



**Finger Lakes**  
**Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK  
415 West Morris Street, Bath, New York 14810  
(607) 776-7398 Ext. 5 Fax: (607) 776-7487  
Email: [sultrrcd@linkny.com](mailto:sultrrcd@linkny.com)

Lola Tears, President  
Greg Heffner, Treasurer

Ken Bush, Vice President  
Wayne Dimmick, Secretary

### **2003 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

#### **Non-Profit Organization Receives Forestry Grant**

Lola J. Tears, President of the Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. was notified earlier this year by the Great Lakes Commission that the Council had been awarded a \$13,000 grant to promote Forest Stewardship within the Seneca Lake Watershed.

The grant will allow the Council to conduct an educational outreach program which will emphasize the importance of using Best Management Practices (BMPs) in association with timber harvesting. Through the use of recommended BMPs for stream crossings, logging roads, sediment barriers, as well as proper seeding and mulching, timber harvesting can be compatible with the environment.

The Council has subcontracted with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Schuyler County which will oversee the implementation of the project. The project will include workshops and/or tours for timber harvesters, private landowners, public officials and private citizens that identify recommended BMPs that should be installed on forest land with active timber harvesting.

In addition the grant will allow the project sponsors to purchase "BMPs on Forestland" brochure and field guides entitled "New York State Forestry BMPs" which can be distributed to code enforcement officer, timber harvesters, and watershed officers who work in the region. Finally, the Great Lakes Commission Funds will allow Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County staff to develop a website which will describe recommended BMPs for forestland. Collaborating on the project in addition to the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and CCE of Schuyler County will be Cotton-Hanlon, Inc., the Schuyler County and the Chemung

County Soil & Water Conservation Districts as well as the Seneca Lake Area Partners.

The Project began on July 7, 2003, with an expected completion date of June 30, 2004. For additional information contact the Finger Lakes RC&D Council at (607) 776-7398 Ext. 5, [sultrrcd@linkny.net](mailto:sultrrcd@linkny.net) or CCE of Schuyler County at (607) 535-7161, [Schuyler@Cornell.edu](mailto:Schuyler@Cornell.edu).

#### **Finger Lakes Council Represented at National Conference**

Finger Lakes RC&D Council, President Lola Tears; Vice President Ken Bush; and RC&D Coordinator Dick Winnett attended the National Association of RC&D Councils' National Conference. The Conference was held July 20-23, 2003 in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to attending various programs dealing with Capacity Building, Rural Tourism, Rural Fire Protection, and Non-Profit Management. The Council presented information on the New York Venison Donation Program. More than 1500 people representing 375 RC&D Councils from throughout the United States participated in the fourth National RC&D Conference. Held every three years the next National Conference will be held in Savanna, Georgia in 2006.

The RC&D is a program administered by the USDA National Resources Conservation Service. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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*Wise Use and Goodwill,*

## **THE VENISON DONATION COALITION**

By Greg Fuerst

**W**hat happens when concerned hunters, government agencies, and local non-profit organizations unite for a common cause? One correct answer would be New York's Venison Donation Coalition (VDC), a program that takes advantage of the state's abundant deer herd. In fall 2002, more than 408,000 servings of high quality venison were distributed free to food banks across 44 counties thanks to VDC.

### *Paving the Way*

Historically speaking, the New York State Conservation Council gets the credit for crafting the legislation that opened the doors for venison donation programs in 1993. Between 1993 and 2000, local volunteer sportsmen and food pantries carried out many programs scattered across the state with very little or no funding and thousands of hours of volunteer labor. The Council got the ball rolling and now the VDC is carrying it.

### *VDC in Partnership*

Today's VDC is a partnership in every sense of the word, with many New York State agencies and groups helping anyone coordinate and fund a Venison Donation Program in their area. Eight regional food banks distribute food products, including frozen venison harvested and processed in New York. Leading the way are New York's sportsmen and women who not only chime in as "local helpers," but also help pay venison processing costs. The New York State Department of Social Services, United Way, local churches, individuals, corporations, and Cornell Cooperative Extension offices also contribute to the success of the VDC. New York's eight Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council's under the umbrella of the NY Federation of RC&D Council's Inc. serve as the financial managers of the program. The RC&D's coordinate payment to the participating processors, so the hunters only have to donate the venison not pay for processing. Rochester's Free Ink Marketing Service handles all the news releases, show schedules, and TV and radio coverage. They also produced 250,000 flyers that are available where hunting licenses are sold. Forever Outdoors joined the VDC team in 2001 and provides website services for the Coalition.

The VDC is a great example of what sportsmen's groups, public and private organizations, DEC, and citizens of New York can accomplish when they work together.

**Greg Fuerst** is a DEC wildlife technician in Bath and serves as DEC's statewide VDC coordinator.

### *Venison Donation Statistics*

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
7 counties	16 counties	44 counties
10 processors	32 processors	90 processors
6,500 lbs.	28,000 lbs.	102,000 lbs.
<b><i>2003 Goals</i></b>		
57 counties...	125 processors...	150,000 lbs.

### *Get Involved*

To find out how to participate in the venison donation program, contact:

**Venison Donation Coalition  
c/o Finger Lakes RC&D Council  
415 West Morris Street  
Bath, New York 14810.**

On the web: [www.Venisondonation.com](http://www.Venisondonation.com)  
or call 1-866-862-337.

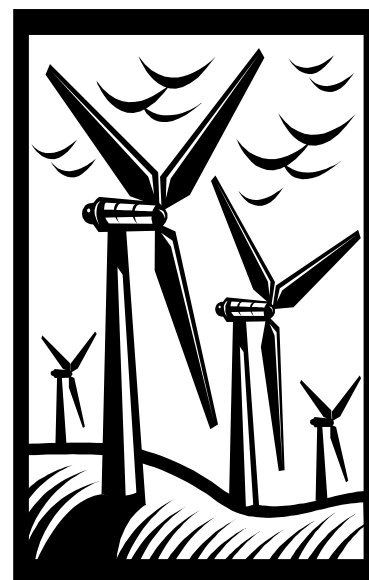
## Comprehensive Nutrient Management Grant Completed

July 2003 marked the completion of the Steuben County Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) Project. This \$64,500.00 grant through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund provided financial assistance to nine dairy farms in Steuben County for the purpose of completing CNMPs on each of the participating farms. The plans consisted of recommendations for agricultural waste management, erosion & sediment control, record keeping, and nutrient management. 7,775 acres of agricultural land have been included under these 9 comprehensive nutrient management plans and have complied with New York State and federal standards associated with agricultural waste management plans for concentrated feeding operations (CAFOs).

These CNMPs were prepared by New York State Certified Agricultural Environmental Planners. The Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (S&WCD) was the grant's official sponsor, while the Finger Lakes RC&D Council, Inc. served as the project's administrator. The project's total value including in-kind technical support from U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the RC&D Council, the S&WCD, the project consultants, and participating farms exceeded \$116,245.00. The average cost of each CNMP exceeded \$10,190.00.

### Wind Power Seminar

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council In cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County hosted a Wind Power Workshop in Bath, New York on March 31, 2003. The program brought in representatives from New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets as well as NYS Energy Research and Development Authority who presented information on the *Impact of Wind Farms on Communities and the Environment, Wind Potential in Steuben County, and Leasing Your Land for Wind*. Also making presentation were representatives from Global Winds and Green Light, who discussed the Wind Power Industry's Perspective about generating energy from wind. Questions from the audience dealt with leasing issues and development of wind energy for residential and commercial use. Approximately 75 people attended.



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415 West Morris Street  
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