



Niagara Nature News
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County Soil
 & Water Conservation District
 WINTER 2016 - ENEWS

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EIGHTEENMILE CREEK- OPERABLE UNIT I (OUI)

The construction season of 2015 saw EPA complete a majority of what is known as Operable Unit I (OU I) for the Eighteenmile Creek Superfund Site. When Eighteenmile Creek was listed under the National priorities List (NPL) in March 2012 the United States EPA divided the creek into three actions for their remediation plan. The three planned actions or Operable Units (OU) are as follows:

- Action 1 (OU1): Remediate Contaminated Residential Properties in the Creek Corridor and demolition of the former Flintkote building.**
- Action 2 (OU2): Remediate Contaminated Industrial and Commercial/Industrial properties in the Creek Corridor.**
- Action 3 (OU3): Remediate Contaminated sediment in the Creek from Lockport to the Creek discharge to Lake Ontario.**

With the demolition of the Flintkote building, relocation of the families on Water Street, and the demolition of their homes, OUI is nearly completed. EPA is now in the process of finishing up the Remedial Investigation (RI) which will be used in deciding what remedial actions will be used to clean up the sites. The properties on water street and the Flintkote building are now clear and awaiting a final remediation measure.



Figure 1. Former Flintkote building, looking South.

District Directors

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- James Bittner
Vice Chairman
- Gerald Farnham
Treasurer
- Mary Gumaer
Member
- Scott White
Member
- David Godfrey
Legislator
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Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District & Eighteen-mile Creek, Great Lakes Area of Concern are now on Facebook!



Check out our spring fish program on page 7! We are offering larger fish & grass carp to help ensure their survival in your pond! We also added three new species of fish to our program, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Bluegills.



FYI...

The District has a No-Till drill available for your next conservation seeding project.

\$50 delivery charge and \$15/acre rental fee

We provide drill delivery and cleaning. Customer provides own seed.



Don't forget to pre-order your trees and shrubs early before they sell out! Our order form is located on pages 5 and 6, with the tree and shrub descriptions on page 11 and 12. Extra order forms are available in our office or on our website. www.niagaraswcd.com



Monofilament Recycling

If you have been down to Fishermans Park or Olcott Harbor you may have noticed some new signs and PVC tubes for collecting monofilament, also known as fishing line.

These fishing line recycling tubes and signs were a "Watershed Action Project" done by Rich Meyer's Science class from Newfane High School. This action project was the capstone piece from their involvement in a program called GM GREEN, (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) with Lockport GM, Earthforce, and Niagara County SWCD. As a part of the program, students assessed Eighteenmile Creek based on the water and macroinvertebrate samples they collected.

These tubes should help keep fishing line from going into a landfill and keep it out of Eighteenmile Creek or the surrounding banks!



Niagara County SWCD at the Niagara County Fair

This past year Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District showcased a booth in the merchant building during the Niagara County Fair. Our booth included information on the Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC), Invasive Species such as the Emerald Ash Borer, and District Programs such as the Environ

thron and Conservation Field Days. To go along with the free information, we handed out free Great Lakes pencils, rulers, and coloring books. Eighteenmile Creek's mascot, Freddy the Fresh Fish even made an appearance at the booth! We hope to see you all again at the 2016 Niagara County Fair!



The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) ?

Local, state and federal officials identified a section of Eighteenmile Creek as one of 42 “Areas of Concern” (AOC) in the Great Lakes Basin. Eighteenmile Creek received this designation because of poor water quality and contaminated sediments present throughout the watershed. Eighteenmile Creek’s long history of use by major industries in the area, especially near the City of Lockport and Town of Newfane, has played a large role in the present condition of the creek.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ?

A RAP is an integrated, whole ecosystem approach to remediating impaired water bodies. The RAP first identifies use impairments, their causes, and contaminant sources, using existing studies and data. Next, existing cleanup and regulatory programs which apply to the water body are identified. A coordinated cleanup strategy is then developed to eliminate the use impairments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produced the Stage 1/2 RAP in 1997 in an effort to restore the integrity of the creek’s ecosystem.

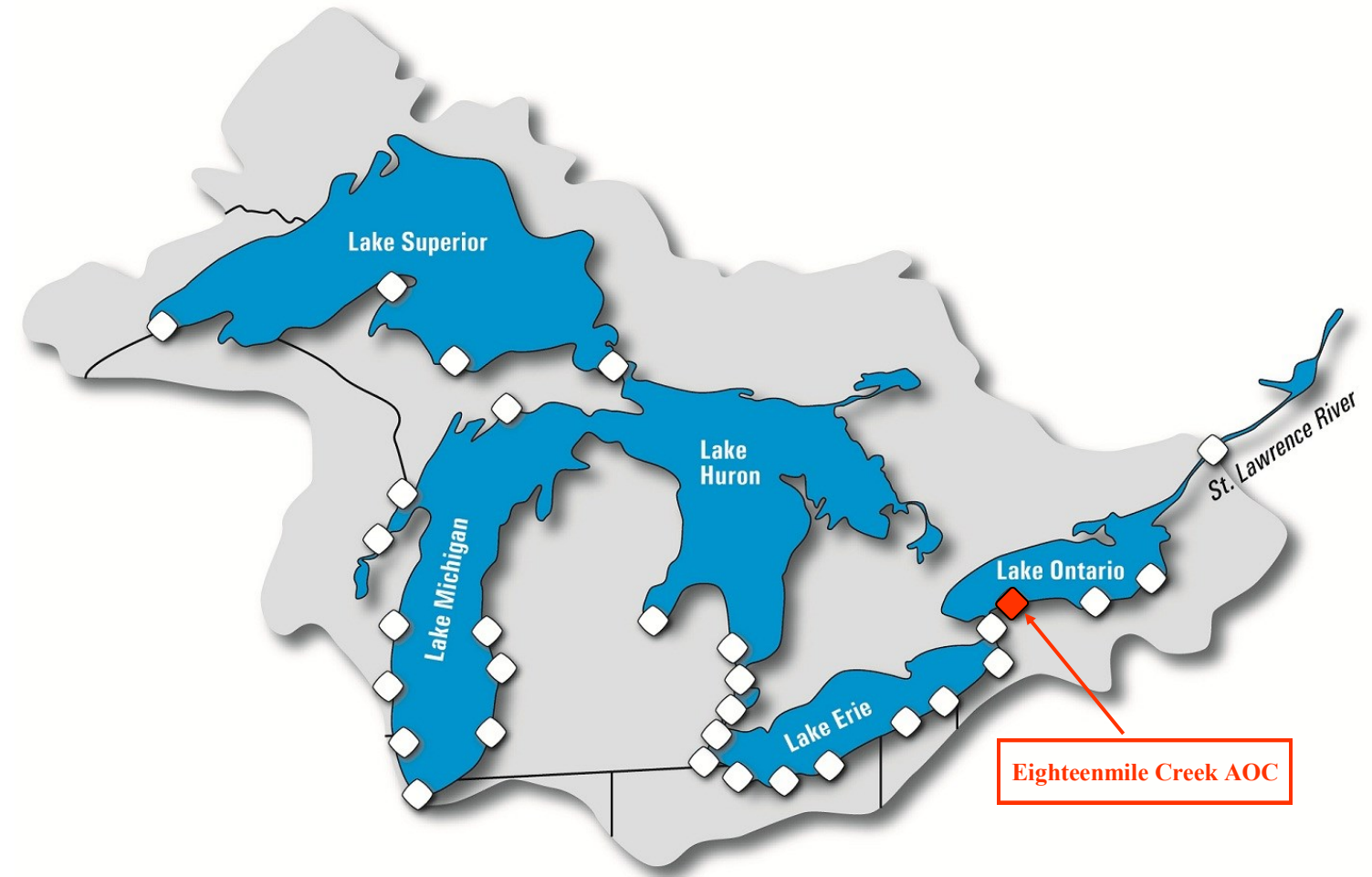
WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing ongoing needs and conditions. After a brief hiatus, the RAC reconvened in 2005 and is currently making progress in moving the RAP forward.

	<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact: Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District U.S.D.A. Service Center 4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY 14094 Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4 Fax: (855) 347-7122 Website: www.eighteenmilerap.com</p>	
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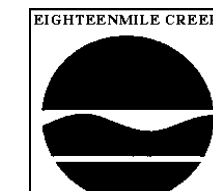
EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



2015 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



REPORT CARD

The Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) Report Card was created by the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC). **The purpose of this Report Card is to give a brief overview of the health, improvements and current conditions of Eighteenmile Creek during 2015.** The Eighteenmile Creek Watershed includes – the main branch of Eighteenmile Creek, Gulf Creek Tributary, East Branch of Eighteenmile Creek (Red Creek), and augmented flow from the NYS Erie Barge Canal.

Scientific data and research that was referenced during the development of this Report Card can be found at the Area of Concern website:

WWW.EIGHTEENMILERAP.COM

This Report Card offers six “indicators” related to the management of the creek’s overall health. They are: 1) Water Quality; 2) Contamination; 3) Fish & Wildlife; 4) Public Access & Recreation; 5) Remedial Action Plan; and 6) Environmental Education & Public Involvement.

Each indicator has been further divided into several “sub-categories” to assess how specific concerns are being addressed. Each sub-category has been assigned a **letter grade** based upon past successes, current health conditions, and trends over the past few years. The last column identifies action steps or immediate concerns to be addressed in order to meet restoration targets for the Area of Concern. This Report Card will be updated annually.

BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS

- 1) Fish & Wildlife Consumption - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 2) Degradation of Benthos- **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 3) Dredging Restrictions - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 4) Animal Reproductive Issues - **Impaired** Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 5) Fish & Wildlife Populations - **Impaired** Delisting targets → **Identified**

	CATEGORIES	GRADE	SUCSESSES & IMPROVEMENTS	CURRENT CONDITIONS	TREND	STEPS NEEDED FOR PROBLEM RESOLUTION
WATER QUALITY	Overall Water Quality	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Environmental Management Program has been deployed to document and prioritize water quality impairments. The City of Lockport has repaired a failing sewage interceptor line which has been spilling sewage into Gulf Creek for an undetermined amount of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact AOC is a Class B/C stream indicating that the primary use is contact recreation and fishing. NYSDEC monitors water quality through the Rotating Intensive Basin Study (RIBS) program and State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program. Some pollutants (PCBs, heavy metals) are suspended in the water column and exceed water quality standards. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A citizen water quality campaign should be deployed within the watershed. Contaminated sediments within the watershed must be remediated. Failures to waste water systems in Lockport and Newfane must be identified and addressed. Unknown sources of agricultural runoff must be identified.
	Quality of Storm Water	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Lockport has been doing repairs and closing up combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that have been dumping into Eighteenmile Creek and the Barge Canal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Combined Sewer Overflows still have the potential to discharge into Eighteenmile Creek and the Barge Canal. During storm events, degraded water quality negatively impacts Olcott Beach along Lake Ontario, causing beach closures. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Combined Sewer Overflows must be eliminated. Continue to work with various partners to determine the sources which negatively impact Olcott Beach and Lake Ontario.
CONTAMINATION	Spills, Discharges & Leaching of Contaminants	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory programs and monitoring by NYSDEC help reduce inputs to the creek. 14 of 20 inactive hazardous waste sites have been sealed or remediated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the watershed still have the potential to negatively impact the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to assist farms in the watershed via the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Continue to remediate Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites and other sources of contamination.
	Contaminated Sediment	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA has demolished the 5 residential properties on Water Street in Lockport that were impacted by contaminated creek sediments. The demolition of the former Flintkote Factory is complete, allowing for sampling to verify the source of contamination and to come up with a remediation plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediments in the AOC exceed NYS standards for a variety of contaminants, including PCBs, pesticides, lead, etc. Contaminated sediments within the watershed continue to influence the overall health of the AOC. A number of historic power generation structures and oxbow lakes present in the creek act as “sinks” for contaminated sediment to accumulate. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize Federal Superfund program to address the current sediment contamination source in Lockport. Remediate all upstream sources of contamination, including the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Site and Old Upper Mountain Road Site. Continue to identify new funding sources for post remediation monitoring within the AOC.
FISH & WILDLIFE	Contaminant Levels in Fish & Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish tissue results obtained through a study in 2012 are the first data set collected for a portion of Eighteenmile Creek upstream of Newfane Dam, the results indicate impacts to fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish consumption advisories of “Eat no fish” exist for the entire creek, including below Burt Dam. Beneficial uses affected by elevated levels of PCBs in fish continue to be impaired at Eighteenmile Creek. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediate upstream sources and contaminated sediments. Sample salmon and trout just below Burt Dam and compare them to ones caught in Lake Ontario. Determine if there is any greater risk to anglers that catch them in Eighteenmile.
	Fish & Wildlife Diversity & Populations	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of a study assessing benthic populations and comparing them to Oak Orchard Creek look to confirm what a previous study indicated, benthic population in riffle and pool habitats are not impaired to slightly impaired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large concentrations of Coho and Chinook salmon and brown trout migrate from Lake Ontario each fall. The area also supports the natural reproduction of bass, northern pike and black crappie. Resident mammal populations are likely impaired due to contamination from their diet of fish. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Olcott Pen Rearing Project. NYSDEC should continue its fish stocking program. Contaminated sediments affecting fish & wildlife require special attention.
PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION	Public Access to the Creek & Adjacent Areas	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Eighteenmile Creek via Fisherman’s Park continues to be maintained by the Town of Newfane. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AOC is accessible for anglers and general recreation activities from Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor. A majority of the creek is secluded by a steep ravine. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for public access improvements to the creek in the City and Town of Lockport, NY.
	Aesthetics of the Creek & Adjacent Riparian Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Town of Newfane Marina Director has been active in keeping the AOC clean of trash and a new fishing line recycling program has been implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eighteenmile Creek AOC Corridor is pristine to the naked eye, displaying no visual Beneficial Use Impairments. Some abandoned industrial sites are adjacent to the creek area. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep” events. Educate recreational users and encourage them to “Pitch-In” and promote a healthy creek ecosystem.
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	RAP Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015 NCSWCD began the 4th year of a 5 year grant which includes: continued coordination of all RAP initiatives, development of new projects, and education & outreach activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York AOCs have begun to collaborate as a group to identify common challenges and goals to AOC recovery and continue RAP Coordination through 2019. Eighteenmile Creek is a long term Area of Concern due to it’s complexity. Timeline is dependent on the Superfund Program. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Status Reports and updates should continue to be completed. Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Continue oversight of all AOC activities and projects.
	RAC Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC continues to address various aspects of the Remedial Action Plan and has provided input on Federal and State Superfund designation for the creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC is comprised of a diverse group of original members and representatives from newer interests. The RAC meets to discuss various aspects of the RAP and to explore new opportunities to de-list the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Assess the language of the BUI’s– Are they achievable? Utilize the updated Stage 2 RAP as a plan for the future.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	Public Awareness	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flintkote demolition has brought the creek to the forefront of public media. A number of student classes and trips visit the AOC to learn about critical AOC issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a fish consumption advisory, the AOC is visited by 13,000+ anglers annually. Every year the AOC is utilized as an “outside classroom” for elementary, secondary and college level classes. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage the public utilizing educational tools like the annual report card, various education events, internet mapping database, AOC website, newsletters, Facebook, and press releases.
	Watershed Stewardship	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122 students from Newfane High School, Niagara Orleans BOCES, and Lockport High School participated in the “GM GREEN” Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increasing but still limited amount of participation from the public related to the AOC. Superfund activity has increased public participation/awareness. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with sportsmen to promote AOC stewardship. Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep”, GM GREEN Program, and education events to keep youth active.

TRENDS

Conditions Improving	↑
Conditions Unchanged	↔
Conditions Worsening	↓

GRADING

A Excellent
B Good
C Fair
D Poor
F Failure

NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2016 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, Red (1)	5 -10"	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$60.00		
Cedar, White (2)	8 -15"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$55.00		
Fir, Balsam (2)	6 - 9"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	9 -12"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$58.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Fir, Frasier (3)	8 -14"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$58.00		
Hemlock, Canadian (2)	12-18"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$58.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7 -10"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, Red (2)	7 -10"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, Scotch (2)	10-16"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, White (3)	7 -10"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9 -15"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5yrs)	10-18"	\$19.00	These four items are transplants- order in tens only	
Pine, White (2+2=4 yrs)	8-14"	\$17.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4 yrs)	12-18"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3 yrs)	14-18"	\$16.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Crabapple, Sargent (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Filbert, American (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Hackberry, Common (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Oak, White (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Poplar, Tulip (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Sycamore (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		

SPECIAL OFFERS

Chestnut, American	6-10"	5 seedlings for \$14.00		
Apple, Starter Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$75.00		
Apple, Wildlife Package	4-6'	4 trees for \$39.00		

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED WITH YOUR ORDER!!

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 29, 2016 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 30, 2016 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport

For Information Call #434-4949 Ext. 4

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Butterfly Bush (1)	8-15"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Chokeberry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Cranberry, American (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Dogwood, Redosier (1)	10-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Elderberry (1)	10-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Lilac, Common (1)	10-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Sweetshrub, Eastern (1)	6-12"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Winterberry, Common (1)	6-12"	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		

CONSERVATION PACS		**Price**	Total # Pacs Ordered	Total Cost
Edible Fruit	All pacs include 10 plants -2 of each variety- (see description sheet for more info)	\$32.00		
Perennial		\$16.00		
Wildflower		\$16.00		

OTHER ITEMS	**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Pachysandra - Groundcover - 50 rooted cuttings	\$24.00		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg packet	\$4.00		
Countryside Wildflower Seed - 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)	\$14.00		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)	\$91.00		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)	\$57.00		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)	\$55.00		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)	\$3.50		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)	\$11.00		
Bat Roost - Bachelor	\$15.50		
Bat Roost - Maternity	\$27.00		
Bluebird House	\$15.50		
Wood Duck Box	\$35.00		

****NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included****

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (to receive electronic notice)

Full payment must accompany your order - Payable to:
Niagara County SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call#434-4949 Ext. 4

Order# (Office Use Only)

*****LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016*****

If ordering after March 1, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED WITH YOUR ORDER!

IF EMAIL IS PROVIDED, AN EMAIL REMINDER WILL BE SENT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PICK UP DATES.

Seedling orders are filled on a first come, first served basis. As we have no control over the weather or your choice of planting sites, times or techniques, the SWCD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for your trees and shrubs after they leave our distribution center. We cannot offer refunds or replacements. All trees and shrubs sold are to be used for effective conservation practices and will not be planted for ornamental purposes. Trees and shrubs sold will not be removed with roots attached for resale. This is in compliance with NYS Sale and Use Tax Regulations, 20 NYCRR, Section 529.2(c).

****EVERGREENS****

Cedar, Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)

This medium, slow growing native can reach 50' under adverse conditions in any soil type. Green needles turn rusty brown in winter. Its blue, waxy seed cones are beneficial food for birds, small mammals, and deer. Wood used for posts and archery bows. Aromatic heartwood used for closets and chests.

Cedar, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal shape. Lacy, feathery, light green needles on flat branches. Grows to 60' in loamy, moist soils. Slow grower used for windbreaks, hedges, and wildlife food and cover. This native is also known as American Arborvitae.

Fir, Balsam (*Abies balsamea*)

A favored Christmas tree due to its aromatic fragrance. Has soft, 1" flat, deep green needles. Native tree with medium growth rate to 75' in cool, moist locations. Also excellent for wildlife food and shelter.

Fir, Concolor (*Abies concolor*)

Also known as "White Fir". Has silver trunk and dense, silver-blue needles with bluish band. Likes rich, loamy soils. Grows to 100'. Easy to care for native that makes a great ornamental specimen.

Fir, Douglas (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Very popular native fir used as Christmas trees, lumber, windbreaks and ornamentals. Grows to 100' in well-drained soils. Holds small, soft, green needles for a long time and shears well. Good resistance to disease.

Fir, Fraser (*Abies fraseri*)

Premier Christmas tree. Grows to 40'. Needs well-drained soils. Intolerant of hot, dry places. Horizontal branches of shiny 1" green needles and gray bark. Slow growing native with a wonderful fragrance.

Hemlock, Canadian (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Eastern native that grows to 70' in well-drained, acidic soil with small, soft green needles and cinnamon bark. Will tolerate both shade and moisture, but is salt-sensitive. Also can be pruned into a beautiful privacy hedge with graceful, spray-like appearance.

Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)

Fastest growing pine. Grows to 60' in heavy clay to light sand soils. Has long, dark green 5" needles in bundles of two. Pollution and salt tolerant. Makes a good Christmas tree and a hardy windbreak.

Pine, Red (*Pinus resinosa*)

Long, soft, dark green needles. Grows to 75'. Very tolerant of sandy, dry exposed sites. Native tree valued for lumber and windbreaks. Excellent for reforestation. Very hardy.

Pine, Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Grows to 60' in wide range of soils, except poorly drained. Short blue-green needles grow in pairs. Bark becomes orange-brown with age. Well shaped, hardy pine with good needle retention. Great Christmas tree.

Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)

Shade tolerant native, grows well in variety of soils, except wet, clay. Fast growth to 100'. Long, soft, green needles in bundles of five. Graceful, plume-like crown. Good for timber and x-mas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, Colorado Blue (*Picea pungens*)

Most popular of all spruces. Stiff, 1" needles range from dark green to silver-blue, depending on soil conditions and age. Grows best on moist, rich soils and will not tolerate drier conditions. Prefers full sun. Slow starter, reaching 100' at maturity.

Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)

Fastest growing spruce. Has extremely attractive, strong, sweeping branches. Shiny 1" flat needles. Prefers well-drained, moist soils. Grows to 100'. Recommended for windbreaks and screens.

Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)

Very hardy native, does well on variety of soils. Endures heat, drought, and crowding conditions. Grows to 60'. Dense, stiff, light green 1" needles. Good for windbreaks, pulpwood, and Christmas trees.

****DECIDUOUS TREES****

Birch, Native (*Betula papyrifera*)

Does well in cool, moist locations and can reach 80'. Oval green leaves turn bright yellow in fall and are a food source for butterflies. This native tree is also known as *Paper Birch* because its stunning snow-white bark peels off in paper-thin layers. And *Canoe Birch* since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)

Fast growth to 60' in various soil types. White flower clusters in May produce edible black fruits. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source. Easily identified by its thick burnt "cornflake" bark and when a young twig is scratched it has an almond-like scent.

Crabapple, Sargent (*Malus sargentii*)

This dwarf, broad-growing tree reaches 6-10' tall and almost twice as wide. Pink buds open to sweet fragrant white flowers, followed by bright red fruit enjoyed by birds. Needs full sun and is adaptable to various soils. Orange yellow autumn foliage.

Filbert, American (*Corylus americana*)

Also known as *Hazelnut* this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soils and is pH adaptable. Growing to 8-15' tall, it is shade tolerant. Its long slender 8" catkins produce an acorn-like nut in late September that is enjoyed by humans, small mammals, deer, ruffed grouse and other large birds.

Hackberry, Common (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Native, cylindrical-shaped, fast growing tree 40-60' tall with almost equal spread. Will adapt to most conditions, but prefers rich soil. Slender trunk has a distinct corky bark pattern. Simple, unassuming pale green flowers emerge with the leaves in April. The coarse, wide leaves turn light yellow in the fall. Its small red-purple berries ripen in September and can hang on trees for months, to be eaten by birds and mammals throughout the winter.

Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)

Known for its bright red flowers in early spring. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows fast to 100'. Tolerates wet and swampy to rocky soils. Native widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)

The State Tree of New York, this outstanding native grows to heights of 100'. Does best on well-drained soils. Dark green leaves turn brilliant yellow to fiery orange-red in fall. Used for maple syrup, lumber, firewood, wildlife habitat, or as an ornamental.

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)

Native that does well on sandy to rich, loamy soils. Grows fast to 90'. Lustrous canopy of green leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. Has small red flowers in Spring. Produces 1" acorns. Tolerates city conditions. Excellent for lumber and wildlife.

Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)

A popular native shade tree that grows to 60-80' tall and is about the same in width as it is tall. It has irregular branching and attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded, grayish-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in the fall. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Poplar, Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

The native "tuliptree" likes full sun, moist slightly acidic soil and grows to over 70' tall. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark and unique tulip-shaped leaves that turn golden in autumn. Beautiful flowers that bloom May to June resemble yellow - green tulips with reddish - orange centers.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

This native tree is fast growing to 75'+ and has a massive trunk with coarse, mottled bark. It prefers moist soils and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March are followed by tan fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)

Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'. Has a broad oval crown and compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. At 4 to 6 years old, it will produce flavorful, oil-rich sweet nuts in September to October. A native whose lumber is valued for furniture, cabinets, flooring and gun stocks.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS****

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Multi-stemmed, with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. Needs heavy pruning each spring to keep it under control. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Chokeberry, Black (*Aronia melanocarpa*)

Short 3-5' native shrub very adaptable to many soil types. Plant in full sun for the best flowering and fall colors. Has high tolerance to drought, salt, pollution and insects. Shiny dark green leaves turn orange to burgundy in autumn. Boasts pinkish-white flower clusters in May and pendulous black pome fruits September-December. Fruits eaten by birds throughout the winter.

Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Fast growing to 8-12' this native prefers well-drained to moist soils. White flower clusters in May. Yellow to red fall color. Edible red fruits that resemble cranberries, present summer thru winter, are sour, rich in vitamin C and can be enjoyed by both humans and wildlife.

Dogwood, Red Osier (*Cornus sericea, syn. C stolonifera*)

Dense, fast growing 7-9' native also known as "red twig" for its dark red bark. This native does well in damp soil conditions and is frequently used for bank erosion control as its root system provides excellent soil retention. Hardy and attractive, it produces white flowers and white berries, with purplish red fall color. Very showy in winter boasting brilliant red stems.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Vigorous grower to 12' in any type soil. Multi-stemmed, with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A good native wetland plant. Great food source for wildlife.

Lilac, Common (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Easy to grow, old-fashioned favorite. Masses of fragrant white to lavender flowers and bright green leaves in Spring. Will grow in well-drained soils to 15'. Makes beautiful natural screen spreading 6-10'.

Sweetshrub, Eastern (*Calycanthus floridus*)

Attractive slow growing native to 6-9'. Tolerates wide variety of soils. Full sun to part shade. Very fragrant, unique, showy, 2" maroon flowers bloom April - July. Leaves turn golden in autumn. Flowers, leaves, and twigs used for potpourri. Low maintenance; deer and disease resistant. Good as wetland or streambank plant. WARNING: TOXIC TO LIVESTOCK AND HUMANS.

Winterberry, Common (*Ilex verticillata*)

Erect 5-15' shrub. Plant in shady, moist areas to partial sun. Small greenish-white flowers April - July. Used for landscapes for its eye-catching persistent bright red fruits. Yellow fall color. This native is a great food provider for more than 48 species of birds and many small mammals. Rabbits and deer browse leaves and stems. WARNING: FRUITS POISONOUS TO HUMANS.

****SPECIAL OFFERS****

American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)

The American Chestnuts were once one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States, until a blight in the early 1900s virtually eliminated most natural stands. This 100' tall hardwood was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. Its' straight, beautiful wood was widely used for railroad ties, fence posts, construction lumber, and furniture. It was also very important for wildlife, providing a prolific amount of nuts for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bears, and others.

American Chestnuts do best in full sun on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. For pollination, plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they will produce nuts within 7-10 years.

Apple Trees

All trees are 4-6' tall, 1/2" to 5/8" caliper, bare-root. Nursery supplier selects and packs for quality pollination assortment.

Starter Package:

Hardy, easy to grow varieties preferred for blight resistance and persistence.

Wildlife Package:

Excess or misshapen trees not adequate for orchards, these are still suitable to enhance a backyard wildlife area and provide food for people, birds, deer, and other wildlife.

****CONSERVATION PACS****

Each pac contains 10 seedlings total - 2 of each variety

Edible Pac: Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry, Blueberry- Blue Crop & Jersey

Plant in sandy, well drained soil. Full sun. Use trellises for blackberry and raspberry. Water strawberry more frequently while fruit is forming (1-2"/wk). Space blueberry 4-6' apart, but both types in close proximity for pollination.

Perennial Pac: Daylily- Dream Baby & Frances Fay, Sedum- Autumn Joy,

Iris- Blue King & Snow Queen
Plant in full sun to partial shade.

Wildflower Pac: For sun: Black-eyed Susan, Ox-eye Daisy, Foam Flower,
For shade: Cardinal Flower, Wild Geranium

****OTHER ITEMS****

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

A carpeting plant that has an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

Milkweed Seed

Monarch butterflies cannot survive without this host plant. Females only lay their eggs on native milkweed because their young caterpillars need it to grow and develop. Milkweed is disappearing from our landscapes. Planting it will not only help the Monarch, but the nectar is enjoyed by many other pollinators and hummingbirds as well. Plant in full sun to part shade, 1/2" deep in well-drained soils. Blooms sweet-scented light purplish 2-6' tall flowers in summer. Named for its milky white sap, it produces pod-like fruits that split to release new seed attached to fluffy, silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal.

NOTE: Seeds need cold stratification. Place them in refrigeration for 30 days prior to planting. ALSO: DO NOT SPRAY THIS PLANT! Pesticide use is toxic to monarchs and their offspring.

Countryside Wildflower Seed

A 100% pure seed mix of balanced blends of annual and perennial native wildflowers. Good for renovating old pastures, commercial sites and unused portions of lawn. Can be planted on moderate slopes to stabilize soil. Will grow in all soil types, even poor. The better the site, the better the outcome.

Deer Plot Mix

Mix of annuals and perennials that will attract and maintain deer. Includes several ryes, clovers, wheat, alfalfa, timothy, proso millet, birdsfoot trefoil, sainfoin, lathco flatpea, cicer milkvetch, and much more. Also good for birds and rabbits. Annuals provide growth the first year and act as nurse crop for perennials. Plant generously in open fields, along trails, or the edge of woods.

Tall Mix

Contains 20 short and tall varieties of annuals, including sorghums, millets, beans, and sunflowers. Grows 4 to 8 feet tall. Excellent for planting along fence lines, edges of woods, and strips in fields. Attracts pheasant, dove, quail, and turkey.

Fertilizer Tablets

A slow-release pellet 20-10-5 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potash) made specifically for 1-2 year old seedlings. Safe, easy to handle, convenient. Planting instructions included.

PICKUP INFORMATION
Mark your calendars now!!

If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you. We do not have the space to keep the order past the pickup dates.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 29, 2016 9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 30, 2016 9:00am to 12:00pm
Location: Merchant Building – Niagara County Fairgrounds
4487 Lake Ave (RT 31), Lockport

Extra Trees:

Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. We will not know until our prepaid orders are packed what the selection will be, so please come and browse!

Spring 2016 Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: May 6, 2016

Pickup Date: May 13, 2016 10:00am SHARP

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and 500-600 minnows per surface acre. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond before stocking is one year. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 25 fish) filled 1/2 full with pond water. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

Spring 2016 Grass Carp Stocking

Order Deadline: May, 6 2016

Pickup Date: May 13, 2016 10:00am SHARP

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 12-14". Stock grass carps in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order. If you require a permit application, our office retains a supply of them or you can print a copy on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. For more information on Triploid Grass Carp and how they can benefit pond weed control, call (716) 434-4949 ext. 114

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of these forms, payable to Niagara County SWCD. Keep the top portions as your delivery reminders

Spring 2016 Pond Stocking				Spring 2016 Grass Carp Stocking	
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount		
Perch 3" - 5"	10/\$35			Name: _____	
Bass 4" - 6"	10/\$50			Address: _____	
Catfish 4" - 6"	10/\$30			Daytime Phone: _____	
Rainbow Trout 3" - 5"	10/\$25			Number of Carp: _____	
Brook Trout 4" - 6"	10/\$30			X \$22/fish	
Bluegill 3" - 5"	10/\$30			+ Delivery \$4.00	
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20			Total Due _____	
Golden Shiners 2" - 3"	50/\$26			(NYS sales tax included as required)	
Subtotal					
+ Delivery			\$4.00		
Total Due					
<i>(NYS sales tax included as required)</i>					
Name: _____					
Address: _____					
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____					
Daytime Phone: _____					
Mail to Niagara County SWCD					
4487 Lake Ave.					
Lockport, New York 14094					
Niagara County SWCD					
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Lockport, NY 14094					

FISH FACTS

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Largemouth Bass - Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfishes are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4 ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Rainbow Trout - Rainbow trout are often very colorful fish. They have gray-blue to greenish backs and light colored sides with dark spots. Rainbows get their name from the pink or red band often present on their sides. During spawning, this band turns a deep red. Like other trout, adult rainbows tend to be more silvery when living in large lakes like the Great Lakes. Quite variable in size, mature rainbow trout may weigh one or two pounds in streams and more than 15 pounds in the Great Lakes

Brook Trout - The brook or speckled trout is New York's official State fish. A native of the State, it is the smallest, and to many people, the most attractive trout occurring in the State. It has a dark olive green background with light wavy markings on the back, and tan or red spots on the sides. Its lower fins are striking, with bright white edging separated from the mostly red fin by a black line. Brook trout generally live in small- to moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cool clean water is available. Some brook trout typically weigh one to two pounds.

Bluegill—Bluegills are green to brown on their backs and upper sides shading into brown, orange, or pink with traces of vertical bars along their bottom sides. The breast is yellow to copper-orange, and the sides of their heads have metallic blue and green overtones. The large, square-shaped, blue-black gill flap and conspicuous dark blotch on the back of the soft-rayed portion of their dorsal fins distinguishes bluegills from their close relatives, the pumpkinseed. Bluegills average four to ten inches in length.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small in size, averaging 2 to 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. They can tolerate muddy water, and are occasionally found in roadside ditches. In addition, fathead minnows can tolerate water with salt in it.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout spring and summer. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are slightly larger than fathead minnows and are preferred by large predators.

Triploid Grass Carp - The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

Agricultural Assessment Reminder

Are you a farmer, or a rural resident that rents to a farmer? Did you know that if you fit the criteria, it's possible to reduce your property taxes?

FIRST, speak with your Town Assessor about applying for an Agricultural Value Assessment. The Assessor can let you know if you are eligible and give you the necessary paperwork. Part of the required paperwork asks for a Soil Group Worksheet Form RA-100 for each parcel. Our office assists in the completion of this form. We charge \$25 per parcel.

For the District to complete this, please bring the following information from your Assessor: Copy of your most current tax map showing your property boundaries and total acreage; Your SBL/Tax ID # AND; Know if your parcel is already in an agricultural district or if you'll be listed as "individual commitment"

Remember that your Assessor needs this completed by March 1st, so please get your request to us at least one week in advance to be sure it is completed in time. Thank you for your help in making this process easier for all.

Changing Faces at the District

After almost 2 years with Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District, our Remedial Action Plan Coordinator, Ryan Perrello has accepted a new position as an Environmental Analyst with National Fuel. He will be working on their supply line projects, ensuring they are meeting their permitted standards. Even though he will be missed on a daily basis, we are thrilled for him to have this opportunity and wish him the best of luck with his new career!

Good Luck!



AEM Planning

Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District receives funding from the state in order to help implement and develop comprehensive farm plans using a five tiered process, also known as Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM).



Tier I - Inventory current activities and environmental concerns.

Tier II - Document current land stewardship, assess and prioritize areas of concern.

Tier III - Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities.

Tier IV - Implement plans utilizing available financial, educational, and technical assistance.

Tier V - Evaluate to ensure the protection of the environment and farm viability.

The first two tiers lay the foundation to design Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address the needs identified. The AEM process also documents those conservation practices already used and establishes the groundwork for possible future financial and technical assistance to protect water quality in the county.

In 2015 Niagara County SWCD has implemented AEM planning in Eighteenmile Creek, Twelve Mile Creek and Johnson Creek Watersheds. No watershed is excluded within the program and all farmers big or small are encouraged to contact our AEM resource professional!

**Happy
Holidays!**

The USDA Service Center would like to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!

Don't Forget Your Cover Crops!

Cover Crops have been receiving a lot of attention these days among our producers. The main reason is that they play an important part in retaining nutrients within the plow layer, primarily nitrogen. Other proven conservation benefits are reduced erosion, improved water quality, air and water movement through the soil profile. Cover crops can provide extended early spring and late fall forage alternatives for our grazers; helps suppress weeds, and provide a wildlife benefit. For further information please contact USDA, NRCS.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>



Adirondak Bench Winner

Our Adirondak Bench winner was Ed Morgan from Orleans County. A big thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket for our Adirondak Rustic bench! The bench was made by the Niagara Career and Tech Class from Niagara-Orleans BOCES, all the proceeds will help fund the Niagara-Orleans Envirothon.



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