

# Upper Susquehanna Coalition

## Quarterly Newsletter

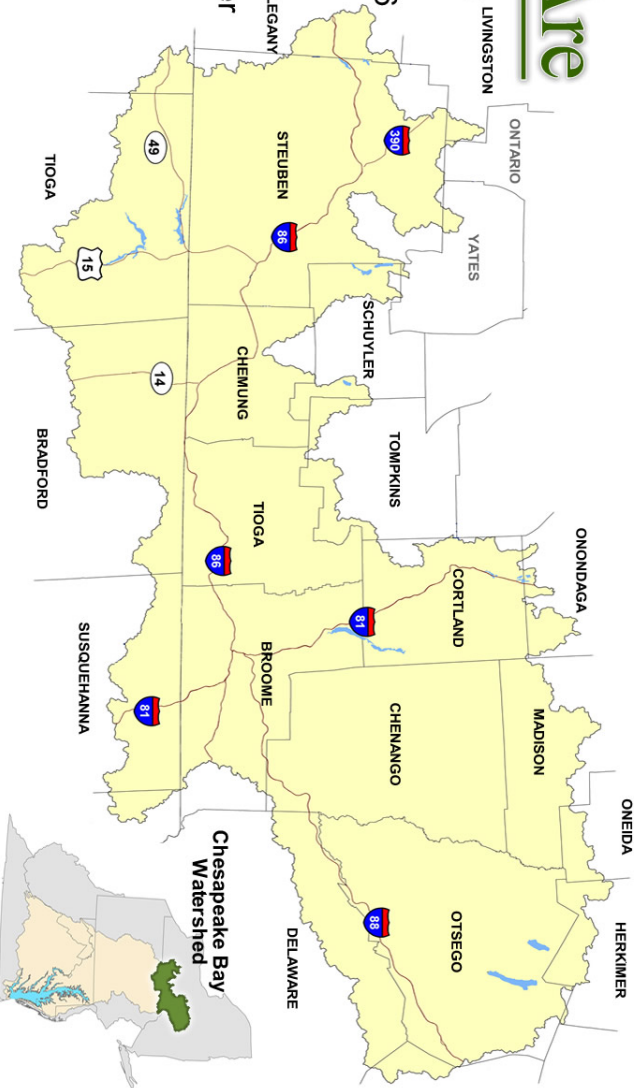
February  
2010



Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
183 Corporate Drive  
Owego, NY 13827

## Who We Are

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition is a network of 19 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (16 in NY and 3 in PA) that cover the entire headwaters of the Susquehanna River. The Coalition works under a Memorandum of Understanding based on NY and PA state law that allows multi-district into multi-district agreements.



# Tributary Strategy

*Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board*- has been awarded funds and a 2 year contract to develop a Susquehanna Chemung Action Plan: An Ecosystem Based Management Plan for the Susquehanna and Chemung Basins of New York. This grant includes funds for monitoring and data collection.

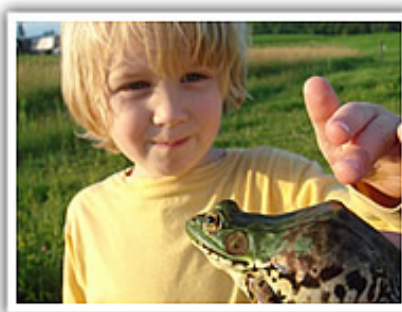
*Chesapeake Bay Program Non-point Source Implementation Plan for NY*: NY needs to be at 60% of our goal in 2017. Four (4) two year implementation plans will be required by 2017, and four (4) more by 2025.

*NRCS Chesapeake Bay Initiative*- In 2009 \$1.1 million, and in 2010, \$1.9 million in cost share funds were dedicated to focus on priority watersheds for grazing and cropland erosion projects. 2010 also included funds for animal waste systems.

*Jim Curatolo*, coordinator of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition spoke to the US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture in December 2009. Curatolo stressed the importance of local conservation districts as a link between farmers and state and federal agencies; a watershed approach where all are eligible to get implementation money, preventing disenfranchisement; funding for high quality, nutrient reducing practices in addition to innovation; and support for high quality data collection to support computer-based watershed planning.

# Wetlands

The USC has received an \$800,000 Stimulus Project. This 3 year contract partners the USC with DEC foresters offering 35,000ac available land to work on.



The USC received a grant from EPA to support planning for a Basin wide In-lieu fee and Mitigation Banking Program and to support research by SUNY ESF and **B i n g h a m t o n** University.

# Districts in the News

The '2009 Districts in the News Awards' were presented by State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker on Monday, October 19th at the New York Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Lake George.

"Media Source Award"- Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District for generating the most press as a reliable source that the news media turns to for information and quotes on an array of natural resource conservation issues.

'Districts Partnering in the Press Award' in Central New York shared by: Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga and Madison County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

"Dairy Farms in the News Awards" sponsored by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council - Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District in 2 categories:

"Best Dairy Farm Article" on their Conservation Farm of the Year Award which was published in 4 newspapers. (County Folks, Post Standard, Mid-York Weekly and Lancaster Farming)

Best Dairy Farm Photos in the News" for photos taken by Troy Bishopp and Scott Phillips including a rainbow over Endless Trails Farm in Hubbardsville published in Lancaster Farming, a rainbow over Rocky Top Acres Dairy Farm in Hubbardsville published in Country Folks, and kids and cows on Yoder's Family Farm in Morrisville published in the Mid-York Weekly.

"AEM in the News Award" - Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation District for submitting over 20 articles that feature their county AEM program, local agriculture and District AEM programs statewide.

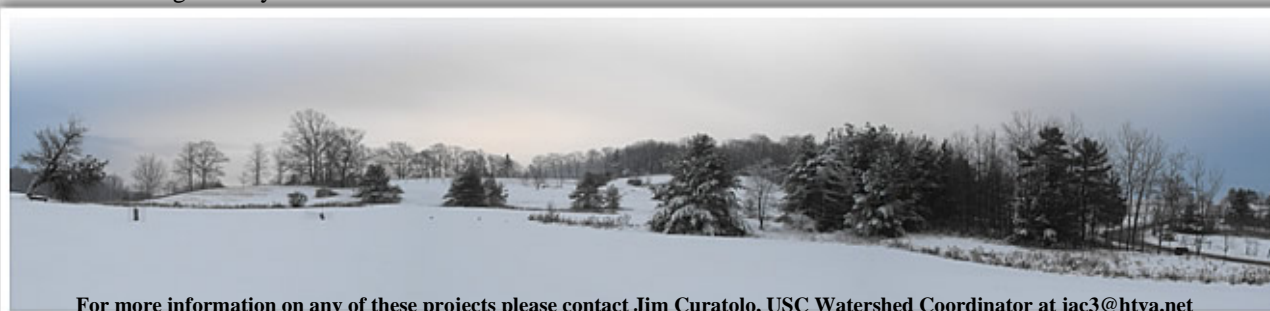
"Overall District Programs Press Award" - Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District for submitting over 30 articles representing a wide range of natural resource conservation issues. In addition to articles they generated, the District has established themselves as a reliable source of information for the press.

# Other

Marcellus Shale Exploration USC partner in Bradford County, PA will be sharing their experiences with NY constituents at a meeting in early March.



Rainbow over Rocky Top Acres Dairy Farm



For more information on any of these projects please contact Jim Curatolo, USC Watershed Coordinator at [jac3@htva.net](mailto:jac3@htva.net)