

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Conservation In Action

Spring
2011



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.

District Hosts Legislative Luncheon By Deb Bigelow, District Administrator

The Coshocton SWCD recently hosted local and state legislative leaders for a luncheon at the Warehouse Steak and Stein Restaurant in Roscoe Village. Joining SWCD Supervisors and Staff for a luncheon buffet and program were State Senator Jimmy Stewart; State Representative Troy Balderson; County Commissioners Gary Fischer, Dane Shryock, and Curtis Lee; Coshocton City Mayor Steve Mercer and Safety Service Director Jerry Stenner; Coshocton City Council President Kirby Hasseman; Darrell Kirk from Representative Bob Gibbs' office; and ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources Acting Chief Ted Lozier and Administrator Fred Hammon. District staff presented a slide show to educate attendees about the SWCD program and how this local investment promotes conservation while returning money to our local economy.

"Providing leadership to educate and assist landowners in the wise management of our natural resources" is the mission of the Coshocton SWCD. District Supervisors Greg Waters, Knox Porteus, Adrian Garber, Garry Derr, and David Lapp volunteer many hours to lead the District program. They establish work priorities to address the needs of Coshocton County to protect our soil and water resources and hire staff to carry out these responsibilities. District Supervisors make wise use of public funds and work with other agencies to make these dollars go further. In these tough economic times, it's important to convey this message to our elected officials. Coshocton SWCD Supervisors and Staff appreciate these officials taking time from their schedules to attend our luncheon. Protecting our soil and water helps sustain Coshocton County's #1 industry, Agriculture, which provides all of us a safe, nutritious and affordable food supply.

Senator Jimmy Stewart (seated) and Representative Troy Balderson (right) join Mayor Steve Mercer (left) and SWCD Supervisor Garry Derr (2nd from right) for the SWCD Legislative Luncheon. Looking on is NRCS District Conservationist Tim Halt.



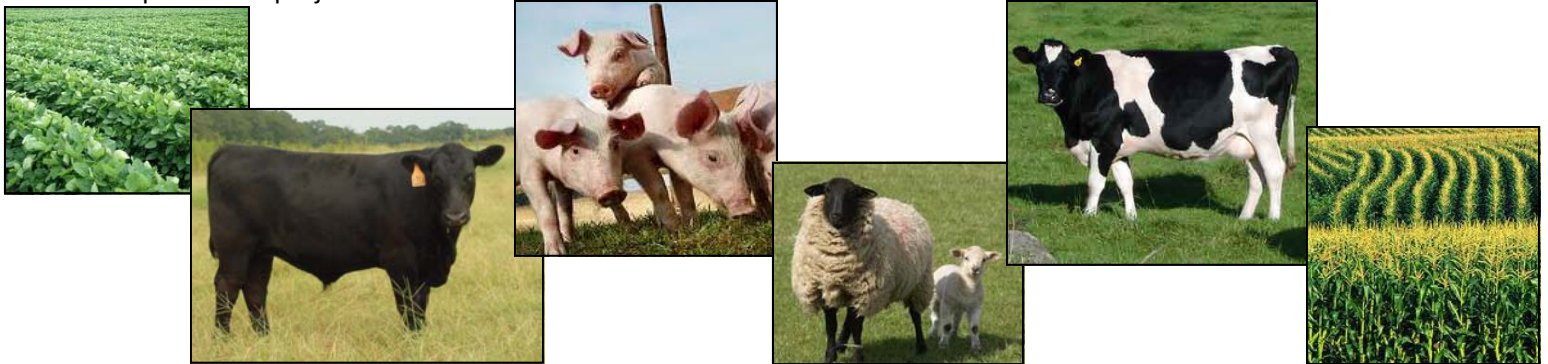
First Farm Friday Planned – Volunteers Needed!

If you have a love for agriculture and would like to share your knowledge with other citizens of Coshocton County, please plan to join us for the *First Farm Friday* event on June 3, 2011. The Coshocton SWCD will host this event in conjunction with *First Fridays* in the City of Coshocton from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The goal of this event is to coordinate a program that will help the general public understand the importance of agriculture in our community and beyond.

A small committee has been working to plan this special event. Special thanks to David and Alana Lapp, Nate McNeal, Debbie Gaumer, Tammi Rogers and Trish Cunningham. We have worked with the City of Coshocton to close Main Street between 3rd and 4th Streets to exhibit farm machinery and animals for this event. We will also have the 3rd Street side of the Court Square for exhibits and displays.

There are about 75,000 farms in Ohio with total farmland at nearly 14 million acres. Agriculture contributes more than \$90 billion to Ohio's economy and employs 14% of Ohioans. This rich heritage of cultivation and production of goods and healthy foods is a source of pride for our State. Help us spread this important message to others at this *First Farm Friday* event.

A public meeting for those interested will be held Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the County Services Building– Room B-105 (downstairs), 724 S. 7th Street, Coshocton. Contact Deb Bigelow at 740-622-8087, extension 4 with your ideas or commitment to help with this project.



Professional Foresters Help Protect Your Interests

Consulting a professional forester before a timber cut along with using a master logger when choosing to harvest trees helps Ohio woodland owners conserve their woods and protect their financial interests. Woodlots are important natural resources to us all. They provide wildlife habitat, beauty, protection for soil and water, recreation, and valuable timber.

Your woods represent one of your most valuable resources. The decision to harvest, and how to do so, can either improve or set back the future value of your land and its potential for wildlife habitat. There are several reasons why you might decide to sell timber: the timber represents a source of income; the health and vigor of your woods, and habitat for some species of wildlife, can be improved if you develop a harvesting approach that fits your needs; and trees that may be damaged due to ice, wind, snow, storm, fire, insects or disease can be salvaged to allow you to recover some of their value. Whatever the reason for harvesting, a professional forester is uniquely qualified to assist you with a timber harvest that accomplishes your needs and expectations.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of

Forestry recently reorganized their districts. Coshocton County is part of District 9 and is covered by Service Forester Brian Riley. Service Foresters are employed by the State of Ohio and are available to provide landown-



ers with current information for the long term management of their woodlands.

Landowners may also choose to contact a Consulting Forester for assistance on their property. Consulting Foresters and Technicians are self-employed or work for a private consulting company and have no interest in a timber purchasing or procurement entity. They provide forest resource management recommendations and assistance to landowners for a fee. While some consultants provide assistance with a variety of forestry activities, others are quite specialized.

The Ohio Society of American Foresters (SAF) offers information on types of foresters and the services they can provide to landowners. When an SAF member assists a private forest landowner with a timber sale, the harvest will be designed to achieve the landowner's objectives; protection of the forest, soil, water, wildlife and other resources will be incorporated in the harvest plan; consideration will be given to the future forest; visual impact can be minimized through proper layout of the sale; and proper planning will be used to increase value to the landowner in the form of income and natural resource management.

Contact the Coshocton SWCD office at 740-622-8087, extension 4 to obtain a list of Consulting Foresters or visit www.osafdirectory.com. Each consulting company also lists a detailed description which includes services provided, educational and work background, and types of insurance coverage.

2011 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Farm Credit Services

Platinum

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

Gold

Century National Bank
 Coshocton Co. Chamber of Commerce
 Coshocton County Sheriff, Tim Rogers
 Endsley Insurance Agency
 Finton Equipment - John Deere
 The Garden Patch Greenhouse
 Jim McKinney - TSI Vendor-EQIP
 Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout & Family
 Thousand Oaks Farms
 Tumblin Farms, David Tumblin
 William Albert, Inc.

Silver

Baird Concrete
 Cosh. Co. Commissioner, D. Curtis Lee
 Coshocton County Farm Bureau
 Frontier Power Company
 Home Loan Savings Bank
 Bob Nelson - Dale Gress Real Estate
 Ohio Heritage Bank

Bronze

Addy's Mower Sales
 Alan Donaker Surveying
 Bluck & Sons, Inc.
 Cosh. Co. Auditor, Sandra Corder
 Cosh. Co. Clerk of Courts, Janet Mosier
 Coshocton Co. Engineer, Fred Wachtel
 Cosh. Co. Treasurer, Janette Donaker
 Coshocton Sportsmen Club
 Fender's Fish Hatchery
 Owens & Manning Attorneys
 Scheetz Marketing, Inc.

Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up

A new acreage enrollment period has been announced for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The sign up period will be for 5 weeks beginning March 14 and ending on April 15, 2011. This is a general sign up, meaning full fields as well as portions of fields may be offered for enrollment. CRP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The purpose of the CRP is to take environmentally-sensitive farmland acreage out of production and plant it to a conserving-use cover crop chosen by the applicant. Grass/legume mixes and hardwood trees are common choices in Coshocton County. FSA pays an annual rental payment for the acreage and provides up to 50% cost share to plant the cover. Contracts are for a minimum of 10 years. Contact the Coshocton County FSA office for more information by calling 740-622-8087, extension 2

Oil and Gas Leasing Information Meeting Scheduled

Have you been approached about leasing your property for oil and gas? Would you like to learn more about what you as a landowner should know before getting into negotiations?

Coshocton County Farm Bureau is sponsoring an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Frontier Power Company, 770 S. 2nd Street, Coshocton. This special program is open to the general public. Dale Arnold, Director of Energy Services, from Ohio Farm Bureau will be the guest speaker. Please RSVP to coshocton@ofbf.org or call the county office at 800-641-7648 to make a reservation for this important event.



Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Frontier Power Company, 770 S. 2nd Street, Coshocton. This special program is open to the general public. Dale Arnold, Director of Energy Services, from Ohio Farm Bureau will be the guest speaker. Please RSVP to coshocton@ofbf.org or call the county office at 800-641-7648 to make a reservation for this important event.

Bigelow Completes Training

Deb Bigelow, Coshocton SWCD District Administrator, recently received her certification for the Educator's Development Program, Level 1 at the OFSWCD Conservation Partnership Meeting in Columbus. This training was sponsored by the Ohio Division of Soil and Water Resources.

A series of 2-day training courses from March to November of 2010 addressed both youth and adult education methods. A total of 31 district educators from across the state participated in this course. The multi-level training focused on education theory and methods, creating new partnerships, and activities to create awareness about soil, land use and water quality issues.

The Educator's Development Program, Level 2 is in the planning stages, and Bigelow is serving on the planning committee. Classes will begin in June and run through January of 2012.

If you are interested in natural resource activities or presentations for your classroom or group, please contact the District office at 622-8087, extension 4 or e-mail debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net.

Celebrate National Soil Stewardship Week - April 24-May 1

National Soil Stewardship Week is April 24-May 1, and this year's theme is "Forests for People: More Than You Can Imagine." The National Association of Conservation Districts began this national program in 1955 to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week helps remind all citizens of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve their community. When everyone works together, that power grows and grows. As these good deeds multiply across the nation, results are spectacular! Join Coshocton SWCD in celebrating National Soil Stewardship week by doing something to improve your neighborhood.

"When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation." - Aldo Leopold



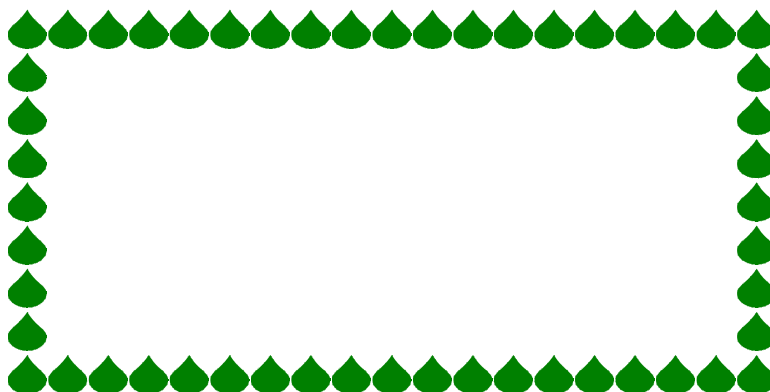
**Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District
724 South Seventh Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Phone (740) 622-8087, ext. 4
www.coshoctonswcd.org**



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



Summer Series of Pasture Walks continue in 2011

The Coshocton SWCD and NRCS will once again be holding a series of Pasture Walks this summer. They are held to share grazing ideas and alternatives for different species of livestock. Past workshops have highlighted rotationally grazing multiple live-stock species, paddock sizing and layout, water collection and distribution, utilizing a grazing management plan, fertility distribution, cost of feeding hay versus grazing, and forage testing.

Plans are currently being made for this summer's Pasture Walks. If you would like to receive notification of when they will be held, contact the SWCD office at 740-622-8087, extension 4 or e-mail marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net.

Anyone interested in improving their livestock grazing system is encouraged to attend this summer's Pasture Walks.

Neal and Barb Caldwell hosted one of the 2010 Pasture Walks. Beef cattle and sheep are rotationally grazed on their farm.



Calendar of Events

- April 12th**
Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- April 13th**
Farm Bureau Oil & Gas Mtg. 7:00 pm - Frontier Power
- April 24th - May 1st**
Soil Stewardship Week
- April 27th**
Area 3 Envirothon
- May 11th**
Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- May 18th**
AEP Ecco Challenge
- May 30th**
Office Closed - Memorial Day
- June 3rd**
First Farm Friday
Courthouse Square
- June 8th**
Board Meeting 8:00 pm