SAP - Deadline for Applications Extended

Due to the current pandemic, the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors has authorized an extension for funding through the School Assistance Program (SAP). The new deadline for applications will be September 4th.

The Albany County SWCD invites all Albany County Schools, grades K-12, to apply for funding for conservation projects with educational purposes and/or resource protection that engages students (i.e.: used as outdoor classroom/demonstration). Funding for these awards is provided by the Albany County SWCD and is limited. Faculty and staff members of public, private and alternative schools are eligible to apply for mini-grants of $1,000 - $5,000. School districts are eligible to receive one mini-grant per student-occupied, school premise/grounds, even if there are multiple facilities at the same location. We encourage faculty to work together on developing and fitting proposed projects into various curriculum and grade levels to avoid inter-facility competition. A separate application may be submitted if the school is looking to install a High Tunnel Growing System.

Projects may vary but must have tangible outcomes (i.e. miles of hiking trails, number of native trees and shrubs installed, etc.). Project proposals should be related to conservation and/or conservation education. Examples could include educational trail construction/renovations, educational signage/brochures, native wildflower plantings, High Tunnel Growing Systems, composting/soil health practices, rain barrels, installation of a rain garden, agriculture, construction/installation of habitat for wildlife, or possibly the purchase of an educational model or tools for research projects. Funding is issued as a reimbursement for project expenses.

For an application and more information, email ACSWCD@gmail.com or call the office.

Fall Fish Sale

Due to logistical issues related to the Covid19 pandemic, the Conservation District was unable to offer a full scale Spring Fish Stocking Program. We are pleased to announce that we have coordinated a fall fish sale, scheduled for September 26th. Species available include Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, and Fathead Minnow. Adding a diversity of fish life is a great way to improve the overall health of a homeowner’s pond. Orders are being accepted through September 14th and will be available for pickup on September 26th at the District parking lot. Prior to stocking a pond, landowners should obtain a Farm Fish Pond License from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This license is free and is good for five years. Please contact the District office for more information or a copy of the permit application.
Financial Assistance through USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete their application.

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available $16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

This program covers losses resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic for a variety of crops/commodities including: dairy, beef, hogs, sheep, non-specialty crops such as corn, oats, soybeans and specialty crops (various fruits and vegetables).

Applying for Assistance

Producers should contact the USDA Farm Service Agency office at 518-295-8600 Extension 2 or via email at dawn.latham@usda.gov for more information or to apply.

Have You Submitted Your Pollinator Initiative Information?

Did you place an order through our 2020 Spring Tree and Shrub Program? We are looking for your input on the Pollinator Initiative. To participate, please email the following information to us at: clerk.acswcd@gmail.com

- Address of where you planted your Liatris so we can make a pollinator initiative distribution map (map will show general locations; personal addresses will not be displayed)
- Photo(s) of your Liatris plants
- Photo(s) of pollinators that visit your Liatris
- Brief description of any other interesting details about the Liatris (list of pollinators that visit, any garden pests that bother the Liatris, other pollinator plants in the area, etc.)

We look forward to hearing from you!
Fall Fish Sale 2020
Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District
(518) 765-7923
ORDER DEADLINE: Monday, September 14, 2020

PICK-UP: Saturday Morning, September 26, 2020: you will receive notification of your time slot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity Ordered</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6” Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>$2.85 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8” Channel Catfish</td>
<td>$1.95 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6” Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>$2.35 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fathead Minnow (forage fish)</td>
<td>$18.00/100</td>
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A Farm Fish Pond License is needed to stock your pond.

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/25013.html or contact the NYSDEC at 607-652-7366 or call the District for an application.

NAME

ADDRESS (for pickup information)

CITY STATE ZIP CODE EMAIL

DAY PHONE # HOME PHONE #

Please note: The District is not responsible for any mortality of stock which may occur during transport. Refunds will not be given for failure to pick up your fish on the designated pick-up day/time. If you cannot pick up your fish, you must make arrangements to have them picked up. We have no way to hold your fish. Size of fish subject to change dependent on growing season.

SEND PAYMENT AND ORDER FORM TO:
Albany County SWCD
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT
There will be a $30 charge for any returned checks.

BASS:
- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 75-85 °F
- Pond depth should be 6-8 feet
- Stocking ratio: 75-100 per acre with forage fish at a rate of 750-1000 per acre

MINNOW:
- In newly built ponds it is best to stock with minnow prior to stocking fish
- Recommended stocking ratio 750-1000 per acre

CATFISH:
- Warm or cold water
- Temperature must exceed 70°F for 2-3 weeks in order to reproduce
- Will cohabitate with most other fish
- Depending on food availability will grow 5-10 pounds

RAINBOW TROUT:
- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 65-70 °F
- Pond depth should be at least 8-10 feet
- Stocking ratio: approximately 600 fish for a one acre pond
- Trout should not be stocked with bass

Pickup: Orders will be available for pick-up at the District Office parking lot on Martin Road in Voorheesville, Saturday Morning, September 26th. During the week of September 14th, you will receive confirmation of your order and your exact pick-up time. If you do not receive confirmation by September 22nd, please call the District ASAP.

Container Suggestion: Please bring a clean container with your own pond water, not tap or well water. Line each container with an unscented, heavy duty garbage bag and fill 3/4 full with water.

For increased survival, fish can be bagged and oxygenated for an additional fee of $1.00 per bag (to be collected at pick-up site)
This newsletter is published by the Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, agencies, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, call us or email us at acswcd@gmail.com with your email address and contact information or view it online at www.albanycounty.com/swcd

Programs and services offered through the Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the County of Albany, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, USDA NRCS, and District programs. All SWCD & NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Bat Boxes are back in stock at the Conservation District office. $30.00 each (tax included).

Please call to arrange purchase, as the office is open by appointment only.