

2009 Annual Report

**Finger Lakes Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.**
www.fingerlakesrcd.org
(607) 776-7398 Ext 5
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Farm Renewable Energy Field Day

In cooperation with the Small Farms Energy Work Team, a project of Cornell's Small Farm Program, and the Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council hosted an on-farm renewable energy field day at the Robert & Mary Lou Bondi Farm in the Town of Pulteney, Steuben County NY on Thursday August 6th, 2009.

Robert & Mary Lou extended an invitation to other livestock producers, conservation agency personnel and other interested individuals to see their solar powered livestock pumping system.

The pumping system provides water to the Bondi's 50 beef cows that predominantly graze on pasture. The watering system supplies water to livestock on both sides of county Rte 74 and includes holding tanks, watering troughs equipped with demand triggering floats.

The field day was a success with approximately 26 in attendance and it was well received by all.



2009 Board of Officers

President
Kenneth Bush
Chemung Co

Vice President
Elaine Dalrymple
Schuyler Co

Treasurer
Gregory Heffner
Steuben Co

Secretary
Velynda Risley
Steuben Co

*Making Things
Happen!*



Bob Bondi explaining his system to farm tour participants



Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. to Assist Organic Dairy Producers

New York Farm Viability Institute Funds Project to Reduce Financial Management Barriers Faced by Organic Dairy Producers.

New York's organic dairy farmers can get a better snapshot of their financial performance, thanks to a new initiative that promotes improved record keeping and the use of benchmarking to compare income and expenses on farms. Benchmarking may help farmers identify places to cut costs, or areas to improve the farm business.

Encouraging use of the Dairy Farm Business Summary among organic dairy farms is a collaborative effort of the NWNYS Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program, PRO-DAIRY (a Cornell University Cooperative Extension Program), and the Finger Lakes Resources Conservation and Development Council, Inc. The project recently received grant funds (\$20,090.00) from the New York Farm Viability Institute.

"The goal is to reduce financial management barriers faced by organic dairy producers," said John Hanchar, an agricultural educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension's NWNYS team. "Organic dairy producers want the ability to use financial information about their business to answer the following questions.

- ◆ Where is the business now?
- ◆ Where do I want the business to be?
- ◆ How will I get the business to where I want it to be?"

Cornell economists developed the Dairy Farm Business Summary program in the 1950's, but the program has not been as helpful for organic farms, because some of the data, such as animal feed costs are based on non-organic farms.

"Opportunities for peer to peer comparisons that bring together adequate numbers of organic dairy farm businesses for meaningful comparisons are lacking," Hanchar said. "The lack of opportunities limits producers' abilities to use financial information to answer the above questions."

The NWNYS Program will recruit and work with organic dairy producers using Cornell Cooperative Extension's Dairy Farm Business summary (DFBS) Program, combined with peer to peer comparisons, and problem solving opportunities to overcome these barriers.

Participants will complete DFBS's for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 years, identify areas for possible improvement, and make decisions about changes on the farm. Cornell University Cooperative Extension support will include working with participants at their farms to complete the farm business summary and analysis process. There are no fees to participate.

If you are an organic dairy producer and you feel that measuring and comparing your financial results to the organic dairy farm businesses will help you be more successful, contact John Hanchar for more information, (585) 658-3250 Ext 112 or by email, jjh6@cornell.edu.

Or, if you provide goods and, or services to organic producers and you think that your clients might benefit from and, or be interested in farm business summary and analysis, then please share this information with producers. This project is possible in part due to grant funds from the NY Farm Viability Institute.

Remember, "If you can't or don't measure it, then you can't manage it."

FINGER LAKES RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
2009 PROJECT FUNDING

PROJECT NAME	LOCAL \$'S			STATE \$'S	FEDERAL \$'S		TOTAL **
	Private	Council	Public		RC&D Tech	Other	
Managing Labor Risks	\$3,750.00	\$625.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,875.00
<i>Grant provided through the Northeast Center for Risk Management</i>							
Grazing Land Conservation Initiative	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$23,000.00	\$31,750.00
<i>Grant made available by the Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>							
Finger Lakes Grazing	\$46,229.00	\$500.00	\$800.00	\$192,300.00	\$16,500.00	\$1,640.00	\$257,969.00
<i>Funding provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 12</i>							
Natural Stream Design	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,721.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$399,995.00	\$451,216.00
<i>Funding provided through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #4	\$122,119.00	\$750.00	\$39,342.00	\$207,040.00	\$17,274.00	\$3,080.00	\$389,605.00
<i>Grant made available by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 11</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #5	\$122,783.00	\$650.00	\$14,878.00	\$194,625.00	\$16,865.00	\$1,780.00	\$351,581.00
<i>Funding provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 12</i>							
Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #6	\$45,437.00	\$400.00	\$11,914.00	\$216,910.00	\$12,782.00	\$1,140.00	\$288,583.00
<i>Grant made available by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 13</i>							
Southern Tier Prescribed Grazing	\$76,600.00	\$200.00	\$14,142.00	\$262,395.00	\$5,440.00	\$742.00	\$359,519.00
<i>Funding Provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 14</i>							
Venison Donation Program **	\$6,121.00	\$1,400.00	\$68,275.00	\$41,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$141,796.00
<i>Financial support provided by NYS grants as well as private and public contributions</i>							
Solar Powered Livestock Watering Project	\$4,755.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$48,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$55,280.00
<i>Grant provided through the NRCS's Conservation Innovative Grants</i>							
Cost Effective Nutrient Reduction	\$187,767.00	\$700.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,298.00	\$500,000.00	\$697,265.00
<i>Grant made available by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation</i>							
Cayuga-Seneca Pesticide Management	\$5,295.00	\$275.00	\$1,093.00	\$228,265.00	\$5,289.00	\$0.00	\$240,217.00
<i>Funding provided through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 14</i>							
Wind Powered Watering System	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$73,750.00
<i>Grant provided through the NRCS's Conservation Innovative Grants</i>							
Conservation Technical Assistant	\$0.00	\$2,970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$20,000.00	\$23,720.00
<i>Grant provided through NRCS</i>							
Financial Risks on Organic Dairies	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$275.00	\$20,090.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$20,765.00
<i>Grant provided through the NY Farm Viability Institute</i>							
TOTAL	\$622,856.00	\$10,495.00	\$207,940.00	\$1,410,625.00	\$118,598.00	\$1,043,377.00	\$3,413,891.00

** Includes cash, services and materials

U.S. Senators

Charles E. Schumer - (585) 263-5866
Kirsten Gillibrand - (202) 224-4451

U.S. House of Representatives

Eric Massa - (607) 654-7566 (29th District)
Michael Arcuri - (202) 225-3665 (24th District)

NYS Assembly

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)

NY State Senate

Michael Nozzolio - (315) 568-9816 (54th District)
George Winner - (518) 455-2091 (53rd District)
Dale Volker - (585) 786-5048 (59th District)

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Natural Stream Design Grant

The RC&D Council has been awarded a \$399,995.00 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. The purpose of this grant is to demonstrate the effectiveness of Natural Stream Design techniques in stabilizing stream channels, protecting public highways and bridges as well as improving fish habitat. Historically, stream stabilization has been achieved by the placement of rock rip-rap. Natural stream design techniques will include stream deflectors and weirs that help concentrate stream flow toward the center of the channel. Establishment of shrubs & trees such as willow will be incorporated into the project.

Working in cooperation with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties, the Finger Lakes RC&D Council expects to stabilize 7,300 feet of channel, reduce soil erosion by 1,000 tons and improve 1.4 miles of fish habitat. In-kind services in the form of equipment, labor and materials will be provided by the three Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Department of Public Works or County Highway Departments and other partnering entities will total approximately \$435,000.00. Project sites have already been identified with Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties by the respective Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Work started on the project in Schuyler County during the fall of 2009, with additional work continuing in the spring of 2010.

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council prohibits discrimination in all 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 biases 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).

Finger Lakes Resource Conservation &
Development Council, Inc.
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Bath, New York 14810