



Hudson Mohawk RC&D 2011 Annual Plan

Council Members

Albany County
Susan Lewis, Secretary
Bill Aylward

Columbia County
Nathan Davis
Todd Erling
Steve Hadcock, Treasurer
Steve Nack

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Ray Brooks
Eric Rasmussen
Marilyn Wyman
Ed Armstrong

Montgomery County
Toni Christman
Hal Hermance
Crystal Stewart
John VanKersen

Rensselaer County
Donna Murray, Chair
Omer Brenenstuhl
Thomas Sanford
Ann Shaughnessy

Schenectady County
Stephen Feeney
Chris Logue
Dave Mosher
Seymour Vander Veen

At Large
George Sisco

Coordinator: Elizabeth
Marks, USDA NRCS
Secretary: Mary Ackley,
USDA NRCS



The Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council

Volunteers developing real solutions to community problems through a locally led process in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties in Eastern NY.

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Plan created by the Hudson Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Prepared under authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461 as amended by Public Law 101-624, section 1452.

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ANNUAL PLAN 201

JANUARY 1, 2011 – DECEMBER 31, 2011

ACTION ITEM	COUNCIL MEMBERS, NRCS STAFF, AND PARTNERS RESPONSIBLE	RESOURCES OBLIGATED	COORDINATOR TIME (HOURS)	PROGRESS AND COMPLETION DATE (AS OF)
LAND CONSERVATION				
Goal 1: Assist 250 dairy, livestock and equine farmers in the Hudson Mohawk region in reducing erosion, reducing manure concerns, increasing plant and soil health, and wildlife habitat by sustainably utilizing biological and mineral resources on the farm by 2013.				
Objective 1: Educate 250 farmers on effective pasture management to increase farm viability and reduce erosion while enhancing wildlife habitat by 2013.				
1. Distribute the Council's DVD "Keeping it Green," an educational resource on pasture and environmental farm management for horse owners to 30 farms a year.	Marks, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, SWCDs and DCs	No additional resources needed other than some staff/volunteer time.	4	DVDs are distributed by request and viewed on the ELCR website. Info about the DVD was mailed to the Council's mailing list.
2. Complete 6 grazing plans to improve pasture productivity for farm animals.	Marks, CCE (Bessire, Gallagher) Murray, Hartman	GLCI funds \$6,000	20	
3. Conduct 25 follow up visits to farms who received grazing plans in the past or who need assistance.	Marks, CCE (Bessire, Gallagher), Murray, Hartman	GLCI funds \$3,000	8	
4. Provide on-going support to 50 farms to increase producers' knowledge of grazing by sponsoring the Hudson Mohawk Grass Masters and the Mohawk Valley Graziers, a grazing learning community. Hold 14 grazing workshops or pasture walks.	Marks, CCE (Bessire, Gallagher) Murray, SWCDs (Sanford, Lewis), MCSWCD	Staff time (SWCD, CCE and HMRC&D Coordinator). GLCI funds \$1,500. Apply for funding through the Ben and Jerry's Foundation.	100	B&J pre-application approved; interview set for February.
5. Update and distribute a list of local grazing supply vendors.	Marks, SWCDs and NRCS DCs, Bessire, Ackley	No additional resources needed other than some staff/volunteer time.	6	
6. Create one case study of a farm demonstrating	Marks, Murray,	Staff/volunteer	30	

the financial, social, and environmental benefits of managed grazing.	Hartman	time. Apply for funding from SARE.		
7. Provide support for grazing infrastructure installation for farmers by securing \$160,000 in funding. Assist NRCS in determining criteria for distributing funds.	Marks, SWCDs, NRCS staff, Logue, Murray	Staff/volunteer time. \$160,000 CCPI funds, matching SWCD funding	20	
8. Promote the practice of winter bale grazing to increase soil quality to 20 farms. Seek funding for a project to quantify the benefits of winter bale grazing.	Marks, Murray, Hartman	SARE Partnership Grant \$15,000	120	Grant application submitted 11/15/10.
9. Support Regional Envirothon education efforts.	Marks, Ackley, Sisco	Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health \$700	12	
10. Educate 50 horse farm owners about pasture management for horses.	Marks, Erling	Staff time.	32	
11. Assist Hartman and CCE with 2011 Winter Grass-Fed Greenup conference.	Marks, Murray	Staff time		
Objective 1.2: Provide Holistic Management planning assistance to at least 20 farms by 2013.				
1. Provide whole farm planning assistance using Holistic Management to 5 farms.	Marks, Murray, Stewart, CNYRC&D	Staff/volunteer time.	40	
2. Sponsor 1 workshop on whole farm planning and decision making or financial planning.	Marks, CNYRC&D, Murray, Stewart, Erling	Staff/volunteer time.	20	
3. Educate beginning women farmers about holistic management.	Murray, Stewart			
LAND MANAGEMENT				
Goal 1: Assist in energy conservation projects in all 6 counties by 2013.				
Objective 1: Assist 4 partners with the development of renewable energy and energy conservation opportunities by 2013.				
1. Administer the USDA RBEG grant for the Helderberg Community Wind Project.	Marks, Murray, L. Armstrong, Hadcock, Lewis	Staff/volunteer time.	80	
2. Assist Sustainable Energy Developments Inc. and Helderberg Community Energy LLC with outreach support to 50 landowners on community wind projects.	Marks, SED (Pruskowski), HCE (Lenseth), USDA RD (Snover)	Staff/volunteer time.	100	
3. Assist SUNY Albany in promoting targeted grazing as a biological control of invasive species plants by applying for funding. Conduct a demo and workshop	Marks, Murray, Davis, Lewis	CCSWCD funding	40	

in Columbia County.				
Goal 2: Assist partners in all six counties in promoting the wise and sustainable use of forests to 1,000 landowners in order to generate a steady source of income for landowners, increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat, provide a source of local, high quality timber, enhance carbon sequestration, and promote healthy forests which contribute to water and air quality by 2013.				
Objective 1: Work with partners to provide educational programming and opportunities for 1000 people including loggers, landowners and foresters to help them improve natural resource management by 2013 in order to reduce exploitive timber harvests.				
1. Hold a woods walks to demonstrate to landowners appropriate forest management practices.	Marks, Wyman, NYFOA (Greason), CLC (Davis)	Staff/volunteer time.	24	
2. Hold 1 forestry workshop in Schenectady County.	Marks, Mosher, NYFOA (Greason)	Staff/volunteer time.	8	
3. Work with the Greater Adirondack and Black River St. Lawrence RC&D Councils to revise and print the Forestry Facts placemat. Secure funding to print placemat.	Marks, Wyman	Staff/volunteer time.	24	
WATER MANAGEMENT				
Goal 1: Assist 2 partners with initiatives to improve water quality in their communities by 2013.				
Objective 1: Provide assistance to 2 communities for developing and implementing comprehensive watershed or storm water management plans by 2013.				
1. Assist partners with comprehensive watershed plans.	Marks, Mosher, Hermance, Christman	Staff/volunteer time.	24	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
Goal 1: Support community development and job creation in all 6 counties and adjacent area by 2013 by strengthening the sustainable productivity and profitability of the surrounding working landscape.				
Objective 1: Increase the productivity and profitability of 100 farms in all 6 counties by 2013.				
1. Sponsor a regional forum for farmers on marketing opportunities (restaurants, schools, farmers' markets, distributors etc.). Invite buyers and farmers who direct market to participate and provide networking opportunities.	Marks, Ackley, Murray, Stewart, Feeney, Logue, Hadcock, Lewis, CCE, AFT, Farm Bureau, RFFP, Erling	Staff/volunteer time.	80	Event planned for 1/19/11. Applied for SARE Speaker's Fund and was granted award.
2. Provide assistance to 4 partner groups to enhance local food and local product utilization opportunities.	Marks, Murray, Erling (Hudson Valley Bounty)	Staff/volunteer time.	16	
3. Update the Council's Farm to School Guide and Directory and continue to make available on the web	Marks, Hadcock, Murray, Stewart, Lewis,	Staff/volunteer time.	32	

and by request.	Cornell Farm to School Program, Erling			
Goal 2: Provide local capacity building opportunities for council members from all 6 counties by 2013.				
Objective 1: Promote internal Hudson Mohawk RC&D capacity building by 2013.				
1. Keep up to date the HMRC&D website and add resources as needed.	Marks, Murray, Hadcock, Armstrong, Lewis	Staff/volunteer time.	80	
2. Write and distribute 6 press releases a year with information about the Council's programs, events, or activities.	Marks, Murray, Ackley	Staff/volunteer time.	24	
3. Send at least one council member to each state, regional, and national conference or meeting on an annual basis.	Murray, Armstrong, Hadcock, Lewis	Staff/volunteer time.		
4. Participate in one or more meetings of the 6 soil and water conservation districts each year providing an update on HMRC&D activities.	Marks, Murray	Staff/volunteer time.	50	
5. Meet with State and Federal Legislators on an annual basis.	Murray, Alyward, Brooks, Erling, Armstrong	Volunteer time.		
6. Apply for Circle of Diamonds basic level.	Marks, Murray	Staff/volunteer time.	8	Application sent in 10/10. Approved 11/2010.
7. Work towards completing the requirements for Circle of Diamonds enhanced level.	Marks, Murray, Armstrong, Lewis, Hadcock	Staff/volunteer time.	20	
Objective 2: Ensure equal opportunity outreach and civil rights compliance in all 6 counties by 2013.				
1. Provide training on civil rights and equal opportunities to council members on an annual basis.	Marks	Staff time.	8	
2. Post up-to-date information in the HMRC&D office about civil rights and equal opportunities and provide training to all subcontractors to the Council.	Ackley	Staff time.	12	
3. Provide civil rights and equal opportunity complaint process and accessibility information including the TDD number on all written material produced by the Council.	Marks, Ackley	Staff/volunteer time.	6	
4. Maintain a mailing list and distribute info about programs through an annual report to 1,200 plus people and website.	Marks, Ackley	Staff time.	60	
5. Ensure all HMRC&D meetings and events are held at accessible locations and advertised publicly through 20 newspapers, email list serves, and the	Marks, Ackley	Staff/volunteer time.	12	

web.				
6. Participate in 2 events each year such as Sundae on the Farm and provide information to the public in person and through the HMRC&D display.	Marks, Ackley	Staff/volunteer time.	34	
7. Maintain a display about the HMRC&D and show it in public places such as USDA Service Centers, conferences and county fairs.	Marks, Ackley, Nack, Mosher, Christman, Lewis, Erling	Staff/volunteer time.	20	

The Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council hereby adopts this 2011 Annual Plan of Operations and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council, New York

By Donna Murray
Donna Murray, Chairperson

Date: 12/8/10

By Susan Lewis
Susan Lewis, Secretary

Date: 12-8-10

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council on December 8, 2010.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in New York hereby acknowledges the attached 2011 Annual Plan of Operations of Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged by:

Astor Boozer
Astor Boozer, State Conservationist

Date: 12/22/2010