



Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District

Highlights 2009

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Need Your Help

Every year we feature "Conservation Farmer and Forest Landowner of the Year". People whose day to day decisions regarding the land have a positive impact. These "conservation doers" are part of the fabric of our local environment. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are also part of that fabric and have been since 1935 when Congress agreed to a Soil Conservation Service after spending an afternoon session with skies darkened by soil particles blown in from the Great Plains. The Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District became organized under Maine State Law in January 1942. Since then the CASWCD has grown from working with farmers as conservation "cooperators" to include all landowners and municipalities.

Hugh Bennett, the first director of the Soil Conservation Service stated, "I consider the soil conservation district movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture. It has proved even more effective, I am convinced, than we had dared to expect." Effective because each conservation district is lead by a local group of farmers, foresters and resource professionals who know first-hand the environmental issues of the region. Effective because conservation districts are non-regulatory. Effective because conservation districts are the grass-roots connection between federal agencies and producers.

Each of the 16 conservation districts in Maine rely on an annual payment from the Maine Department of Agriculture of \$17,500 to operate. In the upcoming legislative session, the Commissioner of Agriculture must further cut his budget. Conservation districts are in danger of losing some or all of their funding. For many districts, losing all of our base funding would result in either closure of District offices or a discontinuance of services such as landowner assistance, student and public education workshops, watershed and erosion control grant projects and most importantly, the locally-led, grass-roots connection to farmers foresters and landowners.

If you value the history and current work of the CASWCD, please take a moment to contact your state representatives and Seth Bradstreet, Commissioner of Agriculture (287-3419) and ask him not to cut District funding. Monetarily, the funding is not much but allows Districts to give a much greater return to the State of Maine and the central Aroostook County region through on-the-ground projects such as the many watershed grants that focus on erosion control to keep soil in our fields and out of our many lakes and streams. Last year the CASWCD contributed over \$120,000 to the local economy in support of environmental education and conservation projects. Let's keep this District a part of the environmental fabric of central Aroostook County. *(adapted from an article written by Angie Wotton)*

2008 Conservation Farmer of the Year



The Chase Family Farm

The 2008 Conservation Farmer of the Year award was presented to the **Chase Family Farm** at the District's Annual Meeting in February 2009. The farm, located in Mapleton, was started by Lewis Frazier Chase in 1935. Today the farm totals 600 acres; 330 in crop and pasture and the remainder is wooded. In 2006, the Chase farm was certified as an organic dairy. There are 105 cows of various ages, mostly Holsteins and a few Jerseys and if Vaughn had his way the Holsteins

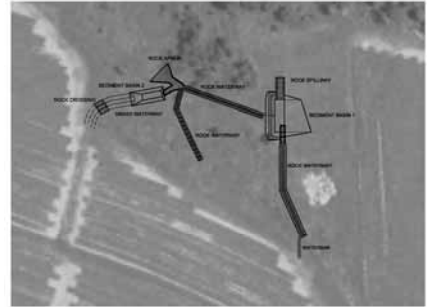
would all be red and white. Being a dairy farmer is a challenge, more than a full time job. Everybody chips in and since the herd doesn't take vacations there are no family vacations. **The whole family has roles on the farm: Vaughn** is in charge of the milking, the herd health, and breeding. Vaughn's wife **Laura** is the bookkeeper, helps with chores and drives truck and tractor. Son **Lewis** is responsible for milking, maintenance, and harvesting. Daughter **April** works full time off the farm but helps do chores each Sunday morning with her father. Daughter **Brooke** feeds and exercises the calves and helps with chores on school vacations, after school and each Sunday afternoon. Brooke takes pictures of each new calf for the herd record books. Son **Cole**, 4 yrs old is in training. When we interviewed Vaughn, Cole was right there at his side to help out. **Farm Management:** Management of the land is based on approved organic standards: no pesticides, synthetic fertilizers or antibiotics. The farm is a grass based dairy and the pastures are grazed rotationally. There is currently an 8-pasture rotation with cows rotated to a different pasture every 12 hours. In 2007, Ken Hill from NRCS assisted the Chase Farm with design and installation of a gravel-based distribution lane with fenced access to pastures. Pastures are regularly trimmed to discourage weed growth and to eliminate the need for herbicides. USDA- NRCS recently completed a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for the Chase Farm.



More Improvements for the Kennedy Brook/Mantle Lake Watershed

The District is continuing efforts to clean up Mantle Lake. This year we helped install a system of waterways and sediment basins on the Christie Farm owned by Cavendish Farms, Maine. Scott Smith of Cavendish Farms has been working with the District to assure that sediments from cropland are trapped before reaching Kennedy Brook and Mantle Lake. In addition to supporting construction of this system, Cavendish practices a three year rotation (which improves soil quality and reduces erosion), increased the width of field/road buffers and reestablished grassed waterways in other watershed fields. Thanks go to the contractor, Kenney Earthworks, for a great job.

This project was funded by U.S.E.P.A. under section 319 of the Clean Water Act, USDA-NRCS, Cavendish Farms, Maine Department of Agriculture and CASWCD.



Christina Reservoir

Prestile Stream is one of the few "impaired" water bodies in the central Aroostook area. We are working toward removing the Prestile from the state's "impaired" waters list. This spring with the help of the USDA-NRCS field staff, we walked the Christina Reservoir watershed, the headwaters of Prestile Stream.

Our purpose was to identify potential sources of sedimentation to the reservoir. We have been meeting with landowners in the watershed to review our findings and to offer possible solutions and funding to address problem sites.



Hodgdon Team Wins

Mantle Lake Park in Presque Isle was the venue for this year's Northern Regional Envirothon. Six schools participated with a total



of nine teams competing. Congratulations go to **Hodgdon High School** for winning first place. Second place went to Lee Academy and third to the Ashland team. We would like to thank the **Presque Isle Elks Club** for lunch and our resource people, without whom this day would not be possible: **Mary Jo Kimble, Stan Perry, Dave Rocque, Bill Hersey, Dave Rochester, Shawn Bugby, Bruce Wilkins, Larry Park, Rich Hoppe, Jason Johnston, Dotty Dudley, Dave Basley, Ann Morris, Bill Sheehan, Skip Babineau, Barry Burgason, Joe Weber, Ken Hill, Scott Englund, Jim Gramlich and John Daigle.**

2009 Financial Report

REVENUES	FY2009
District Grant Income	12781.79
State of Maine Grant	17500.00
Municipal Assessments	7444.00
Cooperator/Memberships	1410.00
Flag Sales	4957.75
Interest Income	6037.77
Endowment Earnings	331.54
Annual Meeting Income	533.00
No-till Seeder Income	7175.50
Other Income	4474.94
Envirothon Income	1526.88
TOTAL REVENUES	65,700.05
EXPENSES	
Flags	4238.47
Salaries	28604.16
AmeriCorps Contract	7500.00
Bonus	3060.00
Insurance Stipend	5474.30
Payroll Taxes	655.98
Sales Tax	168.83
MACD Meetings	1011.20
Office Mileage	951.32
Postage	582.77
Office supplies	490.91
Workers Comp	405.52
MACD Dues	1300.00
NACD Dues	775.00
MACD Employee Fund	50.00
SJARCD Dues	22.00
Awards and Education	219.47
Education Endowment Expenses	100.00
Internet	165.00
Annual Meeting and Report	758.30
Supervisor Election	90.03
Bank Fees	30.00
Envirothon	1425.14
No-till Seeder Expenses	4495.98
Miscellaneous	2460.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	65035.18
NET OPERATING INCOME	664.87

Business Cooperators 2009

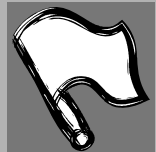
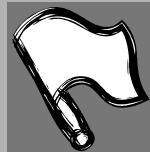
The companies below have generously shown their commitment to local conservation efforts by becoming CASWCD Business Cooperators or by supporting the Northern Regional Envirothon. We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their support. We also encourage you, when opportunity arises, to do business with these folks.

Crown Farms
Giberson Farms, Inc.
Huber Engineered Woods, LLC.
Ireland Farms, Inc
McGillan, Inc.
Porter Farms
Seven Islands Land Co.
Theriault Equipment

Individual Cooperators 2009

Joe Weber	Scott Englund
Michael Landeen	Frederic Flewelling
Daniel Stewart	Laurence Park
Steve Sweetser	Ken and Shannon Hill
Ronald Moir	Michael and Anne
Bruce Roope	Sandstrom
Richard Mahan	Patricia Sutherland
Gary Belyea	George Howe
George McPherson	Dotty Dudley
Gaylen Flewelling	Wayne Sweetser
Bruce Roope	Garold Carmichael
Greg Ward	Ted St. Pierre

Central Aroostook SWCD
Your source for
Marker
Flags





Bruce Wilkins, Leigh Morrow, Bruce Roope, Gary Belyea
Brent Flewelling, George Howe

District Board of Supervisors

Leigh Morrow, Chairman. Agronomist for McCain Foods, has served with the District since 1999.

Bruce Roope, Treasurer. A potato producer, has served with the District since 1986.

Bruce Wilkins, Vice-Chair, Consulting Forester, has served the District since 1996.

Matthew Porter, potato producer. Appointed Supervisor in 2007, Associate since 2003.

George Howe, city planner. Appointed Supervisor in 2009, Associate since 2004.

Associate Supervisors

Jon Durepo, retired potato producer

Laurence Park, small woodlot owner and retired potato producer.

Mike Bragdon, agricultural equipment sales.

Tim Scott, forester.

Brent Flewelling, potato producer.

Steve Sutter, retired cooperative extension agent.

Dotty Dudley, retired educator.

Gary Belyea, beef producer.

Raymond Harris, retired potato producer



Staff

Linda Alverson
Executive
Director

Our Natural Resources Conservation Service Partners



Standing from left to right

Mary Jo Kimble, Office Leader, Soil Survey

Allison Montgomery, Soil Scientist

Skip Babineau, Coordinator, St. John Aroostook RC&D

Alice Goodwin, Agricultural Engineer

Robert Cullins, Civil Engineering Technician

Matt Dorman, Soil Scientist

Joe Weber, District Conservationist

Scott Englund, Soil Conservation Technician

Ken Hill, Soil Conservation Technician

Ray Harris retires as District Supervisor

Ray Harris has been an active supervisor and supporter for over 20 years. The District has been fortunate to have a leader from this District who worked hard for us. For many years Ray was our voice at the state level as a Chairman and Executive Board member of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts. Ray will be staying active on the Board as an Associate Supervisor.



No-till Seeder just goes and goes... Helps improve Grassland Bird Habitat

Our 17 year old no-till seeder received a new lease on life thanks to Bruce Roope and his farm crew. By spring the no-till was ready to go with new disks, coulter blades, acre meter, cylinder, and bearings. Mike Sandstrom added a utility box and safety chains. This year the No-till Seeder covered more than 700 acres in the three Aroostook SWCDs. Landowners use the no till to plant crops such as soybeans, to improve the forage of pastures and to meet plant diversity in fields placed under USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.

The No-till was in demand to improve plant diversity in the Conservation Reserve Program's State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (CRP-SAFE). This program was designed to maintain and manage former cropland to provide grassland bird habitat. Grassland birds such as Savannah Sparrow, bobolink and upland sandpiper are experiencing population declines. Watch our webpage for a No-till pasture improvement workshop to be held in early May.



Ann Morris, AmeriCorps Volunteer, drove from Texas and arrived in

Presque Isle during a January snow storm. Ann spent six busy months with the District. She updated the web page, coordinated the Northern Regional Envirothon, organized the Christina Watershed Survey and provided her expertise in aquatics during the Vernal Pool Workshops. Thanks Ann for a great job.



Bill Cleaves Receives Service Award

Each Board member brings unique talents to the success of the District. Bill has provided invaluable personnel management skills and has been a key player when hiring and interviewing prospective District employees. He assisted the District with financial risk management practices that have protected both the District and its employees from fraud. **Bill Cleaves, Thank you for over 20 years service to the District.**



Our Municipal Cooperators

We appreciate the financial support from municipalities located in the central Aroostook area. This support is based on an assessment requested annually of each municipality within our District boundaries.

Blaine	Mapleton	Presque Isle
Caribou	Mars Hill	Stockholm
Castle Hill	Nashville Plantation	Wade
Chapman	New Sweden	Washburn
Easton	Oxbow Plantation	Westfield
Garfield Plantation	Perham	Woodland
Limestone	Portage Lake	

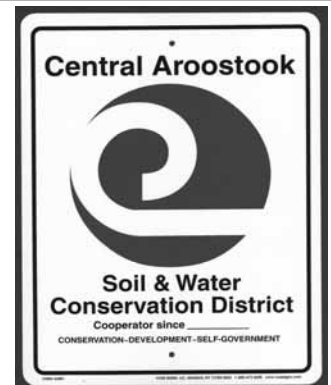
Workshops benefit Code Enforcement Officers and Foresters

In 2009, we held two Vernal Pool Workshops. The workshop consisted of a morning session to review the biology of vernal pools and the regulations and Best Management Practices associated with the pools. After lunch, we visited several area pools to determine if they were vernal pools and how they are regulated under state law. The CASWCD sponsors workshops throughout the year such as GPS training, septic system installation, erosion control for contractors, and rule updates for plumbing inspectors and site evaluators.



Support the work of your local Soil and Water Conservation District by becoming a cooperator

**New cooperators receive this 9 "X12" weather resistant sign for your property.
Thank you to all past supporters.**



Individual \$25.00

Business \$ 100.00

2010 Cooperator Membership Dues

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

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Presque Isle, ME 04769

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Presque Isle, ME 04769

Phone: 207-764-4153 Ext.130

Email: linda.alverson@me.nacdnet.net

Conservation—Development—Self Government

