

Watershed Agricultural Council

nycwatershed.org



2016 Farm Tour
May 3, 2016



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
of Delaware County



WINDSWEPT ACRES

Kevin & Carol Gutliph

Windswept Acres is a horse boarding, breeding, training, & riding operation owned & operated by Kevin & Carol Gutliph for over 20 years. The farm generally has 30-35 horses consisting of 22-26 adult horses, 7-8 ponies, and 2-5 foals/youngstock. Their plan was originally developed in 1997 and the first implementation followed in 1998. CREP was implemented in 2000 and subsequently re-enrolled in 2010.

Due to the nature of their operation and limited acreage, the Gutliph's only spread manure in the fall after haying and pasture season. Therefore, they need to stockpile manure for an extended period of time. The featured Best Management Practice (BMP), a covered manure storage, is replacing a gravel heavy use pad for stacking manure that was installed in 2000 and no longer met NRCS standards. It was designed to hold ~7500 cubic feet of manure. In addition to the structure, a motorized cart was purchased to transfer manure daily from both barns to the storage.

The Watershed's BMP has made manure handling and storage at Windswept Acres both more environmentally sound and much easier to manage for the Gutliph's by reducing their time and labor.

Resource Concern:

- Replace out of lifespan, non-standard NRCS BMP
- Inadequate treatment of manure pile runoff

Cost of Project: \$56,459

Acres Owned/Leased: 57/21

Animals: 30-35 Horses

Planner: Dan Vredenburgh

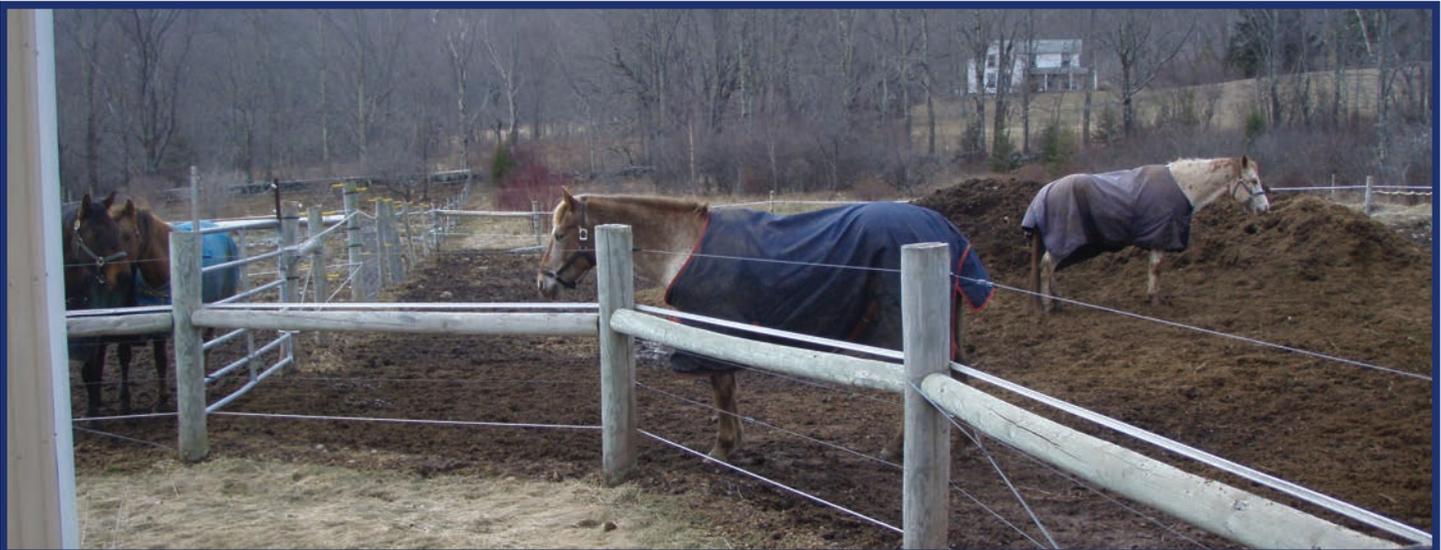
Engineer: Jason Skinner

Tech: Paula O'Brien

NM Planner: Cindy McCarthy



WINDSWEPT ACRES



MALLABER FARM

Mark & Cathy Mallaber, Aaron & Ariel Wilson

The Mallaber Farm is a 35 head beef operation located in the town of Delhi. The farm also raises pigs and houses a few horses. The beef and pigs are marketed by means of the local freezer trade. The farm is operated by Mark and Cathy Mallaber as well as their son-in-law and daughter Aaron & Ariel Wilson. The beef operation began in 2008. Mark and the family have worked extensively in genetics over the last five years. They are working toward purebred Herford, Angus, Simmental, Piedmontese and Charolais with help from the AI company Genex Cooperative.

Up until 2014 the farm was utilizing an old uncovered barn foundation as a heavy use feeding area on a neighbor's property. This area was used year round but primarily November – April to feed round bales, supplements, AI, and a winters worth of manure. The runoff from this area had a flow path of less than 30 feet to a watercourse. Along with the winter feeding resource issue, the herd's ability to forage and spread nutrients during the growing season was limited by the land base that was available at the time (less than 9 acres).

In 2010 a Whole Farm Plan was developed with key resource issues to address including the winter feeding area, nutrient management, and the limited land base. With the steepness of slopes and limited area to work with, an uncovered feeding area would not meet NRCS standards. A covered area was the only option to address the resource issue but was not a feasible option on the neighbor's property. Left with only one option, to build a covered feeding area on the Mallaber property with the need to trailer cattle to pasture for the grazing season.

Both the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and the Mallaber's realized limited land base was not only the biggest obstacle from a water quality standpoint but also operationally. In looking for a solution to the land base issue Mark was able to contact New York City Department of Environmen-

tal Protection (DEP) Senior Property Manager, Charlie Laing, to acquire a lease on nearby DEP land. This has proved to be a valuable resource for the Watershed Agricultural Programs goals and the Mallaber's needs. Additionally Aaron and Ariel Wilson purchased the adjoining property to the DEP land and Mark and Cathy also purchased another adjacent parcel to expand the pasture even more.

In 2014 the covered feeding area was built placing it on the newly acquired lands along with a watering system and fencing to facility grazing and enhance their nutrient management goals. The newly purchased and leased lands allowed the cows to easily access pasture and provided a great opportunity for the Mallaber's to successfully manage their herd in an environmentally sound system.

Resource Concern:

- Beef herd feeding area 30' flow path to stream
- Manure Storage
- Nutrient Management

Cost of Project: \$192,390

Acres Owned/Leased: 44/106

Animals: 35 Beef, 2 Horses, 6 Pigs

Planner: Nate Townsend

Engineer: Jason Skinner

Tech: Chris Savage

NM Planner: Kari Shaw



MALLABER FARM



WILDFLOWER FARM

John Janiszewski

Wildflower Farm has been owned and operated by the Janiszewski family for over 60 years. The farm has transitioned through many phases of agriculture through this time, from dairy to white tail deer, and currently a highly diversified operation including a herd of beef cattle, aquaculture (Tilapia), and a fast growing organic fertilizer business. The farm became a member of the Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) in 1998, and closed on a Watershed Agricultural Council Conservation Easement in 2006.

The farm entered the WAP program as a white tail deer farm with minimal resource concerns. As the farm livestock evolved from deer to beef, impacts to the landscape increased and conservation practices to protect water quality and the environment became necessary. In 2014, two different conservation systems were implemented to exclude livestock from multiple water courses on the farm. A 2.9 acre riparian forest buffer was established through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)- administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with cost share funding from the WAP. This system included fence to exclude the livestock, tree and shrub planting to enhance the buffer area, a livestock stream crossing to facilitate animal traffic through the buffer area, and alternative water facility to replace the stream as the drinking water source for the livestock.

The second system was an 11.8 acre Marginal Pasture land Wetland Buffer, also administered by FSA with cost share funding from the WAP. This system was chosen because of the soil type and wetland conditions of the areas that livestock had access too. Much like the CREP system described above, fence and stream crossings were installed, and an alternative water source was provided. Instead of planting trees though, the enhancement to this buffer was the creation of three potholes. These potholes are best described as shallow dug ponds fed by the ground water table to provide habitat for a wide cross section wetland and up-

land wildlife. Both of these implemented systems accomplished objectives of the WAP for cattle exclusion and buffer establishment to improve water quality and stream ecology, but also met an objective of the landowner to improve and provide wildlife habitat.

In 2015, a Covered Feed Pad was implemented by the WAP to address resource concerns related to feeding the beef herd through the winter months. As the pictures show, one former feed area was adjacent to multiple water courses which presented limited to no opportunity to treat manure and nutrient run off from the site. The other site was further from the stream, still had runoff issues, and both were difficult to collect and remove manure from to be spread in accordance to a nutrient management plan. Given the landscape of the farm, there were no opportunities to install an uncovered feed pad where run off would be treated through a large Vegetated Treatment Area (VTA). The WAP worked with the landowner and the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) Easement program to site the structure in a location that both met the requirements of the different land use areas associated with the easement, and also what fit for the operation. The winter of 2015/2016 was the first time the BMP was used, and has proved to be a successful BMP for water quality protection, while also enhancing the livestock management aspect of this farms diverse enterprise.

Resource Concern:

- Beef herd feeding area 30' flow path to stream

Cost of Project: \$124,635

Acres Owned/Leased: 180/165

(30 outside of Watershed)

Animals: 15,000 fish, 45 beef, 3 horses

Planner: Gideon Frisbee

Engineer: Jason Skinner

Tech: Paula O'Brien

NM Planner: Nate Nero

WILDFLOWER FARM



BYEBROOK FARM

Paul & Gwen Deysenroth, Dennis & Samantha Deysenroth

Byebrook Farm is owned and operated by the Deysenroth Family, Paul, Gwen, Dennis and Samantha. The farm was established in 1787 by Patrick Lamb who emigrated from Ireland; nine generations later the farm is still in the same family.

Byebrook Farm is a dairy farm consisting of 47 milking cows, 38 heifers and 35 chickens. Forage for the cows is raised on 154 owned /95 leased acres of pasture and meadows. The milk and cheese are produced primarily from cows grazing in spring, summer and fall and grass hay and silage are fed to cows in winter. In addition to bulk milk sales, raw milk is bottled and sold from the farm. The farm also processes some of its milk into Gouda Cheese and is aged in a cheese cave on the premises.

The farm was a pilot farm and has been a WAC participant since 1992. There have been many best management practices implemented since then, such as calf housing, livestock crossings, animal trails, spring developments, nutrient management, milkhouse waste and fencing.

Recently the Watershed Agricultural Program implemented a concrete heavy use area and roof

over the existing calf hutch area. The hutches are placed on gravel to allow for proper drainage and a concrete pad slopes away from calves to facilitate clean up in front of the hutches. A roof was constructed to prevent calf manure running off into an adjacent ditch which eventually reaches the river. The roof is translucent which allows some sunlight to shine on the calves which is important to their health. On the other hand, during the summer, the roof provides a cool place for the calves in the shade. An added benefit is on rainy and snowy days, the animals, bedding and grain stays dry. As part of the project an access road was relocated and culvert crossing installed.

Resource Concern:

- Calf Hutch area less than 100' to flowing ditch

Cost of Project: \$57,381

Acres Owned/Leased: 154/95

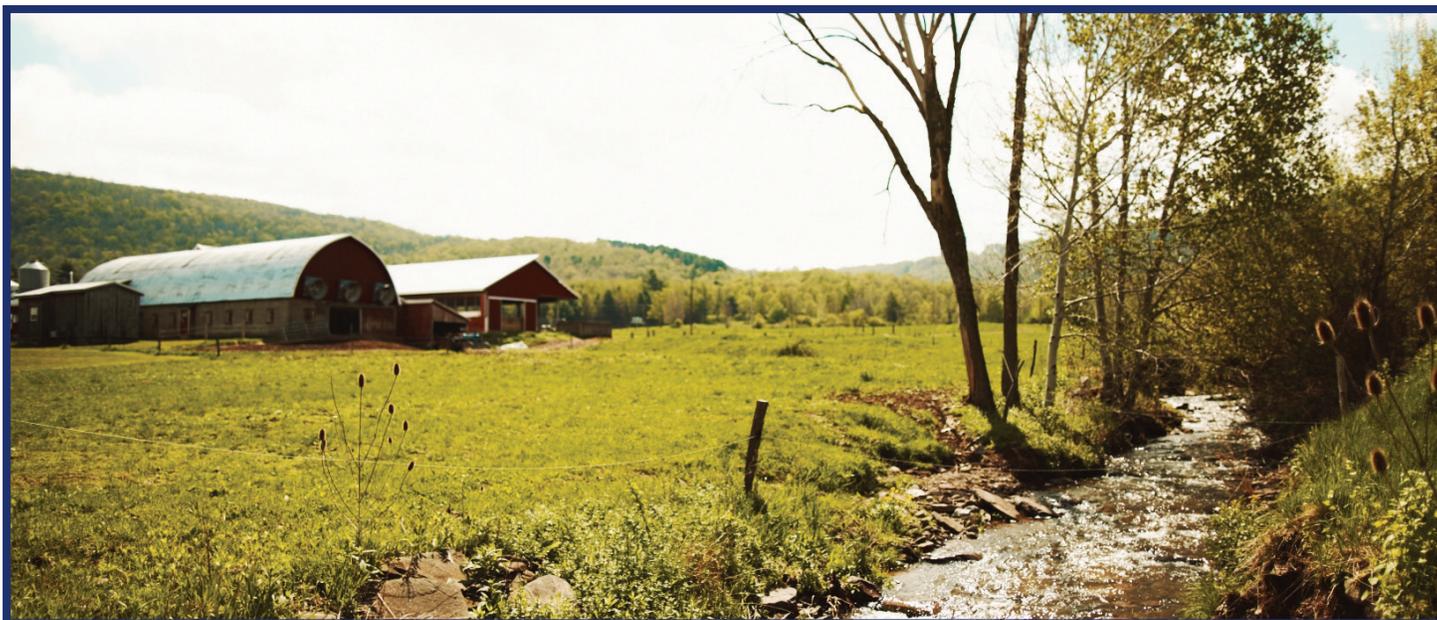
Animals: 47 Dairy, 38 Heifers, 35 Chickens

Planner: Dan Flaherty

Engineer: Jason Skinner

Tech: Ben VanDusen

NM Planner: Cindy McCarthy



BYEBROOK FARM





**Thank you for joining us on our
2016 Annual Farm Tour!**