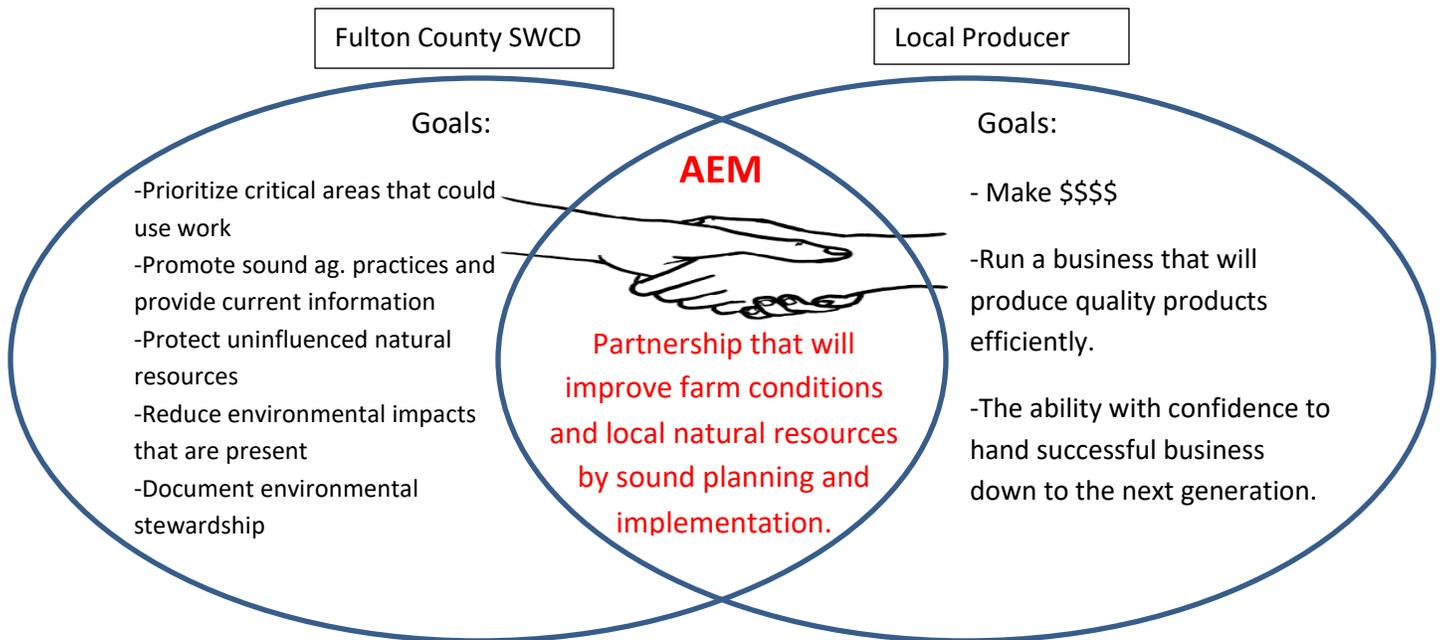


## Ag. NPS and the Agricultural Environmental Management Program



The state-wide Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program helps the agricultural community plan environmentally sustainable practices while meeting business goals. This not only ensures our natural resources are protected from non-point source pollution but also keeps agriculture current. The AEM program is voluntary, which means a successful program hinges on participation and more importantly public interest. This program can accomplish many things including identifying, prioritizing, and mitigating critical natural resource concerns around the farmstead, or on cropland. Some of the most typical agricultural influences include: fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides critical to a successful crop; oil, grease, and toxic chemicals used to keep equipment running smoothly; sediment from construction sites, crop and forest lands; along with bacteria and nutrients from livestock and faulty treatment systems. Many producers in the county have participated in the program and have received funding.

By working with the Fulton County SWCD staff and participating in the AEM program there is opportunity to implement practices to mitigate agricultural pollution. Once a conservation plan has been developed the SWCD can apply for an Ag. Non Point Source (NPS) grant. The Ag. NPS grant program was created in 1994 by the State of New York to assist farmers in preventing water pollution from agricultural activities by providing technical and financial assistance, which can cost-share up to 75% of project costs.

The latest Ag. NPS project was Round 21 which included a waste storage structure in the Town of Broadalbin. Currently, we have been approved for two more projects under Round 22 totaling over \$300,000 worth of financial assistance. These projects will make a significant improvement to our local resources. If you are interested in what the SWCD has to offer simply call the office.