WHY AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

AEM links farmers with local conservation professionals to identify existing environmental stewardship, address natural resource concerns, and enhance farm viability. For qualifying operations, participation in AEM may also help promote farm products through the New York State Grown & Certified program.

AEM experts can help with:

- farm environmental assessment,
- environmental farm plan development,
- best management practice design and implementation,
- updates to plans and installed practices, and
- education programs for environmentally sound farming.

AEM is a voluntary program led by your local Soil and Water Conservation District with a focus on local and watershed-wide environmental concerns, farm-specific conservation practices, and individual farm business objectives.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Soil and Water Conservation Committee

Visit agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-committee

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NEW YORK STATE GROWN & CERTIFIED

AEM is a required component for participation in the New York State Grown & Certified program.

For more information, call (518) 457-7076 (option 3) or visit certified.ny.gov

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Agriculture and Markets

WHAT IS AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers make common-sense, cost-effective, and science-based decisions to meet business objectives while protecting and conserving New York State's natural resources.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each county lead the local AEM effort. Over one-third of all farms in New York State participate in AEM.

AEM is designed to work with farmers to further protect those important natural resources. By participating in AEM, farmers can document their environmental stewardship and further advance their positive contributions to their communities, our food systems, the economy, and the environment.

HOW DOES AEM WORK?

THE AEM FIVE-TIER APPROACH

AEM uses a five-tier voluntary approach to (1) gauge interest, (2) assess existing stewardship and environmental concerns, (3) develop farm-specific conservation plans, (4) implement the best management practices identified in the plan, and (5) update plans and conservation practices over time.

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District at **agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/soil-water-conservation-district-offices**

Or visit the AEM website at **agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/agricultural-environmental-management** to learn more.

TIER 1 Farmers complete a short, confidential questionnaire about current farm activities, future plans, and environmental conservation interests.

TIER 2 Farmers and local conservation professionals document existing environmental practices and assess potential resource concerns while walking the farm.

TIER 3 Local conservation professionals work with farmers to develop environmental farm plans to address concerns identified in Tier 1 and Tier 2.

TIER 4 AEM partners provide technical, educational, and/or financial assistance to help farmers implement priority practices from their Tier 3 environmental farm plans.

TIER 5 Farmers and conservation professionals update plans and evaluate practices to ensure continued environmental management and farm viability.