

# Conservation Connections



## Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, New York 14052-2185  
 Telephone: (716) 652-8480 Fax: (716) 652-8506  
 www.ecswcd.org



Summer 2012 Edition

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## The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome Erie County Legislator Terrence McCracken & Dr. Kelly Frothingham to its Board of Directors

### District Bulletin Board:



Visit us online at [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org)



Honorable Terrence McCracken

Terry McCracken represents District #8 which encompasses South Cheektowaga, Depew, Lancaster and Alden. He has lived in Depew and Lancaster his whole life and is dedicated to improving his community through public service and hard work. He is looking forward to serving the taxpayers of Erie County in his role as the Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee and as a member of the Public Safety and Government Affairs Committees.

Among his most successful projects:

- The construction of a Senior Citizens Center featuring a meeting room and computer & fitness centers.
- The development of the Heritage Trail in 2010, a 4-mile, on and off road bike and hike trail.
- The renovation of St. Mary's High School's outdoor athletic facilities including construction of football, softball, track & baseball fields.
- The construction of Westwood Park, a 175-acre multi-purpose park.
- Organizing and managing the Taste of Lancaster basketball tournament involving 150 teams and 600 participants.

Prior to his work as Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for the Town of Lancaster, he worked as a bus operator for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. He also was a training operator where he trained new operators on safe operation, routes and company rules and regulations. McCracken attended Canisius College. McCracken has two children, Patrick and Jillian, and lives with his wife, Kristin, in Depew.

Dr. Kelly Frothingham received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. She is also a graduate of Buffalo State College, where she received her undergraduate and Master's degrees. She is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the Geography and Planning Department at Buffalo State. Her research interests are in interdisciplinary watershed management, stream restoration and naturalization, and human impacts to fluvial systems. She teaches classes in physical geography, conservation and environmental management, research techniques, and watershed analysis. She also is an adjunct Associate Professor for the Department of Geography at the University at Buffalo.



Dr. Kelly Frothingham

Kelly's past service experience includes work for the McNair Scholars Program at Buffalo State and work as a member of numerous advisory councils and committees related to watershed management and stream restoration.

She, along with her colleagues, has contributed a vast array of peer-reviewed publications on topics ranging from the principles of geomorphology to applied water resources management. Kelly has also been successful in obtaining grant funding for soil erosion & sediment control and she has made numerous presentations at both regional and national conferences. In addition to all of the above, her expertise on streams has made her a keynote speaker at many functions.

We are privileged to have Kelly on our Board of Directors and you can bet she will use her knowledge in geomorphology, water resources management, stream restoration, erosion and sediment control and natural resource issues to develop methodologies that will ensure the success of our stream programs at the District.

# USDA Revises National Nutrient Management Standard



WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its national conservation practice standard on nutrient management to help producers better manage the application of nutrients on agricultural land. Proper application of nitrogen and phosphorus offers tremendous benefits to producers and the public, including cost savings to the producer and the protection or improvement of ground and surface water, air quality, soil quality and agricultural sustainability.

The nutrient management conservation practice is an important tool in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation toolbox. The agency's staff uses this conservation practice to help farmers and ranchers apply their nutrients more efficiently. Proper management of nitrogen and phosphorus, including the use of organic sources of nitrogen such as animal manure, legumes and cover crops, can save producers money. The nutrient management standard provides a roadmap for NRCS's staff and others to help producers apply available nutrient sources in the right amount, from the right source, in the right place, at the right time for maximum agricultural and environmental benefits.

NRCS's nutrient management experts worked with universities, non-government organizations, industry and others to revise the standard to ensure it is scientifically sound. Key changes in the standard include expanding the use of technology to streamline the nutrient management process and allowing states more flexibility in providing site-specific nutrient management planning using local information when working with producers. NRCS staff offices will have until Jan. 1, 2013 to comply with erosion, nitrogen and phosphorus criteria for their state nutrient management standard.

The revised national standard is being released at a time when the agency is working with various partners to address nutrient management concerns identified in three recently released Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) cropland studies. These CEAP studies assessed the effectiveness of conservation practices in the Upper Mississippi Basin, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the Great Lakes Basin. One significant resource concern identified in all three studies is the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from cropland. Most nitrogen losses are attributed to nitrate leaching through the soil to groundwater. Most phosphorus is lost due to erosion because phosphorus attaches itself to displaced soil particles that are transported by runoff to nearby waterways. Improved nutrient management and effective erosion control work together to reduce the loss of nutrients from agricultural land, resulting in improved water quality in downstream rural and urban communities. The revised standard will provide tools and strategies to help producers address the natural resource concerns relating to excess nutrients on agricultural land.

NRCS offers voluntary technical and financial assistance to producers nationwide for planning and implementing on-farm nutrient management plans. Producers can use this assistance to help meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations.

For more information about how nutrient management fits into NRCS's conservation work, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/npm>

## Friendly reminder from the Erie County Farm Service Agency

Acreage reporting deadline is Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> for corn, soybeans, hay and most vegetables. For vegetables not planted by July 16<sup>th</sup>, producers have 14 days after planting to report to the office. Producers who have not yet enrolled in this year's Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) please do so as soon as possible. DCP deadline is August 1, 2012. Call 716-652-1400 to make your appointment today.

## District Completes Tonawanda Creek Watershed Ag Implementation Project

The District is pleased to announce that the Tonawanda Creek Watershed Ag Implementation Project has been completed. Eleven best management practices were installed to protect and improve water quality in streams that discharge into Tonawanda Creek. Milking Center Waste Collection, Barnyard Runoff Management, Alternate Water Supply, Stream Crossing, Access Road, Animal Trails and Walkways and Fencing are the conservation practice systems that were installed to contain agricultural pollutants, to allow for the proper use of agricultural nutrients, to divert stormwater, to restrict animals from sensitive areas and to meet the goals of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP). For more information on how your farm operation can benefit from Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) please visit the District's website at [www.ecswcd.org/html/Agriculture.html](http://www.ecswcd.org/html/Agriculture.html) or call the District at (716) 652-8480 ext. 5.



before



after

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**Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District  
2012 Fish Stocking Order Form - Bass/Minnows**

**Order Deadline:  
July 12, 2012**



**Pickup Date:  
July 21st, 2012**

Species	Price	Qty Ordered	Cost
3-4" Largemouth Bass	25 fish for \$48.00	_____	\$ _____
1+" Fathead Minnows	100 fish for \$22.00	_____	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ORDER\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Order is:  
25 Bass or 100 Minnows

**AEM Program Progress & Future Goals  
for this Coming Season**



The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program is a locally lead conservation planning, implementation and educational program offered by Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of AEM program is to work with all agricultural operators to improve the quality of natural resources that are important to agriculture and to the community. Resources of concern include soil, water, air, wildlife, domestic animals, human health & safety and energy. AEM is accomplished through a partnership with various private sector, local, state, and federal agencies who work together to provide assistance and technical support to install the necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of those resources.

Last year the AEM Program enrolled 8 new participants and the District continued its conservation planning and implementation efforts on 34 farms. To date there are well over 200 Erie County agricultural operations actively participating in AEM. As part of the programs education efforts the District attended 5 community events: Boston Environmental Awareness Day, Marilla Farm Days, The Erie County Fair, The Western New York Farm Show, and WNY Equifest to educate and inform the public about the benefits of agriculture and to encourage participation in AEM.

Also, as part of our educational efforts the District is in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County which sponsored 4 agricultural workshops featuring the topics: Soil Fertility, Nutrient Management, Barnyard and Exercise Lots, Grazing Basics, Pasture Plants and Renovation, Making and Utilizing Compost, Weed Management and in addition a field based workshop to identify weeds in pastures.

The District's plan for the AEM Program this year is simply to continue to provide assistance and technical support based on the needs of agricultural operators in Erie County. The District's partnership with CCE has been successful and we will sponsor 4 or 5 educational events again this year. Topic ideas for future events include Farmstead Planning, Cropland Conservation, Nutrient Management, Pasture Management, and Pest/Pesticide Management. Detailed announcements for agricultural workshops will be released later this year. For more information about the AEM Program, workshops or to suggest a workshop topic contact the ECSWCD at 716-652-8480.

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 Stanley Travis - Farm Bureau  
 Dr. Kelly Frothingham - At Large  
 Samuel J. Chiavetta - At Large  
 Terrence McCracken - County Legislator  
 John J. Mills - County Legislator



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 Allen Young, Water Quality Technician

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

John Whitney, District Conservationist  
 Michael Shinnick, Area I Ag. Engineer

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established by Erie County in 1943 to protect natural resources and water quality within Erie County.

**Office Hours:**

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday  
 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM Friday

**The Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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