



GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE



Hard Work Pays Off

God's Country Creamery, owned and operated by the Bachman family, produces healthy dairy products while conserving the land for future generations

God's Country Creamery is a multi generation, 60 cow dairy farm, creamery, and cheesery owned and operated by the Bachman family, located west of Ulysses, Potter County, in Northern Pennsylvania.

The Bachmans contacted the Coudersport, Pennsylvania NRCS service center in the fall of 2014, initiating a productive dialog and partnership that continues to this day.

Upon visiting God's Country Creamery, NRCS personnel learned that much of the dairy's physical infrastructure dated to the 1970's and was not constructed with creamery or cheese-making operations in mind. While the creamery's operations has been very successful, the growth of the creamery's cheese making operations has overwhelmed the existing milkhouse wastewater treatment system.

Great Lakes
RESTORATION

PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Ulysses, Pennsylvania

Watershed: Genesee River

Timeframe: 11/2014-Present

NRCS Investment: \$101,865.04

Land Use: Dairy Farm & Creamery

Conservation Practices: Waste Storage Facility, Waste Transfer, Heavy Use Area Protection, Pumping Plant, Lined Waterway, Structure for Water Control, Access Road, Roof Runoff Structure, Underground Outlet, Fence, Critical Area Planting, & Nutrient Management

Pennsylvania

SUCCESS STORY: HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Due to much of the farm's physical infrastructure being well past its design lifespan, and the addition and expansion of creamery and cheese making operations, the farm was unable to deal with the volume of animal waste and wastewater being generated.

NRCS personnel performed an initial inventory and evaluation of the farm in March of 2015. Erosion, ponding, compaction, and nutrient transport to Luddington Run, a Genesee River tributary, was evident.

NRCS planning and engineering staff entered into a sustained dialog with the landowners to design and install conservation practices that would address the existing resource concerns on the farm, as well as allow for the more effective use of nutrients produced by both the dairy and cheese making operations.

The centerpiece of the proposed conservation plan was to be a waste transfer and storage system that would collect all of the nutrients produced during the milking and cheese making processes that would allow for the nutrients to be stored for up to six months, giving the landowners the opportunity to apply nutrients to crops when plant uptake would be optimal, thus reducing erosion and nutrient transport to nearby Luddington Run.

The landowners received a conservation program contract through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the spring of 2016.



Before and after: Upon completion, the landowners planted wildflowers around the storage facility to provide additional habitat for pollinators.



Under construction: Concrete pumping operations and final grading around the waste storage facility.



The design process began in March of 2016 with the digging of soil test pits. Upon design completion and selection of contractors, a pre-construction meeting was held in April 2017. Ground was broken for the project shortly thereafter and construction proceeded until all engineering practices associated with the conservation program contract were completed in August of 2017.

Vegetation around the farmstead has rebounded, previous nutrient transport from the farmstead has been vastly reduced if not eliminated, and operational efficiency has improved.

The God's Country Creamery/Bachman dairy farm project has not only benefited the farm, surrounding environment, and Great Lakes watershed, it has served as a showcase for successful NRCS conservation planning.

-Sean Rukgaber
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