

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Conservation In Action

Fall
2010



Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

SWCD Supervisors

Greg Waters—Chairman
Knox Porteus—Vice Chairman
Adrian Garber—Secretary
Garry Derr—Fiscal Agent
David Lapp—Treasurer

NRCS Staff

Tim Halt—District Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Deb Bigelow—District Administrator
Mary Thomas—Administrative Assistant
Ryan Medley—District Technician
Barbara Mainwaring—GIS Specialist

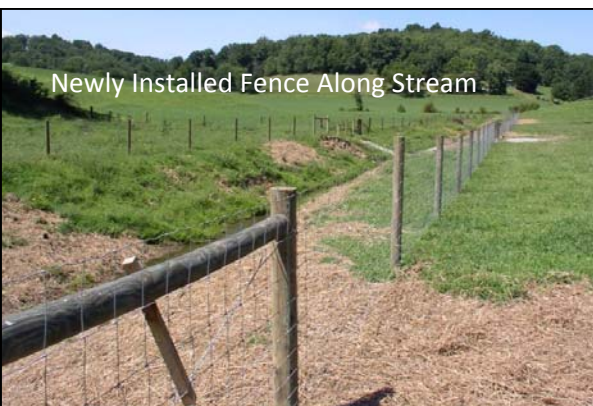
Mission: Providing leadership to educate and assist landowners in the wise management of our natural resources.

Cattle Fencing Funds Available

Do you have cattle that graze next to a stream? Do you use the river or stream as the water source for your animals? Would you be interested in building fence and finding another source for water if funds were available to help with the expense? The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) may have a unique opportunity for you.

The Coshocton SWCD has partnered with the Division of Wildlife and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to offer cost share dollars for landowners in the Muskingum River Watershed. This will include the Walhonding and Tuscarawas Watersheds and their tributaries. Participating landowners may receive 100% cost-share for the installation of conservation practices. Eligible conservation practices include fencing, stream crossings, spring developments, troughs, and pipe-line with a maximum of \$10,000 per landowner. Fence must be installed a minimum of 15 feet from the water's edge.

Fencing is the first step, but planning for livestock water is also important. Collecting and conveying water from seeps and wet spots to a stock tank serves 2 purposes. A clean source of water is available for drinking while drying up those muddy areas. It may be necessary to create a fenced stream crossing for livestock movement. Where it is not feasible to fence streambanks due to frequent out-of-bank flow and flooding, there are options such as fencing one side only, installing an electric high tensile wire on 30 foot post spacing, or piping clean water to strategically located stock tanks.



Cattle using the stream for water or being in the stream to cool off are a source of non-point source pollution. Fencing along streams stops livestock from trampling banks, destroying vegetation, and stirring up sediment in the streambed. When allowed to grow, trees and grass stabilize banks and thus reduce erosion.

Any landowner interested in installing fence along a stream or other conservation practices with cost share dollars should contact the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District at 622-8087, extension 4.

2010 Coshocton County Fall Foliage and Farm Tour a Success

The Coshocton County offices of OSU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Farm Service Agency recently held the 2010 Fall Foliage and Farm tour with stops at Walhonding Valley Fire District, Mohawk Dam, Princeton Valley Farm, Pilgrim Hills Campground, Tumblin Farms, Bumpus Farms, Wolf Pen Spring Estate and Rocky Ridge Dairy.

The 2010 tour brought 1,760 people through the northwestern section of Coshocton County, representing 6 states and 27 Ohio Counties. The 2011 tour will feature Northeast Coshocton County on October 15-16 next year.

Thank You to all of those who helped plan this event and to those who hosted a stop. All of this resulted in another successful year!

Fifth Grade Poster Contest Winners Announced

THANK YOU to all the 5th grade teachers and students who participated in the Annual 5th Grade Poster Contest sponsored by the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the SWCD fair display. Coshocton County fifth graders prepared entries in the 2010 Conservation Poster Contest "Soil—It All Starts Here" after a classroom presentation on how everything we eat can be traced back to a plant grown in the soil. Nineteen class-winning posters were on display for the fair-going public to vote to determine the overall winners.

Hannah Arnold of Ridgewood Middle School placed 1st, Mallory Griffin of Conesville Elementary placed 2nd, and Agusta Kinzel of Warsaw Elementary placed 3rd. Arnold won a \$25 cash award and a pizza party for her class, Griffin won a \$15 cash award and an ice cream party for her class, and Kinzel won a \$10 cash award and an ice cream party for her class.

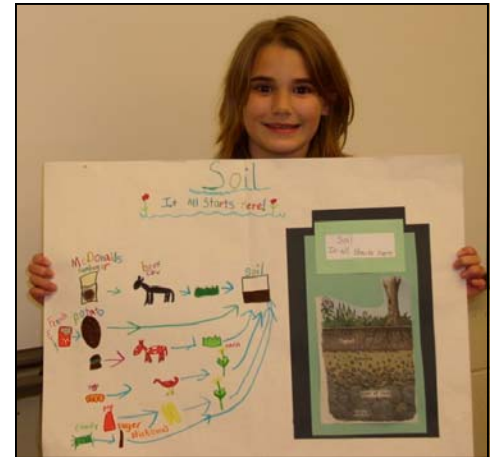
Schools participating in this year's contest include Coshocton City Schools – Central, Lincoln and South Lawn; Ridgewood Middle School; River View Schools – Conesville, Keene, Union and Warsaw; and Sacred Heart.



1st Place - Hannah Arnold
Ridgewood Middle School



2nd Place - Mallory Griffin
Conesville Elementary



3rd Place - Agusta Kinzel
Warsaw Elementary

Sign Up Deadline Approaching for Environmental Quality Incentives Program Contributed by Tim Halt, District Conservationist

Ohio NRCS has established a cutoff date of **December 1, 2010** for accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications for funding consideration, and applications received on or before this date will be ranked and rated for funding. Applications received after December 1st will still be accepted but will be "deferred" to the next funding cycle.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. Eligible practices may include grazing management plans, spring developments, troughs, pipeline, access roads, heavy use feeding pads, agrichemical storage containment facility, and timber stand improvement. Practices are planned to address resource concerns such as water quality protection and erosion control.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice and a maximum term of ten years. Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP activities are carried out according to a plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice or practices to address the resource concerns. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions.

Ohio NRCS supports the locally led conservation effort in the delivery of conservation programs. The USDA local work group (LWG) serves as the starting point for the development and coordination of USDA programs to provide an integrated approach for addressing local natural resource concerns.

A ranking score sheet has been developed that will address the National and State resource concerns along with the criteria developed by each county LWG. The LWG priorities will comprise 100 of the total points in the ranking score by identifying critical practices and watersheds within the county. The State Conservationist must grant final approval of county LWG ranking criteria, eligible practices, cost-share levels and payment rates.

For more information about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, call the Coshocton NRCS office at 740-622-8087, extension 4.

2010 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Farm Credit Services

Platinum

Coshocton County Beacon
 Coshocton Foundation
 Coshocton Grain Company
 Gerber & Sons, Inc.

Gold

Jim Aslanides
 Century National Bank
 Clow Water Systems Company
 Coshocton Co. Chamber of Commerce
 Coshocton County Sheriff, Tim Rogers
 Endsley Insurance Agency
 Finton Equipment—John Deere
 Larry A. Frye Farms
 Jim McKinney - TSI Vendor-EQIP
 Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout & Family
 Tumblin Farms, David Tumblin

Silver

Baird Concrete
 Coshocton Co. Engineer, Fred Wachtel
 Coshocton County Farm Bureau
 Home Loan Savings Bank
 Bob Nelson—Dale Gress Real Estate
 Ohio Heritage Bank
 Larry Stahl, Retired Co. Commissioner
 William Albert Inc.

Bronze

Addy's Mower Sales
 Alan Donaker Surveying
 Bluck & Sons, Inc.
 Cosh. Co. Auditor, Sandra Corder
 Cosh. Co. Clerk of Courts, Janet Mosier
 Coshocton Sportsmen Club
 Fender's Fish Hatchery
 Frontier Power Company
 Ohio Power AEP
 Owens & Manning Attorneys

140 in Attendance at Coshocton SWCD's 68th Annual Meeting and Banquet

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District held their 68th Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Coshocton County Career Center Thursday evening, October 21, 2010. 140 area residents and special guests were in attendance. A baked ham dinner served by Fresno Methodist Ladies preceded the meeting.

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission held an election of two supervisors elected to the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors. Knox Porteus and Greg Waters were elected and will serve a three year term starting January 1, 2011.

Bill Huston from the Farm Service Agency for Muskingum and Morgan Counties was the evening's guest speaker. Mr. Huston shared experiences of his 13 months as an Agricultural Advisor in Iraq.

Coshocton SWCD sponsored the Coshocton County Junior Fair Hay Show and recognized the winners from the 2010 County Fair – Light Mixed Hay – Kurt Wyler, son of John and Annette Wyler, Ridgewood FFA; and Alfalfa, Grass, and Mixed Hay – Clinton Hedrick, son of Dale and Kim Hedrick, River View FFA.

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District announced the 2010 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year Award which went to Alan and Susan Brinker of ASB Farm. ASB Farm is the former Robert Mikesell Stock Farm with the Brinkers farming over 500 acres in Pike and Perry Townships. ASB Farm has converted former cropland to management intensive pasture where they graze approximately 700 head of Angus cross cattle. Conservation practices installed on the Brinker farm include prescribed intensive grazing, pipeline and 6 complete watering facilities, fencing and a solar-powered water pump for livestock. Alan chairs the Ag Awareness Day event for the Coshocton County Farm Bureau, is a member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Ohio Sheep Improvement Association, serves on the Regional Planning Board, is a 4-H Advisor, and was recently appointed to the beef sub-committee for the Ohio Livestock Care Commission. Alan and his family are members of the Nellie Chapel United Methodist Church. Congratulations to the Brinker family for being named 2010 Outstanding Conservation Farm of the Year.

Jeff and Kim Olinger were recognized as the winner of Coshocton SWCD's Big Tree Contest. The winning "Big Tree" was a Sycamore which measured 14' 5" in circumference with a vertical height of 102' and an average crown spread of 119'.

The winner of the Mystery Photo Contest which was part of the SWCD's display at the Coshocton County Fair was Mike Wesney. Mike was among 13 winning entries received. The mystery photo was of the Ed and Alice Moore Farm located on County Road 3 in Pike Township.

The meeting adjourned after door prizes were drawn compliments of Coshocton SWCD, ANNIN and Company, Buehler's, Century National Bank, Coshocton County Commissioners Gary Fischer, Curtis Lee and Dane Shryock, Coshocton County Sheriff Tim Rogers, Coshocton Yard, Crowtown Pizza, Earl's Dari Drive-in, Edie Ryan's Restaurant, English Ivy, Farm Credit Services, Hahn Oil Co., Miller's Dutch Kitchen, Pearl Valley Cheese, Peggy Sue's Steak and Ribs, Raven's Glenn Winery, SportZone of Coshocton and Warehouse Steak N Stein.



2010 Outstanding Conservation Farm ASB Farm - Alan and Susan Brinker

Alan is presented with his award
 by Supervisor Garry Derr (R)

2010 Big Tree Contest Winners Jeff and Kim Olinger

Jeff and Kim are presented with their award
 by Supervisor Knox Porteus (L)



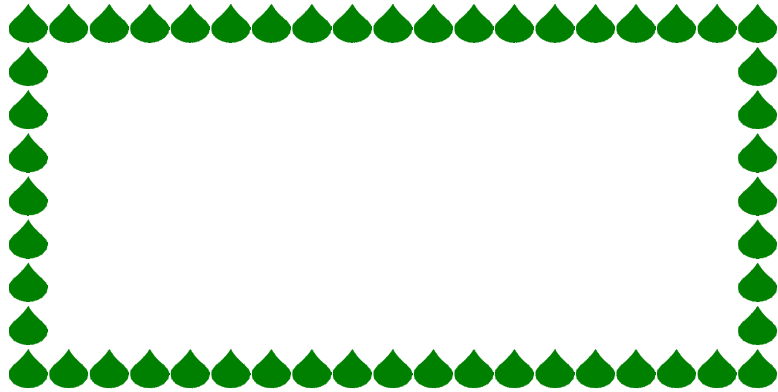
**Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District**
724 South Seventh Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Phone (740) 622-8087, ext. 4
www.coshoctonswcd.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Coshocton SWCD Newsletter is a publication to keep county residents informed of our SWCD program. Please phone the office at 622-8087, ext.4 if your address needs corrected or if you wish to be taken OFF our mailing list.

Help us save \$\$\$ - Receive your newsletter via e-mail - contact marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net



Agricultural Department to Hold Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Information Sessions

Farmland owners have the opportunity to learn how to apply for Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program funds during upcoming information sessions offered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural easements are voluntary legal agreements restricting non-agricultural development on farmland, with the land itself remaining on the tax rolls and under private ownership and management. Landowners may undertake any agricultural activity permitted under Ohio law, and they can sell their farm or pass it along as a gift to others. However, the easement remains with the land, prohibiting any future non-agricultural development to make certain that it remains used for agricultural purposes.

Meetings will feature a presentation by the department's farmland preservation staff as well as testimony from landowners who have participated in the program. Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss the program with Ohio Department of Agriculture staff.

Local partners will also be present at each meeting to provide information and direction to

landowners. It is important for attendees to connect with these partners who submit applications to the department on behalf of farmland owners.

Information sessions are scheduled for:

- **Northwest** - Nov. 29, 6 - 8 p.m.—WW Knight Nature Preserve, Great Room, 29530 White Road, Perrysburg, Ohio; Local partners: Black Swamp Conservancy
- **Southeast** - Dec. 7, 6 - 8 p.m. - **Kenyon College Athletic Center Theater, 2nd Floor, 221 Duff St., Gambier, Ohio; Local partners: Philander Chase Corp. and Owl Creek Conservancy** **RSVP to Dorothy Michalski at michalskid@kenyon.edu or 740-427-5154**
- **Southwest** - Dec. 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.—Warren County Administration Bldg., 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio; Local partners: Three Valley Conservation Trust

The next application round for the department's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program is tentatively scheduled to open on Jan. 5, 2011. For more information about the program and the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

Calendar of Events

- November 18th**
Local Work Group Mtg 9:00 am
- November 25th-26th**
Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- December 1st**
EQIP Sign-Up Deadline
- December 7th**
Ag Easement Information Session-Kenyon College
- December 8th**
Board Meeting 10:00 am
- December 24th**
Office Closed—Christmas
- December 31st**
Office Closed—New Year's
- January 12th**
Board Meeting 10:00 am
- January 17th**
Office Closed—MLKing Day
- February 9th**
Board Meeting 10:00 am

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