



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

1:00 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2023
USDA Conference Room, 99 North Broad St, Norwich NY

AGENDA

Call to Order.

Approval of Minutes.

Payment and Approval of Bills.

Report of Cooperating Agencies.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Cornell Cooperative Extension | Craig Brown |
| • Farm Service Agency | Brian Sheridan |
| • Natural Resources Conservation Service | Kareem Adeleke |
| • 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.

Adjourn.



Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
October 21st, 2023
1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Susan McIntyre	Member
Joe Henninge	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Craig Brown	CCE-Chenango

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: September minutes were approved as presented.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The September-October bills were approved as presented.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No report provided, no one present.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

Craig reported that they are having some personnel changes. Richard Terrell has retired but is still volunteering for the shooting sports program and the outdoor cooking program. Kristi Gorell has shifted from full-time Ag in the Classroom Educator to half-time Ag in the Class and half-time Volunteer Coordinator and oversight of the entire 4H department. Craig also reported that there are interviews next week for the 4H Agriculture Educator and hopes to make a formal offer after interviews. He also has an Ag in the Class Educator position open and is 32 hours a week, and a full-time SNAP-ED Educator position.

Building maintenance continues to be an item of importance. The USDA Breakroom will be painted, and they are hiring a contractor to re-roof part for the building that houses CCE.

The Cornell Regional Team is working on the pesticide ban.

Lastly, the Annual Meeting will be held December 7th from 5-7pm at the Canasawacta County Club, there is a \$25 fee to help cover the cost of the meeting.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Kareem reported that they are currently taking EQIP applications, they are due for the first round of ranking by November 3, 2023. He also mentioned that they are extending contracts that are close to completion but just need some more time to complete the contracts. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is the most popular among the applicants. Applicants' deadline to establish eligibility with Farm Service Agency is December 15, 2023.

Kareem left after his report.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

No report provided, no one present.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report, Attachment A.

Timberline Fencing Bills

Sue moves to pay the bills to the fencing contractor, Timberline Fencing for Hidden Falls and Jim Staley projects.

Joe seconds the motion. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

Part B-2024

Sue moves to submit the Part B application as presented for the treatment of the Ash Trees in the City of Norwich. Joe seconds. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

Resolution 3-23—Authorizing participation by the Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District in the AEM Base Program

Chairman Lawrence read and signed Resolution 3-23.

Seconded by Joe. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

No report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob provided a written report, Attachment B.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 3:13pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Hanehan Family Dairy, LLC – Construction continues at the site with the plastic liner welded and placed. The contractor has formed up one of the ramps going into the pit and will be pouring.

The district is working with the farmer's engineer, Scott Fonte with Agricultural Engineering Services. *Town of Guilford CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program.*

Hidden Falls Lands and Forestry, LLC CREP Project- The fence was installed, and we received the bills for the rest of the pipeline and watering troughs. We are waiting for the landowner to install the pipeline to get those two practices certified. The district has not issued payment for the fence yet, the tree planting contractor, Conservation Services, will begin planting next Tuesday. *Town of Sherburne, AEM Implementation Funds & Conservation Reserve Program Funds.*



Hanehan Family Dairy, LLC Waste Storage project. Pictured above is tied rebar and forms for the concrete ramp installation.



During the week of September 29th, the contractor completed the fencing project for Hidden Falls Lands and Forestry, above is double 8-foot gate opening for a livestock crossing.

Jim Staley Riparian Forest Buffer Project- Timberline Fence also completed about 1,200 feet of fencing to control livestock access to the stream on the farm. The planting contractor is set to begin planting next week. The landowner mowed the areas for planting both in the upland and riparian areas. *Town of Lincklaen, USC Water Quality Grant*

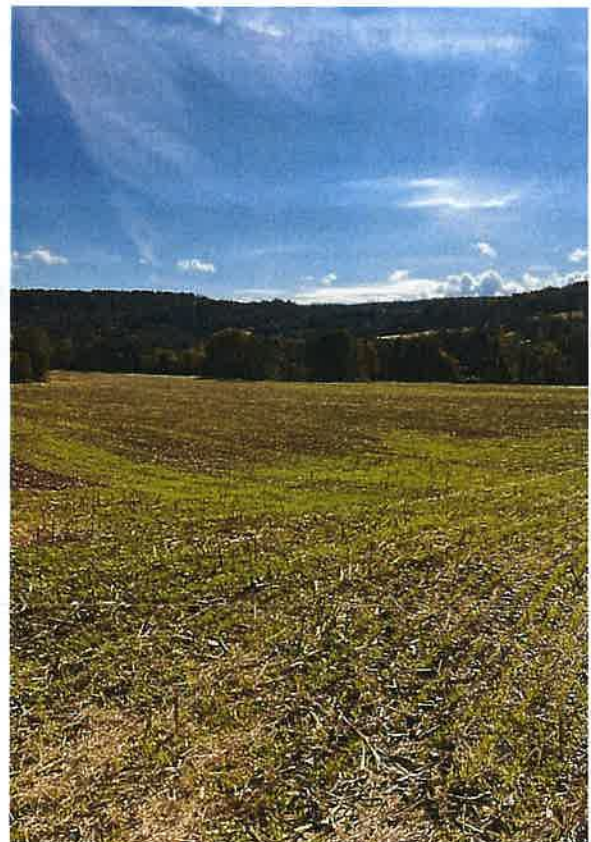


Above: Photos of the livestock access control system. The livestock will be fenced out of the stream and riparian tree and shrubs species will be established.

Cover Crops - The district has been conducting field visits to certify cover crop plantings in the County. To date, the district has certified about 1600 acres of cover crops on 15 farms.



The photos show a whole field and partial field planted to winter rye following their corn crop. *Town of Smithville*



Part C Community Grant Project Updates:

Plymouth Reservoir Lot Owners Association:

The engineer, Don Lake, certified that the principal spillway replacement project was completed as of October 6, 2023. We are awaiting the final bill from the Plymouth Reservoir Lot Owners Association to submit a check.

SWCD Landowner & Municipality Technical Assistance Program Report:

- The Town of Smyrna completed the installation of a new culvert on Bisby Road. The District completed an H and H study and had Don Lynch stamp it to satisfy FEMA's requirements. The District is currently working on another design for a culvert replacement on Curncross Road in Smyrna and will be submitting permit applications for 3 headwall replacements in the Town.
- The District Hydroseeded the disturbed road at the Chenango Greenway site in the Town of Norwich.
- We've been working on a lost cost replication of a stream table to take to an Ag Fair at the Oxford Primary School tomorrow.
- The district met with the Norwich City School District to discuss developing a plan on school property for tree maintenance, removal, and plantings on school property. The school owns a considerable amount of land in the City and the school district would be a good partner to help identify areas that are in need of additional tree cover.
- At the request of the Town of New Berlin, the District opened the valve at Millbrook 2 to drain the lake down for annual maintenance on the beach.
- The District ordered and delivered 215 tree seedlings to 2 participants this fall for the Trees for Tributaries Program.

District Funding and Operations Report

- Our Annual Plan of Work is due on November 1 to the NYSSWCC. The board will have to approve that at our next meeting. The 2024 Plan of Work is in the binder for your review and approval.
- Our AEM Rnd 18 AAP is also due on November 1. A resolution is also in the binder for review and approval.
- The Part B special project budget and project is also due on November 1. We identified that the Ash trees in the City of Norwich are due for another injection, and we would like to use the money to add additional trees in the City or other Villages in the County.
- NRCS approached the District inquiring if we would be interested in engaging in another contribution agreement to assist NRCS with implementing their programs.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition:

The District participated in and assisted with yesterday's Watershed Forum at Binghamton University. The event was well attended and had some interesting presentations including topics such as; Bond Act funding, American Eel population studies, sustainability, how to engage volunteers, and farmers speaking about "regenerative agricultural practices." Mike Barnes from CoBar Dairy, LLC attended and gave a talk on the number of best practices their farm has adopted over the years.

The District submitted the annual report of CREP planning and implementation to the USC to request reimbursement from our CREP contribution agreement with NRCS.

Agriculture Assessment Worksheets:

Virginia Testi- Town of New Berlin

Betty Wade- Town of Guilford

Veronica Hash - Town of Bainbridge

Matt Retz - Town of New Berlin

2024 CNY Regional Envirothon:

The date for the 2024 event has been set. It will be held May 1st at the Rogers Center in Sherburne. We decided to hold it in May hoping for warmer weather. Schools that have participated in the past will be contacted so they have the date saved before the end of the year. The Current Environmental Issue hasn't yet been published by the state, so the amount studying is limited. Always looking for volunteers to help at the event.

2024 Tree & Shrub Sale:

Katy has been working on the sale order form for next year. Prices have increased again from the tree nursery. Our order with the nursery will be placed by the end of October. The Chenango County Fairgrounds informed us that the dates we would like to utilize the building for the tree program will not be available until April 22, 2024. We were hoping to do the tree program towards the beginning of April to allow time to prepare for the Envirothon. So we can either do tree program at the fairground the week of April 22 or find a different location that will work with the timeline we are hoping to have.

Plymouth Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Project
Progress and Completion Report 9/20/2023 – 10/6/2023
Photographs



Plymouth Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Project
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Photographs



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Photographs





Natural Resource Highlights 10-18-23

Open Space Plan Update

The First Regional Advisory Committee Meeting for R7 is scheduled for November 1 at the Syracuse DEC office. This will be an “in-person” meeting. We will start the process of updating our submission to the 2016 Open Space Plan.

Salmon River Restoration - 2023

We worked with USFWS, the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and NOAA to remove the south abutment and the center pier of the long-abandoned railroad crossing at the Trestle Pool in the summer of 2023. The previously existing infrastructure created a pinch point in the river which negatively affected sediment transport and was a navigation hazard. Chronic rain and the resulting high flows in August prevented completion of the planned habitat features (a J-Hook and some toewood) so those items are deferred to 2024.

This photo shows the pre-project conditions:



This photo shows the south abutment removed and flood plain excavation well under way. Note the river was at 3000 cfs when this photo was taken:



This photo shows the removal of the footer of the center pier:



Ecosystem Health:

Staff are extremely busy working on wetland delineations and mitigation plans for the upcoming Micron development in Clay. There is also a stream crossing the site. Aaron Bliss is also retiring at the end of October which will put additional pressure on the rest of the staff.

Fisheries:

Trout stream verification project – We have completed contacting landowners at road crossings in the stocked reaches that do not have Public Fishing Rights on their properties. The counties included in the 2023 effort are Chenango, Oswego, Broome, Cayuga, and Cortland counties. **Chenango and Oswego counties had no changes to the stocked reaches, or the number of trout stocked because of the extensive PFR easements already in place.** For the remaining three counties we are working on any adjustments needed based on landowner responses. Those will be completed by the end of October.

Catch and Release trout season impact evaluation – In conjunction with the young-of-year electrofishing assessment that was completed in early September we started the angler count survey this week which will continue until mid-December. Both efforts are to assess the impacts to natural

reproduction due to the opening of a catch and release season during what was traditionally no trout fishing period from October 16th through March 31st. This is the third year of the study and for the Region 7 water (upper Oriskany Creek) there has been approximately one angler counted annually for the whole survey during the 2X per week counts.

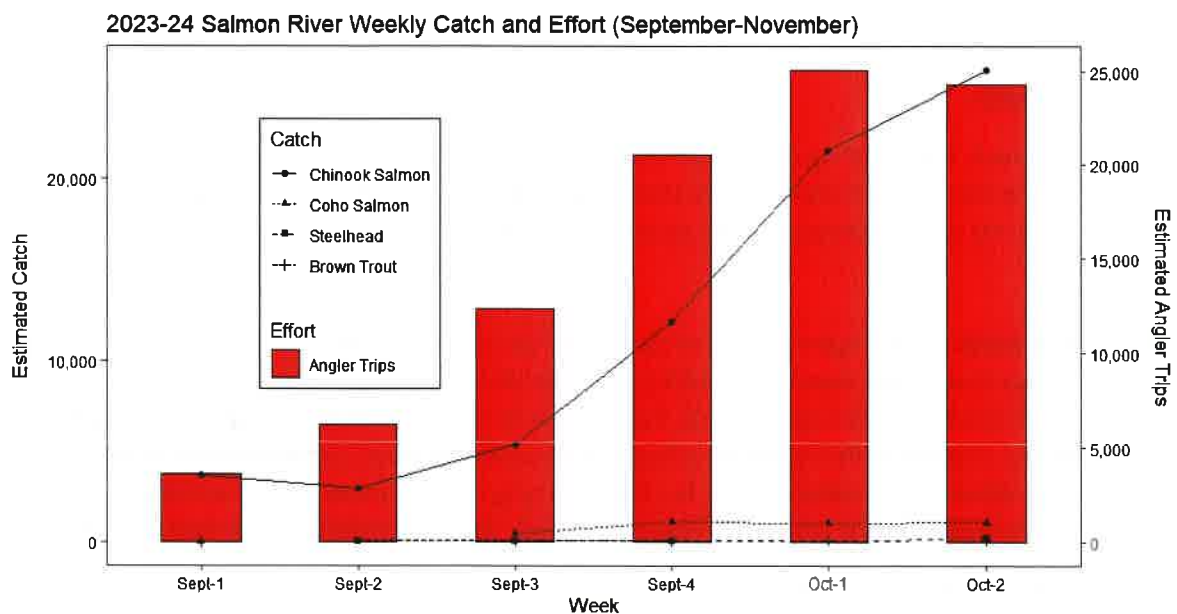
Salmon River Egg Take – Region 7 staff are participating in the annual egg take at the Salmon River Hatchery in Altmar. We are taking lengths, weights, and scale samples from the fish and looking for sea lamprey scars. This effort has been occurring since 1985 and is used to track changes in size of fish, age structure of the run, and sea lamprey wounding rates. We collect information from both Chinook and Coho salmon.

Outreach events – Region 7 Fisheries staff participated in the National Hunting and Fishing Weekend events at Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery and the DEC Salmon River Hatchery.

Misc. projects – We recently completed the larval sea lamprey assessment surveys on the Cayuga Lake tributaries. Staff participated the annual Cayuga Lake lake trout egg take where obtained biological data from the fish being handled. And lastly we successfully conducted fall young-of-year walleye assessments on Whitney Point Reservoir, Cross Lake, Jamesville Reservoir, and Otisco Lake

Angler Surveys – The Lake Ontario Angler Survey has shifted to the tributaries and the Cayuga Lake Angler survey is ongoing. The run on the Salmon River has been up and down, but the Oswego River has been exceptional both in fish caught and the number of anglers present.

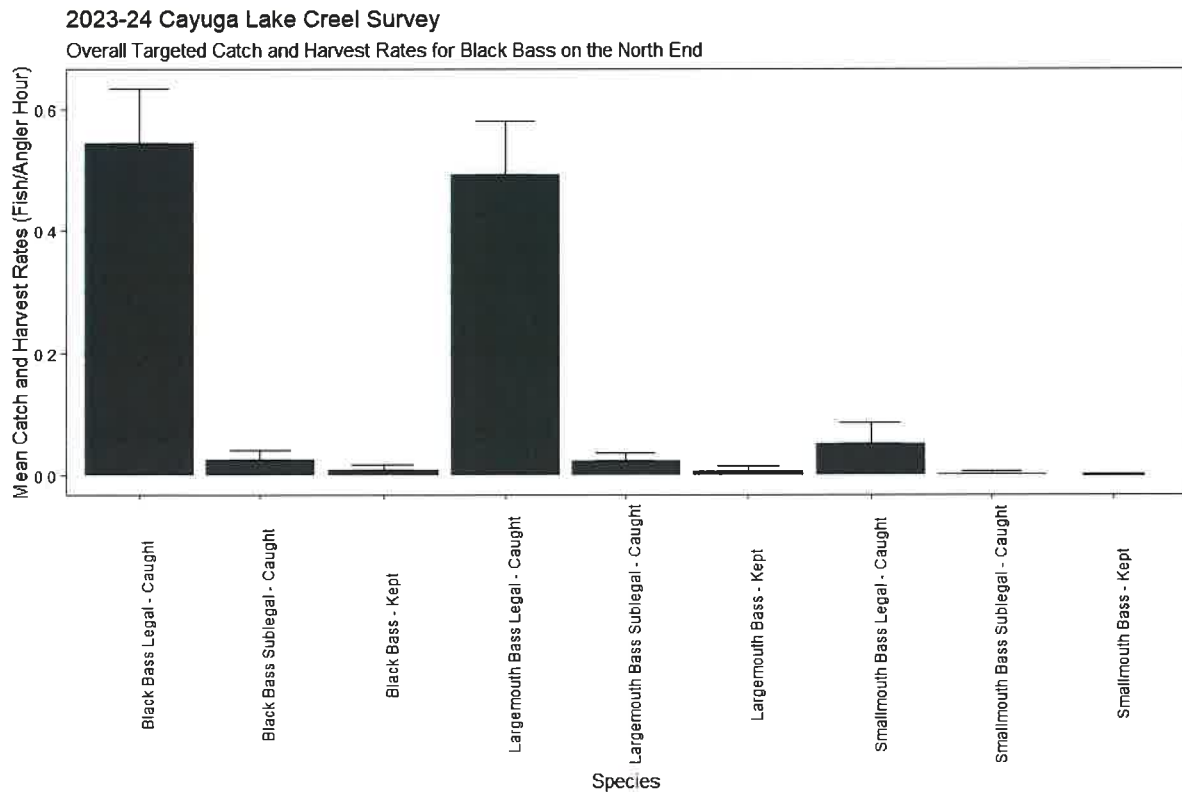
Salmon River Creel Survey: This is summarized with data through the second week of October. The second week of October is the usual peak of the effort. Note that Chinook salmon dominate the run at this point and our creel agent says that she is starting to see steelhead showing up this week.



Cayuga Lake Creel Survey – We have 1,140 parties of anglers interviewed as of the 10/11 update of the data. The table shows how many of each species were caught at each site.

Species	Allan Treman SP	Dean's Cove	Long Point SP	Myers Point	Salt Point	Taughannock Falls SP	Union Springs	Cayuga Lake SP	Mud Lock	Stewart Park	Total
Atlantic Salmon	3	7	1	18	1		2	0	0	0	36
Black Crappie	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	41	2	0	45
Bluegill	1	4	1	3	0	1	31	73	12	1	127
Brown Bullhead	0	4	2	0	0	0	10	11	1	0	28
Brown Trout	3	3	1	10	0	9	0	0	0	0	26
Chain Pickerel	0	3	0	0	0	0	18	53	2	0	76
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Freshwater Drum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Lake Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lake Trout	38	1297	509	244	9	177	30	14	0	0	2318
Largemouth Bass	2	126	11	4	0	14	544	1109	228	0	2038
Northern Pike	0	9	1	0	0	0	26	3	0	0	39
Pumpkinseed	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	23
Rainbow Trout	3	51	50	38	0	23	18	1	0	0	184
Rock Bass	2	5	3	0	0	0	12	45	5	0	72
Round Goby	0	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	59
Sea Lamprey	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Smallmouth Bass	0	35	3	14	0	7	83	26	47	0	215
Sunfish Family	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
White Bass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow Perch	5	2286	582	424	20	102	1127	1883	32	0	6461

Here are the overall (all months) black bass targeted catch and harvest rates from the north end of the lake. We also break these down by month. Note that the bass catch is dominated by Largemouth bass, almost all are legal size, and very few are kept.



Lands and Forests:

- Travis Petit has been promoted to Forester 1 (Trainee). He has been working with Lands and Forests in Region 7 as a Forestry Technician since 2017 - first in Cortland, then Sherburne, and most recently in Altmar. Travis will be working primarily on State Forests in Tioga, Tompkins, and southern Cortland Counties.
- The Sherburne office is hiring a program aide to help run the day-to-day business of the office but also to answer questions, direct inquiries to proper staff or Departments, and provide program services such as camping permits to members of the public who call or visit the office.
- The invasive plant Phragmites, also known as common reed, was treated at the Labrador Hollow Unique area this month. This was a joint effort between Region 7 Lands & Forests staff and Region 8 Wildlife staff, including biologists and technicians, who served as the licensed pesticide applicators to supervise the treatment. Much of the treatment was done painstakingly one plant at a time, using the "clip and drip" technique where the applicator clips the reed with hand pruners and then carefully deposits several drops of herbicide into the reed. Many years of follow up treatments will be required, but the number of plants should be greatly reduced and the treatment should become easier each year.

With the exception of white ash sawtimber, prices for hardwood sawtimber have declined and we are seeing fewer bidders and hearing about no-bid sales in other regions. However, interest in Norway spruce and red pine sawtimber remains strong.



Region 7 Conservation League/Fish and Wildlife Management Board Wildlife Report for October 18, 2023



Personnel

- Sophia Koenig has been promoted to Forester 1 within Region 7 Wildlife. Sophia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and has worked as a seasonal Forestry Technician for the region's Young Forest Initiative since May 2022.
- Kate Ritzko has been promoted to Environmental Program Specialist in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Central Office. In her new position as the National Archery in the Schools Program Coordinator, Kate will oversee the growth of archery programs in schools, as well as public access archery range development across the state.

Small Game

- Pheasants
 - In 2023, approximately 50,000 pheasants will be released statewide on state-owned lands and private lands open to public hunting.
 - In Region 7, approximately 4,000 pheasants will be stocked at nine locations. From late-September through mid-November, there will be 32 separate shocking runs.

Site	County
Whitney Point MUA	Broome
Cayuga-Tompkins Cooperative Hunting Area	Cayuga/Tompkins
Long Pond State Forest	Chenango
Galavotti Farm	Madison
Tioughnioga WMA	Madison
Three Rivers WMA	Onondaga
Deer Creek Marsh WMA	Oswego
Three Mile Bay WMA	Oswego
Michigan Hill State Forest	Tioga

Laws & Regulations

- Use of Rifles in Onondaga County

The portions of New York where rifles, shotguns, and bows may be used during the regular firearms seasons are set in law by the state legislature. A recent amendment to Environmental Conservation Law (§11-0907) allows for use of rifles for hunting big game in Onondaga County beginning in 2023. Prior to the amendment, Onondaga had been the only remaining county in Central New York not to allow rifles for big game hunting.

