

Addressing Weather and Climatic Challenges to Agriculture and Water Quality in the New York City Watershed

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the scope of work?

AgMIP is working with the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to use agricultural, economic, and climate models to observe how best management practices (BMPs) perform across climate conditions and to assess their economic viability. Using these findings, WAC, AgMIP, and DEP will develop a climate action plan for agriculture within the NYC watershed, with the goal of improving BMPs so that farmers can continue to protect NYC water quality into the future.

Who is involved?

This project is a partnership of WAC, the DEP, and AgMIP, and is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Farmers operating in the NYC Watershed can help the project to address their needs by providing input on the application and effectiveness of existing water BMPs and guidance on adapting BMPs to evolving climate conditions.

Will farmer information be used?

Farmers' input is essential to ensure that the project produces information that is useful to farmers and that the perspective of farmers in the watershed guides recommendations for improved BMPs. All farm-specific information will be confidential and anonymous, adhering to the same confidentiality procedures currently employed by WAC and the NRCS.

How will farmers benefit?

BMPs may require revision in order to continue protecting water quality as weather and environmental conditions change. This project can help guide the evolution of BMPs to support the continuation of successful farming in the watershed and the broader agricultural region. Participating farmers will contribute to ongoing efforts to maintain a thriving agricultural economy in the region and to secure safe drinking water for NYC.

How can farmers become involved?

Farmers can help guide the project by attending upcoming workshops and focus group meetings, by participating in a survey, and by meeting individually with project staff. As noted above, all information and perspectives offered by participating farmers will be held in strict confidence.

Have other questions? Reach out to Kevin Karl at kevin.karl@columbia.edu.

Watershed Agricultural Council



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