

Your  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
Specialists!

# Conservation In Action

Summer  
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.*

### A Bicentennial Tribute to Agriculture

As part of the City of Coshocton's Bicentennial Celebration, the City will join with the Coshocton farm community, the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District and the Pomerene Center for the Arts to highlight agriculture's prominent and enduring place in our county's history.

In honor of the City's 200 years, the cloverleaf junction of State Route 541 and State Route 16 is being designed as an agricultural space with large 'C's of corn planted in pools of soybeans. This untraditional agricultural space honors the history of agriculture in our community and acknowledges the men and women who encompass our hills and valleys with fields of corn, soybeans and hay; adding significantly to the economic well being and beauty of our county.

As with most agricultural work this year, our progress has been slowed due to a very wet spring. The area was

sprayed in May but not planted until the first full week in June.

Many community partners have made this project a success. They include Gerald and Judy Finlay, Porteus Brothers-Knox and Brent Porteus, TMK Bakersville, Ag Land Co-Op, George Darr Farms and Coshocton Grain Company. The realization of this project would not have happened without the support and efforts of the Coshocton County Engineer, Representative Troy Balderson and Senator Jimmy Stewart.

Due to safety concerns, there will be no signage to explain this project. We look forward to seeing our "crop" emerge and grow in the coming months and hope you will share your knowledge of this project with your neighbors. As you pass by this area throughout the summer and fall, it will be a reminder of the importance of agriculture in Coshocton County.



May 12th—TMK Bakersville prepares the cloverleaf area for planting Roundup Ready corn and soybeans.



June 6th—Gerald Finlay plants no-till corn to form the "C"s for the Agriculture as Art project in the Cloverleaf area of Coshocton.

This area is being planted in corn and soybeans to honor the significant contribution that agriculture makes to our community.

## Tim's Retiring!

Coshocton's District Conservationist is retiring July 1st! Tim Halt has worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for the past 25 years in Coshocton's Field Office, but his years with NRCS have totaled more than 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Coshocton SWCD Supervisors and Staff would like to recognize Tim's dedicated service to our landowners by hosting an Open House in celebration of his retirement.

The Open House will be held Friday, July 1st from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at the SWCD/NRCS/FSA Office, 724 S. 7th Street-Room 120, Coshocton. If you're unable to attend, feel free to stop in before the 1st to share your congratulations.

Over the past 25 years, Tim has built working relationships and friendships with many landowners and producers in Coshocton County. He has helped them develop Conservation Plans for their operations, addressed soil erosion and water quality concerns while keeping the producer's views in mind, and has worked extensively in helping program participants understand and complete required paperwork that can be overwhelming.

***We wish Tim and his family the very best upon his Retirement!***

## Working Together to Protect Soil and Water Resources

By Deb Bigelow, District Administrator



I enjoy working at the local soil and water office and consider myself fortunate to meet a lot of interesting and dedicated people in our community. As was the case when I answered the telephone recently and was asked, "My neighbor said some government program would pay me to build fence to keep cattle out of the creek. Do you know anything about that?" I explained to him that we have several programs that might work, but first I needed more information from him. "Do you have a conservation plan or a farm tract number; have you ever participated in the government programs; and do you have a cropping history on your farm?" Is it any wonder people lose interest after they hear a few of these questions? And that doesn't even begin to include all of our acronyms like SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District), NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) or CRP (Conservation Reserve Program).

Before I completely scare you away, please be assured that your local SWCD/NRCS office can assist you with cost share money for most of your conservation projects. After all, we are in the business of protecting our soil and water resources. Building fence to keep cattle out of the stream and designing a spring development to supply drinking water are two practices that we do a lot of in Coshocton County. But before you get excited and think that money is falling from the sky, let's remember where this money comes from. These are government funds, and whether they come from the federal, state or local level, there are guidelines to follow for both the landowner and government agency. The program contract you sign for your cost share money means you agree to follow the rules of the program. Please read and understand these documents to avoid problems later. Most contracts today must have **all** your practices completed **before** they will be paid.

The most important question for you to answer is "What are my natural resource concerns?" These could include soil erosion or condition, water quantity or quality, air

quality, plant suitability, or animal management. What most people really need is a conservation plan instead of a "program." Conservation planning is your roadmap to where you want to go. This includes:

- ◆ Identifying the resource problems
- ◆ Determine your resource objectives
- ◆ Inventory your resources
- ◆ Analyze your resource data
- ◆ Formulate alternatives
- ◆ Evaluate your alternatives
- ◆ Make decisions about your conservation plan
- ◆ Implement your conservation plan
- ◆ Evaluate your conservation plan

Plan ahead and think about what you want to do. Complete your eligibility paperwork. We do not enjoy the paperwork anymore than you do, but it's a fact of life in today's world. None of this paperwork is easy or simple but it is necessary to track program dollars. We must be responsible with taxpayer dollars, and that is where the program money comes from. Contracts must be fully completed to receive payments because at some point, someone did not complete their entire contract; tying up funds that could have been used for another landowner. Your local office would like to pay you for one practice to allow work on the next, but again we must follow the rules.

Stop in our office and meet your NRCS District Conservationist or SWCD District Technician and get to know them. Invite him or her out to your farm or operation. These personal relationships are what Districts were founded on over 60 years ago. Cost share programs are not for everyone or every situation, but we are always here to assist with technical advice and your conservation projects. This is still the most rewarding part of our jobs today: helping landowners address a problem and finding a solution. Working **together** we can protect our soil and water resources and keep our land bountiful for future generations.

## Pasture Walk set for June 27<sup>th</sup>

This summer's Pasture Walks will kick off on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Larry Baumgardner's beef farm, 53280 TR 177, Fresno, OH. Topics to be discussed include rotational grazing, paddock sizing and layout, water collection and distribution, and utilizing a grazing management plan. Leading the discussion will be Bob Hendershot, NRCS State Grazing Specialist, who brings extensive knowledge of ruminant grazing operations.



If you would be interested in attending any future Pasture Walks this summer, please contact Coshocton SWCD at 622-8087 or [marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net). Post cards will be sent out to those who have attended past workshops or who have expressed an interest.

## First Farm Friday Needs You

The Farm is coming to the City! Plan to join us for *First Farm Friday* in Downtown Coshocton at the *First Friday* celebration, July 1, 2011. We will be set up on Main Street between 3rd and 4th Streets with farm machinery, animals and displays to share our story about the importance of agriculture in Coshocton County and Ohio. Local grain farmers, vegetable growers, dairy men and women, commodity groups, and sheep, pork, beef and poultry producers will be on hand to talk one-on-one about their industry. There will be food samples and recipe booklets, games and information for the whole family.

Did you know that we Americans spend only 10% of our disposable income on food each year, compared to 32% in China or 50% in Pakistan? 58% of our food is eaten at home with 42% eaten away from home.

American farmers are the world's most productive. One farmer produces enough food and fiber for 155 people in the U.S. and abroad. Did you know that crayons are made from soybeans or that your child's diaper is made from corn grown on a farm? This is the kind of information we want to share with residents of our community at *First Farm Friday*.

This will be a fun and entertaining time so please join us July 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to celebrate agriculture in Coshocton County. If you are interested in helping with a display or activity please call Deb Bigelow at 622-8087, ext. 4, or email [debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net). We look forward to seeing you there!



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Tree Contest

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Big Tree Contest." This contest is open to all species of trees growing on privately owned property in Coshocton County. Property line trees and trees growing on federal, state or local government land are not eligible. Any person can enter a tree physically located in Coshocton County whether or not the tree is growing on the nominator's property.

Nearly 50% of Coshocton County contains trees of various species, and the county is located in the heart of Ohio's forest product industry. Trees are not only valued for their obvious wood based products, but also for their ability to purify air through their uptake of carbon dioxide, combat soil erosion caused by wind and water with their massive root sys-

tems, all the while providing shade and beauty. However, trees do not live forever. Lightning, insects, fungus and decay can take their toll on these graceful giants.

The Coshocton SWCD encourages you to submit as many entries as you like for you and your neighbors' trees. Entry forms are available at the Coshocton SWCD office or online at [www.coshoctonswcd.org](http://www.coshoctonswcd.org). All entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. on July 29, 2011.

Entries will be measured by a representative from the Coshocton SWCD using the national standardized measurement criteria. The owner of the 2011 Coshocton County "Big Tree" will receive a plaque at Coshocton SWCD's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Banquet to be held October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Career Center.

## Seeking Candidates for SWCD Supervisor

Any person 18 years of age or older who resides within Coshocton County can seek election to the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot 1 of 2 ways: Candidates can be nominated by the SWCD nominating committee, or interested individuals can stop by the SWCD office, 724 South 7th Street, Coshocton and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and / or landowners from Coshocton County and submit the petition to the District by 4:30 p.m., September 7, 2011. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election which will take place October 20, 2011 at the Coshocton County Career Center.

Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors serve on a 5 member board of county residents that establish and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime and unique farmland, rangeland, woodland, wildlife, energy and other natural resources on local, non-federal lands. For more information on an SWCD Supervisor's role, or if you are interested in being a candidate for this year's election, contact the Coshocton SWCD at 622-8087, extension 4.

## 4 Teams Represent Coshocton County at Area 3 Envirothon



**Cosh. Co. Career Center Lobo Legends**  
L-R Dakota McConnell, Sam Hall, Shawn Cognion, Brianna Arnold, Josh McCourt



**Cosh. Co. Career Center Wolf Pack**  
L-R Matt Hedrick, Lauren Selders, Cory Barnett, Vernon Chanay, Cory Dieter



**River View FFA Blue**  
L-R Kurtis Croft, Marion Stutzman, Molly Daniel, Jordon Mullett, Lisa Stutzman



**River View FFA Gold**  
L-R Shawna Arvai, Clinton Hedrick, Jake Ellis, James Ellis, Casey Wilson

Students from Coshocton County Career Center Natural Resources Class and River View FFA competed in the OFSWCD Area 3 Envirothon Wednesday, April 27th at the Holmes County Training Center in Holmes County. Both schools each had 2 teams compete. The Area 3 Envirothon is organized by Soil and Water Conservation Districts in a 16 county area, and there are 5 SWCD areas across the state of Ohio. The 4 teams from Coshocton County represented the county as well as the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District. American Electric Power Company was recognized for their continued support of the Area 3 Envirothon since the competition began in 1989.

The Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students, an issue that continues to be of interest in the public. A competitive outdoor team event, the Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience. A team consists of not more than 5 students, all from the same high school. The Envirothon tests the students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. This year's national theme was "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries." In addition, the Envirothon encourages cooperative decision making and team building. While each student on a team is challenged to contribute his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of the contest is the team score. Decision-making and problem-solving as a team are valuable tools these students learn and carry

on to future endeavors.



## Students Determine Water Quality at 12th Annual Ecco Challenge

Coshocton SWCD assisted the American Electric Power Company with their 12th Annual Ecco Challenge on May 18th. About 830 students from Coshocton, Ridgewood, River View, Sacred Heart, and Adamsville Elementary grades 5 and 6 participated in the event. AEP started the Ecco Challenge in 1999 as a celebration of Earth Day. For the past several years it has been held in May due to required testing at schools. It has been held each year since then, with the exception of 2009 when the plant was undergoing construction.

Coshocton SWCD personnel assisted over 175 students in collecting samples for stream monitoring at the Muskingum Boy Scout Campgrounds. Students conducted hands-on activities to find different macroinvertebrates living in the stream to determine water quality at the site. Macroinvertebrates were identified and listed on the stream assessment in groups. Group 1 macroinvertebrates are pollution-sensitive organisms found in good water quality; group 2 macroinvertebrates are somewhat pollution tolerant and can survive in good or fair water quality; and group 3 includes pollution tolerant organisms and can be in any quality of water. Many of the organisms found belonged in Groups 1 and 2 indicating good water quality.

Students learned how we can make a difference in our community by using conservation practices to help protect the environment from pollutants. Ecco Challenge is an excellent hands-on educational event getting students outdoors to learn about our environment and protect our natural resources.



# 2011 Affiliate Members

## Diamond

Farm Credit Services

## Platinum

Clow Water Systems Company  
 Coshocton County Beacon  
 Coshocton Foundation  
 Coshocton Grain Company  
 The Garden Patch Greenhouse  
 Gerber & Sons, Inc.

## Gold

Century National Bank  
 Coshocton Co. Chamber of Commerce  
 Coshocton County Sheriff, Tim Rogers  
 Endsley Insurance Agency  
 Finton Equipment - John Deere  
 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.

## Welcome Kayla Finton - NRCS Summer Intern



Hello! This summer I will be working for NRCS as a Summer Intern. During my time here, I will be learning how to develop conservation plans, perform preliminary layout work, measure field acreage, perform surveys, and stake conservation practices. I will also receive training in information and education activities and become familiar with the working relationship NRCS has with the local Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA-Farm Service Agency.

Currently, I am a sophomore at Wilmington College majoring in Agronomy and Agribusiness. At Wilmington, I participate in Collegiate 4-H, Aggies Club and Agronomy Club. In addition, I continue to be active within the FFA.

## Rain Garden Finally A Reality

All the meetings, planning and designing finally came to fruition when the rain garden was dug last week at the former Park Hotel lot on Main Street in Coshocton. A rain garden is designed to take runoff from roof tops and blacktop and create a natural storm water filter, slowing down the amount of runoff that goes into the storm drain.

At the Park Hotel lot, Hathaway Construction installed a downspout and pipe on the building to the east of the lot which will take the rain water into the rain garden. William Albert, Inc. dug out the area to approximately 8 inches deep and then back filled with a layer of top soil. This site is unique because it is mostly sand, which is what is needed in a rain garden to help the water percolate into the ground. Most rain gardens are not dug this deep, and a layer of sand is usually added to help the water escape. Drought tolerant plants are added that don't require much watering but are able to withstand wet soils for up to 24 hours.



June 6th - SWCD Technician Ryan Medley checks grade as Steve Hubble from William Albert Inc. completes digging of the Rain Garden at the Pomerene Center for the Arts former Park Hotel Lot. Special thanks to William Albert, Inc. for donating their time and services to this project.

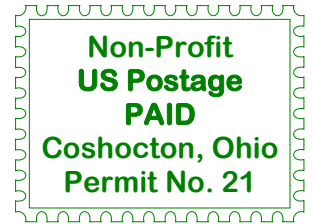
Shortly after the plants were planted into the rain garden, we received one of those "pop-up" thunderstorms with about an inch of rain. The rain garden worked well but we have some adjustments to make on one end to keep a heavy rain from escaping. That work will be completed soon, and a layer of mulch will be added. Our final step in completing the project will be to install signage to educate the public about the rain garden and its benefits.

This project is a collaborative effort between the Pomerene Center for the Arts and the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District; with generous support from William Albert Inc., Hathaway Construction, The Garden Patch Greenhouse and Roscoe Village Landscaping Department.

June 7th - Kayla Finton (R), NRCS Summer Intern, and Mary Thomas, SWCD Administrative Assistant, complete the planting of the Rain Garden at the Pomerene Center for the Arts former Park Hotel lot on Main Street. Special thanks to The Garden Patch Greenhouse and Roscoe Village Landscaping Department for their donations of plants.



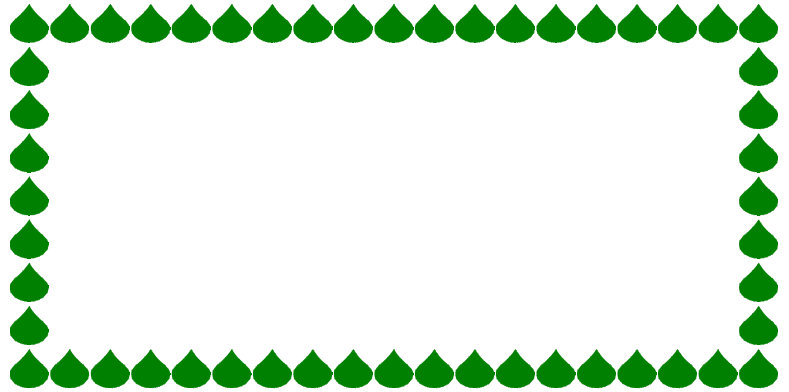
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Phone (740) 622-8087, ext. 4  
www.coshoctonswcd.org**



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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**



**2010 Plat Books Available**

Coshocton SWCD now has 2010 Coshocton County Plat Books available for purchase.

Books are \$10 each, and the district is asking that you call ahead if you will be purchasing more than 2 books.

**2010 Plat Directory  
Coshocton County, Ohio**

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(740) 622-8087, Ext. 4  
www.coshoctonswcd.org

Protecting Local Soil and Water Resources Since 1942

*"Providing Leadership to Educate and Assist Landowners in the Wise Management of our Natural Resources"*

**Upcoming Forestry Classes**

The Ohio Woodland Stewards Program is sponsoring the following forestry classes this summer:

- June 17th - "Name That Tree"  
Adams County
- June 24th - "The Woods in Your Backyard"  
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH
- July 15th - "Name That Tree"  
OSU Waterman Farm, Columbus, OH
- July 22nd - "The Woods in Your Backyard"  
Lucas County
- August 15th - "Mind Boggling Bats"  
Toledo Botanical Gardens, Toledo, OH
- August 19th - "Grassland Mgt. for Wildlife"  
Gwynne Conservation Area, London, OH

Also, check their website for an up to date listing of class opportunities:  
<http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>

**Calendar of Events**

- June 27th**  
Pasture Walk 6:00-9:00 pm
- July 1st**  
Open House in honor of Tim Halt's Retirement 11:00am-3:00pm-Office
- July 1st**  
*First Farm Friday*  
Main Street-Coshocton
- July 4th**  
Office Closed  
Independence Day
- July 13th**  
Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- August 10th**  
Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- September 2nd**  
*First Farm Friday*  
Main Street-Coshocton
- September 5th**  
Office Closed - Labor Day
- September 14th**  
Board Meeting 8:00 pm

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