC Buffer Coordinator, at [lbrinkley@u-s-c.org](mailto:lbrinkley@u-s-c.org)

**Other Funding**

**Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program:** The Great Lakes Commission is requesting applications through April 6th. Funding for the program is from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The program aims to reduce nutrient and sediment loads from agricultural watersheds and reduce untreated storm water runoff. Under this year's request, the grant will fund watershed scale and site-specific projects. The maximum grant award is \$200,000, and a 25% match is required. A webinar will be offered on **March 3rd**, to register visit: <http://bit.ly/GLSNRP2020RFP> Application Deadline: **April 6, 2020 at 5:00 pm EDT**, <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2020>