Evaluation of Agricultural Practices
Conesus Lake Watershed
Practices

- Soil testing and nutrient recommendations based on soil tests
- Credit manure properly
- Credit sod crops (old alfalfa-grass and cover crops)
- Plan manure applications based on needs
Soil sampled all fields to begin nutrient management.
Fertilizer changes

- Starter fertilizer – reduced phosphorus in fertilizer applied at planting
- Reduced nitrogen fertilizer and credited manure applications plus legume sod crops plowed under
- Did spot checks with Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen test in June to confirm adequacy
- Savings – Several thousand $ first year
Manure Spreading

• Eliminated Winter Manure Spreading on Most Sensitive Watershed (Graywood Creek)
• Spread on Further Fields, Lowest Risk
• Summer Spreading Away from Creeks
• Spread According to Nutrient Management Plan
Tile Drainage

• Over 16000 feet of subsurface drainage installed over three year period.
• Less surface runoff, improved infiltration, lower amount of particulates in runoff
• Phosphorus adsorbed by clay minerals as water percolates through soil
Strip Crops

- Designed by Soil & Water Conservation District – fall 2002
- Implemented starting in 2003
- Alternate row crops & sod crops on home farm (Graywood Creek)
- Planned for other farms
Cover crops

- Winter wheat cover crop planted after corn silage harvest
- Hold excess nutrients
- Reduce surface water runoff over winter
- Speed drying of soil and traction in spring
- Provide slowly available organic nutrients
Roof and Farmstead Runoff

Keep clean water clean – eaves and/or stone drains

Drain off to grass filter strip or to drainage ditch
WASCOB

- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Used on long and/or steep slopes
- Collect rapid runoff and discharge through standpipe and sub-surface
Three Stage WASCOB
Outreach to Other Farms

• Articles in Extension Newsletter
• Tours for Ag Planners, Farmers and Ag Professionals
• Cooperative Efforts with Farm Service Agency (USDA), Soil & Water Conservation District, Farm Suppliers
Outreach General Public

- Lake Association
- Livingston County Water Quality Committee of County Planning and Health Department
- Farm and Lake Tour for Public and Media – Late Summer, 2004