

THE CONSERVATIONIST



Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation • Development • Self-government

January 2004

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Welcome to Our New Format!

Hopefully, you've already noticed something different. In an effort to provide a more useful, informative newsletter, we've made a few changes to *The Conservationist*. In addition to our new colors, you'll notice several other changes that we hope will provide you, our customers, with a source of information that you will not only find interesting and entertaining, but also provide valuable information that can be used for conservation activities. These changes include additional content and a change in our publication schedule. We will continue to publish 6 issues per calendar year, but instead of those issues coming to you quarterly with 2 special issues, we will now be publishing on a bi-monthly basis. Finally, Tree and Fish Sale information will no longer be included in the regular newsletter. Instead, this info will be mailed separately.

**Tree Sale Order Forms-
COMING SOON!**

Learn More About Your Septic System

On February 26, a 2-hour workshop entitled "I have a septic system-Now what? Septic System Care & Maintenance" will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Trenton Township Hall which is located at 15495 Hartford Rd. This workshop is free and open to the public, and refreshments and door prizes will be provided. The focus of the workshop will be the maintenance of septic tanks and aerators, as well as water conservation practices. Proper septic system maintenance can extend the life of your system and protect the quality of rivers, streams, and groundwater, which ultimately protects human health. Please contact Susan Sutherland at the Delaware General Health District, (740) 203-2082, for more information. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Delaware General Health District, the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, the Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership, and the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT).

SWCD CALENDAR

For more info on these events, please call the District Office, (740) 368-1921.

Jan.	
1/27	Scioto Watershed Planning Mtg. (Richwood)
1/27	SWCD Board Meeting
1/29	Scioto Watershed Planning Mtg. (Kenton)
1/30	Tree Sale Begins
Feb.	
2/1	Scioto River Valley Fed. Mtg.
2/3	Lower Olentangy Watershed Mtg.
2/12	Big Walnut Partnership Mtg.
2/16	President's Day - Office Closed
2/17	SWCD Board Meeting
2/19	Scioto Watershed Planning Mtg. #2 (Kenton)
2/24	Scioto Watershed Planning Mtg. #2 (Richwood)
2/26	Scioto Watershed Planning Mtg. #2 (Marion)
2/26	Septic System Workshop
Mar.	
3/2	Lower Olentangy Watershed Mtg.
3/11	Big Walnut Partnership Mtg.
3/16	SWCD Board Meeting

Delaware SWCD Mission

To provide progressive leadership, support, and assistance to the public through grassroots programs that promote natural resources conservation and stewardship.

EQIP/CREP Update



Ninety-one applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

were processed in Delaware Co. this past summer. Producers requested incentives totaling \$197,582. All applicants were ranked according to environmental factors including watershed location and planned conservation practices. Delaware County received \$117,273 to fund the top 34 applications. The remaining applications were deferred to 2004. These applications will need to be reviewed and resubmitted to NRCS by the participant. Program signup is considered to be continuous even though the fiscal year 2004 funding has not yet been approved by Congress.



The Upper Big Walnut Creek Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has enrolled a total of 107.9 acres of cropland into filter strips and riparian buffers in the Delaware County portion of the Upper Big Walnut Creek watershed through December 2003.

This amounts to 17 contracts receiving combined total annual payments of \$15,527. The average rental rate for land enrolled in CREP program is \$144/acre per year for up to 15 years.

Please contact the NRCS/SWCD office for more information on EQIP and CREP.



FSA Notes

by Don Henry, County Executive Director

Conservation Cost-share Assistance Available

Now is an excellent time for producers to consider implementation of conservation measures on eligible cropland to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Up to 90% cost-share assistance is available for installing practices such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers, filter strips, windbreaks, wetlands & shallow water areas for wildlife. In addition, an annual rental payment for up to 15 years based on soil type is earned on enrolled acreage. Contact Stacy at Farm Service Agency immediately if interested to allow for Spring installation.

Spotlight on Conservation

Gene Noggle cited a longtime interest in wildlife as a deciding factor in the decision to restore a wetland on the property owned by he and Marilyn Lawrence in Thompson Township. Their first management option was to develop a pond on the property, but after consulting with the SWCD and NRCS, decided a wetland was the best feature to develop. One acre was enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program on a ten-year contract. The project created a wetland with a half-acre pool area and a half-acre buffer zone. To create the pool area, a small levee was constructed, and a core trench was installed to prevent water from seeping to a nearby tile. A small rock-lined spillway was also installed at the outlet of the pool area. Finally, the entire buffer area was seeded and mulched with a mixture of orchard



Landowners: Gene Noggle & Marilyn Lawrence
Project Type: Wetland Restoration
Program: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Location: Thompson Township

grass, timothy, clover, and ryegrass to create a good wildlife cover. "The project probably would not have been done without the cost-share and engineering assistance of NRCS and the Soil and Water District," Noggle said. When asked about their future plans for the property, Noggle indicated that they are not limiting their management efforts to the area that includes the wetland, but instead are managing the entire property for wildlife enhancement. They have enlarged a fencerow to create a corridor for wildlife movement and are setting aside other areas of the property for wildlife use. "We plan to do whatever is necessary to keep the wetland functioning

Assistance Available for Secondary Containment Facilities



Producers can now apply for cost-share and technical assistance to construct new secondary containment facilities around bulk fertilizer and pesticide storage tanks, helping them comply with the law and protecting the environment.

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) now requires all new farm fertilizer and pesticide storage tanks of 5000+ gallons that store fertilizer for more than 30 days to have secondary containment. Farms with existing storage tanks that have 5000+ gallons of storage at one location or more than one storage tank with an aggregate capacity of 5000+ gallons and store fertilizer for more than 30 days must have a secondary containment facility installed by January 1, 2007.

The USDA NRCS is offering cost-share assistance to construct secondary containment facilities through EQIP. Engineering plans can be prepared by either NRCS/SWCD personnel or by a private consultant approved by NRCS. All plans must be approved by the ODA and meet all applicable zoning regulations, building standards, and fire codes.

A secondary containment facility is designed to trap leaks and spills from fertilizer and pesticide storage tanks so that the material can be disposed of properly instead of outletting to a waterway, stream, tile, etc. The facility typically consists of either a clay or synthetic lined earthen pit sloped to an area with a sump outlet, or a concrete pad with curbs or walls and a sump pit for an outlet. All water pumped out of the facility is tested for contamination to assure that no leaks or spills have occurred. Additional inspections and record keeping is required by ODA for proper operation and maintenance of the facility.

Related engineering assistance is also available for the planning and construction of a concrete ag chemical mixing and loading pad. This facility is a concrete pad sloped to catch basin in the center which outlets to a rinsate tank. This traps accidental spills and leaks which can occur during mixing and loading and stores the overflow for proper disposal. While cost-share is only available for the construction of a secondary containment facility, the NRCS/SWCD office can provide an engineering plan and construction supervision for these mixing and loading pads.

For more information or to sign-up for EQIP, please contact NRCS District Conservationist, Tom Edwards, (740) 368-1921, ext. 4. To find out more about secondary containment requirements and regulations, please

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK FARMERS:

To help develop a better understanding of the types of regulations, permits and plans that may be required of livestock farms, the Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC) has developed a new publication, "Guidelines for Livestock Operations," which contains information pertaining to water resources, livestock programs, regulatory authority, financial assistance programs, strategies and tips, federal and state incentive programs, resource concerns, contact information, and industry terminology. A similar booklet was developed in 1995, and it served as the foundation for this new publication that reflects some major changes that have occurred in the past 8 years including the passage of SB 141, US EPA's new CAFO rules, and the passage of HB 152 in August 2003. Copies of this new booklet can be obtained from either the OLC's website, www.ohiolivestock.com, or by contacting the OLC at (614) 246-8288.



AGRICULTURE NOTES

- Technical assistance is available to ag operators for the development of systematic subsurface drainage plans. Anyone interested should contact either Bret or Scott to schedule an evaluation appointment.



- Total precipitation for 2003 in Delaware County was 55.57". This is 16.58" more than the normal of 38.99".

- Anyone planning to construct grassed waterways in 2004 is encouraged to get on a contractor's schedule ASAP. The number of contractors who will install waterways in Delaware Co. is limited, and contractors' schedules fill up fast. Once you have chosen a contractor, make sure your contract is signed with FSA before construction begins. Call the SWCD/NRCS office at least a week prior to construction so that the necessary layout work is completed and cut information is given to the contractor prior to construction beginning.

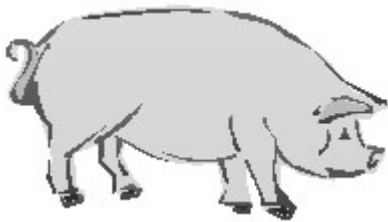
2004 PLAT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2004 Delaware County Plat Directories are now available at the SWCD office. The price will continue to be \$15 per book. The SWCD will mail copies with prepayment of the cost of the book plus the cost of postage. Please contact Marilyn at the District office for the current postage cost if you would like a book mailed.

OHIO AGRICULTURE FACTS

- √ Food & agriculture is Ohio's top industry.
- √ Ohio farmers grow more than 200 crops.
- √ 1 in every 6 people is employed in some aspect of agriculture. This includes farm production, wholesaling and retailing, marketing and processing, and agribusiness.
- √ Almost half of all land in Ohio (44%) is prime farmland.
- √ The average farmer feeds 129 people with better production and higher yields because of weed control and biotechnology.

To learn more interesting facts about Ohio Agriculture, visit www.ohioaginfo.com.



TANGY FRUIT PORK CHOPS

Ingredients:

- 4 Boneless Pork Loin Chops
- 1/2 Cup Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 Cup Cranberry Sauce
(you can substitute your favorite fruit jam)
- 1 Tbsp. Prepared Mustard
- 1 Tbsp. Vinegar

Brown pork chops in large non-stick skillet with the vegetable oil. Turn chops. Stir in cranberry sauce or your favorite fruit jam and the prepared mustard and vinegar. Cover and simmer gently for five minutes. Remove from heat. Serve with a whole grain bread and your favorite vegetable.

Submitted by Sue Cunningham, Delaware SWCD Board of Supervisors Member



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