

What horse owners are saying about AEM:



"The AEM worksheet let us realize where we have excelled in the operation of our Paint Horse breeding farm and focused us on a potential problem we had not considered."

Aerial D. Olivet
Tempira Hill Farm
Germantown, NY



"AEM helped us document the things we were doing right and enabled us to improve the way we manage farm resources."

Lendon Gray
Veteran of the 1980/1988
US Olympic Dressage Team
and highly respected trainer
of horses and riders.
Bedford, NY

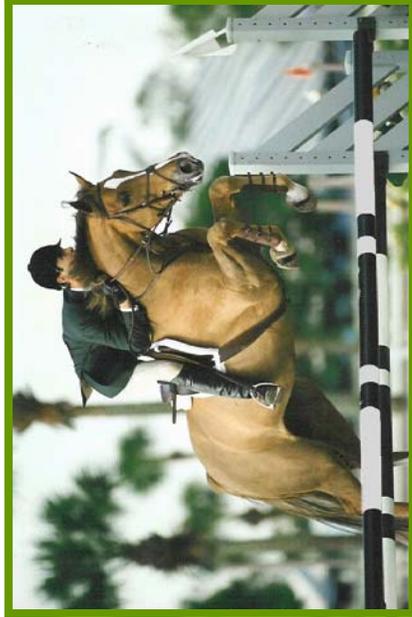


"Since I travel from farm to farm, I have noticed that those participating in the AEM program have a heightened awareness of how their actions may impact the environment."

Gregg Miron,
Redefining Horsemanship®
Trainer/Clinician
New Paltz, NY

AEM Objectives:

- Increase horse owners' awareness of the potential to impact the environment.
- Provide a voluntary, incentive-based program to address water quality concerns on horse-farms.
- Adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with an individual's resources.
- Document environmental stewardship.
- Address neighbor relations.



"It was important to me to be certain that we were managing our farm in a way that would not adversely affect the environment."

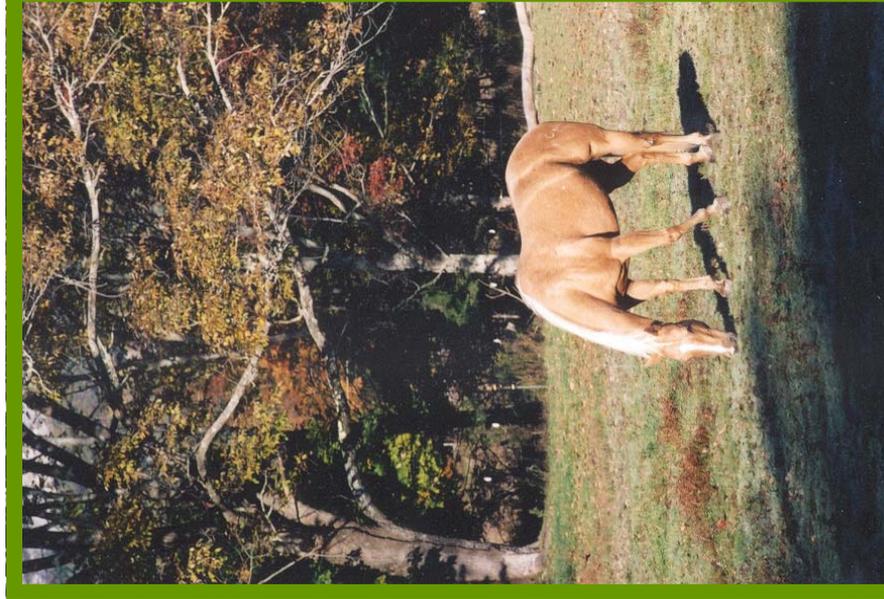
Andre Dignelli
Champion rider and leading trainer specializing in equitation, hunters, and jumpers.
Katonah, NY

AEM Contacts:



Support and funding pro-

Horsing Around with Agricultural Environmental Management....



...makes good naaaaaay...bors!

What is AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a voluntary, incentive based program that helps farmers (including horse owners) operate environmentally sound and economically viable business (including backyard or hobby farms).

The AEM program coordinates agricultural and environmental conservation agencies and programs. All agricultural counties in New York State are conducting AEM programs, and participation has grown to include nearly 8,000 farms.



Why AEM?

Horse owners utilize AEM to address water quality concerns originating from their activities by:

- Identifying and assessing environmental concerns associated with their horse keeping operation
- Documenting current good horse keeping practices
- Developing management plans with an environmental component
- Implementing environmentally sound practices to address environmental concerns
- Protecting local water supplies

AEM Benefits Horses, their Owners, and the Environment

AEM helps to:

- Manage disposal or nutrient use of stall bedding
- Manage paddock runoff and wash stall wastewater
- Manage pastures and conserve soil
- Protect drinking water supplies
- Improve neighbor relations
- Promote the economic and environmental benefits of horse farms and backyard horses to the community

How Does AEM Work?

Using AEM's 5-tiered approach, horse owners work with local AEM resource professionals to develop and implement comprehensive, site-specific farm plans:

- Tier 1:** A short questionnaire identifies current farm activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.
- Tier 2:** AEM worksheets document current environmental stewardship while identifying and prioritizing environmental concerns.
- Tier 3:** A plan is developed providing solutions to environmental concerns identified in Tiers 1 and 2. Plans are designed with the horse owner or farms mission, goals, and objectives in mind.
- Tier 4:** Agricultural agencies and consultants provide farms with technical, educational, and financial assistance to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Tier 5:** Ongoing evaluations ensure that AEM helps protect both the environment and the viability of the farm business.

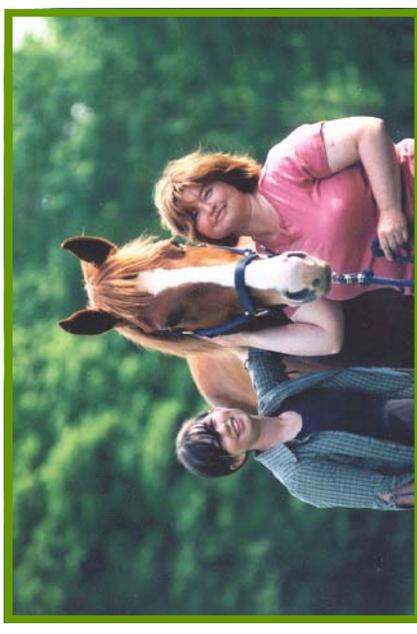
What Assistance Does AEM Provide?

AEM can link horse owners with programs to address environmental issues with their farm.

Financial Assistance:

Sources of cost-share funds for environmental farm plans and BMP implementation include:

- NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program
- NYS Farmland Viability Grants
- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority Grants (NYSERDA)
- USDA Farm Bill Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



"Through the AEM Tier II Assessment process, we realized that even just our five backyard horses can have an impact over time."

Sarah and Shannon Bower
Stanfordville, NY