



**CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
1:00 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 2024
USDA CONFERENCE ROOM, 99 NORTH BROAD ST, NORWICH
AGENDA**

Call to Order.

Approval of Minutes.

Payment and Approval of Bills.

Report on Cooperating Agencies.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Cornell Cooperative Extension | Craig Brown |
| • Farm Service Agency | Brian Sheridan |
| • Natural Resources Conservation Service | Eric Fisher |
| • Soil and Water Conservation Committee | Scott Fickbohm |
| • Soil and Water Conservation District | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Upper Susquehanna Coalition | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Fish & Wildlife Management Board | Jacob Welsh |
| • Department of Environmental Conservation | Paul Romanenko |
| • Water Quality Coordinating Committee | |

Old Business.

New Business.

- District Law Training

Correspondence.

Adjourn.

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 16th at 1 pm



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

November 21st, 2024

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chair
Sue McIntyre	Member
Jim Jenne	Member
Joe Henninge	Member
Josh Lathrop	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Brian Sheridan	USDA-FSA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Sue moved to approve the minutes. Joe seconds. 4-aye, 0-nay, 1-absent. Motion passed.

Josh arrived at the meeting at 1:05 pm.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Sue moved to approve the bills as presented. Joe seconded. 5-aye, 0-nay, 0-absent. Motion passed.

There was a discussion on using personal credit cards for District use. Staff members have been using their credit cards for District purchases. Sue recommended that Katy contact the bank for information regarding a District credit card.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott sent the monthly SWCC report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

Brian provided a written report. Attachment A.

Brian departed after giving his report at 1:30 pm

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment B.

This was a discussion on promoting more for the tree program. Staff will reach out to Cornell to see if we can submit a promotion bit to their bimonthly newsletter. Katy and Jennifer attended the New York State Conservation District Employees Association Administration Conference, where the Otsego County SWCD Audit was a topic of discussion. Based on what was learned there, we will have a second set of eyes approving the resolutions and have a payment voucher for all payments.

Sue moves to accept the 2025 Plan of Work. Josh seconds. 5 aye, 0 nay, 0 absent. Motion passes.

The SRBC (Susquehanna River Basin Commission) Grant Round for Funding is due January 31. Funds are 80/20 share, and they are for environmental improvements, and water restoration/quality.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Nothing to report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Nothing to report.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The meeting ended at 3:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



Farm Service Agency
Chenango County

11/21/2024 SWCD Board of Director Report

Farm Bill and Funding: Continuation of the 2018 Farm Bill expired on 09/30/2024. This directly impacts certain FSA programs that are authorized by this Bill, like CRP. We don't have authority to conduct CRP signup activities for new enrollment; however, we can continue to service the current contracts that we have approved prior to 9/30/2024. Very similar situation for other FSA Programs. Awaiting new Farm Bill.

Federal funding continuing resolution expires on 12/20/2024.

Conservation Reserve Program:

Annual rental payments issued in October: \$63,449.00 (51 Contracts Paid)

Cost-Share and Incentives Paid FY24: \$126,922

SWCD has a long list of landowners interested in CRP. As soon as the program is reauthorized, we intend to start the contracting and planning process with those individuals.

FSA appreciates the work that SWCD contributes to making CRP successful in Chenango County-Thank you!

Dairy Margin Coverage Program: Insurance program where dairy producers can insure Dairy Margin (income over feed cost) at a certain level up to \$9.50 per hundredweight.

FY2024: Paid out \$112,757 (much of this was in CY 2023)

FY2024: 74 Contracts Approved

2024: Two months triggered payments. Slightly increasing milk prices and lowering feed costs through 2024 impacted the need for this program to trigger payments.



Farm Service Agency
Chenango County

MONTH	ALL MILK PRICE FORECAST (\$/CWT)	CORN PRICE FORECAST (\$/BU)	PREMIUM/SUPREME ALFALFA HAY PRICE FORECAST (\$/TON)	SOYBEAN MEAL PRICE FORECAST (\$/TON)	FEED COST FORECAST (\$/CWT)	DMC MARGIN FORECAST (\$/CWT)
Jan	\$20.10	\$4.74	\$274	\$378.40	\$11.62	\$8.48
Feb	\$20.60	\$4.36	\$278	\$363.63	\$11.16	\$9.44
Mar	\$20.70	\$4.36	\$271	\$361.75	\$11.05	\$9.65
Apr	\$20.50	\$4.39	\$260	\$357.68	\$10.90	\$9.60
May	\$22.00	\$4.51	\$276	\$388.65	\$11.48	\$10.52
Jun	\$22.80	\$4.48	\$256	\$384.10	\$11.14	\$11.66
Jul	\$22.80	\$4.24	\$237	\$364.30	\$10.47	\$12.33
Aug	\$23.60	\$3.84	\$236	\$343.40	\$9.88	\$13.72
Sep	\$25.50	\$3.98	\$227	\$346.34	\$9.93	\$15.57
Oct	\$25.14	\$4.28	\$228	\$342.85	\$10.23	\$14.91
Nov	\$23.92	\$4.30	\$239	\$351.48	\$10.48	\$13.44
Dec	\$23.18	\$4.32	\$237	\$353.66	\$10.48	\$12.70
2024	\$22.57	\$4.32	\$251.58	\$361.35	\$10.73	\$11.84

2025: Program is not authorized due to lack of Farm Bill. Dairy economists expect dairy prices to remain constant or slightly increase; however, grain and feed prices on the decline.

Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program: The Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) was created to assist certified organic dairy producers facing a unique set of challenges in recent years, including higher costs attributed to the pandemic and drought conditions across the country. FSA provides financial assistance for a producer's projected marketing costs. ODMAP provides a one-time cost-share payment, based on marketing costs, on pounds of organic milk marketed in the previous year.

The financial assistance from ODMAP provides immediate support to certified organic dairy operations keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until the markets return to more normal conditions.

2023 total production paid \$1.68/Hundredweight.

Signup ongoing until 12/13/2024.

Drought Issues: This week's US Drought Monitor of New York



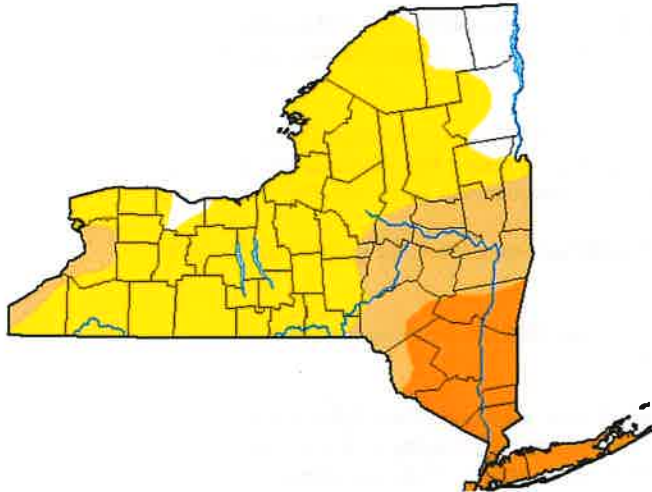
Farm Service Agency
Chenango County

U.S. Drought Monitor New York

November 19, 2024

(Released Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.53	91.47	33.81	15.04	0.00	0.00
Last Week 11-12-2024	12.06	87.94	26.41	12.02	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-20-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	87.07	12.93	5.26	1.72	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	80.73	19.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11-21-2023	69.37	30.63	5.64	0.98	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

We are hearing a lot about the drought conditions in the news, and we are hearing from certain producers that they are experiencing water shortages on their farms, specifically in Eastern NY. FSA programs for drought are as follows:

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): May assist with drilling wells or other water restoration methods if the drought criteria below is met. Must be referred from COC to STC for implementation request.



Farm Service Agency
Chenango County

Par. 277

277 County or Area ECP Implementation Request (Continued)

F Severe Drought Designation and Implementation Requests

A severe drought condition exists when available water from sources currently being used for livestock or orchards and vineyard irrigation have been reduced below normal and survival is unlikely without additional water.

In addition to the documentation requirements in subparagraph E, COC will provide STC with a report of current conditions and evidence to support the implementation request to qualify for an ECP drought designation.

ECP implementation for drought is based on COC submitting evidence that the county precipitation levels indicate an average of 40 percent or greater loss of normal precipitation for the 4 most recent months, plus the days in the current month before the date of request.

Note: Arid areas relying on snowpack and recurring precipitation for surface water supplies can provide applicable snowpack data.

To document the county's precipitation data, County Offices must complete CRP-42, items 1 through 7, and item 44. See 2-CRP.

Notes: Obtain these statistics from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service records, the U.S. Drought Monitor, or from the best available source within each respective county and document the source.

Unless described otherwise, precipitation is assumed countywide, evenly distributed, and not damaging.

The precipitation data collection requirement may be waived if the county has been designated as level "D3 Drought-Extreme" or worse according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Chenango County does not meet the above criteria as of 11/21/2024

Emergency Livestock Assistance (ELAP):

ELAP can help with additional feed costs, water hauling, etc. due to an "eligible drought". ELAP eligible drought from the 1-ELAP Handbook is:

Eligible Drought

Eligible drought means that any area of the county has been rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 8 consecutive weeks for the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland for the county, or D3 (extreme drought) or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity for the specific type of eligible grazing land or pastureland for the county, as determined by the Secretary:

- (1) At any time during the program year, for additional honeybee feed loss;
- (2) That directly impacts water availability at any time during the normal grazing period (for example, snow pack that feeds streams and springs), as determined by the Deputy Administrator or designee, for losses resulting from transporting water to livestock;
- (3) At any time during the normal grazing period, for losses resulting from the additional cost
--incurred to transport livestock feed or livestock for additional mileage above normal.--



Farm Service Agency
Chenango County

Chenango County does not meet the above criteria or come close to meeting the criteria as of 11/21/2024.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Compensation when livestock die due to eligible loss event.
Drought is not eligible for LIP:

Par. 22

22 Eligible and Ineligible Loss Conditions (Continued)

C Ineligible Adverse Weather Event

An ineligible adverse weather event is any event not included as an eligible adverse weather event in subparagraph B.

*--Drought is **not** an eligible adverse weather event **except** when associated with both *Mycoplasma bovis* (M. bovis) in bison and anthrax, conditions that occurs because of--* drought and directly results in the death of eligible livestock.

New Programs Coming Soon:

The Marketing Assistance Program for Specialty Crops (MASC) program will provide \$2 billion to expand markets by helping specialty crop producers offset higher marketing costs related to the tenderness and perishability of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, nursery crops and herbs; specialized handling and transport equipment with temperature and humidity control; packaging; moving perishables to market quickly; and higher labor costs. The plan is to begin accepting applications in early December.

FSA is creating the Commodity Storage Assistance Program (CSAP) to make available commercial storage facilities such as grain elevators and packinghouses necessary for the orderly marketing of commodities by producers experiencing reduced commercial storage access due to 2024 natural disasters. This program builds on the Emergency Grain Storage Assistance Program which helped producers in respond to lost grain storage options after a series of tornadoes, derechos, and flooding in 2021 and 2022. FSA is making \$140 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds available for this program for a wide range of commodities. Producers will have to show that natural disasters caused a loss in commercial storage or marketing. Applications are expected to be available in December 2024.



CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 20, 2024

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ Met with a landowner in the Town of New Berlin to provide advice on water quality in their pond.
- ❖ Shenandoah Habitats completed a tree planting at the Greenway Conservancy's 3 Amigo Project site. Approximately 14.8 acres, 4,455 trees and shrubs, were planted at the site. This site was a little different than others in about 2,300 of those shrubs were planted in clusters surrounded by a 15' x 15' x 4' high welded wire fence with no tubes. We are hoping that this fencing scheme will be enough to deter the deer from destroying many of the plants.
 - The district attended a monthly Chenango Greenway meeting to review the project, explain the benefits, maintenance challenges and the survivability report of the trees planted in 2022.
- ❖ District Staff, along with 10 other volunteers from the City of Norwich planted 25 large caliper trees in City Parks, utility strips and on landowner's property to increase the urban forest. Funding for the trees came from our Part B funds.
- ❖ Met with landowner in town of Smyrna to discuss spring 2025 planting plan and programs.
- ❖ Met with members of the Genegantslet Lake Association to discuss forest management opportunities on the property and aquatic invasive species survey next summer.
- ❖ Investigated stormwater and runoff issues on property in Georgetown.
- ❖ Provided landowner assistance with a stream permit to remove two beaver dams in the town of Sherburne.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

- ❖ Shenandoah Habitats finished planting two CREP sites, both in the Town of Sherburne. Together, the contracts total 23.73 acres with 6,025 stems planted.
 - In Chenango County with all three planting projects, a total of 10,480 trees and shrubs were planted this fall.

- ❖ The District attended a field visit with NRCS and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition at a farm that signed up for RCCP, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, for manure storage. The USC was awarded funding through this program to administer funds to farmers, like EQIP. This farm has not ranked high through the typical EQIP ranking and we hope this program will be a better fit.
- ❖ Work on an animal trail and walkway at Clover Bliss Farm, Town of New Berlin, is about 90% done. The district is serving the role as technical service provider. Funding for the practice is provided by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- ❖ The District completed an alternative watering system as part of a grazing plan at a farm in the Town of Norwich. Funding from AEM Tier 4 Implementation.
- ❖ The district continues to work with NRCS to implement 4 existing EQIP contracts. These contracts also have state funding associated with them, all manure storages.
 - Town of Afton farmer – the District conducted a bid opening and awarded the project to Payne Construction, from Eaton NY. The major update to this project is that NRCS completed their cultural resources review, and we are cleared to begin construction. NRCS is currently working on necessary contract amendments to better align with the design. We are still on schedule for construction in the spring.
 - Town of Oxford farmer- Still Awaiting design functional review from NRCS.
 - Town of Coventry farmer – Limbo
 - Town of Oxford farmer – Awaiting design functional review from NRCS.
- ❖ District staff have been busy certifying cover crops this month. About 2,650 acres have been verified so far out of the 2,800 acres contracted for this fall.
- ❖ Field visits to two new farmers interested in conservation in the Town of Greene and the Town of Columbus.
 - The district took soil samples at the farm in the Town of Columbus. Funding for the soil sample analysis from AEM Round 18.

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- ❖ Staff attended the NYS CDEA Administrative Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. Classes included a presentation from an OSG on state audits, a managers and clerk's forum, capacity building and employee retention, and a presentation on NYS prevailing wage. Funding from the Bond Act will require prevailing wage rates as per the statute that authorizes the spending. This will cause many challenges for the district in the future.
 - NYACD issues and discussion
- ❖ Attended a Special Programs Advisory Committee meeting with the SWCC
 - Delays in contracting from Albany

- Equipment purchases and liability to the districts vs. pay for success
- AEM contracts pros and cons with 2 years vs 3-year contracts
- AEM strategic plan updates will be due December 2025
- ❖ NYS DEC has developed a new program called Establishing Large Forests (ELF). This new opportunity will fund tree planting with fencing with no match requirement.
 - The planting area must be at least 5 acres.
 - Will not fund tubes.
- ❖ 2025 Plan of Work submission to Albany. This document provides the basis for district employee indemnification should a lawsuit arise.
- ❖ Civil Service Exams were announced. Tests will be held on December 7th. I forwarded the job description for a Conservation Aide to the County HR department for their review so we can hopefully advertise for the position in January.

DISTRICT SALES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ District Staff are working on the Tree & Shrub Program Sale order form.
- ❖ The CNY Regional Envirothon will be held May 1st at Friends of Rogers in Sherburne.
- ❖ The New York State Envirothon will be May 28th & 29th at SUNY Cortland.

AGRICULTURE ASSESSMENTS

- ❖ Timothy Mallette – Town of Bainbridge
- ❖ Oneil Levesque – Town of Guilford