



Farms with areas of high animal concentrations must be managed carefully.

Agricultural Concerns Addressed in the Canandaigua AEM Program

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Agriculture is just one of the 15 different potential sources of pollution currently being addressed through the implementation of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Plan. AEM is part of this watershed wide effort and is being led by the Agricultural Program Committee

made up of farmers from across the watershed and agricultural spectrum. Areas of concern on farms that the AEM program is addressing include:

Fuel Storage- Active farm operations consume substantial amounts



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Soil Erosion- Soil erosion can be a very serious problem for both a farm and nearby water supplies. Not only does erosion in fields contribute to water pollution; it also reduces the capability of a field to produce crops. Erosion removes valuable topsoil that is the primary contributor of nutrients to crops.



Manure Spreading- Livestock operations can produce substantial amounts of manure. Manure spreading from livestock is an inexpensive source of nutrients for crops. However, spreading excessive amounts of manure can allow for the transport of nutrients and bacteria in the manure to surface waters and damage their recreational and drinking value.

of fuel thus making it necessary for farmers to store their own fuel. Inadequate fuel storage containers can be a serious threat to ground and surface water. Even minor fuel leaks can cause health and ecological problems that are not detectable to smell and taste.

Nutrient Management- Various crops need additional amounts of fertilizer. Proper fertilizer application method, rate, and timing maximize uptake of nutrients by the crop and minimize nutrient loss. Too much fertilizer will leach through the soil or be carried off during rainstorms eventually making it to the lake.

The next article will describe some of the projects taking place to reduce the impact from these main areas of concern.