

Farm & Forest Participant 2004 Annual Report

Stewardship Programs of the Watershed Agricultural Council in the NYC Watershed

Special Edition 2005



Vol. 3.1

Putnam County Forestry Plan

SHELBOURNE FAMILY, FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING, SOUTHEAST

Jeremy Shelbourne's first contact with the Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program came in the mailbox: *Watershed Woodlands*, a semi-annual newsletter sent to landowners with ten or more forested watershed acres. For the last three years, this direct-mail piece has been sent to over 10,000 forest landowners to raise awareness about the values of the forest in keeping water clean and to encourage the development of written forest management plans.



WAC has helped close to 500 landowners like Ann and Jeremy Shelbourne, above, develop professionally written forest management plans. These forest management plans represent the active stewardship of over 84,500 acres.

After calling WAC's Yorktown Heights office, WAC forester Andy Hubbard joined the Shelbournes for a walk on their land in Southeast, a town in Putnam County. Their seventeen acres drain into some of the most pristine land in the Great Swamp area. Having owned their historic house on the site since the 1970s, their biggest challenge today is how to meet the rising tax bill on a parcel this size in their town. Later in the year, the Shelbournes took the opportunity to attend a landowner workshop held by WAC to see erosion control best management practices for forest roads "on the ground" at a local land club.

The landowner goals for this plan were to use the property as open space, protect the natural resources

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Greene County Conservation Easement

SOULEMERE FARM, JEWETT

At the 100-acre Soulemere Farm in the Greene County town of Jewett, Harrison "Fuzzy" and Wilma Soule are thinking about their retirement. Married for 52 years, the couple recently sold a conservation easement to the Watershed Agricultural Council on their family's dairy farm — a farm with the National Bicentennial distinction. Though they stopped milking cows last spring, their devotion to the herd has not waned: this summer, they took a rare vacation trip to Pennsylvania with their son and daughter-in-law to visit the Amish family who purchased their herd. After a lifetime of running the dairy, this is Harrison's idea of relaxing. "As soon as I walked in the barn, I could hear those girls bellowing because they knew me."

He'd like to sell the place to a farmer and talks about the neighbors who've bought his milk to make cheese. He can see himself passing on his lifetime of knowledge to help the next generation get on its feet and has talked with a few families who might want to get into dairy, commenting, "They want my brains, not my body." In the meantime, the barn does not sit empty, as they are raising about 43 dairy replacements. This gives them more freedom and a well-deserved rest.

Soulemere Farm sits in ski country, with nearby Hunter and Windham Mountains providing a steady stream of developers and skiers looking for small parcels on which to build vacation homes. Meanwhile,

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Jewett's "Fuzzy" and Wilma Soule display a portrait of the farmer as a younger man.

Chair's Message

In January 2004, the Watershed Agricultural Council commenced work on a new contract with New York City Department of Environmental Protection which runs through 2008. This is a testament to the shared commitment of upstate farm and forest landowners and our City partners to keeping working agriculture and forestry a vital part of our clean water strategy in the Catskill and Croton watersheds.

The Council is charged with a high level of responsibility for developing new and creative strategies to meet the challenges of maintaining both water quality and economic viability in our farm and forestry communities. We must keep pace with the new technologies and maintain awareness of the continued effects that agriculture and forestry have on the environment.

For example, one of our biggest challenges is the handling of manure, especially from our larger farms. Using the expertise of our staff and all our partners, we are developing the widespread use of our Nutrient Management Credit Program, which helps farmers move and distribute manure safely and effectively — and most importantly, economically. We are also in the process of developing an enhanced version of the Credit Program for manure distribution over greater distances using private haulers.

With over ten years of experience promoting the successes of the organization's watershed farm management model nationally and internationally, WAC and its partners are now re-focused on developing a strong Outreach and Education Program to educate our core constituents, farm and forest landowners, on cutting-edge technology to help them remain profitable and stay competitive.

For example, in farming, monthly sessions take place for farmers to get together and learn new ways to “tweak” the management of their operations in order to remain competitive. Or they can attend a one-day conference to learn about new ways to enhance the health of their animals, reducing pathogen risks to the water supply. In forestry, programs and policies have been reviewed with an eye toward insuring that the needs of loggers, foresters and the landowners are met effectively as the program grows.

We are the present custodians and caretakers of the land, so it is essential that our generation continues to develop and modify a working landscape model that future generations can build upon. For those of us involved in this ongoing experiment in public private partnership, this will become our legacy.

— Fred Huneke, February 3, 2005

Conservation Easements: (continued from page 1)

Harrison takes questions from the few neighboring farmers who remain local, making him the area's most convincing spokesman for land conservation. He continues to get calls from realtors and others looking for land but he's also heard that neighbors feel the easement is “not a bad idea.” And he says, “Money isn't everything, and I'm not going to live forever, but I don't want this place developed.” 💧

Forestry Plan: (continued from page 1)

(especially the native forest stands on the site), maintain the aesthetics of the site, and offset property taxes. A number of timber stands were identified in the plan, with recommendations for each including how to identify potential invasive species. WAC



This year, the WAC Easements Program purchased easements on 9 farms, conserving over 3,350 acres of working watershed farmland. This brings the program's total conservation accomplishments to over 6,000 acres on farms in our communities.

Executive Director's Message

2004 marked my first full year as Executive Director of the Watershed Agricultural Council. It was a professionally challenging and personally rewarding year for me and, I think, a year of tremendous accomplishments for WAC. It was also an extremely productive year for our staff, which provided continued quality service to program participants with a renewed focus on our mission to enhance the economic viability of the working landscape while protecting our watershed.

While clean water is arguably the most precious natural resource of the Catskill and Croton Watersheds — it certainly is to 9 million downstream consumers — the people who work at WAC are unarguably the most valuable resource that this organization has. The significant accomplishments of WAC on behalf of our participants, funding sources and stakeholders are the results of a dedicated and experienced group of people — a group that brings more than the strength of their hands and the power of their minds to the workplace. They put their hearts,

talents and a sense of humor into their work on a daily basis to create and deliver services of the highest quality. I have the pleasure not only of witnessing this but also hear regular appreciation and praise of WAC employees from our program participants.

While accomplishing the work of the day, the staff is also actively engaged in planning and organizing for the future. Our program services are being integrated in order to provide a full-service approach to the conservation of natural resources in the watershed. We believe that this offers the best service to our participants and the most efficient and effective watershed protection program to our funding sources.

In closing, I want to thank the individuals of the funding, partnering and stakeholder agencies and organizations who work with WAC everyday. Their commitment to working together helps us to accomplish the challenging work that we collectively endeavor to achieve.

— Tom O'Brien, February 3, 2005

forester Andy Hubbard soon made a visit to the Shelbournes and advised them to become an American Tree Farm, a strategy that could potentially help ease their taxes.

And while the Nature Conservancy's Clough Nature Preserve sits to the north of this property, development pressure for septic-based apartments and housing is growing all around it at a brisk pace. As a result, the Putnam Land Trust has stepped in to preserve hundreds of acres in the area. With a good list of resource recommendations, the Shelbourne's forest management plan expanded their understanding of and contacts with other conservation players in the area.

Calling himself an optimist, Jeremy finds a lot of like minds in the community who appreciate the importance of land stewardship and are beginning to see the role that healthy forests play in the long-term health of the watershed — which also supplies his groundwater. He ended his story with this comment: "I have become aware of how important this tiny piece of land is." Many would agree that, for the next phase of Southeast's history, the best use for this forestland is in providing watershed protection. ●

Forestry Education



In April 2004, science students from the Manhattan School for Girls took a bus tour from New York City to the Catskills to learn about the connection between water quality and forests. The girls, led by science teacher Brenda From, visited a NYC DEP wastewater treatment facility and hiked the forest road at the Frost Valley Model Forest in Claryville. Tom Pavlesich, WAC Forester, and Jessica Sweeney, Watershed Forestry Educator with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, joined the high school students on their visit to the Model Forest. Each year, the WAC Forestry Program awards several grants to New York City metropolitan area groups interested in upstate forests. The groups match every dollar with their own funding, thereby leveraging federal and city dollars. Funding for the program comes from the USDA Forest Service and the New York City DEP.

2004 Accomplishments on Watershed Farms

WEST OF HUDSON LARGE FARMS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	No. of BMPs
Waste Management System	1
Waste Storage Facility	9
Conservation Crop Rotation - Seeding	4
Cover Crop	3
Critical Area Planting	1
Diversion	1
Pond	3
Fencing	30
Filter Strip - Milkhouse	3
Grassed Waterway	1
Lined Waterway	1
Obstruction Removal	1
Pasture & Hayland Planting	2
Pipeline	3
Prescribed Grazing - Lime	1
Roof Runoff Management System	3
Access Road	7
Heavy Use Area Protection	8
Diversion	1
Spring Development	14
Animal Trails & Walkway	19
Structure for Water Control	1
Subsurface Drain	1
Tree & Shrub Planting - CREP	14
Watering Facility CREP	7
Underground Outlet	2
Waste Transfer System	4
Barnyard Water Management System	11
Waste Management System	1
Riparian Forest Buffer - CREP	10
Nutrient Management Plan	53
Tree & Shrub Planting - Natural Regeneration - CREP	1
Waste Utilization	46
Record Keeping	47
Manure Pile Area	1
Manure Storage Shed	1
Calf Housing	1
Calf Greenhouse	2
Calf Hutches	1
Ventilation	1
Manure Spreader	2
Loader	1
Manure Truck	1
Manure Scraping System	4
Manure/Sump Pumps	1

Total West of Hudson BMPs Implemented in 2004 **329**

Total DEP Cost **\$2,895,507**

Total Other Funds **\$514,595**

EAST OF HUDSON FARMS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	No. of BMPs
Manure Composting Facility - WEAP	1
Fencing	1
Grade Stabilization Structure	1
Pasture & Hayland Planting	1
Pipeline	2
Roof Runoff Management System	1
Access Road	1
Heavy Use Area Protection	3
Spring Development	1
Structure for Water Control	1
Watering Facility	2
Underground Outlet	1
Barnyard Water Management System	1
Milkhouse Waste Infiltration Area	1
Waste Management System	1
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	1
Riparian Forest Buffer	1
Prescribed Grazing	1
Nutrient Management Plan	3
Waste Utilization	2
Record Keeping	2

Total East of Hudson BMPs Implemented in 2004 **29**

Total DEP Cost **\$263,881**

Total Other Funds **\$107,312**

WEST OF HUDSON SMALL FARMS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	No. of BMPs
Diversion	1
Fencing	13
Pipeline	5
Roof Runoff Management System	1
Access Road	1
Heavy Use Area Protection	2
Spring Development	5
Animal Trails & Walkway	3
Structure for Water Control	2
Tree & Shrub Planting - CREP	4
Underground Outlet	1
Nutrient Management Plan	13
Waste Utilization	13
Record Keeping	13
Manure Pile	1
Roofed Barnyard	1
Manure Storage - Covered	1
Farm Dump Closure	1

Total Small Farm BMPs Implemented in 2004 **81**

Total DEP Cost **\$210,608**

Total Other Funds **\$50,116**

Dutchess County Whole Farm Plan

AKINDALE FARM, PAWLING

“The Akindale Farm project demonstrates excellent local, regional and federal partnership,” said Michael Saviola, WAC, East of Hudson Program Manager. A 358-acre horse farm located in the Town of Pawling in Dutchess County, Akindale Farm is owned by John Hettinger and produces high quality thoroughbred race-horses and provides training for horses both owned and boarded at the farm. It was chosen as a pilot to represent the typical non-dairy farm most prevalent on agricultural



WAC's Mike Saviola with Akindale Farm Manager Kate Ferron and Brian Scoralick, District Field Manager for Dutchess County SWCD.

land in the Croton Watershed region. The Whole Farm Plan for this farm was created in collaboration with the Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District. The farm also arranged a conservation easement with the Dutchess Land Conservancy, a local non-profit land trust based in Millbrook, New York.

This farm breeds and trains approximately 26 thoroughbred race horses and also has 45 mature horses, 30 young horses, and 6 Holstein steers. With 200 acres of the land in permanent pasture, the farm has another 100 acres of forest land. One of the most successful BMPs implemented on the farm was exclusion. “Exclusion fencing was installed on one of the farm’s pastures to limit the access of brood mares and foals to a nearby stream that runs adjacent to the farm,” said Saviola. “By keeping the animals away from the stream we are keeping animal pathogens from entering the water.” WAC Engineers developed an alternative water source in a less hydrologically sensitive area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers redesigned the farm’s outside composting facility. The new facility eliminates the costly practice of transporting manure for off-site utilization and/or disposal. The farm collects manure from foals and stores it with straw bedding on an outside 100 x 200-foot asphalt compost pad with a reinforced concrete “push wall,” a filter field and diversion. The compost pad was improved to prevent pathogens from spreading from the pad to streams during stormwater events.



The compost pad was re-designed to be a more stable surface and a grass filter area was created on the down slope side of the compost pad to intercept and treat any stormwater runoff resulting from intense rain events. A comprehensive nutrient management plan determines where, when and how manure can be spread on the farm as fertilizer with minimal risk of phosphorus and pathogens entering the water supply. In addition, the Whole Farm Plan includes a prescribed grazing plan to rotate livestock to improve manure distribution around the farm.

In the Croton watershed, most agricultural land is occupied by horses and their offspring. WAC is currently working with 22 operations and installed 29 best management practices this year.

“The new compost facility is wonderful for everybody at the farm. It enabled us to shut down our upper muck pile and allowed us to centralize all of our on-farm manure management and composting operations,” said farm manager, Kate Ferron. “Because of the ease of management and centralized location, all waste (bedding and straw) is picked up every six weeks and hauled to Pennsylvania for use in commercial mushroom farming.” Ferron added that haulers like coming to the farm now to pick up the manure because the facility makes their job easier.

To decrease stormwater runoff further, a barnyard water management system will be installed this year. Lastly, the farm is improving access road construction to prevent vehicles from spreading manure from the roads to streams. 💧



The barnyard area of the Allen farm prior to implementation left heavy animal use areas vulnerable to erosion.

the barn and buildings on his own place, the 78-acre Allen Farm.

In just five years, Brian and Jodi, his wife, have built their “freezer” trade in beef and pork to the point where it’s all sold to customers who know where to find it at their farm stand. With 20 acres in permanent hay, the farm rounds out its selection of products by adding Golden Comet chickens (top brown egg-layers), blueberries, sweet corn and pumpkins as space allows.

Brian learned about WAC from the neighboring dairies in the area and contacted Dan Flaherty of the WAC Small Farms Program as soon as he purchased the farm. During 2004, Dan and his teammate, Chris



Brian Allen and Dan Flaherty stand beside the completed covered feeding area built during 2004. The Small Farms Program has completed 10 Whole Farm Plans to date, implementing over 81 best management practices this year.

Delaware County Small Farm Plan

THE ALLEN FARM, WALTON

Though he grew up “in town,” you can tell that Brian Allen’s heart has always been on the farm. His grandparents’ dairy provided him with an upbringing close to animals that you can see in the care he’s taken to rehabilitate

the barn and buildings on his own place, the 78-acre Allen Farm. In just five years, Brian and Jodi, his wife, have built their “freezer” trade in beef and pork to the point where it’s all sold to customers who know where to find it at their farm stand. With 20 acres in permanent hay, the farm rounds out its selection of products by adding Golden Comet chickens (top brown egg-layers), blueberries, sweet corn and pumpkins as space allows. Brian learned about WAC from the neighboring dairies in the area and contacted Dan Flaherty of the WAC Small Farms Program as soon as he purchased the farm. During 2004, Dan and his teammate, Chris Creelman of the Delaware County Soil and Water District, worked with the Allens to install the first water protection practice on their list: a covered barnyard feeding area which has made a huge difference in keeping runoff from entering nearby Loomis Brook and the farm’s other wet areas. With a steady population of young stock — both calves and pigs — within range of the water course, the

Small Farms Tour



Dan Flaherty thanks Willard and Lucille Frisbee for hosting the 2004 Small Farms Tour, a chance for partners and other farmers to see the year’s accomplishments.

farmer and planning team are eagerly watching the improvements this practice has made in the stream.

As the Allens tackle other building projects to improve their operation, the Small Farms team is able to work in tandem: watering stations for livestock are being added as the hog pens are improved, fencing to direct animals away from the tributary will be coordinated with gravel improvements the Allens will make around the feeding area. A stream crossing to allow safe traffic across the brook to 45 acres of pasture on the other side will cap this Whole Farm Plan.

Brian and Jodi seem to be interested in every aspect of farming and farm life — from working the land to providing a safe, diverse food supply in their community. The rewards of this “part-time” job are described by Brian — “Having a 4-H kid win a ribbon with one of our feeder pigs makes it all worthwhile.” With hopes of participating in WAC’s Conservation Easement Program, the Allens represent what many believe is the future of our area’s farms — farmland that’s producing high quality food, a consumer who knows where and how their food is grown, a rural community that benefits many times over from the beauty of the farmstead, and water consumers whose land is in good hands. ●



There’s water at the end of the road. When fencing excludes cattle from streams, an alternative water source is developed.

Delaware County Whole Farm Plan

THE DAVIS FARM, KORTRIGHT

When asked to name a farm that would represent its accomplishments for 2004, WAC's Whole Farm Planning teams identified the Davis Farm. This 500-acre farm in Kortright operates as a dairy with about 90 cows and an equal number of young stock. The farm is run by Cecil and Carol Davis and their sons, Cecil Jr. and David, with the vision of maintaining a profitable, safe and attractive business that allows them the satisfaction of self-employment and working outdoors. At present, field crops of corn, alfalfa-grass, hay and silage are grown, with plans to expand if necessary to accommodate the younger generation if they choose to enter the business in the future.

One of the main goals of the Davis Whole Farm Plan was to improve manure handling. The Plan was created by the Davis' together with Garry Nightingale of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and WAC's Jim Hilson. To address high levels of phosphorus on the farm, the Whole Farm Plan called for the installation of a manure storage facility. With limited winter access to the fields, many of which were at high risk for erosion, the farm needed a safe place to store manure until spreading in spring.

To reduce the risks of pathogens like cryptosporidium and giardia from entering the water supply, calf health conditions were improved. Whereas before they were housed in a poorly ventilated area of the barn, separate hutches now keep the calves dry, happy and healthy while allowing the farmer to separate and spread young stock manure in lower risk areas.

The farm's Nutrient Management Plan maps out the most environmentally safe time and place to do that spreading, which can now take place a few times per year as opposed to everyday. Dale Dewing, Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrient Management Team Leader, comments, "The Davis' have successfully followed their Nutrient Management Plan for the past few years, submitting their records every year for review, which has enabled them to accumulate a cost-share called the Nutrient Management Credit. They use this credit to offset the extra costs of owning and operating the manure handling equipment vital to carrying out the plan."

Excluding cows from the stream and stream banks was another main goal of this Whole Farm Plan. Through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the Davis' were able to install about 16.4 acres of riparian

forest buffers along Wright Brook which flows into the West Branch of the Delaware River and eventually, the Cannonsville Reservoir. This entailed planting a variety of trees and shrubs on 11.8 acres including white pine, Norway spruce, white spruce and tamarack, as well as bayberry, cranberry, elderberry, and hazelnut.

In addition, an alternative spring-based watering system was established for the livestock, and fencing installed to direct them away from sensitive areas. Julian Drelich of USDA NRCS coordinated the project with Karen Clifford of Delaware County Soil and Water District who helped procure the plantings. "With the project now complete," Julian states, "the CREP area is a long, narrow stretch that protects all the watercourses on this farm." 💧

Delaware County Economic Action Grant

CANNONSVILLE LUMBER, DEPOSIT

Just beyond the outlet of the Cannonsville Reservoir — where the West Branch of the Delaware meanders into the Village of Deposit — Terry Leonard is busy with the day-to-day operations of managing a staff of over 20 people at Cannonsville Lumber, Inc. The young company is an entrepreneurial expansion of the Schaefer Family's logging and bluestone enterprise. With its own logging crew, procurement and sales staff, Cannonsville Lumber is vertically integrated and houses a circular/band saw-mill, pallet making machine, and lumber dry kiln.

BMPs



To date, WAC and its partners have implemented over 3,500 best management practices on West of Hudson farms, including over 1,500 acres of stream buffers.

Calf Health



Three Calf Assess workshops were conducted in 2004 at which 36 producers and farm workers sharpened their skills for better calf health under veterinary instruction. The series was coordinated by Trish Westenbroek of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (pictured top right).

Establishing business relationships with loggers and lumber buyers and informing them of the types of wood products that can be obtained within the New York City Watershed and beyond is a goal of Leonard. Recently, the Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program, with funding from the USDA Forest Service Economic Action Program, awarded Cannonsville a grant to construct an observation room appropriately dubbed "The Eagle's Nest" where tourists, school groups, and industry professionals can view the entire milling process from saw log to finished lumber in a safe environment. Leonard states, "Awareness of the forest products industry in this region is lacking. With the new addition, we hope to bridge that gap by educating the public of the many uses for wood."

The Eagle's Nest was completed just in time for the Deposit Lumberjack Festival and opened with a luncheon and ribbon cutting ceremony held at the mill on July 16, 2004. Cannonsville employees were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to develop the business into one of the region's fastest growing lumber suppliers and pallet manufacturers.

Since the grand opening, the Eagle's Nest has seen several tours and hosted a Game of Logging workshop in Forest Ecology and Silviculture for the New York Logger Training Program. Representatives from the Delaware County Office of Employment and Training toured the facility to develop a relationship with Cannonsville Lumber for providing job placement services at the mill.

A portion of Cannonsville's award has also cost-shared the purchase and installation of a dry kiln that adds value to hard and soft wood lumber. As a result, the woodworkers of the region may now take advantage of a local supplier for furniture and flooring grade hardwoods. With the new dry kiln, Leonard hopes to see an increase in the amount of custom orders from small woodshops in the area looking for characted wood that accumulates at the mill because it is considered a lower-grade board than others. In 2002, Cannonsville received a grant to start a pallet operation to solve a similar waste-wood problem. This has helped the company create a niche and establish Cannonsville Lumber as the only pallet manufacturer of its kind in the region.

"For a company that is only 6 years old", says Leonard, "the funding has been instrumental in the growth and establishment of business relationships in the watershed region." To schedule a mill tour of Cannonsville Lumber, Inc. and a visit to the new Eagle's Nest observation room, contact Terry Leonard at (607) 467-3380. ●



At the dedication of The Eagle's Nest at Cannonsville Lumber (l-r): Floyd Decker, Terry Leonard, Larry Schaefer, WAC Chair Fred Huneke, Vice Chair Dave Cammer, Collin Miller and Adolf Schaefer.

Delaware County Business Profile

BETTY ACRES FARM, DELHI

Though it sat fallow for fifteen years, Aissa O'Neil saw the potential of her Betty Acres Farm located on Route 28 between Delhi and Andes. The lovely house shaded by huge trees, dairy and livestock barns, and the gentle sloping pastures showed their age and wear.

Moving from New York City, Aissa identified with a strong and growing demand for organic products. "I knew that specialty organic growing was the only way for my small farm to turn a profit." Lacking the experience, equipment and capital required for a conventional farm, Aissa began by selling her excess produce first

locally and soon to markets in the City, and to health food stores and farmers markets, including the Round Barn in Margaretville. In her on-farm greenhouse, Aissa specialized in Eastern European heirloom varieties of vegetables for their taste and because they are a hardy match for this climate.

As her experience grew, so did the opportunities to buy used equipment and grow more products on a larger scale. Aissa expanded her organically certified products to include vegetable seedlings and eggs. She complements the short growing season by raising grass-fed meats and poultry year-round. Each new venture is added slowly, and she continues to try new things. A major investment was the greenhouse, which paid for itself with increased sales and an extended growing season within two years.

The micro-enterprise course offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension was helpful to Aissa in creating business plans and projections. She received much of her farming education from Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA NY) as well as by working closely with extension agents and “mentor” farmers. Her professional training as a graphic designer has given her an edge with creating appealing product displays and product packaging for her growing enterprise.

Farm Catskills!



Families learned firsthand about how and where their maple syrup, eggs, milk, meat and cheese is produced at this year's Down on the Farm Day held in September at six Catskill region farms. Outreach to connect consumers with WAC programs and area farm products also took place at the Pakatakan Farm Market, Delaware County Fair and Margaretville Cauliflower Festival. Each event was an opportunity to distribute the Pure Catskills “buy local” food guide to upstate and downstate food buyers.

Farm Program Outreach



The text book comes alive as graduate students in the program at Bard Center for Environmental Policy meet Paul Cerosaletti of Cornell Cooperative Extension on Tom Hutson's farm to learn about nutrient flow in agriculture.

Aissa would like to balance further growth equally between wholesale and retail accounts. She is pursuing value-added product ideas to complement her fresh product list, and to allow her to sell via e-commerce. Projections for the third year of operation include once again doubling with increases in meat and poultry production.

Participating in WAC's Small Farms Program has given Aissa and her new husband, Tom, access to technical advice and resources to increase their production by reclaiming useful pasture for rotational grazing and tackle barnyard water management challenges created by a spring running through the farm towards the East Branch of the Delaware River. A WAC forest management plan will improve their understanding of the forest resources they steward and they have applied for a farm easement from WAC as well.

As Aissa and Tom entered their second year of organic production, they see the value of organic certification and the support they receive from NOFA in adhering to the standard. They have also found benefits in working together with neighboring organic and sustainable farms, whether it is for marketing, distribution, or just day-to-day support. The O'Neils are also planning to grow their on-farm stand, both for retail selling and for farm tours and special events. 💧

WAC Forestry's Economic Action Program: A Partnership with the USDA Forest Service

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

■ *Catskill Mountain Foundation, Inc., Hunter*

WAC's partnership with Catskill Mountain Foundation (CMF) continued with a sponsorship of a second the Wood Products Fair at the Mountain Culture Festival. The fair generates many commissions and business/gallery leads for over 30 woodworkers from the Catskill region. In just one example is rustic furniture-maker, Judd Weisberg, made contacts enabling him to book over a year's worth of new projects. CMF also used their grant award to host the Woodlander's Gathering which featured 3-days of educational programs for over 80 participants focusing on topics such as sustainable building, rustic design, and a business writing.



Jonah Meyer, Ulster County. With funding from the US Forest Service, WAC has granted over \$2 million to Catskill employees to date, impacting over 600 regional jobs at 70 forestry-based businesses. Local matching funds exceed \$4 million.

■ *Jonah Meyer, Kingston*

Wood sculptor Jonah Meyer winterized a renovated, 1950's-era Service Station for use as a gallery/showroom for his and other local artists creations on Route 28 in Glenford. Funds will also allow Meyer to upgrade antiquated wood-working machinery in his Kingston furniture design workshop.

■ *Romancing the Woods, Inc., Woodstock*

WAC partnered with this nationally-recognized company to continue a marketing/advertising campaign, upgrade equipment and expand its product line to include peeled-bark interior furniture. Most of the cedar used in their designs is procured from the Catskill/ Delaware Watershed. RTW-Inc.'s intricate gazebos, bridges and arbors are installed at several notable locations such as *The Lion King Theatre* at Walt Disney World and Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater*.

■ *Katrock Woodworks, Grahamsville*

Woodturner John Perrella blends various types of Catskill hardwoods, such as American beech, red maple, and black cherry into elegant patterns to create one-of-a-kind bowls. Through assistance from his forestry grant, Perrella sold out of his entire inventory at the regional craft shows he attended in 2004. The grant further assisted him in improving the safety of his workshop.

■ *Howard Werner, Shokan*

An acclaimed wood sculptor, Werner uses Catskill hardwoods unsuitable for conventional milling (i.e. crotched, burled, and spalted) to create various types of furniture and abstract designs with a chainsaw. Most notably, his works have appeared in the American Craft Museum and the Louvre in Paris, France. With his grant, he will be expanding a workshop and creating storage space to house wood and finished pieces in a temperature controlled environment.

■ *Howard "Hoppy" Quick, Jr., Tree House Troll, Olivebridge*

WAC continued a partnership with The Tree House Troll by cost-sharing a tool upgrade and the installation of a solar-kiln to improve the quality of his life-like, chainsaw bear carvings.



Hoppy Quick, Ulster County

■ ***Alta Industries, Ltd., Halcottsville***

In 2004, Alta became the first U.S. log home manufacturer to receive “Energy Star” certification for their efficient, energy-saving design. Alta is using its forestry grant to improve marketing efforts through web-based promotion and a virtual log home tour at www.altaloghomes.com. The grant also cost-shared the production of a new plan book for prospective customers and improved efficiencies through upgraded office technology infrastructure.

■ ***John Houshmand, Hobart / New York City***

The WAC Forestry Program cost-shared the construction of a multi-lingual, online catalog at www.johnhoushmand.com to showcase the artist’s designs. Houshmand networks with other wood-based businesses in the Catskills to procure and prepare wood for use in his self-titled “urban organic furniture”. The pieces are finished and assembled at his workshop in the Watershed and then transported and sold through his showroom in Manhattan and several galleries in major cities in the US.

■ ***Steve Heller’s Fabulous Furniture, Boiceville***

Heller’s quality reputation and a commitment to using locally harvested trees not suitable for traditional applications has warranted a new cost-sharing partnership to upgrade wood processing technology in his workshop. In 2004, Heller received several commissions from leads generated through the success of a previous forestry grant to build a web-site.

■ ***Noble Tree Gallery, Kingston***

Opened in April 2004 on Route 28, owner Carolyn DeFelice has been exhibiting a wide variety of fine furniture in styles. DeFelice’s WAC Forestry grant is helping to increase the gallery’s exposure through an advertising and marketing campaign targeting the region’s interior designers, homeowners, architects. Noble Tree will continue to serve as an outlet for locally produced furniture thereby enhancing the sales and marketability for Watershed wood products.



Hunt Country Furniture, Dutchess County

EAP BRANCHES OUT TO THE CROTON WATERSHED

■ ***Hunt Country Furniture, Wingdale (Dutchess)***

With over 90 employees and nation-wide distribution through commercial restaurant outlets and retail showrooms, 82-year old Hunt Country Furniture is planning a large expansion of their manufacturing facilities. Their award will increase production of a unique line of hardwood dining tables. Hunt Country is the first wood products manufacturer east of the Hudson River to receive a WAC Forestry Grant.

■ ***TWIGZ Natural Furniture, Holmes (Putnam)***

After spending several years making rustic furniture in his spare time, Bill Olendorf recruited his daughter, Barbara — a former restaurateur — to form a business partnership. TWIGZ practices low-impact forestry by hand removing small-diameter saplings of yellow birch, black birch, and striped maple. WAC is cost-sharing with the company to expand their workshop, purchase new machinery, and launch a promotional campaign. ●

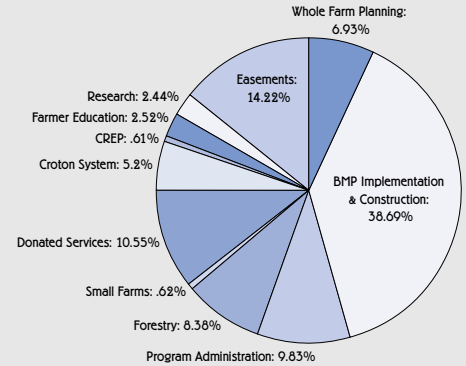
Financial Report

Watershed Agricultural Council of the New York City Watersheds, Inc.

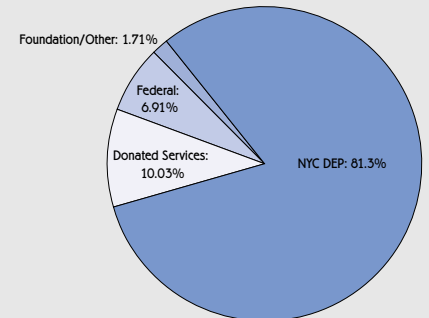
Schedule of Activities By Program – Unrestricted – for the Years Ending June 30, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Revenue:		
Program Services:		
Whole Farm Planning	\$732,155	\$728,416
BMP Implementation and Construction	4,020,213	3,970,703
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	64,653	45,739
Croton System	474,833	182,873
Small Farms Program	65,702	
Sustainable Agricultural Education	199,812	188,143
Program Administration	1,406,652	935,434
Forestry	368,284	377,144
Easements	1,568,924	603,558
Research	88,325	110,059
Total Program Revenue	8,989,553	7,142,069
Other Revenue:		
Federal Awards	763,655	997,998
Foundation Grants	74,188	44,150
Interest	1,850	1,835
Economic Development and other Grants	105,297	123,453
Other	8,190	19,683
Donated Services	1,114,427	1,724,673
Total Other Revenue	2,067,607	2,911,792
Total Program and Other Revenue Carried Forward	\$11,057,160	\$10,053,861
Expenditures:		
Whole Farm Planning	732,155	728,619
BMP Implementation and Construction	4,085,193	4,013,138
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	64,655	45,739
Croton System	548,869	177,873
Small Farms Program	65,702	
Farmer Education	123,712	56,426
Program Administration	1,388,121	917,006
Forestry	884,992	1,288,088
Natural Resource Viability	80,522	170,835
Education and Outreach	61,839	66,535
Easements	1,501,189	625,037
Research	257,491	210,653
Depreciation	83,093	61,935
Donated Services	1,114,427	1,724,673
Acquisition of Fixed Assets	(350,531)	(71,415)
Total Expenditures	10,641,429	10,015,142
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	415,731	38,719
Net Assets, Beginning	452,157	413,438
Net Assets, Ending	\$867,888	\$452,157

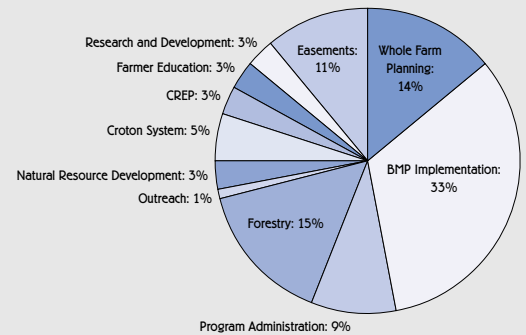
2004 Expenses



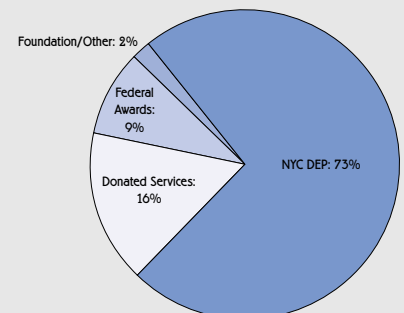
2004 Revenues



2003 Expenses



2003 Revenues



*per independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

Watershed Agricultural Council

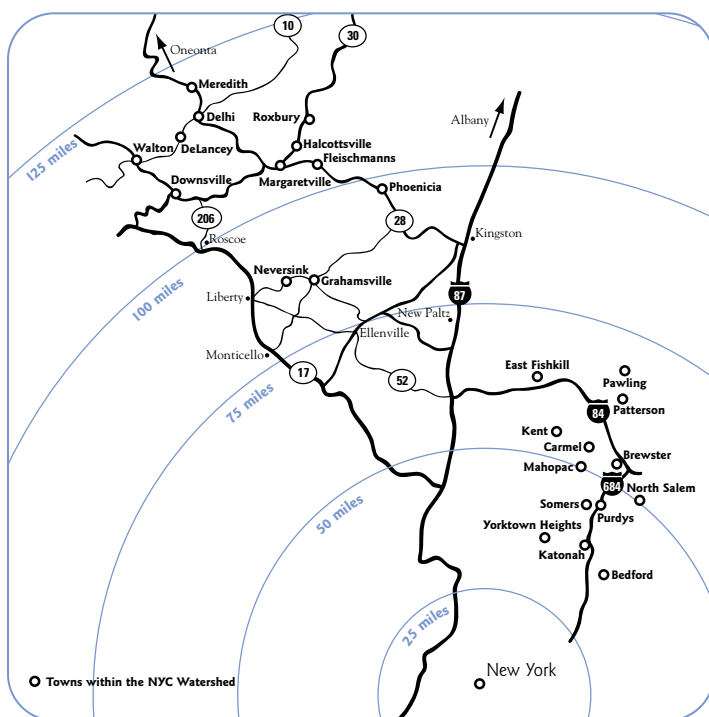
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Watershed Agricultural Council

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Towns in the New York City watershed

 Log on: www.nycwatershed.org

The Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization funded principally by New York City Department of Environmental Protection, with secondary funding from the USDA Department of Agriculture and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, along with private foundations. WAC is an equal opportunity provider. WAC works through partnerships to accomplish its mission to ensure an economically viable working landscape that protects water quality. Many thanks to our partners:

- Agroforestry Resource Center of Acra, N.Y.
- American Farmland Trust
- Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
- Catskill Forest Association
- Catskill Mountain Foundation
- Catskill Watershed Corporation
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware, Sullivan, Greene and Schoharie Counties
- Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
- Earthpledge Foundation
- Empire State Forest Products Association
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Farm Catskills!
- Frost Valley YMCA
- New York Logger Training, Inc.
- New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of Health
- The O'Connor Foundation
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Delaware, Sullivan, Greene, Ulster, Schoharie, Dutchess, Putnam & Westchester Counties
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- USDA
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Forest Service
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Geological Survey

Farm & Forest



The Second Annual Cauliflower Festival in Margaretville took place the first Saturday in October and gave Catskill farmers a chance to see and hear a history exhibit about this important 20th century crop while selling local farm products to new customers.



Thanks to the O'Connor Foundation, WAC has granted \$2,000 matching grants to 39 farms over the course of six years to beautify barns and farmsteads throughout Delaware County. Pictured here is a freshly painted barn and board fence that complements the Sullivan's Burn Ayr Farmstand on Route 28 in Delhi.

Snapshots 2004



Diane Galusha, author of *When Cauliflower Was King*, signs her history book of the area's cauliflower farms at the festival.



Marcus Phelps of the US Forest Service is honored at the Annual Forestry Dinner upon his retirement as a valued partner in the Watershed Forestry Program. (l-r: Fred Huneke, WAC Chair; Kevin Brazill, Barbara and Marcus Phelps, Karl Connell and Dan Palm, Forestry Committee Chair). Thanks to hard work and attention to detail by forestry staff, this year's Silent Auction yielded a \$6,000 harvest for the WAC's Easement Stewardship Fund.



With help from the USDA Forest Service and the Empire State Forest Products Association, two of these beautiful hardwood kiosk displays were produced to help tourists make the connection between healthy forests and a clean water supply. One is currently at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the other is on display at the capital.

Watershed Agricultural Council

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Acres Conserved Double in 2004



This year, the WAC Easement Program purchased easements conserving over 3,350 acres of working watershed farmland, including this 100-acre Jewett farm in Greene County. This brings the program's total conservation accomplishments to over 6,000 acres on farms in our communities. See front cover for more details.

Contact Information

Watershed Agricultural Council
info@nycwatershed.org

Communications and Outreach, Karen Rauter
krauter@nycwatershed.org

Executive Director, Tom O'Brien
tobrien8@nycwatershed.org

Agricultural Program, Brian LaTourette
blatourette@nycwatershed.org

Conservation Easement Program, Bill Brosseau
bbrosseau@nycwatershed.org

East of Hudson Program, Mike Saviola
msaviola@nycwatershed.org

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kbrazill@nycwatershed.org

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dflaherty@nycwatershed.org



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