




Technical Assistance Partnership Forum

Watershed Governance

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Watershed Agricultural Council
Hamden, NY
September 6th, 2012

Rondout Reservoir, Sullivan County @JoshDickPhoto.com



Our Mission:
to support the economic viability of
agriculture and forestry through the
protection of water quality and the
promotion of land conservation in the
New York City Watershed region.

WAC's Key Programs

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Conservation Easements
- East of Hudson
- Farm to Market
- Farmer Education
- Outreach





Board & Staff



The Watershed Agricultural Council is funded in part by:



along with other federal, foundation and private sources.
The WAC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Council Snapshot 2011

- 2011 Budget=\$15.7 million
 - 93% funded by DEP
 - = \$14.6 million
 - 7% funded by USDA, USFS, grants
 - = \$1.26M
- Agricultural Program = \$5.2M
- Easement Program=\$6.6M
- Forestry Program=\$1.2M
- East of Hudson Program <\$1M
- Administration=\$1.5M



Filtration Avoidance Determination

- The Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1986 required all drinking water taken from surface water sources must be filtered
- EPA was allowed to change the requirement for cities if they showed to have an effective watershed control program
- January 1993 EPA granted NYC a waiver called the Filtration Avoidance Determination



Filtrating vs. Treating Water?

Filtration Plant

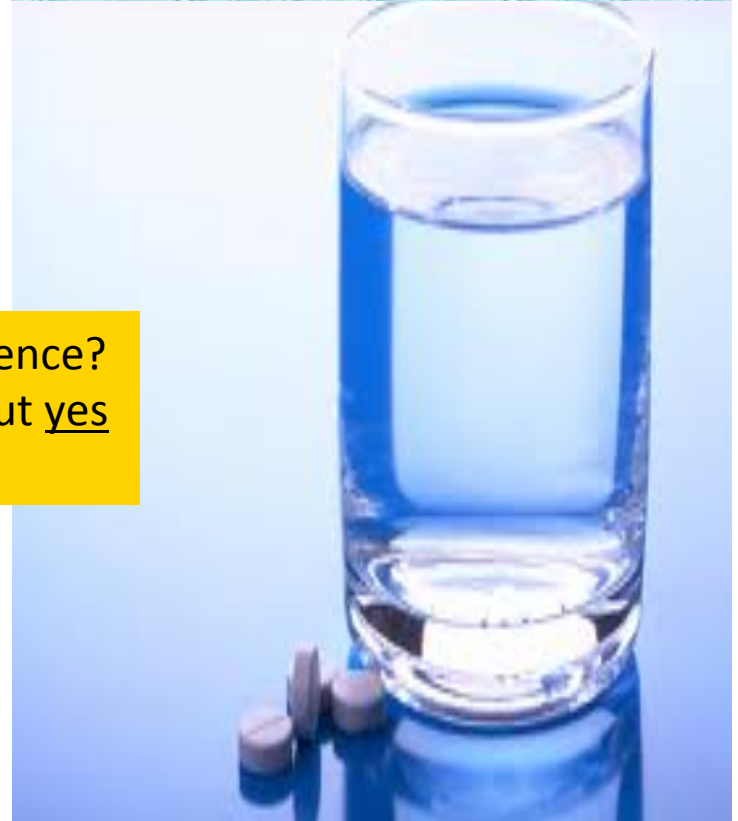
\$8 billion to build + \$300 million a year to operate

Filtration Avoidance

NYC will spend \$1.5 billion to protect it's watersheds

VS.

Is there a difference?
Not in quality but yes
in price



Watershed Protection: What does PES cost NYC DEP?

New Infrastructure Program (first 7 communities)	\$104,000,000
Community Wastewater Program	\$53,000,000
Septic System Rehabilitation, Replacement & Maintenance Programs	\$56,000,000
Alternate Design Septic System Program	\$3,000,000
Sewer Extension Program	\$15,800,000
WWTP Upgrades (non-City-owned)	\$130,000,000
WWTP Upgrades (City-owned)	\$270,000,000
Stormwater Retrofit Program	\$24,000,000
Future Stormwater Controls Program	\$31,700,000
Watershed Agricultural & Forestry Program	
\$122,600,000	
WAC Agricultural Easement Program	\$70,000,000
Land Acquisition Program (including DEP Easements & Croton acquisition)	\$509,500,000
Stream Management Program	\$55,000,000
Kensico Water Quality Protection Program	\$20,000,000
East of Hudson Non-point Source Controls Program	\$33,000,000
Catskill Fund for the Future (Economic Development)	\$60,000,000
CWC Public Education Grants Program	\$2,800,000
Miscellaneous (Good Neighbor Payments, etc.)	\$35,000,000
TOTAL CUMULATIVE NYC FUNDING COMMITMENTS (to date)	\$1,595,400,000

The Concept of “P.E.S.”

In 1997 NYC, New York State, USEPA, environmental groups, and dozens of watershed communities signed the historic Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that paved the way for a new model of watershed protection – Payment for Ecosystem Services – which relies on NYC working in partnership with upstate watershed constituents to implement a comprehensive water quality protection program that does not adversely impact the economic viability of watershed communities.



Watershed Agricultural Program: 1991 pilot

Watershed Agricultural Council: 1993 incorporated

- Large Farm Program
- Small Farm Program
- Farm to Market Program
- Farmer Education Program
- Buy Local branding campaign
Pure Catskills
- Agricultural Program
component to the East of
Hudson Program



Agricultural Program

As of 2011, 395 farms are enrolled in WAP:

- 56 farms (Croton)
- 87 small farms (Cat/Del)
- 252 large farms (Cat/Del)

Currently, 102 farms are enrolled in Nutrient Management Credit Program

- 81 funded by DEP \$327,893
- 21 funded by AWEF ~\$80,000 (3rd round \$25,000)



CREP: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- 2011 marked the 13th full year of the NYC CREP MOA between NYC, NYS and USDA.
- In 2011, 7 Riparian Forest Buffer contracts enrolled an additional 42.2 acres increasing the total number of enrolled acres to 2, 047.7.



What's a BMP-Best Management Practice?



Barnyards: Before & After



Heavy Use Feeding Area: Before & After



Covered Feeding Area: Before & After





Composting: Problems & Solutions





Barnyard Feeding Areas



Access To Streams



Why Forests?

- Healthy forests are the best land cover for water quality because they:
 1. Hold soil in place
 2. Slow the flow of water through the landscape
 3. Naturally filter many pollutants
 4. Forests do not have septic systems or impermeable surfaces which negatively affect water quality.

Five Core Program Areas

- **Forest Management Planning:** *Provides forest landowners with basic information to help them make wise land-use decisions.*
- **BMP and Stewardship Implementation:** *Provides financial and technical assistance to loggers to encourage the implementation of BMP's and stewardship practices.*
- **Education & Training:** *Provides loggers, forest landowners, foresters, teachers, students and the general public with information about the connection between forests and water quality.*
- **Forest Economic Viability**
- **Research and Demonstration**

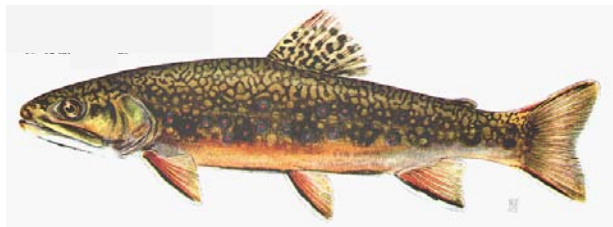
Forest Management Planning

- Provides cost-sharing to private forest landowners owning more than 10 acres



- 900+ Watershed Forest Management Plans have been completed representing more than 160,000 acres of forest land within the NYC Watershed.

but wildlife, recreation, water quality and aesthetics.



Best Management Practice Implementation

A yellow Caterpillar bulldozer is shown in a forest setting, operating on a dirt path. Several people are standing around the machine, observing its operation. The forest is dense with green trees and foliage. The bulldozer has "CAT" and "CATERPILLAR" visible on its side. One person in an orange shirt is crouching in the foreground, looking towards the machine. Other people are standing further back, some looking at the machine and others looking at the forest. The ground is covered in dirt and fallen leaves.

WAC provides technical assistance to loggers
by helping them develop a plan for
implementing Best Management Practices
on active logging jobs in the NYC

WAC has 10 portable bridges available for loan free of charge to watershed loggers.



A photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, a tree trunk is visible on the left. The ground is covered with a mix of green grass and brown pine needles. In the background, there are more trees and a grassy clearing.

WAC provides free samples of BMP's to loggers

Working in partnership with watershed loggers
WAC stabilized 53 miles of logging roads in 2011
and more than 500 miles since 2001.

Education & Training



280 + NYC and Watershed teachers
and educators



Easement Program

- WAC Easement Portfolio – 23,785 acres
- Purchased Easements – 22,742 acres
- 123 Grantors (Easements)
- 7 Current Contracts/Approx. 1350 acres



Acquisition Program

- Acquires Conservation Easements on qualified Properties in the NYC Watershed
- Qualified Properties must have WFP through the Agricultural Program
- Average Easement Size: 175 acres
- 2 years to acquire



Stewardship Program

- Monitors portfolio – 23,785 acres; 159 properties
- Processes Request from Landowners:
 - Reserved Rights, Amendments, Notifications
- Enforces Violations/ Breach of Contract
- Stewardship of Agricultural Working Landscapes is unique

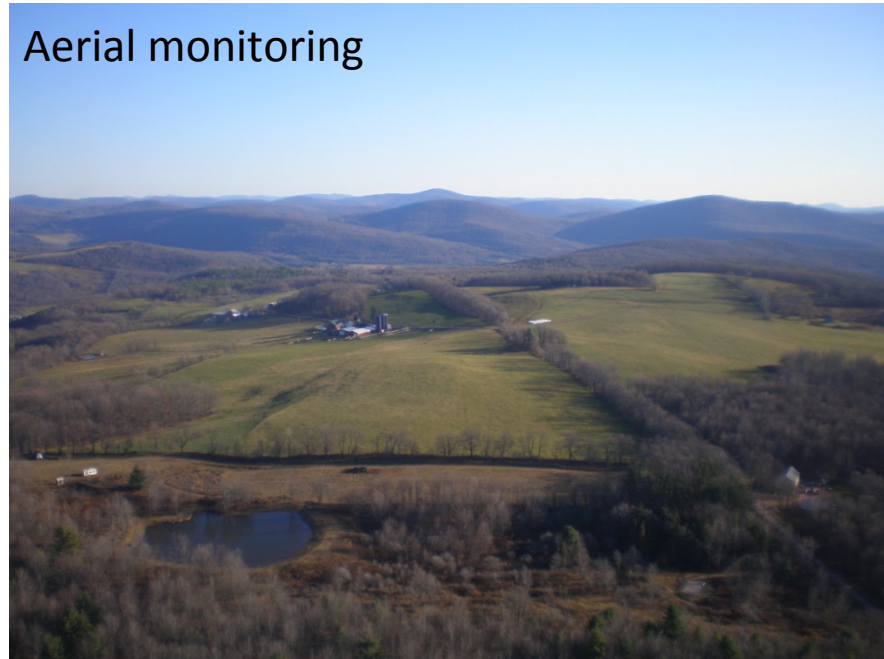


WAC/DEP Contract

- Current Contract:
\$47 Million Capital
Contract
- New Contract:
\$29 Million Capital
Contract
- Endowment:
\$15 Million Expense
Contract



Aerial monitoring



Farm to Market Program

- Improve the economic viability of farm and food-based businesses
- Provide Education and Networking Opportunities
 - Workshops
 - Conferences
 - Farmer Education
 - Producer Groups

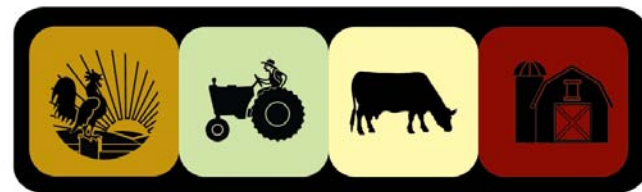


Farm to Market Program

- Strengthen relationships
 - Farmer to farmer
 - Farmer to buyer
 - Farmer to consumer
 - Program and collaborators
- Expand direct marketing of local products through appropriate channels and venues



- Web-based resource to connect new and existing farmers with inactive farmland in Catskills region
- Regional strength with local knowledge and resources
- Collaboration with other organizations and farmers to attract new growers to the region
- Currently 28 properties listed (many owned by DEP) with 1,611 acres available
- 2 “Links” made since launch
 - Migliorellia Farmstand, Mt. Tremper
 - Tuff-a-Nuff Farm, Bovina



Catskills FarmLink

www.catskillsfarmlink.org



Catskills CRAFT

- Web-based resource
- Connects new and existing farmers with other new, beginner and young farmers in the Catskills region
- Monthly farm tours and work parties
- Under the direction of Council's Farmhearts Fellow

• CALLING ALL • **BEGINNING FARMERS**

- **ON-FARM TRAINING** •
- **WORK PARTIES** •
- **NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS** •



For a full schedule of events visit

www.catskillscraft.org

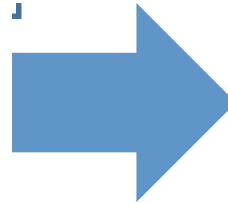
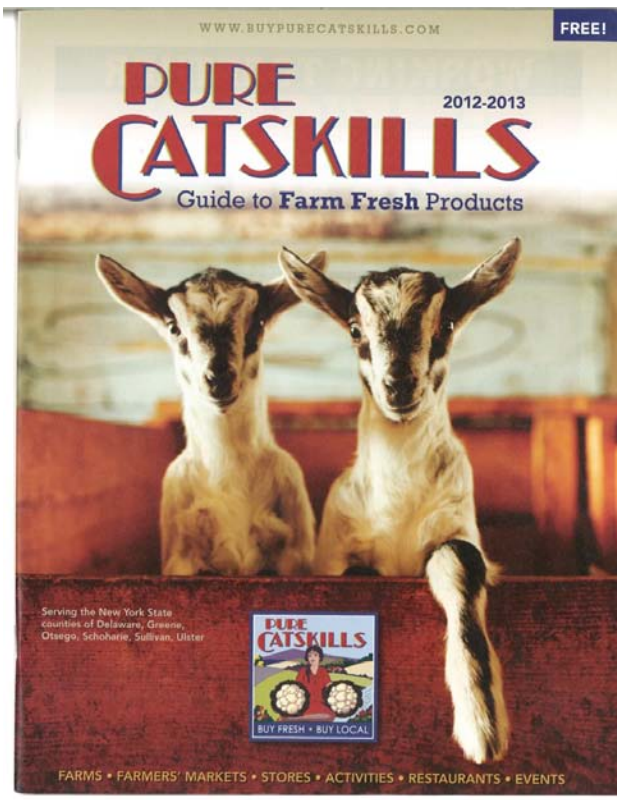
or email info@catskillscraft.org

CATSKILLS CRAFT

COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR FARMER TRAINING

Pure Catskills Marketplace

Concept: A digital, interactive Pure Catskills Guide intended to improve the economic viability of farm and forest businesses



Pure Catskills Marketplace: Features



A Few of Our Partners

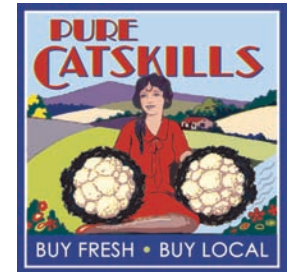


Catskill Farm Link



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Westchester
gov.com



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Savannah District



Working Landscapes

Watershed • Viewshed • Foodshed