Watershed Agricultural Program
2013 Annual Report and 2014 Workload

for the New York City Catskill/Delaware and Croton Watersheds
March 2014

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Cover Photo: Brian Danforth
Report Photos: WAP Staff

PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES

NYC Environmental Protection

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Farm Service Agency

Protecting Water Quality in the Catskill/Delaware

In 2013 the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) celebrated a milestone of 20 years of incorporation. The WAC was started to deal with increased regulations from the Surface Water Treatment Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act. After 20 years the WAC has become a national model for surface water systems management dealing with nonpoint source pollution using sound agricultural and forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs). A 20th celebration was held in Delhi on November 8, 2013. The Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) honored the Darling Family of Dar-View Farm, Delancey, with the first-ever WAP award to recognize a regional farmer participating in the WAP for achievements in sustainable agriculture, strong business contribution, and clean water efforts. Congratulations also goes to Fred Huneke, Chairman, Council of Directors on receiving the Watershed Steward Award, honoring a vocal advocate of the Council's mission of protecting water quality, embracing land conservation, and promoting working landscapes in agriculture and forestry. A short-form documentary video that describes the milestone achievements can be viewed at nycwatershed.org.

In 2013, the Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) implemented 274 Best Management Practices (BMPs) on 128 farms totaling over $2.9 million. The Program partners with local county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical design and implementation of water quality BMPs. Farm participants actively followed 335 Whole Farm Plans (WFPs) and 267 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) in the Catskill/Delaware Watersheds and 74 WFPs and 44 NMPs in the Croton Watershed. A percentage of the Nutrient Management Plans are reviewed and updated annually. Funding provided by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the USDA and other sources helped the Program realize its goals.

The 2010 Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) grant with a 5-year agreement resulted in Nutrient Management contracts for 33 AWEP participants receiving $285,555. The first round of participants in 2010 have completed their 3 year contract in 2013 and if they meet the eligibility requirements they can participate in the expanded Nutrient Management Credit program.

Through the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), 47.4 acres in riparian forest buffers were enrolled in 2013. CREP helps fence animals out of the surface water supply and provides for more filter areas to improve water quality.
The WAP continues to partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) to provide educational programs to area farmers. In 2013, over 700 farmers and farm advisors attended 26 educational programs.

Larry Hulle, Watershed Agricultural Council
Rick Weidenbach, Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District
Dale Dewing, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Jan Surface, USDA NRCS

Watershed Agricultural Program

2013 Planning Goals and Accomplishments

Catskill/Delaware Large Farms		Catskill/Delaware Small Farms		Croton Watershed	
Goal	Accomplishment	Goal	Accomplishment	Goal	Accomplishment

Annual Status Reviews					
248	233	90	83	60	54

New Whole Farm Plans					
as identified	0	10	6	6	3

2013 Implementation Accomplishments – Funding

BMP - Funding Sources	Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	Croton Watershed	Total
Watershed Agricultural Program				
- New BMPs	$ 788,266	$ 332,505	$ 415,979	$ 1,536,749
- Repair and Replacement BMPs	$ 521,355	$ 41,735		$ 563,090
- CREP (WAP)	$ 107,441	$ 26,304	$ -	$ 133,745
- CREP (WAP) - repair	$ 26,365	$ 6,030		$ 32,395
Total Watershed Agricultural Program Funding	**$ 1,443,427**	**$ 406,574**	**$ 415,979**	**$ 2,265,979**
Other Funding Sources				
- CREP (FSA)	$ 62,233	$ 13,640	$ -	$ 75,873
- CREP (FSA) - Repair	$ 6,300	$ 639		$ 6,939
- DCSWCD	$ 34,820	$ 29,500	$ -	$ 64,320
- EQIP	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
- Landowner	$ -	$ -	$ 29,251	$ 29,251
- AWEP	$ -	$ 2,520	$ -	$ 2,520
- NRCS	$ -	$ -	$ 7,617	$ 7,617
Total Other Funding Sources	**$ 103,353**	**$ 46,299**	**$ 36,868**	**$ 186,520**
Total Funding	**$ 1,546,780**	**$ 452,873**	**$ 452,847**	**$ 2,452,499**

2013 Implementation Accomplishments – Number of BMPs

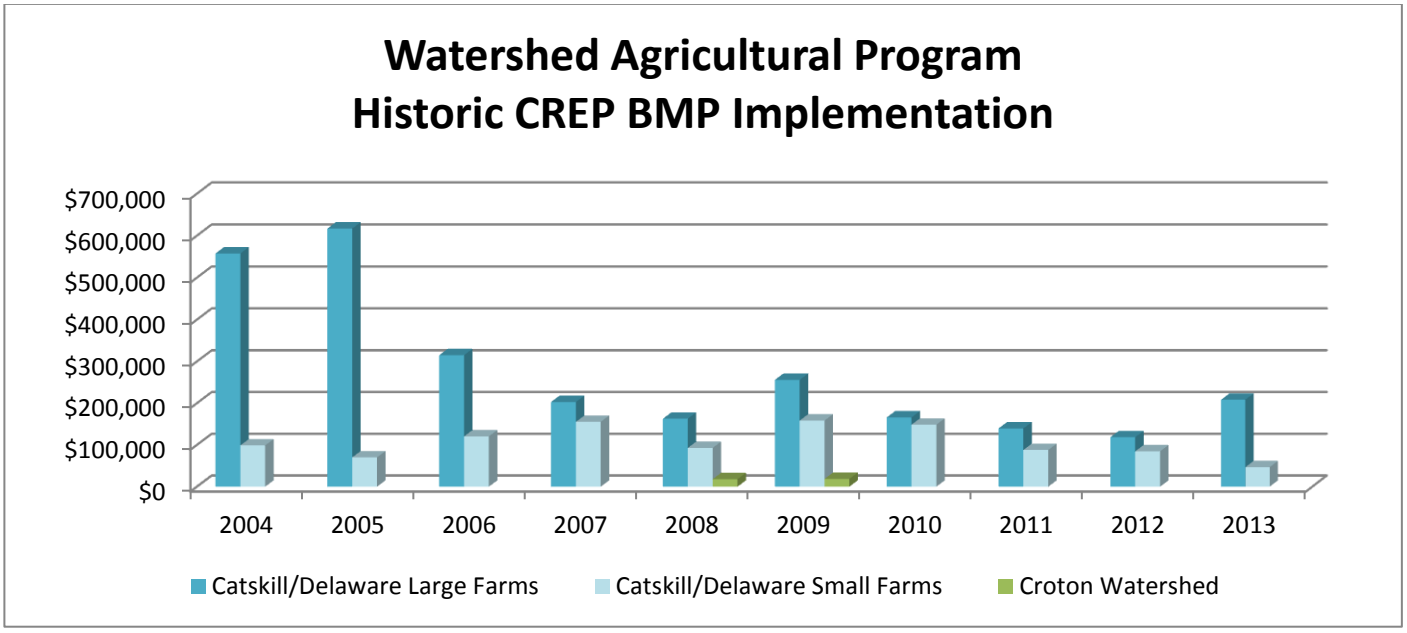
NRCS/WAC BMP Code	Best Management Practices	Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	Croton Watershed	Total
312	Waste Management System	1			1
313	Waste Storage Facility *	5	3	2	10
317	Manure Composting Facility *	1		2	3
330	Contour Farming			1	1
340	Cover Crop			2	2
360	Closure of Waste Impoundment	1			1
362	Diversion *		2	1	3
382	Fencing	11	26	6	43
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover			2	2
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	4	3		7
393	Filter Strip *	2			2
412	Grassed Waterway	1	1		2
468	Lined Waterway		1	1	2
484	Mulching			2	2
512	Pasture & Hayland Planting	1	1	1	3
516	Pipeline	4	6	3	13
528	Prescribed Grazing - Lime		1		1
528	Prescribed Grazing			3	3
558	Roof Runoff Management System *	2	3	3	8
560	Access Road Improvement *	4	1	1	6
561	Heavy Use Area Protection *	6	9	7	22
574	Spring Development *	7	4		11
575	Animal Trails and Walkway *	9	1	1	11
578	Stream Crossing	1			1
580	Streambank Protection *	2	2		4
587	Structure for Water Control	1	1	5	7
590	Nutrient Management Plan	27	11	7	45
612	Tree & Shrub Planting	4	3		7
612	Tree & Shrub - Natural Regeneration	3	3		6
614	Watering Facility	4		1	5
614.07	Watering Facility - Heated Winter Waterer*		2		2
620	Underground Outlet	2			2
634	Waste Transfer System	4			4
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	1		6	7
642	Well	1			1
798	Seasonal Hi-Tunnel			1	1
3010	Roofed Barnyard	2	1		3
3050	Waste Storage Facility		1		1
3100	Solar Calf Housing	2			2
3110	Calf Greenhouse *	7			7
3125	Calf Kennel	1			1
3178	Manure Transportation Credit	1			1
3210	Backflow system	1			1
3425	Dump Trailer *	1			1
3410	Manure Spreader		1		1
3440	Manure Chute - Repair	1			1
3730	Solar Pump	1			1
4200	Bio Retention Area			1	1
5002	Bridge	1			1
5004	Fencing - High visibility		1		1
Total		**127**	**88**	**59**	**274**
	* Contains a modification, emergency repair, repair or repair and replacement BMP.				

USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) 2013 Accomplishments

The USDA CREP Program within the NYC Watershed Agricultural Program utilizes the talents found within the multi-agency team assigned to work in the Watershed to promote, design and establish both Riparian Forest Buffers and Vegetative Buffers along watercourses. This year marked the 15th full year of the New York City Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Memorandum of Agreement between New York City, New York State and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 2013, five Riparian Forest Buffer contracts (three new and two renewals) enrolled an additional 47.4 acres, increasing the total number of enrolled acres to 2,059.1.

2013 Total Implementation Expenditures

Total Rental Payments (USDA)	$ 63,125
Sign-Up Incentive Payment (SIP-FSA)	$ 2,730
Practice Incentive Payment (PIP-FSA)	$ 85,248
BMP Cost (FSA)	$ 82,812
BMP Cost (WAP)	$166,140



Program	99-2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	$2,687,033	$557,601	$616,929	$315,034	$202,979	$162,811	$255,789	$165,823	$139,466	$118,538	$202,339	$5,424,342
Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	$ 354,984	$ 98,829	$ 70,182	$120,534	$155,360	$ 92,777	$158,378	$148,507	$ 87,957	$ 84,673	$ 46,613	$1,418,794
Croton Watershed						$ 17,968	$ 18,547	$0	$0	$0	$0	$ 36,515

Nutrient Management Program 2013 Accomplishments

The WoH Nutrient Management Team (NMTeam) is a multi-agency team that assists farmers in improving phosphorus and pathogen management. Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) are designed to manage the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients from fertilizer, manure, and other organic sources. All plans are compliant with the NRCS 590 Standard and use the NY Phosphorus Index and Cornell University guidelines to ensure that environmental soundness and crop productivity.
The NMTeam supports the farmer in implementing a NMP, which will result in protection of water quality and producing optimum yields.

In planning year 2013, the Nutrient Management team completed 66 nutrient management plans (49 large farms and 17 small farms). Significant effort was expended in 2013 in developing and piloting protocols for implementing the 2013 USDA NY NRCS 590 Nutrient Management standard on 4 pilot farms. These four farms are included in the 49 farms completed in 2013. The breakdown of each category and percent current as of 1/1/2014 follows below.

Table 1. Large Farm NMP status as of 1/1/2014

Status	Number of Farms	% of Farms with NMPs
Current NMPs	180	98.9%
Plans 1 years out of date	1	0.5%
Plans 2 years out of date	1	0.5%
Plans 3 years out of date	0	0%
Plans >3 years out of date	0	0%
Needs NMP	0	0%
Total	182	

Table 2. Small Farm NMP status as of 1/1/2014

Status	Number of Farms	% of Farms with NMPs
Current NMPs	64	72.7%
Plans 1 years out of date	12	13.6%
Plans 2 years out of date	0	0%
Plans 3 years out of date	1	1.1%
Plans >3 years out of date	2	2.3%
Needs NMP	9	10.2%
Total	91	

Nutrient Management Credit (NMCredit)

The NMCredit Program encourages good stewardship of manure resources to improve water quality and provides the WAP a means to enhance implementation of NMPs. In 2013, the NMCredit Program was offered to 84 farms, with 82 submitting records. A total of $347,782.22 was allocated in credit that farms can utilize to reimburse nutrient management related expenses. The WAP also reviewed and approved manure spreading records for 21 farms participating in the NRCS AWEP program, which is similar to NM Credit, but extends beyond the Cannonsville Basin. These farms earned a total of $ $95,446.69 in federal funds for successfully implementing their nutrient management plans in 2013.

Farmer Education Program

The Farmer Education Program supports the water quality protection and farm viability mission of the Watershed Agricultural Council by providing educational programs that enhance farmers' abilities to manage their operations more profitably and in a way that nurtures their natural resources. In total, 26 educational programs were offered during 2013 with over 700 attendees.

In 2013, our farmer education efforts focused on the hands-on training and practical tools for profitable production. We held both classroom workshops and on farm tours for various audiences, addressing new technology, new crops, new markets, for both new and established farmers.

Attendee Demographics:

Watershed Farmers	298
Other Farmers	244
Farm Advisors	145
Others	25

Attendance	*Farmer Education Events 2013*
189	Catskill Regional Dairy Livestock & Grazing Conference
10	Strategic Marketing for Livestock Producers
44	Hay Crop School
43	Organic Vegetable Production
7	Sheep and Goat Producer Group Meeting "Prepping for Spring"
36	Row Crop School
26	Grazing Chart Workshop
24	Smart Phones for Farmers
9	Beef Genetics Webinar
53	Highbush Blueberry Production
15	Plan for a Successful Business
20	Cattleman's Day
26	590 Field Day
20	Pasture Walk – Sherwood Farm
16	Northland Sheep Dairy Tour
24	FAMACHA Workshop
27	Grazing Tour
16	Sheep/Goat Producer Group – Southwind Farm Tour
10	Cattle Fly IPM Pasture Walk
6	Small Grain Field Day
16	Corn Dry Down Day – Franklin
7	Corn Dry Down Day – South Kortright
14	Sheep/Goat Producer Group – Apple Pond Farm Tour
17	Cut Flower Production
13	Pumpkin Production
35	Oneida County Robotic Dairy Tour
723	Total

Putting the Face on Buying Local

The Farm to Market Program collaborated on two key economic initiatives in 2013. With the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship, the program provided marketing and start-up support to the newly created Lucky Dog Local Food Hub. The Hub provides transportation services for Catskill products delivered to New York City wholesale buyers.

A second initiative, Catskills Family Creameries, brought together eight regional farmstead dairy producers, all Pure Catskills members. The value-added dairy group is exploring collaborative marketing, distribution and educational activities like the “Come Travel the Milky Way” open house trail that attracted over 3,000 people to the region last July. These small family farms produce gelato, butter, yogurt, soft cow’s and goat’s milk cheeses, hard cow’s cheese and fluid milk. Find out more at catskillsfamilycreameries.com.

To date, the Farm to Market and Outreach Programs have spent $4.5 million connecting producers and consumers. In 2013, the combined marketing outreach totaled $221,022.

Town of Tompkins, Delaware County

Calf Housing

The Jim Backus Calf Housing was out of life span and due for repair and restoration.
The original coverall structure was damaged in a snow storm in 2003.

The cover and truss system was replaced by WAC, but the interior components and base structure were re-used and re-utilized. During the Annual Status reviews, the Landowner brought to Brandon Dennis (planner) and WAC's attention the fact that the overhead doors and main pass door were inoperable, the group pens gate system was in disrepair due to rust and wear/tear, the sand/ gravel interior HUAP base was saturated with organics and not level, and the automatic watering systems were worn and inoperable.

Brandon Dennis (NRCS Planner) and Meghan Filbert (CCE Calf Health Specialist) developed a repair and renovation request noting the deficiencies and life span short comings. The project received approval for construction during the 2013 summer construction season. Tim Hebbard (WAC Ag. Eng. Specialist) developed the design package entailing all the improvements needed.

Jim Backus is very pleased with the finished product. He was impressed with the contractor's quality of work and attention to detail and commented that they have superior calf health and productivity using their calf housing in its updated condition. They look forward to continued success in years to come.

Town of Stamford, Delaware County

Concrete Heavy Use Area and Roof

The Deysenroth farm recently had a concrete heavy use area and roof installed over their calf hutch area. Not only does this roof help prevent calf manure run off into the nearby ditch, it's unique in that it is entirely translucent.

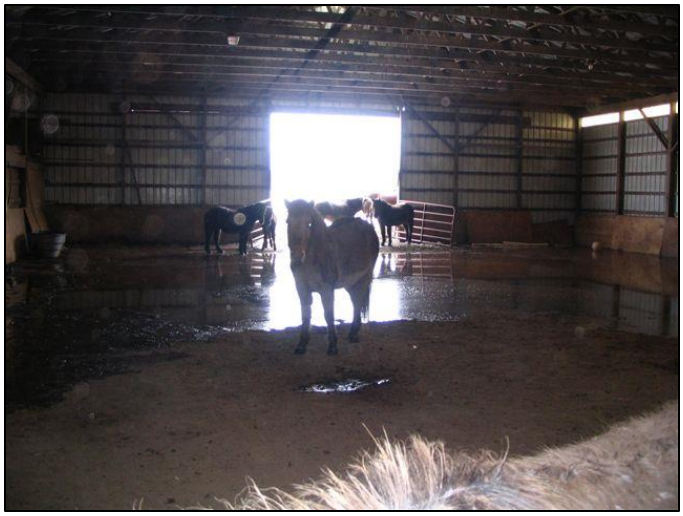
This feature still allows for light to shine on the calves, which is something the Deysenroth's value and one reason they chose to raise calves in hutches. On rainy and snowy days, the animals and bedding stay dry, and the grain stays fresh. During the hot summer, the roof will provide the calves with much needed shade protection. The concrete pad slopes liquids away from the calves and facilitates cleanup of the bedding.

Town of Delhi, Delaware County

Covered Barnyard

Heleen Heyning owns and operates West Wind Farm on Dry Brook Road outside of Delhi. She boards 20 Icelandic horses, offering lessons, trail riding, and plays host to horse competitions, trainings, and conventions. The work done this year was primarily focused on manure management and handling.

Addressed first was the issue of water running through the stalls and barn during high flow events especially during a thaw. A drip trench (stone and perforated pipe) was installed on the backside of the barn to give the water a safe area to outlet, away from the concentration of horses. Additionally manure from the stalls and other heavily used areas were previously wheel barrowed to a piling area that was adjacent to a hydrologically sensitive area.



A roofed structure off the end of the barn was built to store the accumulated manure and prevent unwanted runoff of manure laden water.

Town of Hamden, Delaware County

Covered Bedded Pack Manure Storage

The Howe Farm is a small livestock farm raising goats and beef in the Town of Hamden. The Howe's have been participants with the Watershed Agricultural Program since 2007, and this BMP project culminates the multiple BMPs implemented on this farm over the years, including CREP.

A 40 X 60 foot covered Bedded Pack Manure Storage was implemented in 2013. This BMP mitigates the previous practice of several outside feeding areas in close proximity to a watercourse and will allow the Howes to better manage their nutrient distribution on their farm.

Town of Hobart, Delaware County

Calf Facility

For years, the Lamport's raised their youngstock in a small room connected to their milking barn. The room was consistently overcrowded with calves and the ventilation was poor. Calf raising was the weak link in their operation.

In 2013, the farm received a new calf facility. Calves are now housed in individual pens with removable divider panels between animals. When calves are ready to be weaned, the panels can be removed to create a group pen of three calves. Small groups are great for socially transitioning calves before moving to another area on the farm.

The facility is naturally ventilated with adjustable curtains. The curtains span the length of the barn and can be adjusted according to the weather. The curtains provide calves' protection from draft, but also allow for fresh air to be delivered directly at calf level.

Another feature of the facility is the concrete base. The concrete is sloped away from the calves and is easily cleaned with equipment. When calves are weaned and moved, the pens can be power washed and properly sanitized. All of these improvements make an ideal environment for calves and hopefully prove to become one of the strongest links in the Lamport farm operation.

Town of Andes, Delaware County

Solar Calf Facility

The improvements made at Roger Liddle's farm in 2013 have been tremendous. Before the solar calf facility was built, Roger housed 8 calves in a small tin shed and dealt with calf mortality issues. The calves are now housed in a new solar calf house immediately after birth and begin to prosper.

With the help of a young, eager farm employee, new calf management protocols have been implemented and Roger is seeing drastic improvements in calf health. He is now keeping records of calf birth weights and growth benchmarks, feeding free choice calf grain and water, and vaccinating all calves for respiratory disease and is able to wean calves sooner.

On average, calves are gaining 2 pounds of weight per day. Roger said all of his calves used to have a persistent cough; now the cough is gone. Roger hasn't lost a calf since the new facility was built. The calf facility implemented by WAC has already proven to be an extremely important factor in increased farm viability.

Farming East of the Hudson

The East of Hudson Program partnered with the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program in May for a workshop that welcomed 35 attendees to the classroom at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center.

Three instructors from the IPM Program at Cornell University covered the basic principles of pest management for fruit, vegetable and ornamental crop producers.

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A storage area for horse and livestock manure in Putnam County was lacking suitable runoff control. Due to the proximity of the storage facility to a stream, NRCS Standards could not be met so the site was selected for a Bioretention Area to collect and treat the runoff as part of a pilot study.

This Bioretention Area consists of two basins designed to collect and infiltrate waste water through several layers of constructed sand filtration media. Research will be conducted in the coming years to evaluate the system and measure the level of pollutant removal from the manure storage area runoff.

Manure storage

Bioretention area next to manure storage

2014 Planning Goals

Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	Croton Watershed
Goal	Goal	Goal

Annual Status Reviews		
245	104	67

New Whole Farm Plans		
as identified	4	2

2014 Projected Design & Implementation Workload

BMP - Funding Sources	Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	Croton Watershed	Total
Watershed Agricultural Program				
- New BMPs	$ 2,375,889	$ 915,894	$ 972,000	$ 4,263,783
- Repair and Replacement BMPs	$ 393,743	$ 173,267	$ -	$ 567,010
- CREP (WAP)	$ 193,567	$ 114,001	$ -	$ 307,568
- CREP (WAP) - Repairs	$ 48,285	$ -	$ -	$ 48,285
Total Watershed Agricultural Program Funding	$ 3,011,484	$ 1,203,162	$ 972,000	$ 5,186,646
Other Funding Sources				
- CREP (FSA)	$ 152,113	$ 102,172	$ -	$ 254,285
- CREP (FSA) - Repairs	$ 13,712			
- AWEP	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
- DCSWCD	$ -	$ 25,000	$ -	$ 25,000
- EQIP	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
- Landowner	$ -	$ -	$ 7,000	$ 7,000
- Other Miscellaneous	$ -	$ -		$ -
Total Other Funding Sources	$ 165,825	$ 127,172	$ 7,000	$ 286,285
Total Projected Workload*	**$ 3,177,309**	**$ 1,330,334**	**$ 979,000**	**$ 5,486,643**

* The Total Projected Workload represents BMPs in various stages of implementation. Not every BMP will be implemented (certified and paid) in 2014. For the calendar year 2014, the Catskill/Delaware Watershed Agricultural Program projects total BMP implementation in the amount of $2,200,000.

2014 Projected Design & Implementation Workload – Number of BMPs

NRCS/WAC BMP Code	Best Management Practices	Catskill/Delaware Large Farms	Catskill/Delaware Small Farms	Croton Watershed	Total
313	Waste Storage Facility *	6	2		8
314	Brush Management		1		1
317	Composting Facility			4	4
340	Cover Crop			3	3
342	Critical Area Planting	1		1	2
360	Closure of Waste Impoundment	2			2
362	Diversion	5	1	3	9
378	Pond *		1		1
382	Fencing *	32	28	8	68
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover			1	1
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	5	1		6
412	Grassed Waterway	2	2	1	5
441	Irrigation Water Management			1	1
468	Lined Waterway		3	4	7
484	Mulch			1	1
490	Natural Regeneration	1			1
500	Obstruction Removal	1			1
512	Pasture & Hayland Planting	4		2	6
516/614	Pipeline and Trough *	9	12	3	24
528	Prescribed Grazing	1	1	2	4
533	Pumping Plant	1			1
558	Roof Runoff Management System *		4	5	9
560	Access Road Improvement	6	6	3	15
561	Heavy Use Area Protection *	3	6	6	15
574	Spring Development *	17	9	1	27
575	Animal Trails and Walkway *	18	8		26
578	Stream Crossing	9	5		14
580	Streambank Stabilization *		2		2
587	Structure for Water Control	1	2	2	5
590	Nutrient Management Plan	72	23	6	101
595	Pest Management			1	1
606	Subsurface Drain	1	1	1	3
612	Tree & Shrub Planting	6	2	1	9
614	Watering Facility *	14	7	2	23
620	Underground Outlet *	2	6	4	12
634	Waste Transfer System *	3	2	2	7
635	Wastewater Treatment Strip *			6	6
642	Well	1	1	1	3
659	Wetland Enhancement (CP30) (potholes)		1		1
3010	Roofed Barnyard *	4	4		8
3020	Run-In Shed			1	1
3050	Covered Manure Storage/Barnyard	1	6		7
3110	Solar Calf Housing * - Exterior	1			1
3115	Solar Calf Housing * - Interior	1			1
3120	Pens *	1			1
3130	Ventiliation and Lighting	1			1
3175	Enhanced Nutrient Management Credit	1			1
3178	Manure Transportation Credit	4	1		5
3410	Manure Spreader	2	2		4
3420	Front-End Loader	2	1		3
3430	Manure Truck	2			2
3499	Misc. Manure Handling Equipment	1			1
3600	Mixing Facility			1	1
4100	Waste Infiltration System			3	3
5001	Utility Pole	1			1
5004	Fencing - Semi-Permanent	3			3
Total		**248**	**151**	**80**	**479**
	* Contains a modification, emergency repair, repair or repair and replacement BMP.				

WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM PARTNERING AGENCY STAFF

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources
Jan Surface

District Conservationist
Quentin Gahan

Resource Conservationists
Brandon Dennis
Daniel Flaherty
Michael Gangwer

Project Engineers
Paula Bagley
Sam Ly

Administrative Management Specialist
Pamela Mason

Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Watershed Agricultural Extension Leader
Dale Dewing

Nutrient Management Team Leader
Paul Cerosaletti

Dairy & Livestock Resource Educator/ Planner
Meghan Filbert

Senior Administrative Assistant
Kim Holden

NYC Environmental Protection

Section Chief of Watershed Agricultural & Forestry Program Bureau of Water Supply
John Schwartz

Agricultural Program Manager
Ed Blouin

Watershed Agricultural Council
www.nycwatershed.org

Executive Director
Craig Cashman

Agricultural Program Manager
Larry Hulle

Agricultural Program Coordinator
Carrie Davis (EoH)

Assistant Whole Farm Planner
Nate Townsend
Dan Vredenburgh

Communications Director
Tara Collins

Conservation Planners
Troy Bookhout (Easements)
Susanne Sahler (EoH)

Database Project Administrator
Seth Hersh

Engineering Specialists
Don Hebbard
Tim Hebbard
Rick Hochuli
Peter Steenland, P.E.
Derrick Kelly

Executive Assistants
Lorinda Backus
Heather Ross
Patti Shulman (EoH)

Farm to Market Manager
Beth McKellips

GIS Coordinator
John Jackson

Large Farms Coordinator
Brian LaTourette

Nutrient Management Specialists
Dan Deysenroth
Cynthia McCarthy
Nate Nero

Procurement/Contract Officer
Elaine Poulin

Project Engineer (EoH)
Andy Cheung, P.E.

Small Farms Coordinator
Rob Birdsall

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District

Executive Director
Rick Weidenbach

Stream Program Coordinator
Graydon Dutcher

Technical Coordinator
Larry Underwood

Civil Engineering Technician
Brian Danforth
Chris Savage

Special Programs Technician
Karen Clifford

Data & Budget Specialist
Sandra Whittaker

Technicians
Jeff Kellogg
Paula O'Brien
Ben VanDusen
David Adams

Systems Manager
Brian Caruso

Administrative Assistant
Judith Spencer

Whole Farm Planner/Technician
Gideon Frisbee