

Providing Incentives for Implementing Nutrient Management Plans in the New York City Watershed

Dale Dewing
Nutrient Management Team Leader
Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Delaware County

Brian LaTourette
Agricultural Program Manager
Watershed Agricultural Council

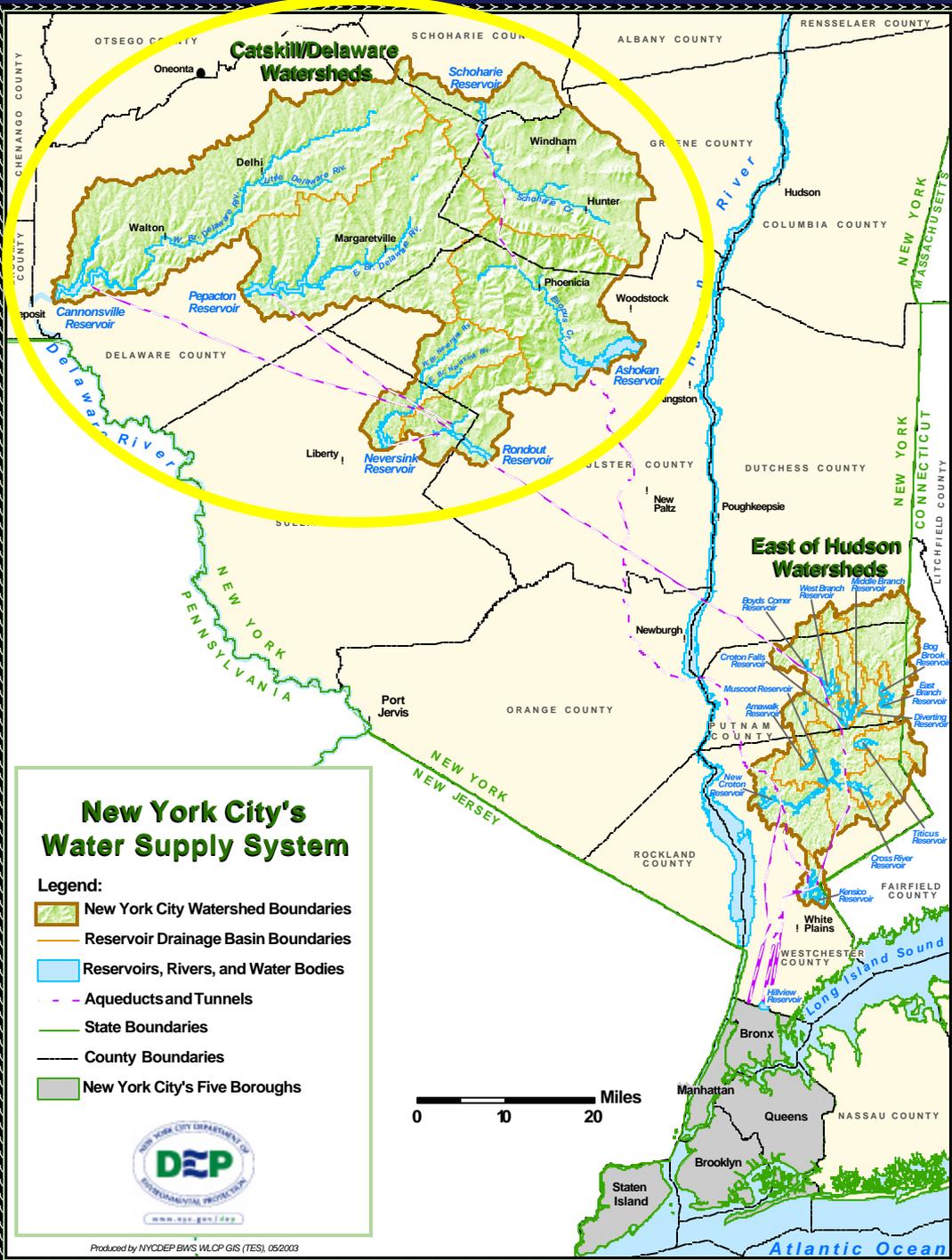






New York State

New York City



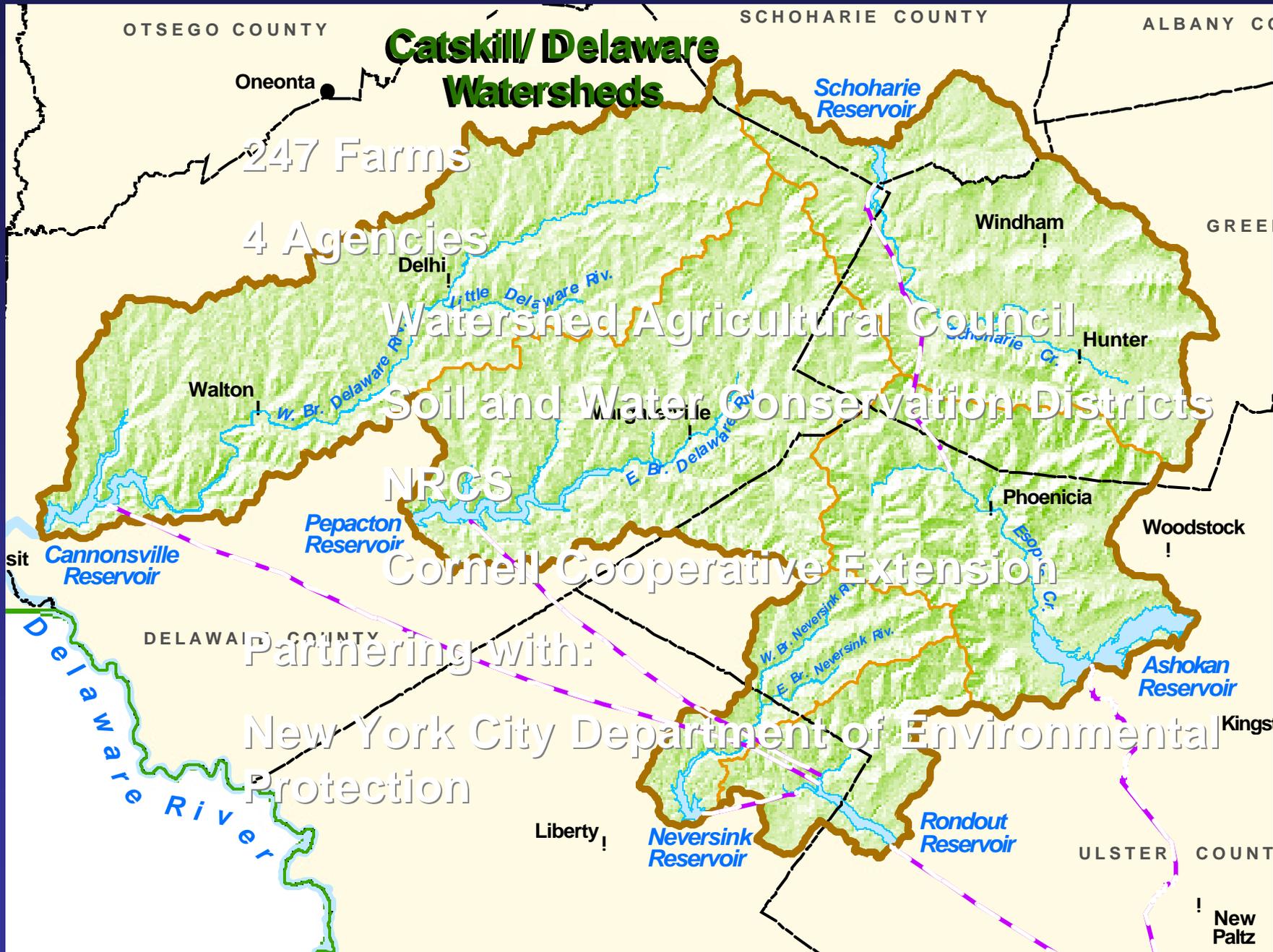
19 reservoirs

9 million people use
1.3 billion gallons daily

1,969 square mile
watershed – rural and
suburban

8 Counties, 60 Towns,
11 Villages

Catskill/ Delaware Watersheds



247 Farms

4 Agencies

Watershed Agricultural Council

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

NRCS

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Partnering with:

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Mission

The Watershed Agricultural Council will support the economic viability of agriculture and forestry within the New York City Watershed region while protecting water quality and promoting land conservation.



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Challenges

- Continuing high level of stewardship for the long-term after completion of first generation capital and management investments
- Cooperative conservation is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain of partnerships.



Following a Nutrient Management is:

- Inconvenient
- Expensive
- Requires additional management



Program Purpose

Encouraging Stewardship

farmers who closely follow their NMP are eligible for an annual credit toward equipment or services that are part of an overall strategy for following the NMP.



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Program Overview

- Program develops a NMP for the Farm
- Farm implements the NMP and keeps records
- Farm submits records each September
- WAP Staff review records and compare to the farm's NMP
- Peer Review Committee performs final review and certifies compliance
- Farm claims reimbursement for related expenses



Incentives for Nutrient Management

Credit Rate

– \$10.00 per acre for all land included in the NMP



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Reimbursable Expenses

- Purchase, lease, or repair of the manure handling equipment
- Custom handling or spreading of manure
- Establishment of cover crops



Farm Compliance

Greater than 95% of fields with manure applications were in compliance



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- 
- \$765,000 earned by 73 farms in 4 years
 - \$408,000 paid
 - \$357,000 available for reimbursement



Keys to Success

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Records are submitted and reviewed
- Farmers and Funders have confidence that only good stewardship is rewarded



Keys to Success

TRUST



- Peer Review gives participants confidence to return honest records
- Peer approval protects the relationship between the planner and the farmer





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