



ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 Dolson Avenue, Suite 103, Middletown, NY 10940

PHONE: (845) 343-1873

kevin.sumner@ocsoil.org

Agricultural Conservation Project Financial Assistance Inquiry, January, 2024

Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) has access to various funding sources for agricultural conservation projects. We accept project applications at any time, but periodically make a more formal announcement of funding opportunities.

For most funding opportunities, the applicant must have an Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) plan in place before we can consider project funding requests. Interested applicants who do not have an AEM plan need to contact us well in advance of funding opportunity deadlines to allow time for AEM plan preparation. Contact our office if you don't know the status of AEM planning on your farm.

Applications for funding assistance are ranked and prioritized based on water quality benefit and other criteria established by the Conservation District Board of Directors. Ranked applications are then 'assigned' to one or more funding sources based on the nature of the project and other criteria in effort to maximize the number of projects that can be approved/funded. Some applications will be submitted for competitive grants where they will be further evaluated and ranked. The most common sources of funding include the New York State Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (ANPSACP), the NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program (CRF), the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management Tier 4 Implementation Program (AEM T4), and the OCSWCD Local Cost Share Program (LCSP).

Eligible applicants generally need to be commercial farmers or owners of commercial farmland.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact our office at any time for further information on funding opportunities and to discuss specific project proposals relative to eligibility requirements of funding opportunities available to us.

Typical Projects Which May Be Eligible for Funding Assistance

- Cover Crops
- Other Cultural Conservation Practices for Cropland – Conservation Tillage, Residue Management, Contour/Strip Cropping
- Structural Cropland Erosion Control Systems/Measures (diversions, grassed waterways, underground outlets, etc.)
- Barnyard Runoff Control Measures (heavy use area protection, clean water exclusion, roof runoff collection, etc.)
- Streambank Stabilization
- Stream Crossings
- Livestock Watering Systems (where system replaces watering practices that may threaten water quality)
- Agri-chemical Mixing Facilities
- Petroleum Bulk Storage Secondary Containment Systems
- Composting Systems
- Other Projects Where a Water Quality Benefit can be Demonstrated

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255 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924

George Constable
PO Box 211
Unionville, NY 10988

-Flat land drainage projects are generally NOT eligible for funding, they are considered primarily a production practice. Drainage on sloping land that reduces erosion may be eligible.

-New drainage systems, or modification of existing drainage systems, on ORGANIC soils that include measures to allow for managing the water table to slow subsidence and carbon release may be eligible for funding assistance. Interested farmers are encouraged to contact our office to discuss organic soil water table management projects.

- Projects that do not show a strong water quality benefit but that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and/or provide resilience against climate change may be eligible for funding.

Funding is typically provided at 75% of total project costs with the participant required to provide matching funds or contributions (labor, machine time) equalling 25% of eligible project costs. In some cases, the participant contribution may be more or less than 25%.

Applications for funding received by **February 29, 2024** will be evaluated for potential inclusion in funding opportunities anticipated to be available or applied for in 2024, assuming the applicant already has an AEM Plan. Applications received after this date will be considered for 2024 funding opportunities as possible, but may need to be held for future funding opportunities.

Applicants for projects should complete the following form to initiate an eligibility review and be considered for funding opportunities.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Date of Request _____

Brief Project Description (attach additional pages if necessary, you may also provide pictures or other supporting information if desired):

You may submit this form by mail (USPS), email (see top of application form) or by calling our office and providing the requested information verbally. If you do not receive a call or other form of follow up from our office within a week of your submission of this form, please call the office and ask to speak with Kevin.

This form is available on our website.