

CONSERVATION UPDATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Sponsors</i>	2
<i>Envirothon</i>	3
<i>Conservation Supplies</i>	3
<i>Aquatic Hitchhikers</i>	4
<i>Trees</i>	5
<i>USDA Wetland Compliance</i>	4
<i>Giant Hogweed</i>	4
<i>Conservation Field Days</i>	4
<i>Energy Audits</i>	5
<i>Fair</i>	5
<i>Filter Strips</i>	5
<i>Emerald Ash Borer</i>	6
<i>AEM</i>	7
<i>Energy Audits</i>	8
<i>UnBottle Orleans</i>	9
<i>Pollinators</i>	10
<i>Tire Registration</i>	10

Upcoming Events:

- July 21: Fish Pick Up
- July 25 - July 30: Orleans County 4-H Fair
- August 9: Board of Directors Meeting 12:00 pm
- Empire Farm Days: August 9, 10, & 11
- NYS Fair: August 25- September 5
- September 12 Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting 10:00 am
- September 10: Shoreline Cleanup
September 17: Rain Date
- September 13 Board of Directors Meeting 12:00 pm
- September 24: Tire Cleanup

TIRE CLEAN UP

The District is planning their eleventh annual tire clean up day for September 24, 2016 at the Orleans County Emergency Management Office located at 14064 County House Road from 9 am until Noon. This is a great opportunity to get rid of those old used tires. Since the District began this program we have collected over 5,800 tires from local residents to be recycled.

We request that everyone planning to bring tires to the cleanup to pre-register so that we have an idea of how many tires we will be dealing with. The registration form is included in this newsletter. The cost is minimal, so don't hesitate, register today! Due to the extra costs and transportation of the tires, we will not be accepting any tractor tires. All passenger vehicle and truck tires are welcome.



SHORELINE CLEANUP

Each year the Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee Facilitates a cleanup event along the shores of several streams and water bodies within the county. This event is sponsored by the American Littoral Society and coincides with the Annual New York State Beach Cleanup. For 2016, we plan to hold this event on Saturday, September 10th with a rain date of September 17th. This event provides an excellent opportunity for students, scouts, 4-H'ers and adults to fulfill

community service requirements, interact with county agencies, and make a significant contribution to our community and environment.

This year we plan to meet on Sept. 10th at Bullard Park on East Avenue in Albion at 9:00 AM. After a brief introduction, we will disperse to several predetermined locations throughout the county to begin the collection. A team captain and at least one other responsible adult



is required to supervise each cleanup crew. We will hold a friendly competition between crews to determine who can collect the greatest amount of trash, by weight. Upon completion, we will reconvene at Bullard Park for lunch. Participants



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NIAGARA/ORLEANS REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

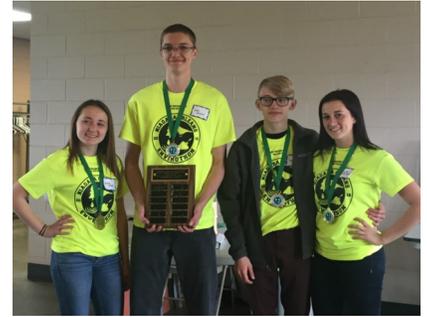
The Envirothon is a series of hands-on contests in which teams of four to five students compete to solve environmental problems in five subject areas including aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current issue. Each team is also required to give an oral presentation based on the current issue, which this year was "Invasive Species".

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Niagara and Orleans Counties jointly coordinate the Regional Envirothon to incorporate environmental studies into the school curriculum and expose students to career options in conservation. Beyond motivating students to learn more about the environment, the Envirothon emphasizes development of practical skills such as research, teamwork and public speaking. Held throughout the U.S. and Canada, the program

reaches more than 500,000 students every year.

Representing Orleans County at the Regional Envirothon were Lyndonville High School with one team and Kendall High School with two teams. Students from Lyndonville High School won the chance to join hundreds of high school students this May at Hobart & William Smith Colleges to participate in the 2016 New York State Envirothon. Team members Grace Hayes, Ken Kalson, Devon Allen, and Emalee Houseman won the Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon competition held at Bond Lake Nature Complex on May 5.

Local supporters that contributed to this year's event included GM Foundation, NY Forest Owners Association, M & T Bank, The Printing Place, Orleans Poverty Hill Farms, and



Orleans County Winners from Lyndonville High School
L to R: Grace Hayes, Ken Kalson, Devon Allen, and Emalee Houseman

Newroyal Orchards.

To learn more about the Envirothon visit www.nysenvirothon.net or call 585-589-5959.

TREES

The District held its annual tree and shrub sale April 22nd and 23rd at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds. A special thank you goes to the Sportsmen's Federation for the use of their Log Cabin for this program.

The program provided over 4,500



seedlings and transplants to area residents. We would like to thank all of our customers for continuing to support this program.

If you would like to have a certain species of tree offered in our program next year, please give Judy a call and she will try to have it available.

CONSERVATION SUPPLIES (Tax Included)		PRICE	Qty	COST
Fertilizer Tablets	each/100	\$ 0.11/\$10		
Root Dip	1 oz.	\$ 1.50		
Tree Shelters	2 foot (includes 2' Oak Stake)	\$ 5.00		
	4 foot (includes 4' Oak Stake)	\$ 9.00		
Tree Mats	used for weed control (includes 5 sod staples)	\$ 2.50		
Marking Flags	per flag/per bundle of 100	\$ 0.11/\$10		
Bluebird Box		\$12.50		
Bat Box		\$12.50		
Kestrel Box		\$20.00		
Wood Duck Box		\$30.00		
Winter Nesting Box		\$25.00		
Rain Gauge		\$5.50		

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE, Don't Lose your Benefits!

If you intend to install drainage tile, dig a ditch or clear trees (even orchards) from a field, you need to see if there has been a wetland determination done by NRCS since 1985. If not, then they need to process an AD-1026 form to request to have a determination done by NRCS.

This may be a "desk audit" done by looking at maps, but it may require a field visit with the biologist to survey the plant species present in a possible wetland area. This, obviously, can only be done in the growing season.

If you are ever determined to be "out-of-compliance" with the rules

for Wetlands or Highly Erodible Land, your crop insurance subsidy will disappear. Currently, most crop insurance premiums are subsidized at 62% of the cost. You could also lose all other USDA program benefits. These are not something you want to lose.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

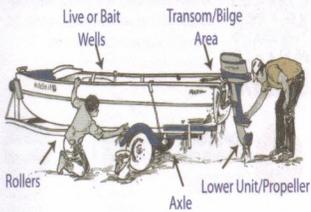
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can degrade a body of water, impair boating and fishing, threaten native plants and animals, and destroy habitat. Once aquatic invasive species are established, eradication is almost impossible.

When you leave a waterway:

- Check for and remove any visible plants or debris
- Clean and drain your boat and equipment
- Dry everything that came into contact with water

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



C-200 (1/13)

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH!

Giant Hogweed season is with us and we have plenty of it scattered around our county. The sap, when combined with sunlight and moisture, can cause painful burns, permanent scarring and even blindness. If you find a patch, the DEC would like it to be reported to them. They have a special hotline at 845-256-3111 that can be used to report the location and offer information on control tips. The best way to report, however, is to



send an email to: ghogweed@dec.ny.gov and include pictures, location and information on the number of plants found.

More information on the plant can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html> This website has basic information and links to other sites that will help in identifying the plant, as well as pictures of other plants sometimes confused with the hogweed.

If you think you have an infestation, please call our office at 585-589-5959 ext. 5 to let us know so we can monitor what is happening in the county.

CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

On May 17 and 18, sixth grade students from school districts in Orleans County participated in the 48th annual Conservation Field Days.

Conservation Field Days is a program sponsored by Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn about different local environmental/conservation issues and careers.

Students heard from professionals and volunteers

on topics such as Habitat Walk, Composting, Use of hunting and trapping in wildlife management, How are we Polluting our Water Resources, Green Power and You, Rabies, Mammal ID, Tree Factory, and more.

Conservation Field Days is a multidisciplinary program, incorporating not only biological and scientific principles, but also logical thinking and crea-



Orleans County SWCD
demonstrating Surface Water Runoff

tive arts as participating students design pictorial representations of environmental principles.

NYSERDA OFFERS NO-COST ENERGY AUDITS

NYSERDA launched the Agriculture Energy Audit Program in March 2016. The Program offers farms and on-farm producers no-cost energy audits that provide recommendations for energy efficiency measures. The Program also offers assistance identifying and accessing funding to implement the measures identified in the audits. Three levels of audits are offered:

Level 1: This walk-through energy audit provides a summary letter with limited evaluation of feasible energy efficiency measures. This level is ideal for smaller operations with minimal energy use or for quick assessments.

Level 2: This detailed energy audit analyses the farm's previous year's utility bills along with equipment

specifications and run-time information for that equipment. This information will then be used to help calculate estimated energy savings for energy efficiency upgrades on the farm. The comprehensive report will provide a list of recommended measures with associated energy and cost savings and measure pay-back. This audit meets ANSI/ASABE 612 standards. This level is the most common and the best option for most farms.

Level 3: This energy audit is focused on a specific system, energy efficiency measure, or renewable energy. This report is ideal for operations with a complex system to be analyzed beyond standard energy efficiency upgrades, or if the farm is interested in renewable energy.

Once the audit report has been completed, NYSERDA's program implementer, EnSave, will assist each farm in identifying the most appropriate measures to implement and programs to pursue for implementation funding. There are several options available, including programs through utilities and the federal government.

Funding for audits is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 800-732-1399 or email aEEP@nyserda.ny.gov to discuss program options and obtain an application.

Agriculture Energy Audit Program application is also available on-line at <https://nyserda.seamlessdocs.com/f/AgAudit>.

For more information see the fact sheet on page 8.

INSTALLATION OF FILTER STRIPS

Lake Ontario is one of the greatest bodies of water in the United States. Orleans County is made up of 4 watersheds that directly flow into Lake Ontario. Over recent years, sediment and nutrients have been causing environmental problems in our streams and lakes leading to fish kills and algae blooms. In order to decrease the amount of nutrients and sediments getting into the lake we can install a BMP (Best Management Practice) called a Filter Strip.

A filter strip is a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow. It is installed to: reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff, reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff, and to re-



Picture of No tiller, seeding in a filter strip

duce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation tailwater. Filter Strips are established where environmentally-sensitive areas need to be protected from sedi-

ment such as streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands.

Over the past year Orleans County has been working with a farmer to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients getting into a nearby stream and wetland. The stream where the filter strip was installed runs from the top of the field down to a wetland. The filter strip is 35 feet wide and runs the entire length of the stream on both sides.

The Conservation District can help design and search for funding towards the cost of construction and installation of Filter Strips. If you have this circumstance on your farm and would like to improve it, please give us a call at 585-589-5959 ext. 5.



ORLEANS COUNTY 4-H FAIR

The District will once again have an informational booth set up in the Conservation Log Cabin during the Orleans County 4-H Fair from July 25 through July 30. Make sure to stop in and see us and to enter to win some free tree seedlings. Each evening, except for the 25th, two winners will be drawn for the tree seedlings. The winners will then be able to pick up their free seedlings during the District's Annual Tree and Shrub Sale next April.

EMERALD ASH BORER IN ORLEANS COUNTY



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) population in Western New York has been growing and expanding steadily since its discovery in 2009-2010. There was a period of several years where relatively few symptoms were visible and this dangerous infestation may have appeared stagnant, but that was only at outward appearance. What was really going on was a building of population numbers and steady expansion of territory. The trees EAB has been attacking for years are now finally losing their battle for life and EAB numbers are building to levels that cannot be fought off. This shift started to become clear in Monroe County during 2015. It's no longer difficult to see the impacts of EAB. Ash tree decline and mortality (in the greater Rochester area) is most obvious in the Towns of Wheatland and Chili. Extensive damage has also been observed in Riga, Ogden, Bergen, Brighton, Henrietta, and Rush. A drive down Interstate 90 from LeRoy to Henrietta quickly reveals just how severe an impact EAB is having on our area. The following website offers a great deal of information about EAB <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

Each year in late-winter/early-spring NYSDEC forest health crews and foresters inspect the landscape for symptoms of EAB. Tree health reports from other organizations and the public assist this process. Findings from these inspections are used to assist DEC and NYS Department of Ag & Markets develop ash quarantines and regulations (see www.agriculture.ny.gov/PI/eab.html). This May the ash quarantine area was expanded substantially in Western NY.

EAB was confirmed in Orleans Coun-

ty during the spring of 2015 in the Town of Clarendon. This year inspections revealed EAB had moved into Murray and Kendall as well. More surprisingly, EAB was found on the opposite side of the County in Ridgeway and Yates. Those finds on the west-side of the

County are most likely from the expanding population in the Buffalo area. So it appears ash trees in Orleans County are now being invaded from both the eastward and westward expansion of EAB infestations. So what does this mean for Orleans County? It's hard to project an outlook, but it's not good. EAB is established in Orleans County and it is not going to go away. As with everywhere else, it's very likely that all our ash trees will die. It won't happen all at once and the rate of decline and mortality will not be consistent throughout the county, but most of our ash trees are likely going to be dead over the next 5-10 years.

Forest trees - There is very little we can do to stop EAB in our forests. There is no treatment available to treat entire forest stands. At this point in time we suggest managing stands with ash trees as though the overstory ash will be gone over the coming decade. This means if you are managing your forests for products like sawtimber and firewood you should consider harvesting the appropriately sized ash sooner rather than later. There is an excellent article from Cornell Cooperative Extension at <http://www.nyis.info/pdf/NYFOA-M-A-EABWM.pdf>. It's very important to not act in haste. Developing a comprehensive harvest plan with a consulting forester is strongly advised. Currently there is still a demand for ash sawtimber and the value is relatively high compared to historical prices. This doesn't mean that all ash trees should be cut and harvested from forests immediately. For instance, many ash

in your forest may be nearing sawtimber size. If you're still a good distance from the closest known EAB infestation it may be advisable to wait a few more years. The ash trees may grow into that larger size class and then be more valuable at harvest time. These kinds of scenarios should be discussed with a forester to help make the best informed decisions. A list of consulting foresters can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5230.html>

Residential trees - Fortunately there are more options available to homeowners to fight EAB and save their ash trees. This is also true for our urban & community forests as well, but saving ash trees comes with a relatively high monetary cost. Treatment of a single ash tree costs approximately \$10-15/diameter inch. This means treating a 15" dbh (diameter at breast height, 4.5ft) ash tree would cost about \$150-225, and treatments are required every 2-3 years to keep the tree protected. It's not cheap and may sound too high a price to save a tree, but you should estimate the cost of the tree's removal before deciding against treatments. Removal costs are highly variable based on the tree's size, condition, and proximity to the home, power lines, etc... In addition to the expense of removal you should also factor in benefits provided by the tree. Trees often reduce home cooling costs, heating costs, and influence real-estate values. If the tree is removed those benefits will be lost as well. The following website can assist you determining the benefit values of your tree <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>. Regardless of what you decide, it's very important to make a decision soon, especially if the ash tree on your property may pose a risk to you, your property, or anyone else. A tree healthy enough to be saved one season may be too far gone the following season. Also, as trees die their structure weakens making removals more dangerous and expensive. It's very important to consult with a certified arborist to discuss the viability of treating a yard tree. The tree must be in

AEM: Protecting, Managing and Improving Natural Resources



The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program is a locally led conservation planning, implementation and educational program offered by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Through AEM, your local district is able to increase farm awareness on environmental stewardship while also working to put farmers in touch with different grant funding opportunities available for farm conservation practices.

This last year we were able to help

develop 49 conservation plans designed to protect farmland and prevent possible erosion. This went up from 15 which we had in year 10. This is in line with the District's long term goal to expand our local AEM program focus into increased implementation of best management practices based on priority resource concerns as identified through prior outreach and planning.

AEM year 11 accomplishments:

Tier 1 inventories	23
Tier 2 Assessments	13
Tier 3 Conservation Plans	8
Tier 4 Implementations	10
Tier 5 Evaluations	17
Tier 5 Additional Plans	19

Anyone with interest or questions on the AEM program in Orleans County can contact the District Technician, Megan McAnn, at (585)589-5959 ext. 107 or email megan.mcann@ny.nacdnet.net.

Emerald Ash Borer (Continued)

reasonably good health in order for the treatment to work and proper application is essential. It's recommended to look for an ISA or TCIA certified arborist. A list of ISA certified arborists can be found at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>.

The forest health community is not giving up on ash trees. Despite the rather bleak outlook for our more mature ash trees, there is still a lot of hope for ash seedlings and saplings in our forests. EAB tends to attack the more mature trees first because it's

difficult to complete their lifecycle in smaller diameter saplings. This gives those young trees more time and a better chance at surviving longer. In the meantime forest health professionals and researchers are implementing biological control management. They are releasing insects proven to prey specifically on EAB. Several species of parasitoid wasps are being reared and released for this purpose. These releases have been conducted throughout NYS including numerous releases in Monroe County. A couple species of these wasps are showing success in the environment. The hope is these species will multiply and over time, have enough impact to

protect the ash seedlings and saplings that will eventually grow into the overstory. You can learn more about EAB biological control at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/EAB-FieldRelease-Guidelines.pdf

If you have any questions regarding forest health and management, consulting with a DEC forester is strongly encouraged. Gary Koplun is the DEC service forester for Orleans, Genesee, Monroe, and Wayne Counties. (585)226-5314

SHORELINE CLEANUP (CONTINUED)

will also receive a certificate from the American Littoral Society in recognition of their service.

This is the sixteenth year we will be participating in this event. Almost 21 thousand pounds of trash have been collected over the past fifteen years from shorelines and beaches in Orleans County. If you wish to join the Water Quality Committee for the Shoreline Cleanup or have any ques-

tions concerning the event, please call Dennis Kirby at the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District Office at (585) 589-5959 ext. 5.

Thank you for your efforts to promote water quality in Orleans County.



SWCD staff and volunteers weighing collected garbage

The Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

FACT SHEET

AGRICULTURE ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM



REDUCE
operating costs

IMPROVE
energy efficiency

REDUCE
carbon emissions

call:
1-800-732-1399

email:
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visit:
nyserdera.ny.gov/agriculture

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

NYSERDA offers energy audits to help eligible farms and on-farm producers identify ways to save energy and money on utility bills. Reports include recommendations for energy efficiency measures.

Eligibility

Eligible farms include but are not limited to dairies, orchards, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers, and poultry/egg. The farms must also be customers of New York State investor-owned utilities and contribute to the System Benefits Charge (SBC). Please check your farm's current utility bills to see if your farm pays the SBC.

Energy Audit Options

You can request the level of energy audit that best fits your farm's needs. NYSERDA will assign a Flexible Technical Assistance Program Consultant to visit your farm and perform an energy audit at no cost to you.

Level	Audit Activities	Type of Report that the Farm Receives
Level 1	Walk-through energy audit	Summary letter with limited evaluation of feasible energy efficiency measures
Level 2	Detailed energy audit	Energy audit report with calculated evaluations of appropriate energy efficiency measures including simple payback; meets ANSI/ASABE S612 standards
Level 3	Energy audit focused on specific systems, energy efficiency measures, or renewable energy	System-specific energy analysis report

Get Started

Visit **nyserdera.ny.gov/agriculture** to download an application or apply online. Call **1-800-732-1399** to learn more, request an application, or for assistance with determining the audit level.

UnBottle Orleans is a citizen action group working to reduce the negative impacts of bottled water in Orleans County, NY.

We aspire to create change through public outreach and education, as well as through campaigning for improved public access to drinking fountains and refilling stations to make the transition away from single-use plastic bottled water a smooth one.

UnBottle Orleans works with local museums, event planners, government agencies, employers, businesses, and individual residents to create a road map to going bottled water free.

Bottled Water Fast Facts

- 🔹 Americans drink more than 73 billion half-liter bottles of water a year— enough to circle the globe over 370 times!
 - 🔹 About 77% of empty PET bottles end up in our landfills, as litter in our oceans and waterways, or are incinerated, a process that releases toxic byproducts.
 - 🔹 Municipal water is subject to stricter federal safety regulations, and independent testing of bottled water has identified a wide range of bacterial and chemical contamination.
- 
- 🔹 In 2009, almost half of all bottled water in the U.S. came from municipal tap water supplies.
 - 🔹 In 2012, Americans spent \$11.8 billion on bottled water. Food & Water Watch found that bottled water cost between \$0.89 and \$8.26/gallon, whereas tap water cost only \$0.002/gallon.
 - 🔹 The Pacific Institute estimates that manufacturing, producing, and transporting bottled water is 1,100 to 2,000 times as energy intensive as treating and distributing tap water.

If you are interested in taking our pledge to UnBottle Orleans, would like to request a presentation to learn more about UnBottle Orleans, or simply have a few questions, please feel free to contact unbottleorleans@gmail.com and/or follow us on Facebook. UnBottle Orleans is sponsored by Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Come See us at the Orleans County Fair July 25 - July 30

POLLINATORS



Pollination is the process of transporting pollen grains from the anther (male portion) of a flower to the stigma (female portion) of a flower and is accomplished through self-pollination, wind and water pollination, or through the work of pollinators. Some examples of pollinators include bees, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, and some small mammals. Pollination is usually an unintentional benefit to these organisms visiting flowers to drink nectar or feed off the pollen. Pollinators are responsible for pollinating more than 1200 crops that we eat and they support healthy ecosystems that produce oxygen, stabilize soils, protect areas from severe weather, and support wildlife habitats.

Without pollinators, many plants could not reproduce; and without plants to provide pollen and nectar, many animal populations would decline, making plant-pollinator relationships one of the most ecologically important interactions.

Effective ways in which we can support pollinators is through implementing conservation practices such as agroforestry and the use of flowering cover crops. Agroforestry is the integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems. Some pollinators are known to stop pollinating in high winds so creating a barrier out of trees and shrubs breaks the intensity of wind and allows them to

continue feeding and pollinating. The vegetation used for windbreaks, riparian buffers, hedgerows, and alley crops are also used as habitat for these pollinators. Whereas using flowering cover crops in between crop rotations might also help improve the overall health of some pollinators, mainly bees. Research suggests that diverse pollen and nectar resources not only increases the health of bees but also helps detoxify their systems from low doses of some pesticides. Establishing the right plants in the right places can make a world of difference for every organism from insects to humans.

For more information on pollinators visit www.pollinator.org.

Tire Clean Up Registration: Deadline September 15, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Passenger Tires:

on Rims _____ X \$2.00 per tire = _____

not on Rims _____ X \$1.75 per tire = _____

Number of Truck Tires (19-1100 series):

on Rims _____ X \$13.50 per tire = _____

not on Rims _____ X \$7.00 per tire = _____

Total Amount Due at time of Drop Off _____



Please mail registration form to Orleans County SWCD, 446 West Ave., Albion, NY 14411.

Payment is expected at time of drop off. This will be your only notification so please be sure to write down the date! Date of drop off: September 24, 2016 at 14064 County House Road, 9 - Noon.