STATE OF NEW YORK

11111

IN ASSEMBLY

June 5, 2018

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Barrett) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to authorize the state soil and water conservation committee to establish a Columbia/Dutchess carbon farming pilot project to study the carbon sequestration potential of a range of farming practices in Columbia and Dutchess counties; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The state soil and water conservation committee, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation and the department of agriculture and markets, shall establish a Columbia/Dutchess carbon farming pilot project to study the carbon sequestration potential of a range of farming practices. The goal of such project shall be to develop best practices recommendations to maximize the carbon sequestration of farming activities. The project shall, at a minimum, include any soil health practices already promoted by the state, as well as those determined by the soil and water conservation districts, the department of environmental conservation, and the department of agriculture and markets to be practicable and easily replicated.

§ 2. The carbon farming pilot project established pursuant to section one of this act shall be jointly administered by the soil and water conservation districts in both Columbia and Dutchess counties and shall be limited to five farms jointly selected pursuant to an open application process. Farms applying to participate in such pilot project must be engaged in the operation of a commercial farm or orchard. At least one participating farm shall utilize the practice of spreading of composted manure followed by planting of cover crops over the composted manure.

§ 3. The soil and water conservation districts of Columbia and Dutchess counties shall conduct baseline soil testing for carbon content at the beginning of the carbon farming pilot project and shall further conduct soil testing for carbon content and water holding capacity at intervals of six months for the duration of such pilot project. Farm

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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costs eligible for reimbursement shall, at a minimum, include composted manure and cover crop seed. Best efforts shall be made to purchase composted manure from a single vendor or source for the duration of such pilot project.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed two years after such effective date.