

# Penobscot District News

## Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2001

[www.penobscotswcd.org](http://www.penobscotswcd.org)

### Old Town High School Wins Envirothon

Chris Brewer

The Envirothon is a competitive educational program that tests high school students' knowledge of natural resource subjects and environmental issues. In an outdoor environment the students are tested in five areas: soils, wildlife, aquatics, forestry and a current natural resource issue. The current issue this year was Non-Point Pollution in the home and community.



Old Town High School Envirothon Team: Jason Tilotson, Kyle Noonan, Lauren Swett, Matthew Taylor, Sarah Spencer show their current issue posters.

Each spring, 5 regional competitions are held throughout Maine. The top three teams from each regional competition compete at the State Envirothon Finals.

The Penobscot County SWCD hosted the Central Region Envirothon on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Field's Pond Nature Center in Orrington. Fifteen teams, with 5 students each, competed from Cony High School, Bangor High School, Nokomis Regional High School, Mattanawcook Academy, Old Town High School, Upper Kennebec Valley High School, Messalonskee High School and Carrabec High School.

The members of Old Town High School Team # 2 were the Central Region Envirothon Champions this year. The team consisted of Jason Tillotson, Kyle Noonan, Lauren Swett, Matthew Tyler and Sarah

Spencer. Cony High School Team # 1 placed second and the team consisted of Mike Rocque, Brian Burnette, Matthew Mills, Jason Laptewicz, and Brian Miller. Messalonskee High School Team #1 members Ari King, Jess Davis, Sadie Mardin, Evan Summers, and Lindsey Burgoin, finished in third place. These teams competed in the State Competition which was held at the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset on May 31st, with 13 other teams that were

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### New Conservation Assistance Program Announced

Sarah Kron

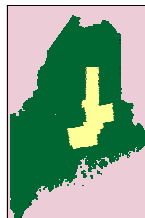
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) is a new program for agricultural producers, and is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Maine is one of 15 states to which AMA has been made available. AMA is a voluntary program designed to provide incentives to address natural resource concerns such as water conservation, water quality, soil erosion, and farm transition/diversification issues.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must own or control the land and agree to implement specific eligible conservation practices. The federal cost share rate will be 75% of the cost of an eligible practice.

Sign-up for this program has begun and will continue until **July 25, 2001**. If you are interested in signing up for the program or would like more information about the practices which are eligible, please contact the NRCS Staff 990-3676 ext. 3. For more information see page 2.

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## District Supervisors

- Joseph Chernosky
- Neil Crane
- Daniel Kusnierz, Chair
- Robert Fogler, Treasurer
- Mary Thomas, Vice Chair

## Associate Supervisors

- Lloyd Bolstridge
- Leslie Bolstridge
- John Fogler
- Simeon Leach
- Keith Parlette
- Charles Perkins
- Keith Ritchie
- Larry Smith
- Frank True
- Robert Weeks

## District Staff

- Christopher Brewer: District Office Coordinator
- Jennifer Wiersma: District Clerk
- Joseph Bertolaccini: District Engineer
- Keith Parlette, Earth Team Volunteer

## NRCS Staff

- Daniel Schmidt: District Conservationist
- Alice Begin: Soil Conservationist
- Sarah Kron, Soil Conservationist
- Ernest Neptune: Soil Conservationist
- Kenneth Blazej: Conservation Technician
- Ronald Olson: Area Soil Resource Specialist

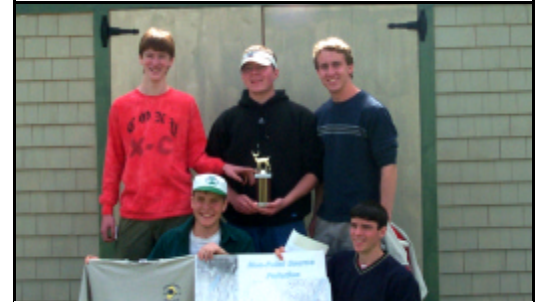
## Envirothon Continued

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successful in their regional competitions.

With a score of 402 out of 500 points Old Town High School placed first at the state competition. They will now compete at the National Envirothon which will be held in Raymond, Mississippi from July 24-29. High School teams from 36 states and 3 Canadian provinces will participate in the national competition.

We would like to congratulate the Old Town team and wish them luck at the national competition. We would also like to thank the Fields Pond Nature Center, Sam's Club, Pizza Hut, Shop N' Save, Garelick Farms, Frito Lay and everyone who volunteered their time to make the Central Maine Regional Competition a success.



Cony High School Team #1  
Second Place



Messalonskee High School Team #1  
Third Place



These students are trying to determine the horizon in this soil pit.



These students are identifying some water quality sampling equipment.



This student is making a presentation on Non-Point Pollution sources at his school.

## Agricultural Management Assistance FAQ

Elaine Tremble, NRCS

### Am I eligible?

Applicants must own or control the land and agree to implement specific eligible conservation practices.

### What practices are eligible?

- Irrigation structures and systems
- Soil erosion
- Nutrient and sediment control basins
- Waterways
- Cover crops

### How much money can I get?

The maximum annual payment is \$50,000 per participant. The cost-share rate is 75% of the cost of an eligible practice. Payments are based upon verification of completion of the approved practice.

### What do I have to provide?

25% of the cost of the eligible practice. This can include in-kind contributions such as personal labor, use of personal equipment, donated labor or materials, and on-hand or approved used materials.

### Other requirements and information

- There will be a 5-10 year contract period, and the practices must be maintained for the life of the practice.
- An NRCS conservationist will help you develop a plan and design conservation practices to help implement that plan.
- The State Conservationist will rank and select applications for funding based on a comprehensive environmental evaluation. Even if your project is not funded, you still have the conservation plan to use and can apply again as funds become available.

## Open Farm Day 2001

You are invited to attend a wholesome family adventure that offers hay rides of fun! On Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, almost 60 farms throughout Maine will open their doors to the public. There is much to experience at this year's Open Farm Day as well as a chance for you and your family to visit local farms throughout the state. Visiting hours are generally from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. though some farms may extend their hours for special events such as milking.

Maine farms offer displays, farm-raised products, animals and on-site activities to experience. Activities include barn and field tours, milking, hay rides, petting zoos, nature trails, beautiful scenery, and product sampling.

Handicap accessible farms include: Flying Changes Center for Therapeutic Riding in Topsham, Grove Hill Elk & Deer Farm in Ripley, Norlands Living History Center in Livermore, Page Farm & Home Museum in Orono, Sabbath Day Farm in Linneus, Wolfe's Neck Farm in Freeport and Riding to the Top Therapeutic Riding in Windham.

Four organizations that have taken leadership for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Farm Day are the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Maine Department of Agriculture Food & Rural Resources, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and the USDA NRCS Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area. Much support is also received from the Nezinscot Farm of Turner, Maine.

For a list of host farms, directions or

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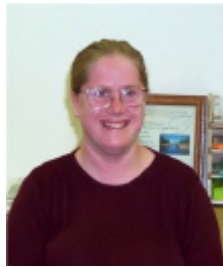
Penobscot County SWCD  
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207)990-3676

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Meet the New Office Staff Members

Alice Begin, Soil Conservationist, joined our staff in October. She relocated from Connecticut, where she worked for NRCS for 10 years as a Soil Conservationist and as a Resource Conservationist/Pasture Management Specialist. Alice has always loved Maine, and is happy to be living and working here.



Jennifer Wiersma worked for the USDA/NRCS State Office, where she was an Office Clerk, before coming to work for the District in May. Jen is also attending school at Beal College where she is majoring in Office Management.



### Open Farm Day Continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

additional information you are welcome to contact Jane Aiudi, Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333 or phone (207) 287-3702.

The hosts in Penobscot County are:

- Mapleshade Farm  
284 Corinth Road, Garland
- Page Farm & Home Museum  
University of Maine  
Belgrade Road, Orono
- Treworgy Farm Orchards  
3876 Union Street, Levant
- Udder Confusion Dairy  
Route 11, Bradford

Make the connection between the business of farming and what it means to the community and each of us in Maine. Enjoy Open Farm Day 2001!

To contact us for Additional Information on our programs:

Penobscot County SWCD/NRCS  
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Tel: (207)990-3676 • Fax: (207)990-1957  
E-mail: [info@penobscotswcd.org](mailto:info@penobscotswcd.org)

Or visit us online at [www.penobscotswcd.org](http://www.penobscotswcd.org)