

Innovative Manure Management About to Happen in Delaware County!

The Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) awarded to the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) to implement innovative management technologies is actively advancing through a leadership partnership of the DCSWCD, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (CCEDC) and the Watershed Agricultural Council.

This multi-year project will help farms in Delaware County and the West of Hudson NYC Watershed implement these technologies to improve water quality protection and farm productivity through a



Variable rate disc-coulter liquid manure injection tanker tool bar

custom manure handling and spreading service being built through the project in a public-private partnership. This custom manure service, in addition to providing much-needed manure spreading capacity in Delaware County, will implement disc-coulter manure injection, GPS-based precision manure application rate control and precision manure application mapping, and enhanced manure transport capacity. Due to limitations of the size of the farms in the region, their ability to invest in this

technology and manure infrastructure, the geography of our region (small fields, hilly terrain), and lack of full-service custom manure services in the area, these technologies are not currently being used here.

A series of farmer interest meetings throughout 2024, garnered the interest of 25 farmers who signed up to participate in the project, representing annual manure commitments to the project of nearly 15 million gallons of liquid manure, 7,500 tons of semi-solid manure, and over 1600 acres of coulter-disk injected liquid manure. The project team also implemented an extensive request for custom manure services proposals solicitation and selection process throughout the fall of 2024, resulting in the selection of Albanos Precision Application, a local custom services business owned by Frank and Marc Albano. The Albanos have a long partnership with local conservation programs, are familiar with our farms, and custom field operations. We are excited to partner with them.



As-applied GPS precision ag manure map

The project is made possible by a \$3 million federal United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) CIG for On-Farm Trials awarded to the DCSWCD. Through a shared services agreement between the DCSWCD and CCEDC, Paul Cerosaletti is serving as Project Coordinator. The local project team is also collaborating with Cornell University and Virginia Tech University to evaluate the project impacts.

The project is gearing up rapidly to begin manure applications in spring and summer of 2025. The future of manure management is coming to Delaware County now!



Albanos Precision Application Variable-rate semi-solid manure spreader