



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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Farm Dust Reduced in Amagansett; Soil Test Shows No Health Hazard

A cooperative effort between East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc and the owner and farmer of agricultural land in Amagansett that was the source of windblown dust in the hamlet has addressed the problem by covering windblown fields with straw, using snow fencing to keep it in place.

On recent windy days, the straw has been successful at largely eliminating the swirling particulates that had caused concern. Town highway and maintenance crews have removed dust deposits that had built up along Amagansett's streets and sidewalks.

"We share residents' concerns about the recent dust storms in Amagansett. I am gratified that our agreed-upon solution appears to be working and am pleased that the town board was able to work together to achieve this result. We will continue to monitor the field conditions and take necessary actions to insure that this doesn't happen again," said Supervisor Van Scoyoc.

At the town's request, and with the permission of Barry Bistran, the landowner, soil samples were taken and tested for the presence of pesticides as well as of metals, a number of which are commonly found in Long Island's agricultural soils.

The town-ordered soil tests found no pesticides. All metals detected were at levels well below state standards.

Test results have been made available to the public; they are attached and will be posted on the town website at EHamptonNY.gov

Acting on reports from residents that the dust was infiltrating houses and businesses, posing potential damage to equipment and creating health concerns, Supervisor Van Scoyoc held a meeting last month with Mr. Bistran, the owner of the farm field north of the Amagansett municipal parking lot, and Peter Dankowski, who leases and farms the land, along with Mr. Bistran's son and consultants brought in to help develop both short and long-term strategies to address the situation—Alex Balsam, a farmer who heads the town's agricultural advisory committee, and Corey Humphrey, the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District district manager.