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CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

District Receives Stimulus Funds

On October 1, 2009 Governor Patterson announced that the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District will receive \$3.2 million in funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The anaerobic digester will kill the pathogens in the manure and remove the odor. The digested effluent will be separated into a liquid and solid fraction.

The District is very excited to receive this funding to complete the project and demonstrate how the concept of a regional digester, so popular in Europe, can work for the dairy industry in Cayuga County and New York State.



Left: Current picture of the Regional Digester/Bioenergy Facility at The Natural Resource Center in the Town of Sennett.

Best Places to Farm - A report featured in the Farm Futures magazine, Cayuga County and ten other Upstate New York counties are considered among the nation's most fiscally robust agriculture communities...

Table listing counties and their ranking in 'Best Places to Farm' for 2009, with Cayuga County ranked 218th.

Special Events

- MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS—2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:30 AM
AEM AWARD LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 8TH, 2009
OFFICE CLOSED—VETERAN'S DAY—11/11
OFFICE CLOSED—THANKSGIVING DAY—11/26

Nutrient Management— The Cayuga County SWCD recently completed total station surveys at the farmsteads of one dairy farm and one beef farm.

# AEM in Cayuga County 2009

## Agricultural Environmental Management Awards for 2009

On October 8, 2009, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District held their Annual Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Awards Luncheon. The luncheon was held at Elderberry Pond in Sennett, NY, where locally grown foods were served. Elderberry Pond is a former recipient of an AEM award.

The AEM program is a state-wide program that promotes environmental stewardship on farms. The Cayuga County SWCD recognizes local farms that have displayed exemplary environmental stewardship. The award recipients will have AEM signs placed in front of the farm headquarters.

**The following farms are this year's award recipients:** Gulliver Farms, located in the Town of Fleming, Birdsong Farm, located in the Town of Locke, Oakwood Dairy, located in the Town of Aurelius, and Aurora Ridge Dairy, located in the Town of Ledyard. Awards were handed out by District Board Chairman and Legislator, Steve Cuddeback on left and District Executive Director, Ron Podolak on the right.



**Gulliver Farms**— Award received by Gary and Karen Gulliver.



**Birdsong Farm**—Award received by Matt Schiavi.



**Oakwood Dairy**— Award received by Ted and Kelly O'Hara.



**Aurora Ridge Dairy**—Award received by Bill Cook and his partner Jason Burrows



**Conservation Field Days** - This year's Conservation Field Days was held September 22 and 23, 2009 at Emerson Park. Over 500 sixth grade students from Union Springs, Red Creek, Southern Cayuga, SS Peter and Paul, Cato-Meridian, St. Joseph, Port Byron and Moravia schools attended. Stations covered a wide variety of topics, from water conservation to forestry to conservation laws. Many thanks to all those who hosted a station!

**Left:** Instructor Brian Aldrich from Cornell Cooperative Extension demonstrating to a class the concepts of Cayuga County's glacial history at Field Days.