

What is AEM?

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a program to help farmers make science-based and cost-effective decisions while working with SWCD staff to implement conservation planning. Through the technical resources provided, the program strives to protect soil health and water quality on your farm. AEM is a voluntary, incentive-based program, utilizing a five-tiered approach to preserving and improving the natural resources of Herkimer County.



Tier 1 is an inventory of the farm's status and plan.

Tier 2 is a detailed assessment of farming practices and environmental stewardship presently used.

Tier 3 is the planning stage. AEM does not guarantee funding, but completion of Tier 3 may make you eligible for grants.

Tier 4 is the implementation of best management practices. Examples of projects Herkimer County farmers have installed include: prescribed grazing system, heavy use area protection, manure storage, cropland erosion control practices, stream crossing and streambank stabilization.

Tier 5 is the evaluation and revision of plans or practices.



Summer may be a good time to schedule a visit to complete your Tier 1 and 2 so you can start the Tier 3 planning process in the fall. **If you are interested in working with AEM, please call our office at 315-866-2520 ext 5.**