

State Specific Training Module for Conservation Planning in New York

Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in New York. This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in New York.

New York NRCS Planning Policy and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

- New York NRCS incorporates Agricultural Environmental Management as a requirement for all planning on land uses included in a CNMP and for all land uses addressing water quality as the primary resource concern in conservation plans. This requirement is outlined in GM 180, Amendment 19 NY409.0 (c) (1) general,
- AEM is a five tier process and a part of the conservation partnership with the State of New York . The NY NRCS supplemental planning policy requires the first two AEM Tiers be completed to compliment NRCS preplanning and for NRCS planning steps 1-3,
- Current (no older than three years) Tier I and II worksheets are required to be completed by the conservation planner (or be accessible to the planner if previously completed) to use in development of a conservation plan. A completed Tier I and Tier II summary is required to be part of the conservation plan case file.

The following slides provide an overview of the AEM process and its relationship to NRCS planning.



AEM Statewide Organization



Statewide Organization

Voting Members (5)

- Farm Bureau
- Grange
- At-Large Farmer
- At-Large Non-Farmer
- NY Association of Conservation Districts

Advisory Members (9)

Conservation Partners (3)

- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Districts Employees Association
- Cornell Cooperative Extension

State Agencies (4)

- Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
- Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of State

Academic Institutions (2)

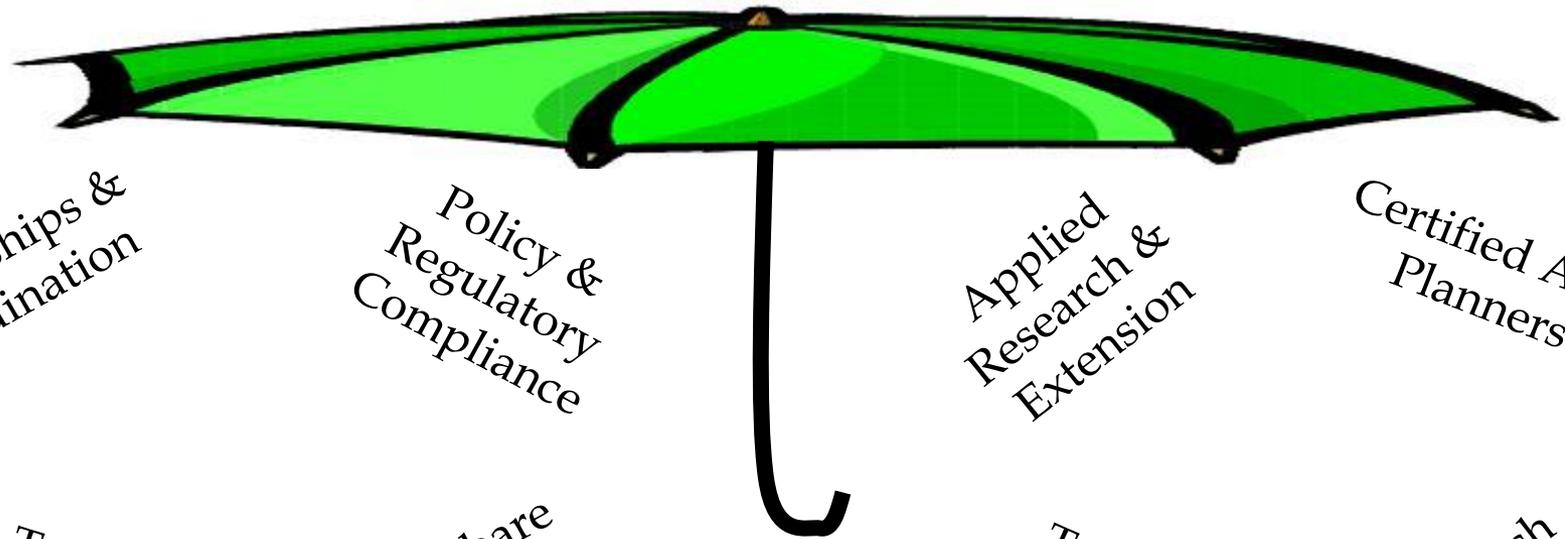
- Cornell University
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Led by the
 NYS
 Soil & Water
 Conservation
 Committee
 &
 County
 Soil & Water
 Conservation
 Districts

Agricultural Environmental Management

www.agriculture.ny.gov/soilwater/aem

Protect and enhance the environment and
the viability of agriculture in New York State.



Partnerships &
Coordination

Policy &
Regulatory
Compliance

Applied
Research &
Extension

Certified AEM
Planners

Technical
Assistance & Tools

Cost-Share
Programs

Training

Outreach

Locally-led Strategies &
Priorities



Agricultural Environmental Management

○ Core Concepts

- **Voluntary, incentive-based**

- **Locally-led & delivered**

- Farmers
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Farm Service Agency
- Agri-Business
- Watershed Groups
- Environmental Organizations

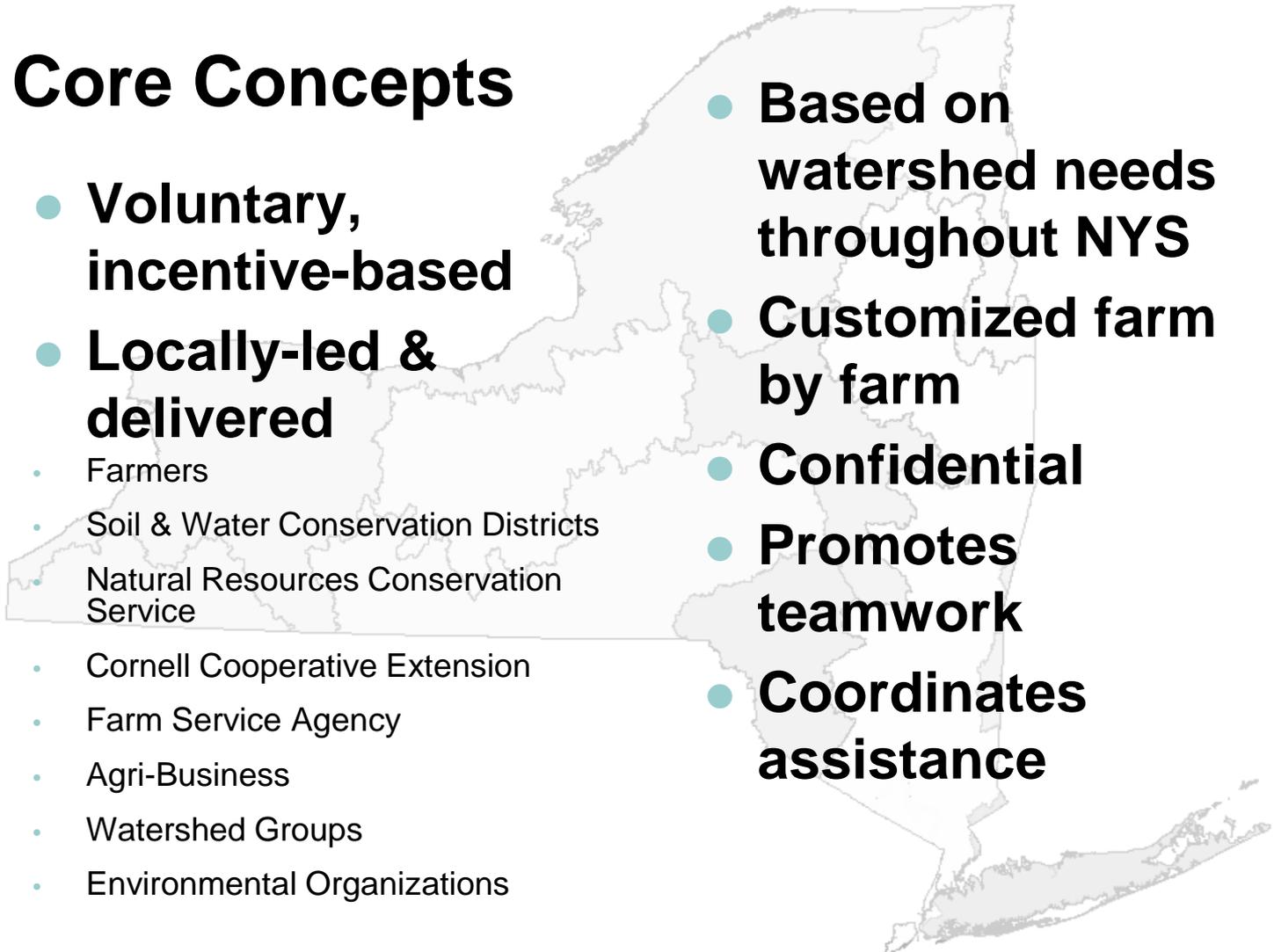
- **Based on watershed needs throughout NYS**

- **Customized farm by farm**

- **Confidential**

- **Promotes teamwork**

- **Coordinates assistance**





NRCS 9-Step Planning Process

AEM 5-Tiered Planning Framework

- 1 ID Problems and Opportunities
- 2 Determine Objectives
- 3 Inventory Resources
- 4 Analyze Resource Data
- 5 Formulate Alternatives
- 6 Evaluate Alternatives
- 7 Make Decisions
- 8 Implement
- 9 Evaluate

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Tier 1 | Farm Inventory and Interests
(Questionnaire) |
| Tier 2 | Environmental Assessment
(Worksheets) |
| Tier 3 | Plan (NRCS 1-7) |
| Tier 4 | Implement |
| Tier 5 | Evaluate |





AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Tier 1

AEM Identification Number: _____

County SWCD _____

Date: ____/____/____

Evaluator Name: _____		Evaluating Agency: _____	
Watershed Identification: _____			
Farm Name: _____			
Owner's Name: _____		Operator's Name: _____	
Address: _____		Address: _____	
Phone: _____		Phone: _____	
Fax: _____		Fax: _____	
Email: _____		Email: _____	
Preferred Contact Point? (please check only one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Operator			

1) Future Status of the Farm

A) Do you anticipate any major modifications on your farm within the next 5 years? Yes No

If yes, please check the condition(s) that best describes the modification(s):

- Business Structure Expansion Retirement
 Operation Type Diversification of Farm Business Sale of Farm

B) Do you plan to subdivide any portion of your farm in the next 5 years? Yes No

2) Basic Farm Information

A) What Primary Farm Enterprise best describes your operation?

- Dairy Beef Horses Fruit/Vegetables

Average Weight: _____ Number: _____

Average Weight: _____ Number: _____

Management Questions (Please check Yes or No)

	Yes	No
Do you spread manure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a manure storage facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you generate process washwater from the cleaning of product or facilities? <small>(i.e. milkcanter, egg wash, washing of produce)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a barnyard or outdoor feedlot on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store silage or other high moisture feeds on the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you utilize pastureland on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use commercial fertilizer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store and/or mix pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your operation utilize cropland for row crop production?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the water supply on your farm from a well or a spring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a waterbody within or adjacent to your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you presently or do you plan to harvest timber on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you store fuel or other bulk petroleum products on your farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you received odor complaints or do you believe your farm has an odor concern?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NYS Agricultural Interest Assessment – check all that are of interest

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Tax Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Pest Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agri-Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Manure Treatment Options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biofuels | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor-Farm Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance Wildlife Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easements | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Farming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Conservation/Generation | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution Credit Trading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Management Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Right To Farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Crops |

■ Tier 1 - Questionnaire

Farm inventory completed by the farmer and AEM team.

- Establishes basic information
- Identifies potential concerns and benefits
- Identifies farmer interests and opportunities
- Determines Tier 2 Worksheet needs



AEM Tier 2 Assessment Worksheets

www.agriculture.ny.gov/soilwater/aem/techtools.html

Farmer completes Tier 2 Assessment with AEM Team.

- Documents stewardship & benchmark conditions
 - Helps determine whether an area is a resource concern or not
- Worksheets focused on land uses / management areas
- Educational opportunity



AEM Tier 2 Example – Fertilizer and Manure Mgt.

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet:

Manure and Fertilizer Management

Table 2: Manure Application

Potential

Factors Needing Assessment	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
Have there been any concerns about manure contamination of wells on or near the farm?				
Are field runoff potentials considered in scheduling manure applications?	Manure is never spread when fields: -- are saturated or frozen -- are prone to flood; or -- when runoff risk is high AND Manure is applied just prior to planting or to a growing crop.	Manure is never spread when fields: -- are saturated or frozen -- are prone to flood; or -- when runoff risk is high AND Manure is applied during the growing season to fields with the highest runoff potential and outside the growing season to fields with the lowest runoff potential.	Manure is sometimes spread on fields that: -- are saturated or frozen -- are prone to flood; or -- when runoff risk is high AND Manure is applied outside the growing season to fields with the lowest runoff potential.	Manure is sometimes spread on fields that: -- are saturated or frozen -- are prone to flood; or -- when runoff risk is high AND Fields are not prioritized based on runoff potential.
How close is manure spread to wellheads or springs?	Manure is not spread within 200 ft. from any wellhead or spring.	Manure is not spread within 100 ft. from any wellhead or spring.	Manure is not spread within 50 ft. from any wellhead or spring.	Manure is spread less than 50 ft. from any wellhead or spring.
Are vegetative buffers maintained along watercourses in fields receiving manure?	A vegetative buffer that meets NRCS Standards is maintained along water courses in fields receiving manure.	A naturally occurring buffer of at least 35ft. exists along watercourses adjacent to fields.	A naturally occurring buffer of at least 10ft. exists along watercourses adjacent to fields.	Little or no vegetation exists along watercourses in fields receiving manure.
How close is manure spread to surface waters?	Manure is not spread within 100ft. of surface water. OR Manure is not spread within 35ft. of surface water where a vegetative buffer meeting	Manure is not spread within 35ft. of surface water where a vegetative buffer meeting NRCS Standards exists.	Manure is spread less than 100ft. from surface water where no vegetative buffer exists.	No manure spreading setbacks are used.



AEM Tier 2 Worksheets

www.agriculture.ny.gov/soilwater/aem/techtools.html

Core

- Watershed Site Evaluation
- Agriculture & the Community
- Soil Management
- Manure & Fertilizer Mgmt
- Manure & Fertilizer Storage
- Waste Disposal
- Pesticide Use
- Pesticide Storage, Mix & Load
- Farmstead Water Supply
- Stream & Floodplain Mgmt.
- Petroleum & Oil Product Storage
- Forest Management
- Irrigation Water Management

Livestock

- Livestock Heavy Use Areas
- Silage Storage
- Process Wash Water
- Management of Feed Nutrients
- Water-Bourne Pathogens
- Pasture Management
- Livestock Odor Management

plus

Equine

Greenhouse

Vineyard

Fruits - Vegetables

Long Island

New York NRCS Planning Policy And CNMPs

CNMP and Nutrient Management Specialist in New York:

- All planners that approve CNMPs in New York must be as a minimum a certified CNMP Specialists under GM 180, Part 409.9, supplement NY 07. This includes completing required CNMP training specific to New York or equivalent.
- CNMP Specialist that approve CNMPs on State Regulated Farms, must also be designated as AEM Certified Planners based on 180 GM, Part 409.10 supplement NY 07. The authority for certification at this level rests jointly with the New York NRCS State Conservationist and the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture.

State Law and Regulated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in New York

- The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) is responsible for regulating Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in New York, both for NY Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Federal Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Currently, AFOs with 200-699 milk cows are considered medium CAFOs and subject to permitting requirements under NY Environmental Conservation Law. (Farms from 200-299 milk cows that do not discharge may opt out of permit requirements for medium CAFOs),
- Farms with 700 or more milk cows are considered large CAFOs, and may be subject to permitting under the Federal Clean Water Act, or depending on potential to discharge, can be covered by a NY ECL permit.
- Further information regarding CAFO permits is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6285.html>

State Law And Special Environmental Concerns

- Planners completing Conservation Plans in New York must be familiar with responsibilities under NEPA. Procedures and resources for the evaluation of Special Environmental Concerns for New York are available on the NY FOTG, section II.
- Conservation Planners need to be aware of New York State specific requirements in place for determining the potential for the presence threatened and endangered (T and E) species and for the presences of cultural resources. These procedures are also outlined in the NY FOTG, section II.

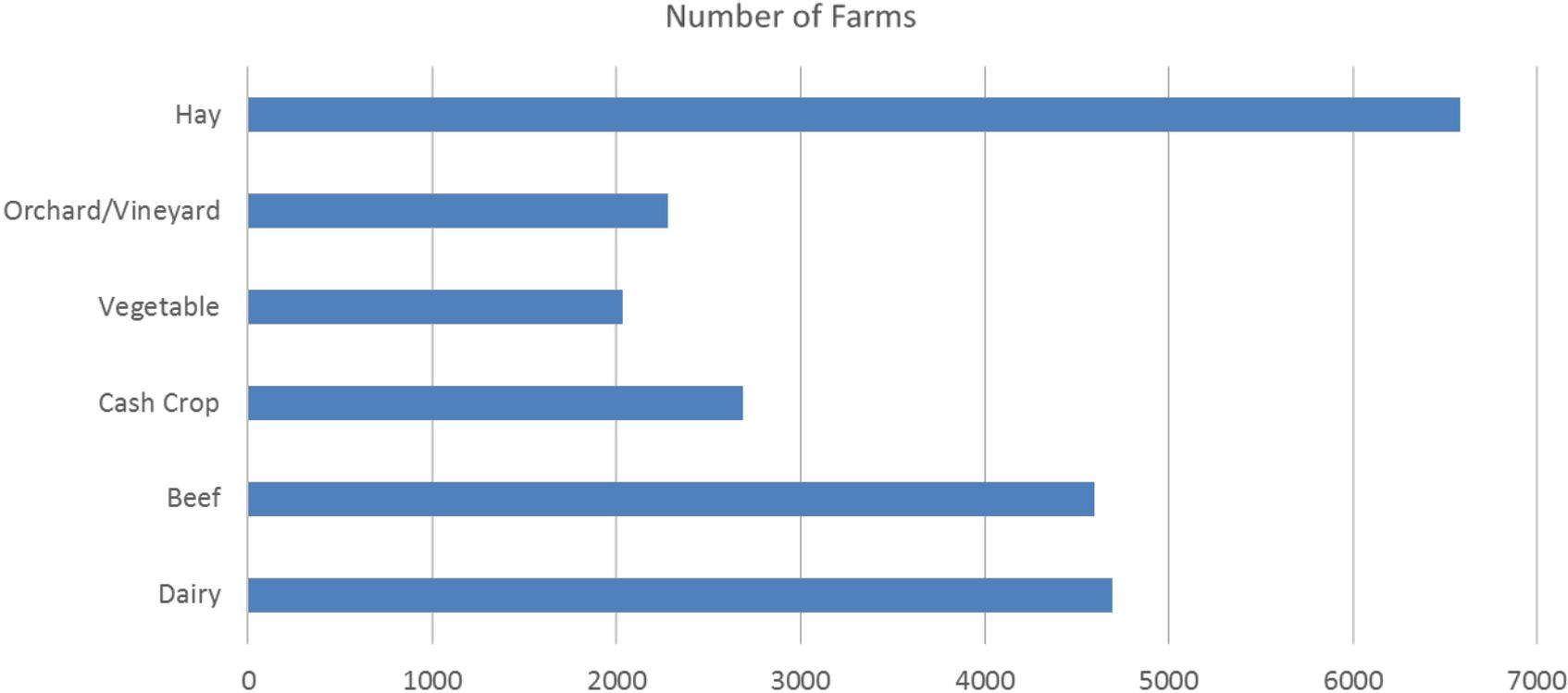
State Law and Planning Engineering Practices

- Conservation Planners that complete the conservation planning process for engineering practices through planning step 7 can do so without a New York State Professional Engineer's (PE) license.
- Conservation Planners are encouraged to engage a PE or person with appropriate Job Approval Authority (JAA) when completing planning steps 5-7.
- Once the plan moves to planning step 8, a New York licensed PE is required for implementing engineering practices.

Major Land Uses in New York

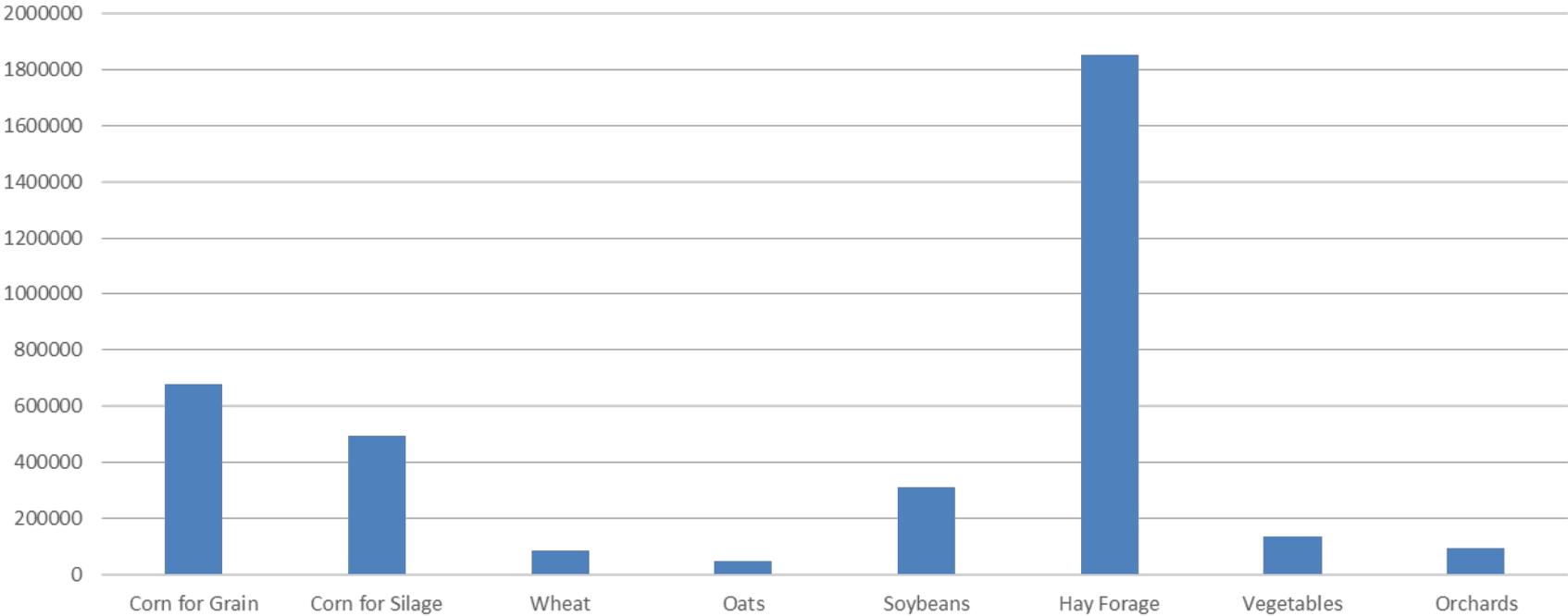
- Approximately 14% of the New York State land base is classified as cropland. This includes hay grown for forage, pasture and land devoted to orchards.
- Total land area forested in New York is 63% or 18.9 million acres
- Private forest land is 14.4 million acres or 76% of total forest land.
- Public land in New York is primarily forested. For the most part public land is not used for grazing or other agricultural purposes.

Major Farm Classifications



Major Crops

2012 Acres Harvested



Major Resource Concerns-Cropland

- Soil erosion from water is a major resource concerns on sloping cropland statewide,
- Soil quality degradation is a resource concern on cropland under intensive cultivation,
- Some isolated areas of wind erosion along the Great Lakes, Long Island, and within organic soil areas can be a resource concern,
- Water Quality Degradation - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications and/or excessive nutrients in groundwater/surface water is a major concern on livestock operations.

Major Resource Concerns-Pasture

- Degraded Plant Condition -Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health is a resource concern on pasture due to improper stocking rates and poor management.
- Soil erosion from water is a resource concern on steeper pasture areas,
- Soil quality degradation can be a resource concern on pasture due to compaction and/or improper stocking rates,
- Water Quality Degradation - Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications and/or excessive nutrients in Surface Water can be a concern where livestock have unlimited access to surface water bodies.

Major Resource Concerns-Forest Land

Improper timber harvesting, unmanaged basal area stocking rates, invasive species, lack of and adherence to forest management plans are leading to:

- Degraded Plant Condition -Undesirable Plant Productivity, Health, inadequate structure, and pest pressure are all major resource concerns on Forestland
- Soil erosion from water is a resource concern on steeper forested areas. This also can lead to excessive sedimentation to surface water.
- Degraded or lack of forest cover along surface water is resulting in elevated water temperatures in some cases.

Major Resource Concerns-Wildlife Habitat

Habitat-fragmentation, lack of nesting cover, and shelter from predators on early successional habitat-shrubland and grassland is a major resource concern:

- Multiple shrubland and grassland dependent species in decline,
- Losing early successional habitats as NY returns to mature forest,
- NY special focus on shrubland dependent golden-winged warbler (Federally-petitioned for listing, NYS Special Concern) and New England cottontail (Federal candidate species, NYS Special Concern),
- Grassland birds targeted include bobolink and meadowlark.

Major Resource Concerns-Wildlife Habitat

Habitat-fragmentation, lack of nesting cover, and shelter from predators in wetlands is a major resource concern:

- Many State and Federally listed species dependent on wetlands,
- NY special focus on bog turtle (Federally endangered, NYS endangered),
- Documented use of restored wetland by Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Northern Harrier (NYS threatened),
- Focus on wetlands affected by agriculture.

Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The SRC will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

Additional References or Training

- State Field Office Technical Guide at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ny/home/>
- New York Training on CNMP Development held every other year in March <http://www.nys-soilandwater.org/events/events.html>
- Conservation Skills Workshop held yearly in September/October <http://www.nys-soilandwater.org/events/events.html>
- Yearly Northeast Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) basic agronomic training <http://www.northeastcropadvisers.org/>
- Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program for state nutrient management guidelines <http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/index.html>

Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this state.

Send the signed certificate to the State TSP Coordinator. Copy the below link to your browser for a list of State TSP Coordinators.

<https://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/RptStateContact4Admin.aspx>

STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, _____, hereby verify I have viewed and understand
TSP Name
the content of the New York State Specific Training Module and affirm I
have the knowledge, skills and ability to conduct conservation planning
services in that state.

TSP signature

Date

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