

DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation News Winter 2025 Newsletter



DUTCHESS COUNTY

soil & water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Since 1945

What the District Can Do For You



Technical Assistance

- Stormwater management
- Nonpoint source pollution control
- Watershed management
- Pond, stream and wetland management
- DEC permit filing
- Sustainable agriculture
- Soil interpretation
- Whole farm planning
- Nutrient management plans
- Agricultural Environmental Management

Services

- Educational programs for schools
- Municipal development reviews
- Private landowner assistance
- Review of erosion and sediment control plans
- Soil maps and Interpretations available
- USGS topographic quads
- GIS mapping services (fees may apply)
- Site visits

Agricultural Assessment Soil Group Worksheets

If you need a Soil Group Worksheet completed for your Agriculture Value Assessment please submit the request to DCSWCD. There is a \$40 charge per parcel. Visit our website for more information.

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Special points of interest:

- Agricultural Program Meeting Thursday, February 20 at 6:30pm
- Erosion & Sediment Control Training Wednesday, February 26 at 8:00am
- Seedling Sale Pre Order Starts Now
- Seedling Sale Pick Up Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th

2024 Conservation in the Classroom

Arlington High School Hydroponics Project

Hydroponic Plant Propagation is the name, Conservation in the Classroom is the game. Arlington High School's biology teachers Steve Hertzog and Michael Polotaye have collaborated to teach their students about hydroponic planting. As stated in their proposal the educational goal for the students engaging in this program include: providing more access to scientific inquiry opportunities involving growing plants, allow for additional opportunities to design and test a variety of hydroponic plant growth systems, providing more equitable access to scientific inquiry opportunities and data collection tools, increasing students' experience with plant propagation and care (including data collection), and

extending the growing season as well as improving growing conditions for indoor plants.

These students were given the opportunity to grow plants in an indoor environment more conducive to growth. The students were tasked with assembling growth systems in the classroom which were then used for daily monitoring and regular data collection. After first exploring what goes into growing plants indoors and using hydroponic systems they were given the opportunity to investigate and adjust any number of variables in the growing systems. These pictures provided by Steve Hertzog are some of the many amazing results these students achieved.



Products and results of the Arlington High Schools Hydroponics Plant Propagation Project conducted in 2024 with Steve Hertzog

Nassau Elementary School

Nassau Elementary School has plans for a Garden Project for their students! From their proposal, we're keen to see they plan to promote environmental awareness about the importance of sustainability, ecology and the role of plants in the ecosystem. With hands on learning opportunities the students will be able to observe plant life cycles, understand soil composition

and learn the importance of pollinators. On top of all that these teachers hope to educate the students on Nutrition, STEM, Social Skills, Teamwork and Life Skills. The students will be involved with the planning and design, planting, maintenance, composting, harvesting, cooking, scientific observation and research, creative projects and so much more! We look forward to seeing what comes of this project.

2025 Conservation in the Classroom

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for the grant, please complete the 2025 Conservation in the Classroom Program Request for Proposal, which is available at: www.dutchesswcd.org.

All applications are due February 28, 2025

Exclusion Fence and Buffer Systems

Our office has installed birds. These plantings along over 7,000 feet of buffer the streams and ponds plantings along streams, shoreline help create habitat wetlands, and ponds through- and shade for fish. Along with out the year 2024. These plantings on 13 properties we riparian buffer plantings will were able to install pasture help stabilize streambanks, exclusion fencing along 5000 absorb water along wet feet of wetlands to help keep pastures, and create habitat for cattle out of the pond and wildlife. The plantings contain wetlands in the pastures. flowering trees and shrubs for pollinators and berries for



One of the Exclusion Fences and Riparian Buffer Plantings Implemented in Wassaic



Buffer Planting Implemented in Dover

Board of Directors:

- Dave Coon, Chair
- Sandy Washburn, Vice-Chairperson
- Tim Bontecou, Treasurer
- David Koehler
- Michael Lawrence
- Deirdre Houston, Legislator
- Andrew House, Legislator

District Staff

- Brian Scoralick, Executive Director
- Lauren Drum, AEM Program Technician
- Amy Titcomb, District Technician

District Board Meeting Schedule

The Dutchess County Soil and Water District holds monthly Board of Director Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates are:

- February 19 @ 7pm
- March 19 @ 7pm
- April 16 @ 7pm



Buffer Planting Area before Implementation

DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

County-wide Agricultural Program Meeting

**What does your farm need?
What is Agricultural Environmental Management?
Can you get funding to help you?**

These questions and more will be talked about if you come to the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District Agricultural Program Meeting on Thursday, February 20th at 6:30pm at the Millbrook Farm and Home Center.

All farmers are welcome!! Any and all farm types are encouraged to participate, as well as agriculture support professionals. Come meet the staff and explore our existing programs. Tell us what you need on your farm and help us identify what new programs would help you and your operation.

We will be talking about existing assistance programs with such as conservation planning, pasture improvements, manure management, heavy use areas, irrigation, livestock watering, cover crops, and water management and more. Anyone who works with farmers or has a farm can attend. Farmers are encouraged to participate in the meeting to give us insight into how your farm is working and what you are interested in improving. This will be your opportunity to learn more about what we currently are working on and who we work with.

Agricultural Environmental Management is a statewide voluntary program that helps farmers identify and implement more environmentally friendly best management practices. With multiple funding sources available, we need to hear from you about what you need in order for us to move the program forward. The District is looking to create a 5 year plan to guide us in the best ways to support and improve agriculture in our communities. We are also looking to create new partnerships and work towards helping new or different farms in the county.

Please let us know you are available to participate in this meeting, food will be provided so we want to make the proper arrangements.

**Place: Farm and Home Center
2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545**

Time: February 20 @ 6:30 PM

**RSVP by February 14th
lauren.drum@ny.nacdnet.net Or 845-677-8011 ext: 3**

DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



CONTRACTOR EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL TRAINING

The Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting a 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training for Contractors, Developers, Engineers and individuals involved in soil disturbance activities

Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one *trained individual* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP and have at least one *trained individual* on site daily when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a *qualified inspector* conduct regular site inspections in accordance with the construction general permit.

Training is good for 3 years from date of training.

**February 26, 2025
8:00 am—1:00 pm**

Registration begins at 7:30am
Class starts promptly at 8:00am

**Location:
The Farm & Home Center
2715 Route 44
Millbrook, NY 12545**

Online Registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/erosion-sediment-control-4hr-training-tickets-1217904979579?aff=oddtcreator>

**Or Mail
\$100.00 per person,
non-refundable
Pre-Payment and registration
required**

Please make checks payable to
DCSWCD and send to the address below

Please also include the attached
registration form

**Deadline to register is
February 21, 2025**

Coffee and Refreshments Provided

**Farm and Home Center
2715 Route 44,
Millbrook, NY 12545**

**845-677-8011 x 3
admin@dutchessswcd.org**

2025 Bare Root Seedling Sale

Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Bare Root Seedling Sale is under way. Pre Order *now* to have seedlings to plant in Spring. Friday April 25th 9am—5pm and Saturday, April 26th 8:30am—12:30pm are the dates you want to remember. That is when you can pick up your preordered plants! If you're not sure what you want yet, not to worry you have until March 10th to make an order, just be aware stock is limited and may not be available towards that March 10th deadline. Most varieties that are for sale this year were available in years past, we do have some new seedlings available, check them out!

See below for our New Species Highlight to find out what we have in store for you.



Tulip Poplar Tree—
Picture from delawaretrees.com

Empire Apple Trees—
Picture from minnetonkaorchards.com



Pussy Willow—
Picture from bambooplants.ca

American Cranberry Viburnum—
Picture from threetreecenter.com



New Species Highlight

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) The tulip poplar tree is **not** a poplar tree and **not** related to tulip flowers but is actually a member of the Magnolia family. These trees can reach up to 120 ft tall and prefer full sun locations with rich, moist soil that drains well. Due to the rapid growth of this tree, pruning is essential. Prune out dead and weak growth in late winter to early spring and do a thorough thinning every few years.

Empire Apple trees are a low-maintenance tree that will bear fruit within 3 to 5 years. A sweet to tart tasting apple that is perfect for fresh eating and cooking. Plant in full sun and the soil should be well-drained and loamy. The mature tree will be 12 to 15 feet tall and the same size in width. These trees were bred to be disease resistant to the common apple blights of Apple Rust and Cedar Apple Rust, but they are still susceptible to winter damage and other pests.

Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*) The pussy willow shrub can grow anywhere from 6 to 25 ft. tall, and 4 to 15 ft. wide. Pussy willows are wetland plants, often thriving along the banks of streams in the wild. They need plenty of water and are therefore an apt choice for any poorly draining locations in your yard. Pussy willows thrive in full sun, requiring at least six hours of direct sunlight daily to grow and flower optimally. This plant likes loamy, moist, rich soil.

Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus var. americanum*) With full sun to partial shade these shrubs can grow up to 12' tall and wide. Cranberry has tart, acidic fruit that is best served in jellies, jams, sauces and relishes. The more hours of direct sunlight the more berries will be produced. Cranberries tolerate poorly drained soil, but live longest in soil that is moist but well drained. They don't compete well with grass and weeds, maintaining a weed-free bed until the plant is a couple of years old would be very beneficial.

Got questions, contact our office to see if there is financial support for the following programs:

**Agricultural Implementation Programs
Municipal Assistance
Conservation in the Classroom
Tree and Buffer Initiatives**

A Note From Our Partners



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Millbrook Office Can Assist With:

- Disaster Assistance & Safeguards
- Conservation Programs
- Farm Storage Facility Loans
- Price Support Programs
- Commodity Loans
- GPS & Aerial Photography Farm Data
- Youth Loans
- Low Interest Farm Loans: Operating & Mortgages
- Low Interest Microloans - up to \$50,000

www.fsa.usda.gov/ny

Millbrook USDA Service Center

845-605-6041 | chelsea.migliorelli@usda.gov



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONTACT US

DCSWCD
2715 Route 44, Suite 3
Millbrook, NY 12545

Phone: 845-677-8011 ext: 3
Email: admin@dutchessswcd.org

DUTCHESS COUNTY

soil & water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Since 1945

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Let's Celebrate 80 Years Young!! Our History & Today's Mission

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In 1928, the Soil Erosion Service was set up by the Department of Interior as a temporary program to look at soil erosion on farmland across the United States. Soon thereafter Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act which established the Soil Conservation Service. The first Soil Conservation District was created and opened in North Carolina. The original intent was to assist farmers with work done on their land, and eventually expanded to having Districts assist not only farmers, but all landowners.

In 1944, a proposal was made to create a District in Dutchess County. This movement was led by State Senator Frederick H. Bontecou; Owen Boyd, Manager of Weathersfield; Mrs. John W. Donaldson of Millbrook, Oakleigh Jauncy, Manager of the Hedge; Kent Leavitt of Millbrook, and Mrs. Huntington McLane. The Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District was officially established on January 3rd, 1945 by the County Board of Supervisors.

Today the District provides technical assistance to public and private landowners. Examples of our programs include assistance with drainage

issues, stormwater management and the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program which assists farms with meeting business objectives while conserving natural resources, as well many others. Technicians are available for site visits to address resource issues for both private landowners and municipalities. The District also provides many education and outreach programs to youth and adults. District staff regularly attends local events to provide educational material to the public.

