2020 Tree and Shrub Sale Order Form Inside!

Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District



Manure storage project during construction this winter funded with NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Grant and USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program.



NRCS staff, FSA staff, and SWCD staff gathered for the dedication of the Robert G. Weaver memorial garden.

Forwarder transports and piles logs at Forest of the Dozen Dads log landing.



Winter Newsletter January 2020

967 County Hwy 33 Cooperstown, NY 13326

Phone: (607) 547-8337 ext. 4

website:

www.otsegosoilandwater.com



www.facebook.com/OtsegoSWCD

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To sign up for our future newsletters you may do so in 3 ways, you may send your email address to millerj@otsegosoilandwater.com, call our office at (607) 547-8337 ext. 4 or use the sign up form on our website at www.otsegosoilandwater.com/contactus

We are transitioning to summer electronic newsletters to save time, paper, and money. This will also allow us to get you info faster with more photos, links, and information. Please add us to your contact list to ensure your newsletter reaches your inbox. We hope you understand the transition! If you don't use email contact us to make special arrangements.

From the Desk of the SWCD's Manager

6th Annual Farm Tour

On Friday, October 7, 2019 braving the inclement weather Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District held its 6th annual Farm Tour. On this day, Otsego County SWCD escorted twenty participants to two county forest lands, one forest buffer and one dairy farm that have actively participated in programs/projects over the past few years.

Pictured on this page was the final location we visited on our tour. The Autumn Valley Dairy farm is a family farm owned and operated by Tom & Caroline McGrath. Autumn Valley Dairy farm is located in Worcester They are a grass fed organic farm that milk fifty head of cattle, and grow all of their own forage. Their goal is to produce top quality forages, milk, and dairy animals. Nutrients produced by the cows are recycled back on to the land as fertilizer. Balanced nutrition for the animals and hayland have been a mainstay for good environmental stewardship on the farm. Tom & Caroline are committed to continual improved practices in environmental stewardship to ensure the sustainability of Autumn Valley Dairy.

The two county forests visited this year were Forest of A Dozen Dads & Reforestation # 6. What was seen and discussed was the varied management practices that have been completed at these two sites. The picture at right shows the Kiosk that was erected at the parking lot at the Reforestation # 6. The kiosk contains a map of the property boundary and important information on invasive species. If you're interested in reading the management plans for either location they can be found on the District website www.otsegosoilandwater.com/forest-management

We were privileged to have New York State Agriculture & Markets representatives Brian Steinmuller & Scott Fickbohm on this years tour.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the county board representatives and Federal agencies that attended the tour.

I look forward to next year's tour and the ability to share all the great conservation work that is being completed in Otsego County.



AEM Award recipient's Autumn Valley Dairy farm owned and operated by Tom & Caroline McGrath.



Farm tour attendees surround the new kiosk at Reforestation Area #6

From the Desk of the SWCD's Manager Continued



Otsego County SWCD Reaches Out to Agricultural Producers

2020 will be the sixteenth year Otsego County SWCD is participating in NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM). AEM is a five 'tier' program that helps farmers simultaneously improve their operations and protect the environment.

This winter we hope to reach out to new Otsego County farmers about the benefits of AEM and, beginning in January, 2020 help high priority farms plan for the Best Management Practices (BMP's) that will address their concerns.

The AEM program is an important tool to keep nutrients and sediments from entering our county's many beautiful bodies of water and help keep our agricultural community strong. If you're a farmer in Otsego County and want information on how to participate, call our office anytime.

Robert L. Banta Conservation Center

Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District Staff

Jordan Clements - District Manager
Sherry Mosher - Secretary
Chris Andreassen - Conservation Technician
Jessica Miller - Conservation Technician
Karl Giroux - Conservation Technician
Mark Kugler - Stream Technician
Dan Zimmerman - Forest Technician

USDA Service Center Staff

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Anthony Capraro - District Conservationist Jeanine Harter - Soil Conservation Technician Andrew Grabo - Program Support Specialist

Farm Service Agency

Kate Hemstreet - County Executive Director
Lisa Pedersen - Program Technician
Kristin Rumovicz - Program Technician

Project Clean Stream

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, and for decades it has been struggling with issues primarily caused by pollution. Central New York represents the northernmost portion of the 64,000 square mile watershed, and our efforts way up here can help to reduce the impacts way down there.

Through the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's "Project Clean Stream," Otsego County SWCD staff and volunteers from SUNY Cobleskill and Trout Unlimited participated in this year's "All Hands on Deck Day." This was the only registered event in New York State, and we are very proud to have removed approximately 200 pounds of garbage from Schenevus Creek!

Since the program's inception, volunteers from New York to Virginia have helped to remove over 7 million pounds of garbage from streams throughout the watershed! If you know a stream that could use some help, please contact SWCD Stream Technician Mark Kugler at Kuglerm@otsegosoilandwater.com or call (607) 547-8337 ext. 4.



Leaf Color

I recently had an interesting discussion with a young us and is what we tend to see when the plant is woman that had several questions. She made the comment that the leaves on many of the trees that she has viewed were not as colorful this year as in the past. She was aware that certain trees change color in the fall and stated just what a nice contrast it was from seeing green all summer. In addition, she was confused as to just how the change takes place stating the colors just seem to appear out of nowhere!

These comments, and many more, I have heard many times over the years, and I guess I have gotten good at answering them. Mother Nature does some wonderful things to be sure; leaf color change in my opinion is one of them! Working in the woods as a Forester, the fall grandeur of leaf color change is a direct benefit of the profession, one that's hard to beat!

recognize the grouping of trees that undertake the process. Just which trees undertake the process? The answer is deciduous. Deciduous, what is that? Well, like most things, we have to define the word so as to impart a good understanding of the word's meaning. Deciduous is a botanical term meaning tending to or dropping/falling off at maturity; usually in autumn. Another definition would be a plant that sheds or drops its leaves at the termination of the growing season.

Just what is the process? What causes leaf color change and eventually drop? During the growing season, leaves contain chlorophyll and as time moves on, gradually lose amounts of this important chemical. Chlorophyll is an essential ingredient in the process called photosynthesis. As fall approaches, the amount of sunlight also diminishes and the trees react by slowly shutting down the food making activity - photosynthesis. Sensitivity to sunlight is called photoperiodism and is an important factor for most plants.

It has been noted that when a plant (tree) is essentially green, its leaves contain chlorophyll which absorbs most of sunlight's various colors except for green. The color green is reflected back to

growing. As fall or autumn approaches, diminishing sunlight is sensed by the tree (photoperiodism) and chlorophyll breaks down allowing other leaf color pigments to become increasingly visible! Hence leaf color change! Pigments that are common are: carotenes for reds and oranges, and xanthophylls for yellow.

Weather can impact leaf color brilliance! Summer to early autumn sunny and warm days and cool nights seem to encourage better color through production of more sugar than usual within the leaf. Excess moisture tends to be a negative factor together with other negatives such as drought conditions and early frost/freezing that affect vibrancy.

Leaf drop is also a byproduct of photoperiodism, as daylight slowly dwindles as autumn approaches, the tree begins to cut off or eliminate circulation of To begin understanding leaf color change, one has to sugar and water to the leaf. Each leaf is connected to the branch through a layer of highly specialized cells named the abscission layer. It is this layer that parts company with the leaf, essentially drying out and causing leaf drop.

> So, yes leaves can exhibit different color vibrancy from year to year! You might confuse memory in comparison from year to year but leaf brilliancy does occur. Leaf natural color or pigmentation is present within the leaf when it emerges in spring but it is in fall that we are able to actually see it. Fall is an amazing time of year and our deciduous trees make it a colorful one!

Dan Zimmerman, Forest Technician Zimmermand@otsegosoilandwater.com



red maple, Acer rubrum

2020 Tree and Shrub Sale Announced

Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District announces our 2020 Spring Tree Sale! We have a few changes this year. We are trying out some new species of berry plants to bring some more diversity to our sale. We will no longer be offering wildflower seed mix for concern that some of the flower species are not native to New York State. We will however be actively trying to find an adequate replacement that meets our standards. We have also decided to move the pickup date back one week. The new pick-up date will be April 24 and 25th, hoping to provide trees while they are deeper in dormancy. Trees survive the best if they are planted or transplanted when they are dormant, doing so should result in greater survival rate. Lastly, this year we have decided to offer swamp white oak (*Quercus* bicolor) in addition to white oak (Quercus alba). We understand that not everyone's site is conducive to growing white oak and would like to offer an alternative to potential customers with more hydric sites that would still like to enjoy the benefits of having oak trees on their property. Next year we will continue to offer swamp white oak, depending on sales.

If you are interested in ordering from us you can do so in three ways. You may fill out the order form provided inside this this newsletter, and mail it back to us with a check, by April 1, 2020. You can also shop our online tree sale on our website using PayPal to checkout. Or simply stop in the office and we can provide you a form to fill out. Extra forms can be downloaded on our website as well. Visit www.otsegosoilandwater.com/tree-sale for more details. All orders must be picked up on Friday, April 24th, 2020 between the hours of 8 A.M. - 5 P.M., or on Saturday, April 25th between the hours of 8 A.M. - Noon.

Our office is located at 967 County Highway 33 Cooperstown, NY. If you have questions about what species suit your site the best, please contact our Forest Technician by calling Dan Zimmerman directly at (607) 437-3795 or our office at (607) 547-8337 Ext. 4.





Other Services Available

Post Pounder Rental

Soil Group Worksheets for Agricultural Assessments

Soil Percolation Testing for New Septic

Soil Sampling

GIS Mapping

Compost (40 lb. Bags)

Barley Straw

Bluebird Boxes

Wood Duck Boxes

Owl Boxes

Bat Boxes

Fertilizer Tablets

Order	44			
Oluci	11			

967 County Highway 33 Cooperstown, NY 13326 Phone# (607) 547-8337 Ext.4

www.otsegosoilandwater.com

2020 Annual Tree Sale Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District

Seedling (Bare Root) → *Smaller, more economical plantings.* (Bundles of 25)

	Spec	cies	Size('')	25@	Qty.	50@	Qty.	100@	Qty.	Total
	Black V	Valnut	12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
∞	***Swamp		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
Deciduous	White Oak		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
Ž	Red Maple		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
.;.	Red Oak		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
ě	Sugar Maple		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
	River Birch		12-18"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
	American Redbud		24-30"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
	Common Lilac		6-12"	\$30.00		\$46.00		\$75.00		
	Balsam Fir		4-8"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
	White Cedar		10-14"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
5	Dougla	as Fir	5-10"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
Ē	Norway	Norway Spruce		\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
Ē		White Spruce		\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
Coniferous	Colorado Blue Spruce		8-15"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
\circ	Eastern White Pine		10-14"	\$27.00		\$44.00		\$74.00		
	Speci	OC.	Circ(22)	100	01			1000	_	
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			Size('') 6-12"	10@ \$27.00	Qty.	50@ \$125.00	Qty.	100@ \$250.00	Qty.	Total
	Douglas Norway S	s Fir	6-12" 6-12"	\$27.00 \$27.00	Qty.	\$125.00 \$125.00	Qty.	\$250.00 \$250.00	Qty.	Total
	Douglas	s Fir Spruce	6-12"	\$27.00	Qty.	\$125.00	Qty.	\$250.00	Qty.	Total
S	Douglas Norway S	s Fir Spruce	6-12" 6-12"	\$27.00 \$27.00	Size	\$125.00 \$125.00	Qty.	\$250.00 \$250.00	Qty.	Total Total
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it trees	Douglas Norway S Colorado Blu Fruit Apple	s Fir Spruce ue Spruce	6-12" 6-12" 6-12" Species Cortland	\$27.00 \$27.00	Size (') 2-3' 2-3' 2-3'	\$125.00 \$125.00 \$125.00 2@ \$30.00 \$30.00 \$30.00		\$250.00 \$250.00 \$250.00 6@ \$90.00 \$90.00		
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Customer~#

Additional S	Supplies		
Item	Price	Qty.	Total
Bluebird Box	\$15.00		
Wood Duck Box	\$30.00		
Owl Box	\$30.00		
Bat Box	\$20.00		
(10) Tree Mats with Staples	\$25.00		
(25) Tree Marker Flags	\$6.00		
Fertilizer Tablet Packs (25 Tablets Per Pack)	\$6.00		
Case of 1000 Fertilizer Tablets	\$85.00		
48" Tree Tube with Stake Included	\$6.00		
40lb. Bag Compost	\$5.00		
		Page 1 Sub-	
		Total	
		Page 2 Sub-	
		Total	
		TOTAL	
Name:			
~•			
Signature: (Please don't sign until order is received)			
(Please don't sign until order is received)			
Address:			
Dhone #			
Phone #:			

All orders must be <u>PREPAID</u> and <u>RECEIVED</u> no later than **April 1, 2020**. Make check or money order payable to Otsego County SWCD. 967 County Highway 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326, Phone# (607) 547-8337 Ext.4

Order online @ www.otsegosoilandwater.com

All orders must be picked up on Friday, April 24, 2020 (8am-5pm) or Saturday, April 25, 2020 (8am-12 noon) While Otsego County Soil and Water makes every attempt to fill orders as specified, actual supply is governed by nursery stock and ultimately weather. While rare, in the event that size or quantity is not available, SWCD may substitute an order with a comparable species and size. During pick-up, orders will be reviewed with a SWCD employee and the customer will sign this form indicating acceptance of order as filled. ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS IF ORDER HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY FILLED.

*** These species are a new trial run for 2020. Supplies will be limited, sold on a first come first serve basis

Official use only:	
Customer #	

2020 Leatherstocking Envirothon Searches for Donations and Volunteers

Every spring Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District hosts the Leatherstocking Envirothon competition for Otsego County students grades 9-12. The Leatherstocking Envirothon is an environmental competition where high school students are tested in soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues, in hopes of advancing on to the state level and winning a scholarship. The purpose of the Leatherstocking Envirothon is to reach out and excite the youth about possible career opportunities, and environmental pathways that can be explored. Leatherstocking Envirothon has grown each year over the last decade, and local donations, and volunteers have always been a key to its success. We offer some some exciting new levels of sponsorship that can help you advertise your business. All sponsors will receive advertising on the back of t-shirts that over 125+ students and volunteers will receive. For our more gracious sponsors we offer logo advertising on our website, back of t-shirt, and you'll even receive an official event t-shirt and sweatshirt. To learn more about the levels of sponsorship, please download a donation form from our website at www.otsegosoilandwater.com/leatherstockingenvirothon.

We are also actively seeking volunteers for the event! We have some fun job duties and lunch is provided. If anyone is interested in donating, volunteering, or becoming involved please contact Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District at (607) 547-8337 ext. 4 or email Jessica at millerj@otsegosoilandwater.com and we will provide you with more details.



Cooperstown High School—Team A Winners of the 2019 Leatherstocking Envirothon



Wildlife Station



2019 Leatherstocking Envirothon Group Photo at Gilbert Lake State Park.

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

As Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District has expanded its staff in recent years, it has opened up additional opportunities for agricultural producers, landowners and residents of Otsego county. One of the expanded services that we recently began providing is Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans or CNMP's for short, are created during a process that involves extensive one-on-one work with producers in developing site-specific plans that are tailor-made to each individual operation. These plans provide a quantitative scientificbased analysis of the most effective and environmentally safe way to account for and allocate nutrients, while addressing resource concerns identified during the inventory phase of planning. CNMP's provide a foundation for potential funding assistance for improvements linked to on-site resource concerns, increase economic efficiency of the farming enterprise by justifying the need (or lack thereof) to apply additional nutrients such as fertilizer or manure, and help contribute to a major conservation goal of limiting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Although these are some of the more tangible benefits of obtaining a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, the additional benefits are numerous. For more information, or if you have any questions regarding Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, please call our office at (607) 547-8337.











United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency Updates

Otsego County Farm Service Agency has many changes coming this year. After three years of shared management with two other offices our County Executive Director, Sandra Scott has accepted a position in the Montgomery County Office full time. We wish Sandy the best in her new office. We are happy to announce a new county executive director for the Otsego/ Schoharie shared management position started the week of January 6th! Kate Hemstreet comes to us from Wyoming County where she has been the CED for the past 12 years. Kate is originally from Johnstown and is looking forward to being closer to family. The office has been pretty busy with programs this past fall and even had deadlines into December this year. Winter is a great time to stop into the office and review maps, land owners and other pertinent farm records information to make sure you are maximizing your program participation benefits.

As producers finish up crops that are eligible for a Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) you should check to see what the monthly interest rate is. These loans are 9-month loans that are designed to help cash flow operations until the market is more advantageous to the producer. Otsego County producers have previously utilized these loans for Corn, Soybeans, and Honey commodities.

Farm Service Agency Contact Information

Cooperstown Field Office

967 County Highway 33

Cooperstown, NY 13326

Tel 607-547-8131

Fax 855-525-0346

www.usda.gov

Kristin Rumovicz Lisa Pedersen

Program Technician Program Technician

607-547-8131 ext. 2 607-547-8131 ext. 2

Another great program is the Farm Storage Facility Loan program (FSFL). With competitive interest rates and a streamlined process additional farm storage is accessible for all size operations. In addition to storage, this program can help purchase handling equipment such as ag-baggers and accumulators.

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss coverage (ARC/PLC) is a program that was revamped in the newest farm bill. It continues to pay on base acres that were established originally in the 1980's. We cannot add base acres to farms but if you have base acres and have planted the crop there are base acres in you can update yields this year. We will also be electing what program you want to enroll in. ARC-CO, PLC and even ARC-IC (Individual Coverage) could be beneficial to our producers depending on their own operations. There is a deadline of March 15th. If you do not elect coverage before March 15th you will forfeit at 2019 payments and your ability to choose an election until 2021.

A great resource for all FSA programs is the www.farmers.gov website. This website has the most up to date information about farm loans and new programs and we highly recommend checking it out. We always recommend calling for an appointment to make sure the program technician you need to speak with is in, especially with farm bill programs continuing to roll out. The Otsego County Farm Service Agency would like to wish you a prosperous New Year!



Otsego County SWCD and USDA Service Center prohibits any discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and martial or family status.

What in the world is happing in your woods? Wouldn't you like to know?

Submitted by: Anthony J. Capraro, District Conservationist USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Over the past few years NRCS has been working in cooperation with the US Forest Service as well as the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on addressing resource concerns found on Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands through the Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP). For me, this was a change, as during my tenure with the NRCS I've mostly spent my time planning and working with agriculture lands and projects. As I learned about the new forestry program, I understood more and more about the resource concerns that might exist within a forested woodlot. Some of the resource concerns are exactly the same as they are on agricultural lands, i.e. erosion, pest pressure, and invasive species others were new to me such as stand structure and composition.

A managed woodlot is a wonderful thing, but when left alone the forest could harm itself. So you ask, "How do I know if my forest is healthy or not, and if it's not healthy how can I fix it?". The answer is simple, A PLAN. A Forest Management Plan to be exact; this plan can be a road map to a healthy forest. The forest management plan will identify resource concerns in your forest and then it will offer ways to address those resource concerns through specific conservation best management practices (BMP). The forest management plan will also break up your forest into Forest Stands, these stands are like agricultural fields, identifiable areas in your forest that can be related back and forth from the plan to the maps so the specific BMPs can be addressed in the correct location.

The NRCS has been offering, through EQIP, a way to voluntarily apply to possibly receive funding to have a Forest Management Plan written. If you have forest land and are interested in applying, please call the USDA, NRCS Cooperstown Field Office at 607-547-8337 for more information.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Cooperstown Field Office

Walton Field Office

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The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

Submitted by: Jeanine Harter, Soil Conservation Technician USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for administering Farm Bill programs. This Farm Bill legislation is passed every 4-5 years and dictates national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy. The 2018 Farm Bill, Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, continues its strong support for conservation efforts of America's farmers and ranchers through its reauthorization and expands flexibility of NRCS conservation programs. NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land.

I have seen a multitude of changes to how NRCS does business over the many years of my employment. The biggest changes occur with the assessment and planning tools that are utilized to determine if there is a resource concern on an agricultural operation. These changes are usually associated with new technology such as computer programs and tools to complete the job. Let us not forget the use of "smart phones" and the many apps that are available to assist in every aspect of our lives.

However, we always come back to the basics and use the most important tools we have; our eyesight and legs. With these tools, we can answer the same basic questions to determine if there is a resource concern that needs addressing. When developing a total conservation plan you will need to consider all the resources on your farm. Take an inventory and think about every field, pasture, pond, stream, and woodland area. Here is a list of quick questions that we can all ask with a walk on the land base to determine if there is a potential for environmental issues on the farm operation:

- 1. Do I see sediment at the base of the slope on cropland fields?
- 2. Do I see a concentration of water that is causing a gully in the crop fields?
- 3. On the hay and pasture fields do I see sparse areas with no vegetation and bare soil evident?
- 4. During and after spreading manure, do I see brown water flowing off the field and into an adjacent water source? Am I making the best use of animal manure as nutrients for the plants?
- 5. Does the milking center waste and/or silage leachate flow into a clean water source?
- 6. Have I created enough buffers adjacent to water courses to prevent nutrient inputs into these waters?
- 7. Do I see pest and/or disease on the crops and if yes, can it be controlled with crop rotations?
- 8. Do I have the wildlife habitat on the land base that I would like?
- 9. Does the forestland have adequate species composition and structure I desire?
- 10. Are there ways I could make this operation become more energy efficient?

The answers to these questions will determine the Best Management Practices (BMP's) to plan and implement to improve water quality, reduce erosion, improve habitat and forest stands, and become more energy efficient. If you have answered yes and would like more information on the BMP's and Farm Bill programs, please call the USDA, NRCS Cooperstown Field Office at 607-547-8337 for more information.



Otsego County Board of Representatives Show Support

Many thanks go out to the Otsego County Board of Representatives for their support of the SWCD in 2019. Although the SWCD is not technically a 'County' agency, the District and the County boundaries are identical and we rely heavily on County funds to help bring our services to the County's farmers, municipalities and residents. This year the County Representatives showed their appreciation for the value of Otsego County's beautiful landscape and their support in helping to protect it.

Successful environmental stewardship at the local level will always be a product of successful partnerships and we thank Otsego County for working with us to protect Otsego County's natural resources.

Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District 976 County Highway 33 Cooperstown, NY 13326

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Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office is Closed on All Federal Holidays

Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Members

Leslie Rathbun, Chair - Grange

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