

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 New York State Grown & Certified.

AEM experts can help with:

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

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



Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee

Visit nys-soilandwater.org

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



AEM and GAP are required
components for participating
in the New York State
Grown & Certified program.

1.800.554.4501, Option 3
certified.ny.gov



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 agricultural counties lead the local AEM effort. All together, over a third of all farms in the 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
www.nys-soilandwater.org/contacts

Or visit the AEM website at
www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem
to learn more.

TIER 1 A short questionnaire summarizes current farm activities, future plans and identifies environmental conservation interests.

TIER 2 Worksheets help farmers understand and document current environmental practices while assessing potential environmental concerns.

TIER 3 Local teams of resource professionals help farmers 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 Opportunity to evaluate and update plans and/or implemented practices to ensure continued environmental conservation and farm viability.