

- Wood products
- Agro-forestry crops and maple products
- Clean water and air
- Wildlife habitat
- Aesthetic benefits
- Climate mitigation

New York forests provide many benefits: promote forest resources is crucial to our environmental well-being. threat of invasive species and development, the need to protect and York are subject to varying degrees of management. With the increasing privately owned. With over 700,000 different owners, the forests in New percent of New York is forested and about three-quarters of that land is Forestland is critical to our environment and our economy. Over 60

## Forestland



## Farmland



Acquire sound information needed for long-term business planning. • Learn about conservation practices that could save time and money. • Strengthen their applications for state and federal conservation funding to address high risk issues.

resource for services. coordinates agricultural and conservation agencies and programs, along with private sector consultants, to provide farmers with a one-stop the well-being of all residents. The New York State AEM process \$5.7 billion in sales, it is obvious that New York agriculture is critical to With about 23% of land being used by over 36,000 farms to produce over Agriculture is central to New York's economy, history and land base.

## Best Management Practices

- Barnyard Runoff Management
- Conservation Planning
- Energy Creation and Conservation
- Feed Management
- Forest Management
- Invasive Species Management
- Livestock Odor & Air Quality Management
- Manure and Fertilizer Management
- Manure Storage and Treatment
- Pasture Management
- Pathogen Management
- Pest and Pesticide Management
- Process Wash Water Management
- Silage Leachate Control
- Soil Health and Erosion Control
- Stream and Floodplain Management
- Tree Planting
- Water Management and Irrigation
- Wellhead Protection
- Wetland Restoration and Protection
- Wildlife Habitat Management

The photographs above illustrate a few of the BMPs that rural landowners can help implement to improve their business operations while protecting water quality. Examples shown include Milk House Waste Storage Facility (left) and Log Landing Site Stabilization (right).



### What is Ecosystem-Based Management?

Ecosystem-Based Management, or EBM, is a place based approach to natural resources. A Place-based approach focuses on the complex issues surrounding environmental concerns in a single location, rather than trying to resolve a single issue Statewide. EBM recognizes our dependency on natural resources and strives to protect them so that they can continue to be used for our economic, recreational and aesthetic benefits.



## Guide to Conservation Funding for Rural Landowners

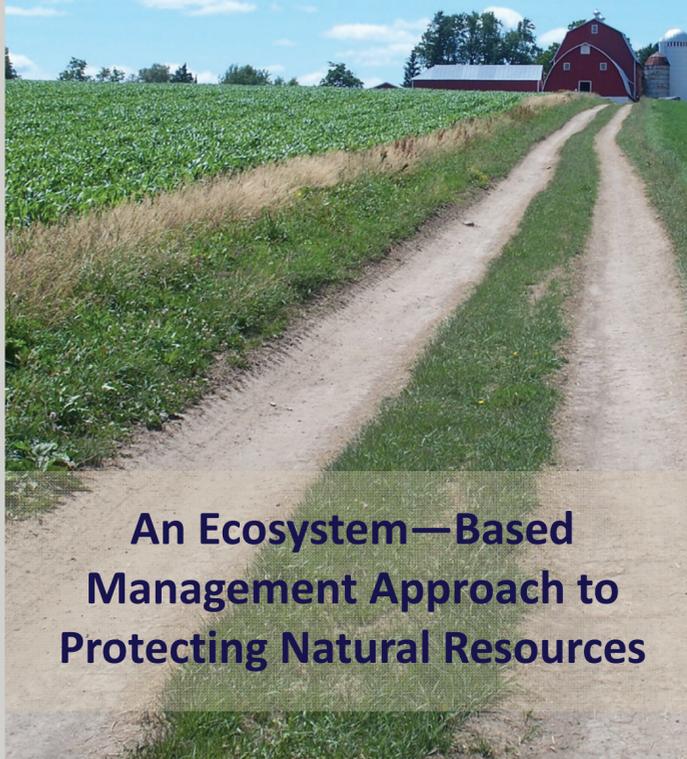
The Guide to Conservation Planning for Rural Landowners helps farmers and forest owners identify funding sources to implement conservation practices on their lands. EBM works to coordinate federal, state and local conservation programs so they complement each other, making it easier for landowners and conservation agencies to combine programs and funding so that more projects can be completed and more meaningful results can be achieved to improve and protect the environment.

Traditionally, as stewards of the land, farmers and forest owners have done their part to protect soil and water resources. When coupled with effective best management practices, well managed rural landscapes are the preferred land use to improve water quality and protect valuable natural resources, which ultimately improves the lives of all New Yorkers. The resources made available to working landowners are particularly important in this time of high production/operation costs to help farm and forest owners continue their commitment to environmental conservation.

Programs, such as Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM), help manage pollutants such as manure and fertilizer nutrients, handle barnyard runoff and process wastewater, conserve soil, prevent sedimentation, and protect drinking water, all while promoting the economic and environmental benefits of working landscapes in a community. An environmentally friendly farm or forest conservation plan can maximize profits by enhancing soil quality, plant vitality, herd health, and reducing unnecessary applications of costly fertilizers and pesticides.

Local agencies, led by County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), in cooperation with USDA, Cornell Cooperative Extension and private sector industry partners, serve as the link to information on all rural land conservation programs that can be of assistance to you. This easy-to-use guide provides a quick overview of conservation programs and funding opportunities. Any of the programs described within may change and new programs may become available. Be sure to contact your County SWCD for the latest program information. District staff can also provide recommendations and guidance about other local or watershed-specific programs not included in this guide, which may be appropriate for your land.

## Guide to Conservation Funding for Rural Landowners



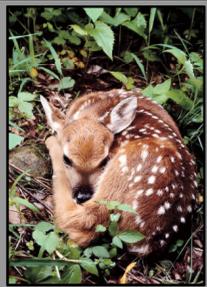
## An Ecosystem—Based Management Approach to Protecting Natural Resources



10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235  
(518) 457-3738



For more information  
Contact your County  
**Soil & Water  
Conservation District**



	Financial Benefits			Forest Lands						Farm Lands																	
	% Cost Support	Annual Payment	Paid Easement	Management Planning	Forest Management	Invasive Species Management	Tree Planting	Wildlife Habitat Management	Conservation Planning	Barnyard Runoff Management	Energy Conservation and Creation	Farmland Protection	Feed Management	Livestock Odor Mgmt/Air Quality	Manure & Fertilizer Management	Manure Storage and Treatment	Pasture Management	Pathogen Management	Pest & Pesticide Management	Process Wash Water Management	Silage Leachate Control	Soil Health & Erosion Control	Stream & Floodplain Management	Water Management & Irrigation	Wellhead Protection	Wetland Restoration & Protection	Wildlife Habitat
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP - ALE) combines the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program and the Grassland Reserve Program. Under ACEP - ALE, USDA NRCS protects the farm and conservation value of lands by providing up to 50% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Under Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance option, USDA NRCS may pay up to 75% of the easement value. Your USDA NRCS office can provide more information or visit: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Keyword: Easement	Up to 75%		●								●																
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP - WRE) provides financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a Wetland Reserve Easement. Wetland Reserve Easements may be either 30-year or permanent; cost-share for a 30 - yr easement is 75% while it is 100% for a permanent easement. To learn how this program works contact your local USDA NRCS or visit: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Keyword: Easement	Up to 100%		●																							●	
Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Base Program provides financial assistance to County SWCDs to allow them the resources to offer technical assistance to local farms. This program provides farm-level support for planning, implementing and evaluating conservation practices based on local priorities and individual farm needs. For more information or to schedule an on-farm visit, contact your SWCD office.	100%							●																			
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program assists county and municipal (i.e., town, village, city) governments in developing agricultural and farmland protection plans which recommend policies and projects aimed at maintaining the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base. The Farmland Implementation Grant Program (FPIG) assists local governments, land trust organizations, and local SWCDs in implementing farmland protection plans. Learn more at: <a href="http://www.agriculture.ny.gov">www.agriculture.ny.gov</a> Keyword: Farmland Protection	Up to 87.5%		●								●																
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) is a voluntary program offered by USDA NRCS which provides technical and financial assistance to farmers for improving water management or irrigation structures, including implementing microirrigation systems. Financial and technical assistance is provided to assist participants with practice implementation. For more information on this program, contact your local USDA NRCS service center or go to: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Keyword: Financial Assistance	PPR*																								●		
Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program (AgNPS) assists farmers in preventing water pollution from agricultural activities by providing cost-share assistance. The grant program is coordinated at the County level by the local SWCD, which identifies priority needs within the county and works with farm operators to prepare grant proposals. Funding is for farm-specific planning or project implementation to improve water quality. To learn more, contact your local SWCD or visit: <a href="http://www.agriculture.ny.gov">www.agriculture.ny.gov</a>	Up to 87.5%							●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Conservation Loan Program (CL) provide access to credit for farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land but do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices. Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements for the CL program are expanded to permit FSA to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong. Eligible practices are any approved conservation practice listed in an NRCS conservation plan. For details, contact your local NRCS Service Center or go to: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keywords: Conservation Loan	Loan			●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners, which provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term erosion protection of farmland by implementing resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Annual rental payments are made based on the agricultural rental value of the land, and provide cost-share assistance for up to 50% of the participant's costs in establishing approved practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. For more information contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) or visit: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: CRP	50%	●					●														●					●	
Conservation Reserve Program - Grasslands provides assistance to landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values on eligible private range and pasture lands. CRP grasslands emphasizes support of grazing operations, maintaining and improving plant and animal biodiversity, and protecting grasslands and shrub lands from the threat of conversion to uses other than grazing. For program details, visit: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: Grasslands	50%	●														●					●					●	
Continuous Enrollment Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is similar to CRP except that it focuses on smaller parcels of land that provide especially high environmental benefits, and allows enrollment in 10 to 15 year contracts at any time, without a competitive bidding process. CCRP offers incentive payments in addition to annual payments. To learn more, producers should contact their local FSA or visit: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: CCRP	50%	●					●	●													●	●		●	●		
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) places environmentally sensitive land that is located near streams, lakes, water bodies, and public wellhead areas into an approved vegetative cover for a period of 10 to 15 years. In return, farmers are paid annual rental payments, incentives, and are reimbursed for establishing recognized conservation practices. For more information contact your county's USDA FSA or NRCS service center, local Soil and Water Conservation District or learn more about it by visiting: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: CREP	50%	●					●	●													●	●		●	●		
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps farmers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns, including payments for resource-conserving crop rotations. Participants earn annual payments throughout a 5 year contract. To learn more about how this program works, contact your local USDA NRCS office or go to: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Keyword: Financial Assistance		●																									
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion drought, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. Emergency practices to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion and other disasters, including drought, may include debris removal, providing water for livestock, fence restoration, grading and shaping farmland, restoring conservation structures, and water conservation measures. County FSA committees set eligibility for ECP assistance and cost-share levels. For more information contact your local FSA or visit: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: ECP	Up to 75% or 90%																				●	●		●	●		
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and non-industrial private forest owners that offers technical and financial assistance for installing or implementing structural or management practices on eligible lands. In New York, there are additional initiatives under EQIP for energy, organic transition and seasonal high tunnels. Assistance is provided to aid participants with practice implementation. Higher payment rates are provided to historically underserved participants. Contact your local USDA NRCS or sign-up online at: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> Keyword: Financial Assistance	PPR*			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) assists private non-industrial forest land owners restore forests damaged by natural disasters. A qualifying natural disaster means wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, floods, or other naturally-occurring resource impacting event as determined by FSA. For EFRP, a natural disaster also includes insect or disease infestations as determined by FSA in consultation with other Federal and State agencies as appropriate. County FSA committees set eligibility for EFRP assistance and cost-share levels. To learn more, contact your local FSA or visit the website: <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a> Keyword: EFRP	Up to 75%			●	●	●	●																				
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers cost-sharing and low-interest financing through its agricultural programs to help farms throughout the State save energy, develop new products, and increase profits. NYSERDA has provided funding to help farmers lower on-farm energy costs, use more environmentally friendly manure management methods, improve profitability through value-added products, and generate their own electricity. For more information go to: <a href="http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov">www.nyserdera.ny.gov</a> Keyword: Agriculture	50%									●					●												

\*PPR - Practice Payment Rate, which is a fixed amount based on a percentage of the state average cost of a typical installation of that practice.  
Please Note: Any of the programs described here may change and new programs may become available. Contact your County SWCD for the latest information and recommendations that would be most appropriate for your farm.