



Ranking for NRCS Conservation Program Applications beginning mid-February, 2010

Program applications for the 2010 funding cycle for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are due in to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by mid-February to be considered in the first round of ranking for funding. While the application period for these conservation programs is continuous, funding selections are made once or twice a year, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds.

Several opportunities exist for addressing priority natural resource issues using EQIP, including an air

quality category, a forestry category for both general forest resource concerns and invasive species control, and an organic category. Limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers will be eligible for up to 90 percent cost share and an advance of 30 percent of the cost of implementing a practice.

Over \$6 million is available for landowners interested in creating, enhancing, or restoring wetlands through WRP this year. Pasture, forest and crop land that has been drained and cultivated are eligible for this program. Easement options include 30-year or perpetual easements. Restorations are also possi-

ble without an easement. The actual easement payment will be the lower of a Market Survey Analysis, Geographical Area Rate Cap, or landowner offer.

Over 20 conservation practices are available to agricultural producers interested in improving wildlife habitat using WHIP. Landowners must be involved in agricultural production to be eligible for WHIP. Special consideration will be given to applications that will provide habitat for declining or endangered species.

For more information on any of these programs, contact the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District & Natural Resources Conservation Service at 419 352 5172. Visit us on the web at www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov.

Prescribed Fire Available for CRP Land in Wood County

If you received a Mid-Contract Management letter from the Farm Service Agency, you may be eligible to receive cost-share payments for your CRP land under review.

The purpose of the prescribed burn is to enhance wildlife habitat. Fire can improve grassland habitat by creating open ground for wildlife movement, allowing sunlight to reach the soil for germination of forbs and legumes and suppressing woody and nonnative plants.

Many of the native, warm-season grasses used in CRP planting are adapted to fire; that is fire encourages their growth and allows them to compete with cool season grasses and trees.

If you are interested in prescribed fire on your CRP ground please contact:

Ryan Bergman @ Wood SWCD (419) 354-5517
Jody Hines @ Farm Service Agency (419) 352-5171



SWCD Seeking Farm Beautification Nominations

Each year, the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District presents one outstanding farm in Wood County with the Farm Beautification Award. The winning farm is chosen after considering such things as the condition of the buildings, condition of the lawn and garden, landscaping, absence of unnecessary equipment, and overall appearance.

If you have a farm in mind that you feel would be a winner, please submit your nomination by August 10, 2010 to Wood SWCD, 1616 East Wooster Street, Box 32, Bowling Green, wcdswcd@woodswcd.com or call the office at 419-354-5517. All nominations will be considered and the winner will be announced at the Wood SWCD's Annual Open House in September. To be eligible the nominated farm must belong to a working or retired farmer.

Wood SWCD Posts Board Meeting Times

Wood Soil and Water Conservation District monthly board meetings will be held on the third Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Meetings are held at the Wood Soil and Water office, 1616 E. Wooster Street, Suite 32, Bowling Green.

Give A Day Get A Disney Day



"Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." is a program that celebrates and inspires volunteerism. Disney is working with HandsOn Network to bring you amazing volunteer opportunities to which you can lend your much-needed services. As a way of thanking you for your good work, we'll give you a free ticket good for one day admission to a *Walt Disney World*® or *Disneyland*® theme park. You may sign up for the program only from this site. As part of the sign up process, you will search and select from a list of eligible volunteer opportunities with participating organizations. After you sign up and complete your chosen volunteer activity, and the HandsOn Network has verified your service, you will receive an email from Disney prompting you to log in to your account and print a vouchers that may be redeemed for your free ticket to a *Walt Disney World*® or *Disneyland*® theme park.

<http://disney.parks.disney.go.com>

click on Get-A-Disney-Day

Rain Garden

Plans are underway for three rain garden workshops to be held on March 10th, 11th and 13th. All you need to know from site selection, planning and planting will be covered.

Watch for further details coming soon to our website!

www.woodswcd.com

Should Pond Aeration Systems Be Used in Winter?

With the advent of aeration systems in recent years, many pond owners have used the devices to mix the water in their ponds. Generally they produce good results by helping increase oxygen levels and improving water quality of ponds. The only potential problem with using such devices arises in the winter season when the conditions change and aeration may actually produce problems for fish survival.

In order to understand the situation it is important to consider pond dynamics. Ponds naturally turn over every spring and fall when water temperatures reach 39 degrees and the surface water becomes denser (heavier) and moves to the bottom of the pond. The surface water that moves to the bottom of the pond is rich in oxygen from wave action and photosynthesis and stays relatively stratified in the bottom of the pond and provides good conditions for fish to live. The 39 degree temperature at the bottom of the pond is the warmest water in the pond; thus, it is believed that it is less stressful for the fish to survive there.

As the winter conditions persist, the primary problem with aeration use in the winter is the mixing of this stratified "warm 39 degree" water at the bottom of the pond. Running an aeration diffuser in deep water will mix this water with the rest of the water, which brings the temperature down closer to 32 degrees and increases stress on fish. It is believed that a solution to this problem would be to move the aeration diffuser to the shallow water in the winter. In this way, the mixing action of the deep water would be reduced and the beneficial clearing of the aeration would be realized by clearing an area of the pond from ice and snow and allowing photosynthesis to occur.

Currently, the relationship of temperature and dissolved oxygen is being studied and the results have not yet been released. Actual fish survival results will be known soon. Keep in mind that plant photosynthesis produces a majority of pond oxygen, not aeration devices. If you are currently using a deep water aeration system in winter and notice a fish kill problem, let us know so we can advise people in the future.

Winter Application

Protecting water quality would be a lot easier if farmers never needed to apply manure when fields are frozen or covered with snow. But the fact is, some farmers don't have enough storage capacity to get through the winter. Sometimes, even farmers with storage facilities need to apply manure in the winter because wet fall weather like we have experienced so far can delay application.

Unfortunately, uncooperative fall and winter weather increases risk of pollution especially when manure is applied on frozen and snow covered fields. Last winter, a quick thaw following significant snow accumulation led to a rash of pollution complaints in some areas of the state in February and March. To help avoid these situations, steps should be taken now before winter to avoid being in a position of having to apply manure during the wintertime.

How much storage is needed to get you through the winter? One of the best ways to minimize risk is to take stock now and determine how much storage is needed to get from

the end of December to the middle of March so that winter application can be avoided all together. If land and resources aren't available this fall to empty the manure storage facility, drawing down the manure storage to a level that allows manure to be safely stored during the winter months is the next best option.

If draw down or completely emptying is not an option, consider transporting manure to under utilized storage facilities in the area. While transporting manure increases cost, it may be well worth the extra investment if nutrient losses can be avoided by not having to apply manure during the winter. Other considerations for doing this include avoiding the risk of polluting surface water, potential fish kills if runoff occurs, and costly enforcement and clean up in some situations when manure reaches streams. If there are no other storage facilities in your area, some municipal wastewater treatment facilities may also be able to take a certain amount of manure for a short period of time.

While not recommended, if manure is applied on frozen or snow covered land be sure that USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Practice Standards are followed. The USDA NRCS practice standard for applying manure on frozen and snow-covered soil includes six specific criteria and all six must be followed to comply with the standard. The requirements include a 200-foot setback from waterways and streams, at least 90 percent surface residue cover, and specific application rate limits depending on manure moisture content. Manure should not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres and additional criteria apply for fields with slopes greater than six percent.

With winter upon us there is still time to make plans and management decisions that can help you better manage manure and risk. The Wood SWCD may be able to offer suggestions to help you through the process.

For more information or assistance contact Wood SWCD at 419-354-5517.

**Using Cover Crops in Your Farm Program
February 16, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.-Noon
AMVETS Post 1313
2250 N. Scott St, Napoleon, Ohio**

Even though cover crops have been around for a number of years, the interest in them seems to be on the rise. This meeting will inform farmers on the benefits and how they can fit into your program.

**Alan Sundermeier - OSU Extn Agent/Wood County
Eric Bischoff - Farmer, Henry County
Alan Dean - Farmer, Williams County
Neil Badenhop - Farmer, Henry County**

**Northern Ohio Field Crops Day
Thursday, February 18, 2010**

**Ole Zim's Wagon Shed
1375 North State Route 590
Fremont**

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Private applicator recertification: Core & most categories on request

Registration fee is \$30 - includes lunch & PAT

**Contact Person
Mark Koenig 419-334-6340**

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Board of Supervisors

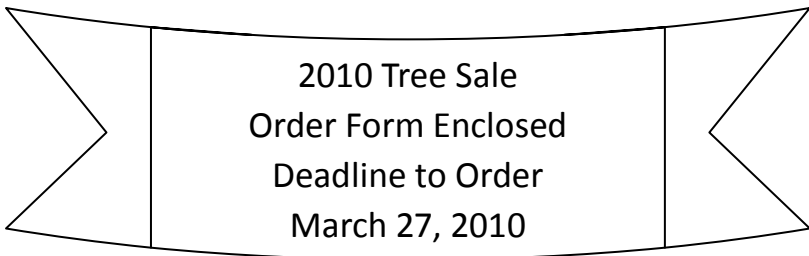
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 Dennis Ferrell, Vice Chairman
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 Kris Swartz, Fiscal Agent
 Lee Sundermeier, Member

District Staff

Nicki Kale, Dist. Administrator/Education Coordinator
 Jim Carter, Dist. Administrator/Engineering & Technical
 Tracy Hammond, Administrative Assistant
 Ryan Bergman, District Technician IV
 Jim Rickenberg, District Technician
 Jeremy Gerwin, Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist

NRCS Staff

Kelly Niehaus, District Conservationist



Equipment For Rent

GREAT PLAINS DRILL FOR "CRP PRACTICES ONLY"

- 10' working width
- 7 1/2' row spacing
- Rental Rate is \$10.00 per acre/\$50 minimum
- Delivery Charge \$20.00
- Cleanout Charge \$25.00 (if applicable)

TREE PLANTER

\$25.00 First Day
 \$45.00 Each Additional Day

Items for sale

Floating Pond Filter	\$245.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 53.00
Pond Safety Kit**	\$110.00
Ring Buoy	\$ 45.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (price is per foot)	\$.25
Tile Probes	\$ 30.00
Soil Test Probe	\$ 56.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 2.00
Flags (.10 each)	
100 4x5	\$ 8.00
100 5x8	\$ 9.00
Rat Guard Prices	
4"	\$ 4.00
6"	\$ 6.00
8"	\$ 8.00
10"	\$ 10.00
12"	\$ 12.00
15"	\$ 21.00
Wood County Plat Books	\$ 15.00

For More Information contact Jim Rickenberg at 419-354-5517.

***Must be preordered and prepaid*

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