

## How do farm practices protect water quality?

Some examples of the agricultural practices that protect water quality include:

### Manure Storage Systems

Storing manure until conditions are appropriate for field application protects water bodies from manure runoff.



Ontario SWCD

Construction of an agricultural waste system.

### Barnyard Runoff Management Systems



Ontario SWCD

Diverting rainwater from the barnyard keeps manure and other substances from washing into nearby streams. This prevents NPS pollution, keeps the barnyard dryer, and improves herd health.

Construction of a barnyard runoff management system.

### Short-Duration Grazing Systems

Planting forage and rotational grazing maximizes production while reducing nutrient and sediment runoff. Alternative water supplies eliminate the need for livestock to enter water bodies.



Barb Silvestri, NYS SWCD

Completed short-duration grazing system.

### Stream Crossings and Fencing



USDA NRCS

Installing fencing around streams and ponds minimizes livestock contact with water, which protects and improves water quality.

Completed stream crossing.

New York State  
**Soil & Water**  
Conservation Committee

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For more information  
contact your County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District



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George E. Pataki, Governor  
Nathan L. Rudgers, Commissioner  
NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets  
Dennis Hill, Chairman  
NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee

New York State  
**GRANT FUNDING**  
FOR



**AGRICULTURAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**



**AGRICULTURAL  
Nonpoint Source  
Abatement & Control  
GRANT PROGRAM**

## What is the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement & Control Grant Program?

This New York State funded grant program assists farmers in preventing water pollution from agricultural activities by providing technical assistance and financial incentives. County Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) apply for the competitive grants on behalf of farmers and coordinate funded activities. Grants are of two types:

- Planning grants are used for environmental planning.
- Implementation grants provide funds to construct or apply management practices.

Since 1994 this program has awarded over \$44 million through SWCDs to reduce and prevent agricultural sources of pollution.

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution refers to contaminants that wash from the land into water bodies when it rains. Sources include:

- fertilizers and pesticides used on golf courses, lawns, crops and pastures
- sediment from construction sites, plowed fields, road and stream banks
- nutrients and pathogens from animal waste and failing septic systems
- fuel, oil and grease from vehicles



## What is the goal of the program?

Most of New York's remaining water quality problems are due to NPS pollution. The goal of this grant program is to support New York's diverse agricultural community in their efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

## What is a planning grant?

Farmers use NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program to develop farm plans that reduce pollution and protect water quality. The grant program provides funding to farms which have completed Tiers 1 and 2 of the AEM planning process. Grants can cost-share the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans. These plans are customized for all sizes and types of farms and enable Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to comply with State water quality requirements.

## What is an implementation grant?

Implementation grants provide cost-share funds to construct and apply Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms. BMP activities or projects that prevent or reduce the flow of pollutants into surface and ground water are identified during the AEM planning process. Your SWCD has a catalog of approved BMPs that are eligible for funding.

## How is this grant program funded?

Grants are provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) and the Department of Agriculture & Markets coordinate the program at the state level. Grants can cost-share up to 75% of project costs, and even more if farm owners or operators contribute. The farmer's contribution can include cash, in-kind services, local grants, or funding through Federal Farm Bill conservation programs.

Over 40 Best Management Practices (BMPs) can be funded including:

- Barnyard Runoff Management Systems
- Pasture Management Systems
- Manure Storage, Anaerobic Digestion, Composting
- Petroleum Product Storage & Spill Prevention
- Pesticide Handling Facilities
- Streambank & Shoreline Protection



## How can my farm get involved?

The first step is to contact your SWCD. You can obtain their contact information by calling the SWCC at (518) 457-3738, or locate 'contacts' on the web at:

[www.nys-soilandwater.org](http://www.nys-soilandwater.org)

There is an annual application period once per year for the Agricultural NPS Grant Program. The SWCC ranks and selects projects for funding based on water quality goals. Once proposals are selected for funding, contracts are prepared between the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the SWCDs. After the contract development and approval process is complete, subcontracts are made with each farmer.

Contact your County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
for grant program  
details.

## What are my responsibilities?

The landowner is expected to work with the SWCD to make sure that project goals are on schedule and that costs are kept within budget. The landowner often agrees to contribute to the cost of the project, through in-kind services or cash payments to contractors. If BMPs are installed, the landowner and/or operator is required to maintain the practices for specified life spans. Your SWCD has BMP Operation and Maintenance Guidelines that will give you an idea of what this involves.

Landowners often have an opportunity to work with many members of the local conservation team to complete their project. The grant program is coordinated at the local level by the SWCD. Partners including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension and private sector consultants and contractors are often involved in the projects.

The AEM process also assists farmers in evaluating the success of their continued efforts to protect New York State's soil and water resources and to respond to changing environmental and business needs.