

## **NRCS Announces Conservation Assistance for Air Quality on Farms**

SYRACUSE, NY, December 23, 2009 — State Conservationist, Astor F. Boozer of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that a new initiative is available to help farmers improve air quality on and around their farms. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiative is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers seeking innovative ways to reduce emissions from their farming operations. This initiative was authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill.

“The EQIP Air Quality Initiative will afford New York farmers the opportunity to install state-of-the-art practices on their farms, which will improve air quality as well as increase energy efficiency,” said Boozer.

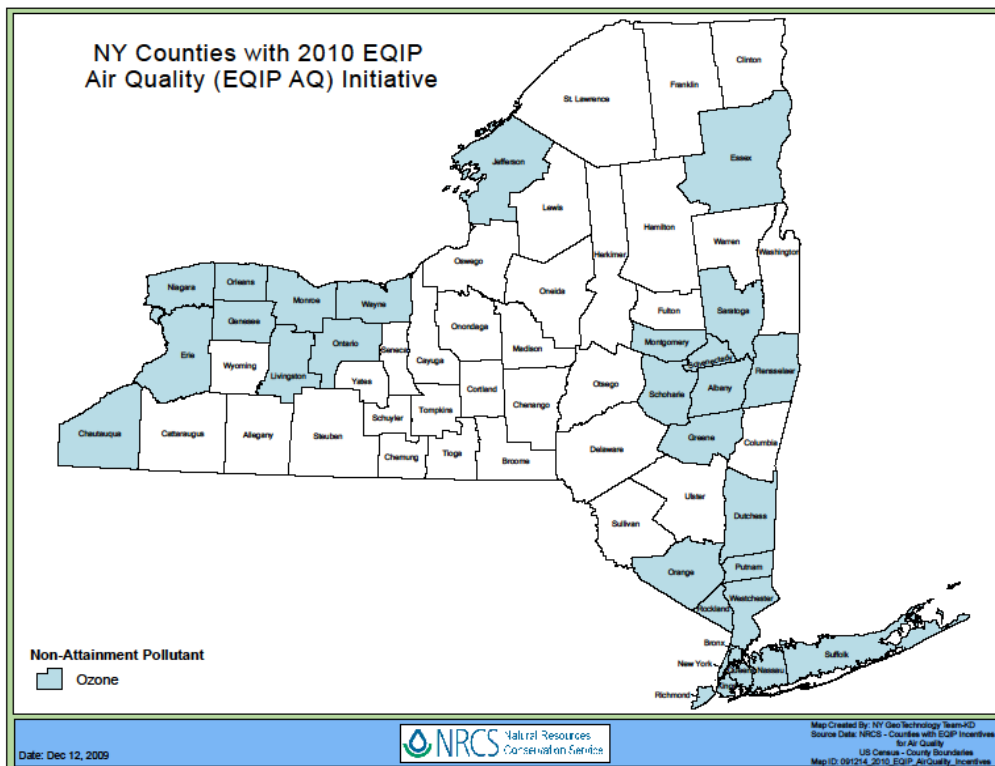
Practices being offered through this initiative are: Manure Storage Covers with a Methane Flare, Solid-Liquid Manure Separators, and Agricultural Chemical Handling Facilities.

The EQIP Air Quality Initiative will be offered in the 26 New York counties where emission levels exceed national air quality standards. Those counties include: Albany, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Genesee, Greene, Jefferson, Livingston, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Niagara, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Putnam, Rensselaer, Richmond, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Wayne, and Westchester.

Eligible agricultural producers in the identified counties will have until January 22, 2010 to apply.

Helping People Help the Land

Selection for funding is competitive and applications are ranked based on national and state resource priorities and their overall benefit to the environment. Interested landowners can apply for the program at their local USDA-NRCS office. For Sign-up details or additional conservation program information contact your local USDA NRCS office or visit <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/>.



Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer