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**David A. Paterson**  
Governor

**Dennis Hill**  
Chairman

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### Who We Are:

- Established as an agency of the State in 1940, the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee is led by five voting members appointed by the Governor who serve five-year terms:
  - Dennis Hill of Delaware County, Committee Chair, represents the New York State Grange
  - George Proios of Suffolk County represents Urban, Suburban, and Rural Non-farm Interests
  - Robert Aman of Tioga County represents the New York Association of Conservation Districts
  - John Dickinson of Washington County represents the New York Farm Bureau
  - Dale Stein of Genesee County is the Representative-at-Large for Farm Interests
- Representatives of nine organizations serve as advisory members:
  - NYS Departments of Agriculture & 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 Soil & Water Conservation Committee operates as an agency of the State located within the Department of Agriculture & Markets. While the Committee functions under its own statutory charge, the full-time staff members are employees of the Department's Division of Soil & Water Conservation.

### What We Do:

- Establish policy to guide the programs of New York's 58 County Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
- Assist Soil & Water Conservation Districts in organizing, developing, and implementing programs.
- Plan, coordinate and set policy for New York's *Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)* program.
- Function as lead agency in the State for agricultural pollution control programs including the administration of the *Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement & Control Grant Program*, which has funded more than \$73 million in water quality planning and implementation projects on farms since its inception in 1994.
- Serve as an information and idea exchange between member agencies and groups.
- Advise all agencies of government on matters relating to soil and water conservation.

#### **NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee**

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