

Implementation of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans on New York State Grown & Certified (NYS G&C Farms) Farms

RFP Questions and Answers

RFP0279 Review Webinar – Information for Applicants (9/7/22) - [Link](#)

1. Q: If a farm business has restructured and changed its name, do they need to get recertified under NYS G&C?

A: All questions regarding NYS G&C should be directed to NYSGrownandCertified@agriculture.ny.gov.

2. Q: Can a SWCD apply for a farm to be hooked up to municipal water?

A: No, while the use of municipal water reduces the risk of food-borne illness, the Implementation of AEM Plans on NYS G&C Farms focuses on the environmental benefits of NYS G&C. It would be difficult to justify the environmental benefit of using municipal water over well water. The NYS Agricultural BMP Catalogue does not address municipal water supplies as part of any Best Management Practice, nor does the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service have a Standard or Specification for connecting a farm to a municipal water source.

3. Q: Can Districts do the work with our equipment and the SWCC rates for equipment as match for NYS G&C projects?

A: Yes, the equipment rates approved by the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee for the Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program may be used for this funding opportunity as match. The most current list includes:

| os | Rate per Hour (includes Operator) |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Excavator | \$198.00 |
| Bull Dozer | \$198.00 |
| Backhoe | \$123.00 |
| Skidsteer | \$121.00 |
| Loader | \$152.00 |
| Dump Truck | \$165.00 |
| Roller | \$125.00 |
| Trailer | \$105.00 |

*This list has been updated for current rates.

4. Q: Would installing a BMP next to a field that is used for a NYS Grown & Certified crop be considered an eligible practice?

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| A: Yes, if the BMP to be implemented addresses a concern from a field growing a NYS Grown & Certified crop, it is an eligible practice. |
| 5. Q: How do I find out what farms ship milk to a NYS Grown & Certified Processor (i.e. Great Lakes Cheese) |
| A: Districts working with farms that ship to processors should obtain a record from the processor that verifies that they are receiving a product from the applicant farm. For dairy products, the District should obtain a letter from the Cooperative that receives the milk indicating that the milk is going to the Grown & Certified processor. |
| 6. Q: Is there a list of farms that have been certified? I have completed the tier 2 requirement for several farms in our county but I'm not sure if they actually applied and received certification status. |
| A: Yes, the Department of Agriculture & Markets now maintains an online database of all NYS Grown & Certified farms. This database can be found on the Department website . |
| 7. Q: A NYS G&C fruit farm has taken over a former dairy facility. The farm is using the old milkhouse building for an office which had an old cesspool septic system. Would eliminating the cesspool septic and updating the farm with a new septic system be an eligible practice? |
| A: No, a septic system for restroom facilities is not an agricultural conservation practice. |
| 8. Q: An apple orchard wants to apply compost along the fruit trees along the herbicide strip to reduce erosion, herbicide runoff and increase the soil moisture holding capacity. They want to purchase row mulcher spreader specific to orchards to spread the compost, which is roughly \$18,000. It seems like this grant will cost share this piece of equipment. |
| A: The lease or purchase of a row mulcher would be eligible for state assistance payments if it is directly related to the function of the BMP system to be implemented. |
| 9. Q: If we are submitting two separate applications, does one resolution for both work, or do we need two separate resolutions? |
| A: The District may grant permission to submit both applications in one resolution. This resolution must be included in each separate application. |
| 10. Q: The cost share rate is 75%. Does this mean that the whole grant has to be at a 75% cost-share, or the farms contribution needs to be 25%? |
| A: A minimum 25% match is required. This match can come from landowner or sponsor contribution. |

11. If we budget 50k entirely for the direct project implementation cost, can we then cover our own staff time entirely through AEM Tier 4?

A: No. Section 2, Item B.6c of the Program & Contract Policies for AEM Base document states, “time spent on technical AEM Tier work for the AgNPS, CRF, Source Water Buffer Program, or CAFO WSTSP project is not eligible for AEM Base Program reimbursement from the time of the contract start date until the contract expiration/end date (partial close-out is an option on multi-farm AgNPS projects)”. While this program is not specifically listed, it is also State funding and the same policies apply.