

Project Title: Agricultural Stewardship Program

Principle Investigator: Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

Project Tasks:

Task 1: Farm Meetings

Farms within the sub-watershed shall be chosen and assigned a unique identifier ensuring the farms identity remains anonymous. CCE will meet with farmers collectively and individually, and introduce goals and objectives for the Peconic Estuary Agricultural Stewardship Initiative.

Task 2: Farm Educational Programs

Educational programs will be coordinated with appropriate entities regarding N-fertilizer best management practices and new technology,

Task 3: Land Use Report

A brief report containing information pertaining to the location of land in agricultural production within the study area using Geographic Information System (GIS) and physical confirmation will be produced.

Task 4: N-Fertilizer Management Practices

CCE shall coordinate with appropriate entities to engage participating farms in completing a comprehensive and confidential Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) evaluation of N-fertilizer management practices, identifying areas needing improvement. Information shall be documented.

Task 5: N-Fertilizer History

CCE shall work in cooperation with the PEP/SC Health Department to provide a history of nitrates found in agricultural monitoring wells.

Task 6: History of N-Fertilizer Use and Impact Report

CCE shall provide a history of agricultural practices and N-fertilizer impact on ground and surface waters.

Task 7: Public Education Program

CCE shall coordinate a series of promotional segments with farmers, media outlets, and a videographer to educate the general public on the Peconic Estuary Initiative, nitrogen best-management practices and new technology.

Task 8: Nutrient Management Conference

CCE shall coordinate with appropriate entities, universities and research institutions to implement a Peconic Estuary Conference, presenting findings and research.

Task 9: Agricultural Stewardship Teaching Tour

CCE shall coordinate with participating farms to implement an 'Agricultural Stewardship Teaching Tour' for environmental groups, elected officials, government agencies and interested parties on the cost/benefits of N-fertilizer best management practices and new technology.

Task 10 - Coordination of Applied Research and Demonstration Projects

CCE shall coordinate with participating farms to develop farm demonstration projects, in cooperation with Cornell University, the Contractor's Agricultural Specialists, and Stewardship Technicians for the purpose of reducing the amount of N-fertilizer that may leach or runoff into the Peconic Estuary.

Task 11 - Implementation of Applied Research and Demonstration Projects

CCE shall oversee the implementation of farm applied research and demonstration projects aimed at reducing N-fertilizer leaching and runoff into the Bay and Estuary.

Task 12 - Data Collection and Analysis

CCE shall conduct ongoing data collection from applied research and demonstration projects and submit to research facilities and scientific laboratories for analysis.

Task 13 - Project Report

CCE shall provide a project report on the conclusions drawn from farm demonstration projects as they relate to N-fertilizer management practices and load reduction on farms within the Peconic Estuary Program's identified sub-watersheds.