



Conservation CloseUp



Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District

We Need You!

We Need You!

The Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District has assisted many landowners over the last 63 years. The projects have covered the spectrum of installing waterways, structures, tile, windbreaks, filter strips, group projects, Blanchard River cleaning and maintenance, ditch projects and maintenance and many more. The District has presented numerous educational programs over the years to hundreds of students and adults alike. The main goal has always been to preserve our natural resources and provide as much information and assistance that will allow the landowners and citizens to make sound conservation decisions.

The District now needs your assistance to be able to continue our program. The Hancock County Sales Tax Issue 4 will be on the November election and will have a direct result on our future.

The Hancock SWCD is a non-mandated agency. The District is funded by an appropriation from the Hancock County Commissioners and that is then matched by the State ODNR Division of Soil & Water.

If the Hancock County Tax Issue 4 is defeated; we are in danger of receiving no appropriation from the Hancock County Commissioners and that will mean no appropriation from the State ODNR. With no funds we will be forced to close our doors permanently.

The Hancock County Sales Tax Issue 4 is for .50% continuation of taxes implemented by the Commissioners on January 1, 2009 and if passed the effective sales tax rate in Hancock County will go from 6.75% to 6.5% on January 1, 2010.

We believe the services we provide are very valuable to Hancock County and encourage you to exercise your right to vote your choice at the November election.

The Hancock SWCD staff and Supervisors welcome any questions that you may have concerning our programs and how we can assist you. You may contact the Hancock SWCD office at 419-422-6569, email www.swcd@wcnnet.org or you can also visit us on the web www.hancockswcd.com to view information about our programs. Thank you for your interest and concern for natural resources.

Supervisor Elected

Mark Shick was elected to the Hancock SWCD Board of Supervisors at the 63rd Annual Meeting, August 4, 2009.

Mark will be sworn into office in January and will serve a 3-year term of office. Mark will join current supervisors; Ron Cornwell, Richard Gassman, Hodd Moorhead and Dave Reese on the board. Karen Oberst, current supervisor since 2007, chose not to run for re-election.

Outstanding Cooperator

The Outstanding Cooperator award was presented during the 63rd Annual Meeting to Tim Frankart

Mr. Frankart has made many conservation improvements on his farm in Washington Township. Some of his conservation improvements include over 7.5 acres of wetlands, 2 acres of which are pools to be installed this Fall, One Wildlife pond, 8.6 acres of cool season grasses, 4,080 feet of Bird Buffers, 18,480 feet of Windbreak Buffer and 18.2 acres of Upland Wildlife Habitat.

This award and plaque are sponsored by Sparks Commercial Tire, Inc. We appreciate Terry Sparks interest and support of sound conservation practices.

Moving On

NRCS District Conservationist, Mary Williams, has accepted the Area 2 Resource Conservationist position in Medina, Ohio. This opportunity will enable Mary to work in a different arena and move forward with her career goals. Mary will report to her new position starting November 8, 2009.

During Mary's five years of service in Hancock County she has assisted many landowners and farmers with implementing farm bill programs and practices. She has assisted the District with projects and activities including the Hancock County Fair, Farm Tour and various field days

The supervisors and staff wish Mary the best in her new position and say "Thank You" for her service in Hancock County.

CREP Buffer Award

The 2009 CREP Buffer Award was presented during the 63rd Annual Meeting to Jim Abrams.

Jim Abrams is an active participant in the CREP program with 8,500 feet of Field Windbreaks on 2.6 acres of land, and 2.1 acres of Warm Season Grasses. Through the CRP program Jim has installed 3.1 acres of Permanent Native Grasses and .4 acres of Wildlife Food Plots.

Mr. Abrams is currently a Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer Supervisor in Northwest Ohio and is dedicated to following sound conservation practices on his property.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) started on August 10, 2009. This program will be run as a continuous sign-up with periodic ranking periods for funding. The first cutoff for ranking was September 30, 2009. Another ranking period is tentatively slated to occur after January 1, 2010.

CSP is a voluntary program Designed to encourage producers and landowners with cropland, pasture, or woodland to put additional conservation on the land and to improve and maintain existing practices. Individuals, entities, and Indian Tribes operating privately owned agricultural land or nonindustrial woodland may apply.

The program offers two types of payments, an annual payment for conservation activities and a supplemental payment for the adoption of a resource conserving crop rotation (RCCR). A RCCR is defined as perennial grass or forages, a high residue producing crop, or a cover crop following an annual crop.

Per acre payments are estimated to range from \$12 to 22 for cropland, \$7 to \$14 for pasture, \$6 to \$12 for woodland, and \$12 to \$16 for resource conserving crop rotations. You may earn up to \$40,000 per year or \$200,000 during any 5 year period.

For more information stop in at your local NRCS office or go online to www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov and complete the "Producer Self-screening Checklist".

Drainage Maintenance

Gary Tuttle, District Technician, reports the following drainage maintenance projects have been completed:

Dip-Outs –

W.B. Kring – 15,145 ft.
Marsh Run Jt. – 18,900 ft.
Rush Creek – 3,410 ft.
Stahl Jt. – 25,859 ft.
Charles Good – 22,134ft.

Sprayed in 2009 –

Overholt – 9,000 ft.
Isiac Insley – 5,956 ft.
H.J. McMurray – 11,215 ft.
Oil Ditch – 9,149 ft.
Daniel Fox Jt. – 16,275 ft.
J.H. Myers – 9,140 ft.
Neiderhiser – 2,790 ft.
J.E. Fox #134 – 2,200 ft.

Rock Placements –

Wilch Ditch
Charles Good Ditch
Brookman Ditch
Silver Ditch
Stone Ditch



H.J. Greer Ditch



H.J. Greer Ditch

Are You on the Losing Side?

Have you lost topsoil, crops or fertilizer in the recent flooding and rains? Would you like to receive money to turn that land into something that will help the rest of your crops? Then this article may be for you! The Lake Erie CREP program has two practices designed to help take care of the damaging effects of excess water.

The Filter Strip Practice allows for the installation of a grass filter strip alongside ditches and streams. The grass strip slows down the force of any water that escapes the ditch bank, distributing it over the width of the filter strip. Slower water means less crop damage and less soil erosion.

To participate in the Filter Strip Practice, the area must be immediately adjacent to a stream, river or eligible drainage ditch. Also, the area must be cropland for this program. The filter strip has a minimum width of 20' from the top of the ditch and a maximum width of 150' (300' for alluvial soils).

The second practice is for Filter and Recharge Areas. This program allows for conversion of a min. of 0.25 acres of cropland into a grassed filter area. Maximum sizes are based on the contributing drainage area. The locations for this practice include areas where sheet flow accumulates or leaves, areas of concentrated flow, and where surface flow enters a watercourse via a concentrated drainage way, drop structure, culvert or subsurface drain (tile inlet).

The payment rate for both programs is 155% Base CRP Rental Rate (cool season grasses/CP1) or 175% Base CRP Rental Rate (warm season grasses/CP2). There is also a warm season grass incentive of \$20/acre. The payment duration is 15 years and to be eligible you must agree to keep and maintain the filter strip or filter/recharge area for those 15 years.

If you are interested in either of the above programs, or would just like to know more about them, please stop in to your local Soil and Water Conservation District!



Filter and Recharge Areas



Filter Strip

CRP Practice CP33 - "Quail Buffer" Habitat

The purpose of this CRP practice is to establish a cover of tall grass prairie on eligible cropland that will enhance environmental benefits. Tall grass prairies provide a unique habitat for wildlife; however the acreage of prairies has

declined significantly in Ohio since the time of settlement.

Establishing Quail Buffers

provides the following benefits: reduces sheet, rill and wind erosion, improves water quality by reducing sediment and nutrients delivered to water bodies, creates and enhances unique wildlife habitat, and increases hunting and bird watching opportunities.

Landowners should consider the following specifications when planning on using this practice: NRCS conservation planning assistance is available to plan the practice, warm season prairie grasses and multiple species of wildflowers are used, minimum width is 30 feet up to a maximum of 120 feet, no harvesting or grazing during the life of the contract, Quail Buffer acres cannot be used as a turn row or access lanes, and the best time to seed prairie grasses is April 1st to May 30th.

For more information you may contact your local Farm Service Agency at 419-422-5438.

Reminder

Producers wanting to install a waterway through Continuous CRP will need to be sure to sign up with the Farm Service Agency as soon as possible before construction season. Grassed waterways are now subject to a cultural resources review before construction can begin. This review will take at least 30 days.



Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program

The purpose of the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak program is to establish windbreaks on or adjacent to crop fields. Field windbreaks reduce wind erosion, protect crops and provide for wildlife habitat. The goal of the program is to encourage large systems which treat entire farms.

The program is not intended for farmstead, pasture, or home site plantings and orders will not be accepted solely for these purposes.

Incidental plantings adjacent to buildings may be accepted if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) the planting is bordered on one side by a crop field and each row adjacent to the building area is a continuation of field windbreak row that is planted at the same time. 2) The planting is part of a larger field windbreak system and the area adjacent to the buildings constitutes no more than ten percent (10%) of the total row feet planted 3) The total order constitutes a minimum of 3,500 row feet. 4) The section can be efficiently planted by the crew as part of the total job.

Wildlife Shrub Plantings - (CRP & CREP)

As a result of the increased interest for multiple row shrub plantings through the CRP& CREP, windbreaks having only wildlife shrubs as the species being planted are eligible to be planted through.

the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program. These windbreaks will be considered as hedgerow plantings. The following guidelines will be used for hedgerow plantings through the Northwest Program: 1) the windbreaks must be through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) 2) The Division of Forestry agrees to plant the seedlings, apply a herbicide in the Spring, and return in the Fall to do a survival count and a second application of herbicide. There would not be a replant guarantee, but replacement seedlings would be offered to the landowners to plant themselves. 3) Field windbreak plantings in designated counties will have a priority over hedgerow plantings. The preferred method for hedgerow plantings is through district tree planters or private tree planting vendors. Hedgerow plantings may be planted through the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program to the extent that time allows.

Applications must be received by November 27, 2009. Contact Gary Tuttle at 419-422-6569 or visit www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry for more information...



Windbreak being planted

Soil Judging Results

The Hancock County FFA Soil Judging competition was held in September during the Hardin Northern Invitational and the Cory Rawson teams won the Hancock County Overall Rotating Trophy!

The Rural Team Results:

- 1) Cory Rawson
- 2) Arcadia 1
- 3) Liberty Benton 2
- 4) Liberty Benton 1
- 5) McComb 1
- 6) McComb 2
- 7) Arlington 2
- 8) Arlington 1
- 9) Arcadia 2.

The Rural Individual Results:

- 1) Eric Rosendale CR
- 2) Zach Scoles CR
- 3) Garrett Wieman CR
- 4) Connor Lewis Arcadia
- 5) Johnston Baird Arcadia

The Urban Team results:

- 1) McComb 1
- 2) Arcadia
- 3) CR
- 4) McComb 2
- 5) LB 1
- 6) LB 2

The Urban Individual results:

- 1) Jason Abbott McComb
- 2) Jesse Baker McComb
- 3) Evan Riggs Arcadia
- 4) Emily Armen CR
- 5) Alexis Moser CR.

Total Team Results for the Rotating Trophy were:

- 1) Cory Rawson, 2649
- 2) Arcadia, 2609
- 3) McComb, 2580
- 4) Liberty Benton, 2372
- 5) Arlington, 834

Congratulations to all students and advisors. Good Luck at District competition!



2010 TREE PACKET PROGRAM



NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2010

**** CHECK / PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER ****

Make checks payable to: Hancock SWCD, 7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E, Findlay, OH 45840

ORDER FORM

(also downloadable from our website at www.hancockswcd.com)

TREE PACKETS AVAILABLE	# OF PACKETS ORDERED	PRICE	TOTAL
White Pine (25)		\$18 / pkt.	
Scotch Pine (25)		\$18 / pkt.	
Austrian Pine (25)		\$18 / pkt.	
Norway Spruce (25)		\$15 / pkt.	
Colorado Blue Spruce (25)		\$15 / pkt.	
White Spruce (25)		\$15 / pkt.	
Serbian Spruce (10)		\$8 / pkt.	
American Arborvitae (25)		\$15 / pkt.	
Red Cedar (10)		\$8 / pkt.	
Dawn Redwood (each)		\$2.00 ea.	
Marking Flags (100 per packet)		\$10 / pkt.	
* All seedlings are 8-14" tall except Dawn Redwood which are 2-3' tall.	Total Amount Due		

**** Seedlings *usually* arrive around the first week of April; however, we do not have a definite delivery date. You will receive a letter telling you when to pick-up your order.**

Please be patient as we try to outguess and work with mother Nature. Thank you!



Remember to visit our
Webpage at:
www.hancockswcd.com

Hancock Soil & Water

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Website: www.hancockswcd.com

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Ron Cornwell, Vice-Chairman
Richard Gassman, Fiscal Agent
Hodd Moorhead, Member
Karen Oberst, Member

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Garry Tuttle, District Technician
Jean Derr, DPA
Dominic Goshe, WLEB Conservationist
Brandon Ewing, District Technician

NRCS Staff

Mary Williams, District Conservationist

All services of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Hancock SWCD are available to persons regardless of Rac, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion, Marital Status, Age, or Handicap.

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