

Conservation *Through* Collaboration

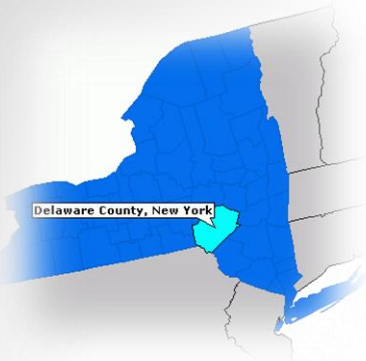


Brian Sheridan, County Executive Director – Farm Service Agency

Tony Capraro, District Conservationist- Natural Resource Conservation Service

Larry Underwood, Technical Coordinator-Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District

Lydia Brinkley, Buffer Coordinator - Upper Susquehanna Coalition



Delaware County Statistics

- South-East New York, Base of the Catskill Mountains
- 1,500 Sq. Miles of Land 25 Sq. Miles of Water Resources
- 145,000 acres involved in production agriculture
- Agriculture generates nearly \$50 Million of income annually
- Land base ideal for grazing operations
- 130 Dairy Operations (Avg. Herd Size 75)
- 200 Beef & Livestock Operations (Avg. Herd Size 50)
- 235 Active CRP/CREP Contracts
 - 57 Re-enrollments to Process for 2016
 - 21 Re-enrollments to Process for 2017



Keys to Successful Buffer Implementation

1. Partnerships

- ✓ Farm Service Agency
- ✓ Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ✓ Watershed Agricultural Council
- ✓ Soil & Water Conservation District
- ✓ Cornell Cooperative Extension
- ✓ Upper Susquehanna Coalition



2. Committed Participants

- ✓ Understand environmental, monetary & on-farm benefits
- ✓ Strong working relationships with participants

3. Follow Up

- ✓ Status reviews
- ✓ Ensure buffer success
- ✓ Emergency repair considerations

Whole Farm Planning: *Starting At The Stream*

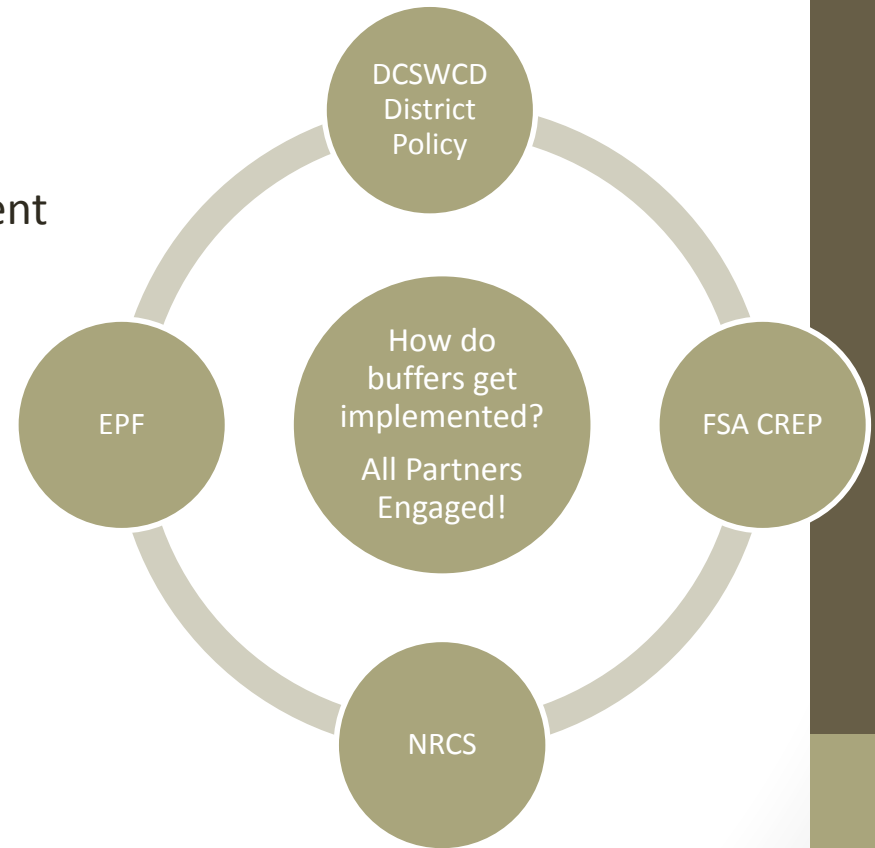
SWCD Livestock Exclusion Policy:

❖ Methods:

- ✓ Full Exclusion - Riparian Buffers
- ✓ Limited Access – Pasture Management
- ✓ Behavioral Modification

❖ Results:

- ✓ Water quality enhancement
- ✓ High ranking grant proposals
- ✓ Committed landowners
- ✓ Awareness



Monthly Meeting of Conservation Partners



- USDA FSA
- USDA NRCS
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Delaware County SWCD
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition



Impacts on Participants

- Coordinating multiple funding sources allows for implementation of additional conservation measures
- Technical staff construction oversight
- Satisfied customers are our *BEST* outreach tool



“CRP has brought many benefits to our farm. A well-constructed, reliable fence and water source for the cows has been incredibly helpful. The availability of clean, fresh water has had a positive financial impact on the farm. The stream itself is much healthier, we now have all types of fish, animals and birds that inhabit this area.” –Delaware County CREP Participant

All Partners Add Value...

Delaware County SWCD

- ✓ District policy promotes buffers
- ✓ Coordination of multiple funding sources
- ✓ Procurement and construction oversight

Farm Service Agency

- ✓ Manages CREP enrollment
- ✓ Communication with contract holder
- ✓ Provides training on Federal Policies

NRCS

- ✓ Development of Conservation Plans
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Coordinates other Federal program for whole farm management



Upper Susquehanna Coalition Involvement



- Promoting Inter-Agency Collaboration
 - Encouraging other counties to duplicate the Delaware County model
 - Assisting with overcoming barriers
 - Multi-Agency training sessions
- Committed to “Starting at The Stream” Approach
 - CREP Alternatives

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green forest. The river is surrounded by dense trees and vegetation, with a bridge visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

Questions ?

**“Plans to protect water and air,
wilderness and wildlife, are in fact
plans to protect mankind”**

-Stewart L. Udall