

Agricultural Environmental Management

AEM is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers make common-sense, cost-effective and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State’s natural resources. Farmers work with local AEM resource professionals to develop comprehensive farm plans using a tiered process:



Photo Above: AEM Award (Left to Right: Brian Reaser AEM Specialist, David and Michelle King, Margaret and Merle Lawton, Tim and Debbie Lawton, Rick Neuman AEM Specialist)

King Dairy Farm and Lawton Jersey Farm were selected to receive this award because of their continued participation in AEM programs and their commitment to protect water quality and prevent erosion.

Tiers:

Tier 1 – Inventory current activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.

Tier 2 – Document current land stewardship; assess and prioritize areas of concern.

Tier 3 – Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals.

Tier 4 – Implement plans utilizing available financial, educational and technical assistance.

Tier 5 – Evaluate to ensure the protection of

Current Funding Opportunities for farms enrolled in the AEM Program

- Mini Grant — We will be upgrading existing milk house waste systems on farms. We have limited funding so farms will be served on a first come basis.
- DEC Cover Crops—Any farmers who are interested in receiving funding for implementing and planting cover crops on their fields could be eligible for funding through the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. The SWCD has partnered with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to provide this program. You must be enrolled in our AEM program to be eligible for this funding, and you must not be enrolled in any other cover crop program at this time with either the SWCD or USC.
- Manure and Soil Samples—We currently have funding available to help with the costs of manure and soil samples. You must be enrolled in our AEM program to be eligible for this funding, and you will not be considered eligible for this funding if you took advantage of this program in 2016.
- Technical services including surveying and design are available for farmers who would like assistance installing agricultural best management practices.
- Stream technical assistance also available, please contact Mike Jura at 607-687-3553.
- For all Ag Related assistance please contact Rick Neuman or Brian Reaser at 607-687-3553.

An AEM Risk Assessment can help you:

- Document your environmental practices and the benefits your farm provides to your community.
- Assess vulnerable areas of the farm that may present environmental risk.
- Identify practices at risk for regulatory action or neighbor complaints to prevent hassles and fines.
- Determine if your water supply or neighboring wells are at risk for contamination.
- Qualify for state and federal cost-share grants to address high risk issues.
- Acquire information for long-term business planning and better positioning in the marketplace.
- Consider conservation practices that could save you money when implemented.
- Earn “green” payments or participate in farmland protection programs.

Machine Rentals Available:

We offer 5 different machines and implements for rent, including 2 No-Till drills, Trailer Post Driver, Tree planter, and Sidewall Tire Cutter.

- **Wheatheart Trailer Post Driver**— If you are using the post pounder for agricultural purposes, we will go through a Tier 1 Inventory sheet when we deliver the post pounder. Post Driver can be towed with anything that is able to tow a light trailer. **Price is \$50/day plus \$50 for delivery and instruction on proper use.**, we also require a certificate of liability from your insurance company.
- **Tree Planter**—This machine requires at least a 30hp tractor with a 3 point hitch and a minimum of 3 people; One person driving the tractor and 2 people sitting on the planter to plant the bare root seedlings. The Tree planter would be useful for Christmas tree farms, buffer planting sites, wildlife plots, and any other large planting areas. **Price is \$25/day and must be picked up at our office.**
- **Sidewall Tire Cutter**—used to cut the sidewalls off of old tires. Old tires that sit out in the yard or fields are breeding grounds for mosquitos which can be hazardous to human health. Recycling tires can be a tough process but cutting the sidewalls off of tires is a cheap and good alternative to recycle and reuse your old tires. Farmers around here like cut tires to hold their bunk silo tarps down, used in gardens to separate plants and weed control, great for around trees to hold mulch and moisture, or any other creative ways you can think of. **Price is 10 cents/tire or \$2.50/ 100 sq. ft. and must be picked up at our office.**
- **12' ESCH No Till Drill**—The rental rate is \$100 set-up and \$20/ acre. A 100hp tractor is required, the seed spacing is 5.5 inches , also needed is proof of liability insurance. There will also be a \$100 cleaning fee if the machine is not cleaned by the person renting the drill.
- **8' Truax No Till Drill**—The rental rate is \$50 set-up and \$15 /acre. A 50hp tractor is required, the seed spacing is 7.5 inches, also needed is proof of liability insurance. There will also be a \$100 cleaning fee if the machine is not cleaned by the person renting the drill.



Nutrient Management Program at Tioga SWCD

AEM Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) can be developed by the Tioga County SWCD office. The CNMP is considered a Tier 3B and is part of the AEM process. Each Plan is custom made for the farm and is a great way to maintain records (soil samples, fertilizer usage, rotations). The CNMP's are part of the eligibly requirements needed to receive grants such as NYS Ag Nonpoint and EQIP. CNMP's also should document any resource concerns on the farm and provide a strategy to address them. After completion, plans should be updated once a year (crop rotations, soil samples and manure applications) as well as document progress on addressing your resource concerns. If you would like a CNMP done or have questions about a CNMP please contact Rick Neuman at 607-687-3553.