

New York State Programmatic Two-Year Milestones

January 1, 2012-December 31, 2013

Final Status Report as of December 31, 2013

Target Date	Milestone (WIP page reference) ¹	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments/Status Update																																
<i>Agriculture</i>																																				
2013-12-31	NY State Funding for Agricultural Conservation	Implement two rounds of the NYS Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS) to support on-going implementation of best management practice system implementation, as well as two years of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Base Program, supporting technical assistance by Soil & Water Conservation Districts throughout the AEM Tiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1: Resource Inventory • Tier 2: Environmental Assessment • Tier 3: Conservation Planning • Tier 4: BMP System Implementation • Tier 5: Evaluation 	NYSDAM/USC	This milestone report is based on proposals funded through AgNPS Rounds 18 and 19 (1/1/2012-12/31/2013) and work through the AEM Tiers completed by Districts and the USC using funding from AEM Base Years 7 and 8. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">AgNPS</th> <th style="text-align: center;">R18</th> <th style="text-align: center;">R19</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Proposals Funded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Districts</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 / 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farms</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">65</td> <td style="text-align: center;">92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BMP Systems being installed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">49</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80</td> <td style="text-align: center;">129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AgNPS Share</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$2.7M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.4M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$6.1M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmer Share</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1.5M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$2.1M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.6M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total \$</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$4.2M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$5.5M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$9.7M</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AgNPS	R18	R19	Total	Proposals Funded	11	16	27	Districts	7	8	7 / 8	Farms	27	65	92	BMP Systems being installed	49	80	129	AgNPS Share	\$2.7M	\$3.4M	\$6.1M	Farmer Share	\$1.5M	\$2.1M	\$3.6M	Total \$	\$4.2M	\$5.5M	\$9.7M
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¹ As part of the adaptive management process for achieving water quality goals, jurisdictions may submit programmatic milestones that modify, are in place of, or are in addition to milestones listed in their Phase I WIPs so long as the jurisdiction can demonstrate that they will be as effective toward meeting water quality goals.

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2013-12-31	Voluntary Conservation Practices	Develop and implement tracking, reporting and verification mechanisms for voluntary conservation practices installed on agricultural lands	NYSDAM/USC	<p>Voluntary practices are captured using the NYS AEM Program that uses trained technicians to complete an on-farm assessment. The assessment uses worksheets developed for individual practices to rank them 1-4, based on water quality concern.</p> <p>A practice receiving an overall assessment of a 1 or a 2 means that the practice is</p>																																								

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				<p>meeting or exceeding NRCS Standards; a 3 or a 4 means that the practice needs improvement or is not in place. CAFO farms are inspected and required to give annual updates to their comprehensive nutrient management plans. Voluntary practices are evaluated to determine if they are treating a resource concern according to NRCS Standards or functional equivalent.</p> <p>For reported evaluated practices the USC developed an AEM Online Application to create a uniform approach for BMP reporting across the region. The online tool is supported by an Ag BMP data sheet for Districts to record BMPs one-by-one and provide date of implementation and appropriate units. A second sheet was developed for 3rd party farm supporters to flag potential BMPs and notify trained technicians to go on site to verify.</p> <p>Outreach to Districts to educate them on how to evaluate and what gets credit for the Bay Model continues. There was a regional training of 15 technicians in the fall. NY also relies on USC bi-monthly meetings for outreach and training surrounding Bay issues. The USC has an Ag Committee that meets bi-monthly that provides further opportunities for outreach and training on how to identify and report non-cost shared BMPs. Finally, the USC Ag coordinator and GIS Specialist went District to District to walk through the BMP reporting process to ensure reported BMPs meet the minimum Chesapeake Bay Program definitions.</p>

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				<p>In 2013 the USC received a NYS NRCS CIG to promote Soil Health practices. Part of this project is to develop a suite of simple benchmarks to evaluate performance of cover crop and conservation tillage and develop methods for tracking and verify cover crop and conservation tillage for reporting to the Chesapeake Bay Program. Non-cost shared practices will be considered in method development.</p>
2013-12-31	Outreach and Education	<p>Complete outreach programs for farmers and agricultural professionals in the watershed. Includes several local Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District, NYSDAM workshops as well as two years of multi-day trainings: Conservation Skills Workshop, Certified Crop Advisor Training, and Water Quality Symposium.</p>	NYSDAM/USC /Cornell	<p>The following conservation education and outreach programs were delivered in 2012 to thousands of farmers and Ag professionals: 29 SWCD led, county level outreach/education events covering various aspects of AEM; 12 Cornell Cooperative Extension events, including winter crop meetings, Precision Feed Mgt. Meetings, summer crop management meetings, soil health conference, Technical Feasibility of On-farm Anaerobic Digestion, and Got Manure? Enhancing Environmental and Economic Sustainability Conference; 2012 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Meeting; 2012 Water Quality Symposium; Conservation Boot Camp; several local prescribed grazing workshops; Cropware/RUSLE2 Field Planning Workshops; Empire Farm Day Conservation Equipment Workshop; several Ag Construction Stormwater Workshops; 2012 Conservation Skills Workshop; 2012 AEM Tier 2 Assessment Training; 2012 Northeast Region Certified Crop Advisor Training; Perennial Biomass Workshop; Natural Pollinator Workshop;</p>

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				<p>Critical Area Seeding Workshop; Agroforestry Workshop; and Cover Crop Workshop.</p> <p>The following conservation education and outreach programs were delivered in 2013 to thousands of farmers and Ag professionals: SWCD led, county level outreach/education events covering various aspects of AEM; Cornell Cooperative Extension events, including winter crop meetings, Precision Feed Mgt. Meetings, summer crop management meetings, soil health workshops,; 2013 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Meeting; 2013 Water Quality Symposium; Empire Farm Day Conservation Equipment Workshop; several Ag Construction Stormwater Workshops; 2013 Conservation Skills Workshop which included AEM Tier 2 Assessment Training; 2013 Northeast Region Certified Crop Advisor Training, and both an Organic and Field Crop Cover Crop Workshop. The robust set of annual educational programs is being expanded by several soil health, conservation tillage, and cover crop focused workshops in the Watershed.</p>
2013-12-31	Data collection, implementation and outreach	Use the Nitrogen Reduction Workgroup to promote Precision Feed Management, benchmark analysis, Adaptive Nitrogen Management processes, and tools such as on-farm Mass Nutrient Balances, ISNT< CSNT, and Adapt-N modeling, and a non-linear dairy ration optimizer augmented with electronic scale heads to maximize feed efficiencies. Farm demonstrations for outreach will be used.	Cornell/USC	PFM benchmarks are being used on >45 farms to assess nutrient efficiency. The baseline precision feed management data demonstrates that on average most participating dairy farms are efficiently feeding their cows. Benchmark monitoring is needed on more farms to continue to document farms that are achieving balance and identify and target those that could improve.

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		<p>Data collection using the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management approach and a newly devised on-line data management system to collect farm data.</p>		<p>Adaptive N Management process and tools are working on a total of 85 farms – farms are also participating using the enhanced nutrient management tools. Baseline data has been collected and recommendations were made to maximize nutrient efficiency. 20 farms have performed 2 years or more of Mass Nutrient Balance assessments and planning to identify management alternatives that can enhance whole farm nutrient use efficiency and increase farm profitability.</p> <p>Three farms have been using the AMTS LLC software and LMI scales. Nutritionists use the software to optimize feed rations. The scales work with the software to get a precise feeding ration. Baseline data was obtained and AMTS is working with nutritionists and farmers to make on-farm adjustments when necessary.</p> <p>The Nutrient Reduction Workgroup has met quarterly and has worked on ways to improve and integrate the use of these tools on farms.</p> <p>In February 2012 & 2013, farmer meetings were held for grant participants.</p> <p>As described above, for reported evaluated practices the USC developed an AEM Online Application to create a uniform approach for BMP reporting across the region. The online tool is supported by an Ag BMP data sheet for Districts to record BMPs one-by-one and</p>

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				<p>provide date of implementation and appropriate units. A second sheet was developed for 3rd party farm supporters to flag potential BMPs and notify trained technicians to go on site to verify.</p> <p>Outreach to Districts to educate them on how to evaluate and what gets credit for the Bay Model was conducted this year at the annual Water Quality Symposium. NY also relies on USC bi-monthly meetings for outreach and training surrounding Bay issues. The USC has an Ag Committee that provides further opportunities for outreach and training on how to identify and report non-cost shared BMPs. Finally, the DEC has lead technical workgroup conference calls where participants on the various CBP workgroups get together to discuss progress on the workgroups and discuss technical issues to reach consensus.</p>
2013-12-31	Research initiative	Compare end of season nitrate capture and N release in spring and summer as impacted by cover crop species, biomass, timing and method of cover termination, and test various tools for N management in cover-crop based corn systems.	Cornell/USC	<p>Cover Crop monitoring has occurred over two seasons.</p> <p>3 workshops, 21 talks, 10 extension articles, 1 journal article, 3 Abstracts for National meetings, 2 poster presentations, 2 Cornell Fact Sheets, 1 farmer impact storing and monitoring protocols were developed during this period</p> <p>The SWCDs conducted trials during this period. They will continue to examine different planting methods this season so conclusions are pending.</p>

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2013-12-31	Research initiative	Demonstrate the applicability of coupled biochemical/biophysical systems (denitrifying bioreactor (DNBR) and active drainage management) to attenuate nitrogen and phosphorus in shallow groundwater using both diffuse and inline bioreactors. The outcome of this project will be to install 6 DNBR systems for treatment and monitoring, provide quantifiable, numerically defensible nitrogen and phosphorus reduction attributable to DNBRs, inform the NRCS state denitrifying bioreactor interim standard (747), to provide outreach to producers and stakeholders, and to train conservation and watershed management personnel to site, install, and manage DNBRs.	Cornell/USC	<p>6 DNBRs are installed and functioning. Monitoring and sampling on the 6 DNBRs has been initiated.</p> <p>3 talks, 3 newsletter articles and 1 DNBR course on planning, design, and maintenance with site visit were completed during this period.</p>
Stormwater				
2013-12-31	Stormwater BMP Tracking	Develop and implement a tracking, reporting and verification mechanism for construction stormwater conservation practices installed through an improved Construction Stormwater Notice of Intent form.	NYSDEC	<p>DEC began using the updated construction stormwater Notice of Intent form in July 2013 and expects to be able to report post-construction stormwater BMP data starting with the 2014 Progress Run.</p> <p>The BMP reporting tool developed by Tetra Tech to extract BMP data from DEC's construction stormwater database and convert it to a NEIEN-compliant format was used to report erosion and sediment control data for the 2012 and 2013 Progress Runs.</p>
Nonpoint Source Pollution Sources (Non-agriculture)				

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2013-12-31	"Trees for Tribs"	Implement a basin-wide "Trees for Tributaries" program to include stream corridor restoration.	NYSDEC	<p>The DEC Division of Lands & Forests has established a Trees for Tribs program in New York's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p> <p>In 2012-2013, buffer planting projects took place on the Cohocton River, Butternut Creek, Otselic River, and other smaller streams. A total of 29 projects averaging about 250 trees/shrubs per project for a total of 7,200 trees/shrubs occurred in 2012-2013.</p>
2013-12-31	Wetland restoration	Continue wetland restoration efforts on public and private lands.	USC	<p>The USC is restoring 120 acres of wetlands-upland complexes on state-owned land. Ongoing funding runs through 2014.</p> <p>2012-2013 project examples include: A 4.43 acre wetland-upland complex in Tioga County and a 25.9 acre wetland-upland complex in Schuyler County.</p>
2013-12-31	Flood mitigation	Initiate floodplain reconnection program through streambank berm removal.	USC	<p>The USC is in the process of removing 48,000 feet of low berms. Ongoing funding runs through December 2014.</p> <p>In 2012-2013, the USC worked on 16 berm sites in the Susquehanna River watershed and removed 13,158 lineal feet of berms, equaling 276,327 cubic feet of material.</p>
2013-12-31	Stream Rehabilitation	Continue the USC Stream Initiative to use emergency intervention procedures to minimize problems after major flooding events and establish triage methods to best use limited funding.	USC	<p>A USC oversight committee was organized that included member SWCD representatives, for the purpose of developing program guidance and training materials. The committee developed a two-hour presentation describing stream mechanics to be shown to a wide</p>

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				<p>audience.</p> <p>From November 2012 through December 2013, twelve 2-hour training sessions were held. Participants included municipal officials, contractors, agency staff, and other partners.</p> <p>The USC also successfully completed three 3-day training sessions for highway superintendents that included both classroom instruction and a demonstration site. Trainings were held in Cortland, Tioga and Chemung Counties. A total of 57 individuals were trained during these sessions.</p>
Wastewater				
2013-12-31	Bay Significant Facilities	Develop and begin to issue SPDES permit modifications to include Waste Load Allocations to achieve 2017 targets.	NYSDEC	DEC proposed modifications to the SPDES discharge permits of 28 of the 30 Bay Significant wastewater treatment plants in November 2013. A public comment period ran from November 6 to December 6, 2013. DEC is currently reviewing comments received during the comment period.
2013-12-31	Bay Non-Significant Facilities	Complete permit modifications to include monitoring as appropriate.	NYSDEC	The Bay Non-Significant permit modifications will begin once the Bay Significant permit modifications are complete and this milestone will be carried forward to the 2014-2015 Milestone period.
2013-12-31	Binghamton-Johnson City	Complete enforceable schedule for repairs.	NYSDEC	The schedule for repairs to BJC was signed in January 2012 and targets 2017 for completion of construction.

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				<p>In 2013, damaged sections of the plant were demolished and DEC staff reviewed engineering plans for the reconstruction. Construction is expected to begin in late spring 2014.</p>