



Who We Are:

- Established as an Agency of the State in 1940, the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee (State Committee) is led by five Voting Members appointed by the Governor who serve five-year terms:
 - Chair Dale Stein of Genesee County is the representative At-Large for Farm Interests.
 - David Brass of Jefferson County represents the New York State Grange.
 - Darin Hickling of Otsego County represents the New York Farm Bureau.
 - Ron Montesi of Warren County represents the New York Association of Conservation District.
 - Erica Goodman of NYC is the representative At-Large for Urban, Suburban, and Rural Non-Farm Interests.
- Representatives of nine organizations serve as Advisory Members:
 - NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Environmental Conservation, Health, and State
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell University
 - State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry
 - New York State Conservation District Employees' Association
- The State Committee is housed within the Department of Agriculture & Markets. While the State Committee functions under its own statutory charge, staff members are employees of the Department consolidating efforts that fulfill joint missions.

What We Do:

- Establish policy to guide New York's 58 County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and provide financial, technical and educational support to assist them in developing and implementing programs.
- Play a critical role advancing nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts and ecosystem management services. Formalize consistency of environmental programs through cooperative agreements with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations.
- Lead the State's agricultural pollution control programs including the administration of Environmental Protection Funds for the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement & Control Grant Program, which has funded more than \$165 million in water quality protection projects on farms since its inception in 1994.
- Plan, coordinate, and set policy for New York's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) framework involving over one-third of New York's 36,000 farms across all agricultural counties statewide.
- Assist the State Department of Environmental Conservation with implementation of regulations for New York's larger livestock farms and Phase II Stormwater Permits.
- Serve as an information and idea exchange between member agencies and groups, and advise all agencies of government on matters relating to soil and water conservation.

