



*Finger Lakes*  
**Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK  
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## 2006 NEWSLETTER



### Finger Lakes RC&D Council Awarded \$500,000 Grant

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, via its Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grant Program, has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council.

According to Lola Tears, President of the RC&D Council, this grant will be used to promote and install Best Management Practices (BMP's), such as prescribed grazing systems, as well as wetland and riparian buffers, throughout the 10-county region of NY which comprises the Upper Susquehanna River Basin.

These BMP's will help improve water quality, enhance the habitat of grassland nesting birds, and encourage the sustainability of small and medium size family farms.

The partnership which is working in this watershed-wide initiative is made up of the Finger Lakes RC&D Council, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the 10 local Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Once the contract is fully executed between the

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Finger Lakes RC&D Council, approximately 33 livestock producers from the 10-county project area, which includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, and Tioga counties will be recruited to participate in this project.

The grant will provide cost sharing to participating livestock operations for the purpose of installing a variety of BMPs that will exclude livestock from local rivers, streams and lakes, establish new wetland areas, as well as implement prescribed grazing systems.

Eligible farms must have a minimum of 25 animal units (dairy, beef, sheep, goats and/or horses), be a participant in N.Y.'s Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program, and provide a 25 percent match in the form of cash, labor, materials, or equipment. To find out more about this watershed-based initiative and determine a farm's eligibility, contact the Finger Lakes RC&D Council at (607) 776-7398 Ext 5 or via the internet at [fingerlakesrcd@infoblvd.net](mailto:fingerlakesrcd@infoblvd.net).

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## New York State Grazing Grants

During 2006 The Finger Lakes RC&D Council assisted its member Soil & Water Conservation Districts with the completion of two Round 8 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grazing grants. The two grants provided funding for thirty-nine livestock producers located in Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben and Yates Counties to install Best Management Practices which are associated with Prescribed Grazing Systems. The two grants which totaled \$364,250.00 resulted in 2060 acres of prescribed grazing systems being installed along with 290,611 feet of fencing, 7098 feet of pipeline, 102 acres of pasture planting as well as a variety of other practices such as livestock watering facilities and animal walkways.



### Venison Donation Program

2006 marked the sixth year that the Finger Lakes RC&D Council has been involved with New York's Venison program. This year the program processed 75,694 pounds of venison resulting in 302,776 meals served. Since 2000, the program has processed 208 tons of donated venison which equates to 1,665,512 meals. In April 2004, the Venison Donation Coalition became Incorporated and received its 501-C.3 Non-Profit status from the IRS. 122 processors from 50 New York counties now participate in the program.



### National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant

In 2006, the Finger Lakes RC&D Council working in cooperation with two grazing advocates and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County successfully completed a \$60,000.00 grant entitled "Grassland Bird Habitat Enhancement". The project resulted in 10 volunteers surveying 24 grazing farms in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties to identify what grassland nesting birds can be found within prescribed grazing system. In a typical grazing system 22-26 species were identified. This project also resulted in 21 prescribed grazing plans being completed which encompassed 1284 acres. CCE of Schuyler County also presented its survey findings at two public meeting at which 47 people attended.

### Solar Powered Livestock Water Project

This \$81,894.00 grant made available through the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority concluded at the end of 2006. The Finger Lakes RC&D Council working with Four Winds Renewable Energy of Arkport, NY has successfully installed ten Solar Powered Watering Systems throughout New York's Southern Tier and West Central New York. Cost sharing made available through the grant covered the installation costs as well as the solar panels, submersible pump and control panels for each of the systems. In addition, the grant covered the cost for the Council to host eleven informational workshops throughout New York State which described the advantages of the Solar Powered Livestock Watering System. The project demonstrated how the systems could be an effective alternative to installing costly electric lines to remote pastures. The systems reduce live stock operations dependency on costly petroleum fuels thus increasing the sustainability of these farms.



**FINGER LAKES RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC**

**2006 PROJECT FUNDING**

PROJECT NAME	LOCAL \$'s			STATE \$'s	FEDERAL \$'s		Total *
	Private	Council	Public		RCS&D Tech	Other	
Financial Risk Management	\$26,250.00	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,275.00	\$56,053.00	\$90,328.00
<i>Grant provided through the Northeast Center for Risk Management</i>							
Grazing Land Conservation Initiative	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$2,125.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$24,000.00	\$31,025.00
<i>Grant made available by the Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>							
Finger Lakes Grazing	\$0.00	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$192,300.00	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$193,455.00
<i>Funding provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 12</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #5	\$30,263.00	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$194,625.00	\$950.00	\$0.00	\$226,178.00
<i>Funding provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 12</i>							
Venison Donation Program **	\$5,161.00	\$475.00	\$30,000.00	\$44,813.00	\$11,275.00	\$7,000.00	\$98,724.00
<i>Financial Support provided by NYS grants as well as private and public contributions.</i>							
Solar Powered Livestock Watering Project	\$42,277.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$81,894.00	\$12,685.00	\$0.00	\$138,356.00
<i>Grant provided through the NYS Energy Research &amp; Development Authority</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #3	\$69,626.00	\$400.00	\$4,087.00	\$180,720.00	\$11,387.00	\$0.00	\$266,220.00
<i>Funding provided by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 10</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #4	\$42,364.00	\$375.00	\$4,272.00	\$207,040.00	\$4,464.00	\$0.00	\$258,515.00
<i>Grant made available by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 11</i>							
Cost Effective Nutrient Reduction	\$0.00	\$325.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,750.00	\$500,000.00	\$503,325.00
<i>Grant made available by the National Fish &amp; Wildlife Foundation</i>							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$216,941.00</b>	<b>\$7,745.00</b>	<b>\$41,734.00</b>	<b>\$901,392.00</b>	<b>\$51,261.00</b>	<b>\$587,053.00</b>	<b>\$1,806,126.00</b>

\*\* Includes cash, services and materials

**U.S. Senators:** Charles E. Schumer - (585) 263-5866; Hillary Rodham Clinton - (585) 263-6250

**U.S. Congressman:** John R. Kuhl - (202) 225-3161 (29th District); Sherwood Boehlert (202) 225-3665 (24th District)

**NY State Senate:** Michael Nuzzolo (315) 568-9816 (54th District); George Winner - (518) 455-2091 (53rd District); Dale Volker (585) 786-5048 (59th District)

**NY Assemblyman:** James Bacalles - (607) 776-9691 (136th District); Brian Kolb - (315) 781-2030 (129th District); Joseph Errigo - (585) 334-5210 (130th District);

Thomas O'Mara (607) 733-4635 (137th District)

## **New Grants Awarded**

In March 2006, Governor George Pataki announced that thirty-one Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement projects had been funded via the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. Two of these Round 12 grants were written by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and are being administered by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council. One grant entitled the “Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing-Phase 5” has a value of \$194,625.00 and will provide cost sharing to 19 Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben County Livestock producers to install prescribed grazing systems and associated BMPs. The second grant is entitled “Finger Lakes Prescribed Grazing Project” with a value of \$192,300.00, will also provide financial assistance to 19 Cayuga, Schuyler, Seneca and Yates County livestock producers.

## **Financial Risk Management Grant**

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council completed this \$60,319.00 grant on August 31, 2006. The grant, which is provided through the Northeast Center for Risk Management, is providing technical support to enhance farmers’ financial management skills through a series of workshops and farm visits. Serving as the project’s field Coordinator, Cornell’s Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team has assisted participating farms in developing financial summaries and analysis. More than 100 individuals have participated in this project which the RC&D Council is administering.

Finger Lakes RC&D Council, Inc.  
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