

CNY Chapter NYFOA

February 2015

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HERKIMER, MADISON,
ONEIDA, ONONDAGA,
AND
OSWEGO COUNTIES

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2015 CNY-NYFOA-related Events

February 24- 26 - State NYFOA - Woodland Seminar Presentations at NY State Farm Show, State Fairgrounds, Syracuse NY - See p. 3 for program

March 8 - from Noon to 2 or 3? for CNY-NYFOA's Annual Meeting & "Pass the Dish" Lunch in the large conference room at the Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc., (1 mile north of Canastota on Main St) - Bring a dish to pass (meat dish provided) Presentation TBD. Dress accordingly to explore the swamp boardwalk and trails through woods (see www/greatswampconservancy.org)

March 21 - 53rd state NYFOA Annual Spring Program and presentations "Managing Your Woodlands" at Marshall Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY - See p. 4 for program

May 9 - Hud-Son Forest Equipment, 8102 State Rt. 12, Barneveld, NY 13304 from 9 am-3 pm will provide us with live demonstrations on sawmills (20" - 60" log mills), chain-saw carving (bear or eagle anyone?), skidding winches, firewood processing (from splitters to automated whole log systems), conveyors, Stihl chainsaws (dealer on-site) & more. Lunch provided. If you are interested in low impact DIY forest management, chain saw maintenance or repair, or if you are looking for used snowmobile parts ("Hudon's Snowmobile parts and Salvage" is the largest U.S. source) Don't Miss This Day & bring your chain saw if you need repair or parts.

if you do miss May 9 event, consider

May 16 - CNY-NYFOA needs 3-4 people to spend an hour or more to promote NYFOA at a booth at Hud-Son Forest Equipment "Customer Appreciation Day" (address above) between 9-3. Lunch will be provided. Let Ralph know if you can help (meyerralf@yahoo.com) - If you miss our May 9 event at Hud-Son, here is another chance to see what is there & perhaps visit Adirondack chain-saw museum?

May 23 - From 10 am - around 2 pm. Guided wildflower and ground vegetation walk & talk at Sandy and Maria Babcock's property in Cazenovia (3174 Thompson Rd) - bring your picnic lunch.

See future newsletters for details of the following CNY-NYFOA events

August 22 - Summer Picnic, Woods walk & Sawmill tour in Moravia

October 3 - Woods walk in Auburn

December 4 - Christmas Party at the Babcocks in Cazenovia

USDA Accepting Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program
\$100 million Expected to Attract Enrollment of 7.7 Million Acres for Conservation

Syracuse, NY, Jan. 27, 2015 –The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make available \$100 million this year through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and although applications are accepted all year, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners should submit applications by Feb. 27, 2015 to ensure they are considered for this year's funding (applications received after that date will be considered for future funding). This year's investment may result in the enrollment of up to 7.7 million acres in the program by private landowners.

"CSP is a way of incentivizing farmers, ranchers, and private forest managers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship," said Gregory A. Kist of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "By focusing on multiple resource concerns, landowners are able to achieve a sustainable landscape and maintain or increase the productivity of their operations."

Through CSP, participants take additional conservation steps to improve the resource conditions on their land, including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation. Kist said CSP producers are conservation leaders, showing how science-based conservation and technological advancements can improve the environment and farming operations at the same time. For example, CSP participants in NY implement a wide variety of conservation activities such as: using new technology to reduce pesticide drift, establishing pollinator habitat and using deep rooted cover crops to break up soil compaction. This stewardship of natural resources, incentivized through CSP, helps conserve energy and leads to cleaner water and healthier soil.

The 2014 Farm Bill brought changes to CSP including an expanded conservation activity list that will offer participants greater options to meet their conservation needs and protect the natural resources on their land. These conservation activities, called enhancements, include cover crops, intensive rotational grazing and wildlife friendly fencing.

"CSP is a great addition to our conservation toolbox for our Landscape Conservation Initiatives, which rally together landowners at the broader level to make conservation improvements that help us tackle our nation's resource issues," Kist said. "Historically, other conservation programs have driven these initiatives, but now with CSP, we'll be bringing more farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to these efforts."

Applications should be submitted to local NRCS offices. As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory of their land, which will help determine the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

A [CSP self-screening checklist](#) is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

For more on technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, [visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted) or a [local USDA service center](#).

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life.



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Important CNY-NYFOA dates to remember - details inside
 February 26, March 8, March 25, May 8, May 16, May 23.

Editor's book corner....Are you intrigued by recent references to "rewilding" perhaps noting the new PBS series "Earth, a New Wild" or the controversies of "wolf reintroduction", "predator hunts", or even re-creating "extinct" large animal species. If so, and you want to know more about the science behind such issues, you may want to check out the book "Where the Wild Things Were" by Stolzenburg, or, if you are interested in Great Britain (especially Wales) and/or extreme adventure sports, you may want to check out "Feral" by Monbiot. You can then visualize those top predators (some long gone), all from the comfort of your home....



We hope you can join us for our future events. Please give us your feedback and input for presentations you would like to see, where/when our next annual dinner event will be held, etc. Email or write Ralph (meyerralf@yahoo.com)