

This Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management System on a beef operation in the Town of Warwick is one of three projects partially funded by the new 'AEM Tier 4 Implementation program' offered to Conservation Districts by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Previously, the AEM program only provided funding for staff time to support project planning and implementation. Districts can now request up to \$100,000 as part of their two-year AEM contract with NYS to install projects, with a maximum of \$50,000 per farm.

In this initial AEM Tier 4 program (Round 16), Orange County chose to focus the implementation funding on livestock farm projects. Beginning in Round 17 (2022-2023), we expect to be dividing out Tier 4 allocation between a new Soil Health Incentive Program and additional livestock farm projects.

The following series of photos shows the progress of construction of this 'Covered Barnyard' project. Essentially a conventional pole barn structure, the building will be used exclusively to hold livestock. With a durable concrete floor to facilitate collection and proper handling of manure, and a roof to exclude clean water, the Covered Barnyard addresses runoff concerns associated with outdoor barnyards.

