

Eye On Conservation

JANUARY 2012

The 4Rs of Fertilizer Application

We're not talking the 3 Rs, reading, writing, and arithmetic. We're talking the 4 Rs of fertilizer application: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place. Practicing the 4 Rs of fertilizer application not only saves you money but helps the environment too!

Right Source: choose your soil amendments whether fertilizer or manure application based on your crop needs instead of by price or availability. It is very important to have a balanced fertility plan as well as choosing the right nutrient form (urea, 28%, etc). Making these choices involves applying the Right Rate.

Right Rate: apply only the amount of nutrients your crop truly needs. A balanced fertility plan requires having good information such as soil tests, yield goals, and crop nutrient removal rates. Make sure you have current soils tests, once every 3 years, from reasonably sized areas, no greater than 15 acres. Many recommend testing by soil type or by grid. This allows for variable rate application down the road. Having a current soil test gives you a picture of what nutrients you have "in the bank" within your soil. Next you need to choose reasonable

yield goals. What has the field produced before? Are you targeting 200 bu/ac corn and applying nutrients for that goal when you have never seen a yield better than 160 bu/ac? Why waste your money on extra fertilizer that the crop can't use? Instead balance fertilizer application with crop needs. Besides soil testing, you can do plant tissue testing and field scouting to better determine your crop's needs and how well your fertility program is working. Finally, there's variable rate application technology or VRT. VRT allows you to vary the amount of nutrients applied based on the soil tests you have taken, again either by soil type or grid sampling.

We can't emphasize enough the importance of soil testing! There is NO better way to know what you have in the field than with a soil test. This gives you a base from which to figure your fertilizer needs. Why apply phosphorus if your soil test levels are already over 100 ppm (parts per million) or 200 pounds/acre? Any addi-



Lake Erie

tional phosphorus applied is not going to improve your yield. The extra fertilizer actually increases the chances of it running off your farm into the water ways and out to Lake Erie. Why pay good money to only see it go off the farm? Take current soil tests!

Right Time: apply the nutrients needed at the right time. Applying nutrients in late fall or on frozen ground is no longer recommended because it greatly increases the chances of all that investment being washed off the field or down and out your field tile. Why not apply those nutrients by banding and/or in-row and at a variable rate? This would greatly reduce the amount needed as well as your costs and help improve water quality all at the same time! Applying nitrogen at the right time and in the right form can also reduce your costs and losses of

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Wood SWCD Office Hours

7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Monday—Friday



The Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors holds its regular monthly meeting the third Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the district office.



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the expensive nutrient. There are many products and technologies available to help reduce the nitrogen loss and decrease the amount needed at application. Remember to look at your yield goals and determine those goals based on ACTUAL yields you've achieved in the past.

Right Place: apply the nutrients within the soil profile (zone) where the plants will need it. This often involves in row application or the incorporation of broadcast fertilizers. It is also very important to calibrate your application equipment. We all know that

costs are always going up so why apply more than you need?

As fertilizer costs increase and water quality concerns grow, we need to be increasingly careful in our application of



Filter Strip Needed

nutrients. By practicing the 4 Rs, you can help insure that you are using the Right Product at the Right Rate at the Right Time and in the Right Place!

Need help implementing the 4 Rs? We can help! The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District (Wood SWCD), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) have programs available that provide some financial incentives to put the 4 Rs into practice.

Annual Seedling Tree Sale
January 3–March 30, 2012

Annual Seedling Tree Sale

The Wood Soil and Water Conservation District is



offering tree seedlings to residents in the area. Orders will be accepted until March 30, 2012. A postcard will be sent providing the details for seedling pick up.

Complete the enclosed order form and send it back to the district office with payment enclosed.

Additional order forms are available online at www.woodswcd.com, at the district office, or by calling 419-354-5517.

Northern Ohio Crops Day

The Northern Ohio Crops Day will be held this year on Thursday, February 9 at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed, 1375 N. State Route 590 Gibsonburg, Ohio. Featured topics at this year's program will be : "Phosphorus and Lake Erie, What has Changed since 1995", "Pesticide Application, Making Sure You Hit the Target", "Problem Weeds in

Row Crops & Forages", and "Using All The Tools for Growing Corn". These topics are under a great deal of discussion right now, and some of the top specialists in their field will be presenting on them. If you are a commercial or private applicator, this program has been approved for recertification credits. The cost for recertification is

\$25.00 for private, and \$15.00 per hour for commercial. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and continue till 3:00 p.m., lunch is provided. A \$10.00 donation is asked at the door to help with expenses, and will include a copy of the 2012 Ohio & Indiana Weed Control Guide.

Farm Drainage Workshop

The Wood SWCD in conjunction with Lucas SWCD, Henry SWCD, Defiance SWCD, and Wood & Defiance OSU Extension will be holding a Farm Drainage Workshop on Thursday February 16 at the AMVET Post 1313 building, 2250 N. Scott St. Napoleon, Ohio. Workshop topics include: Drainage Design and Installation Research, Managing a Con-

trolled Drainage Structure, Water Quality and Best Management Practices, Crop Yield Responses to Drainage and



Drop Box

Tillage, and Cost Share Opportunities for Conservation.

With the increase of farm drainage needs due to extremely wet conditions we would like to take this opportunity to educate as best we can. This meeting will have no registration fee, but we are asking you to RSVP by February 10th to OSU Extension in Defiance County, 419-782-4771.



Updating Our Mailing List

We hope you continue to enjoy and utilize the information that is shared through *Eye On Conservation*. In the spirit of conservation, we are asking that you contact the Wood SWCD office at 419-354-5517 or julielausa@woodswcd.com if you no longer would like to

receive the written newsletter. *Eye On Conservation* is now available on the website (www.woodswcd.com). Additionally, you can find us on Facebook for current events and happenings with the district.

Likewise, if you know of someone who would enjoy

receiving the newsletter, please let us know and we will be glad to add them to the mailing list.

Thank you for your continued support of your local conservation resource!



Up-and-Coming

January 2012

- * Annual Seedling Tree Sale begins

February 2012

- * 2/9—Northern Ohio Crops Day—Ole Zim's, Lindsey, OH
- * 2/16— Farm Drainage Workshop — AMVETS, Napoleon, OH

March 2012

- * Tree Sale Ends

April 2012

- * 4/25—Area 1 Envirothon—Camp Palmer, Fayette, OH

May 2012

- * 5/19—Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival—Auglaize Village, Defiance, OH

June 2012

- * 6/10-13 KOSC (AKA Conservation Camp), Camp Palmer, Fayette, OH

Helpful Links

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Ohio State University Extension—Wood County

<http://wood.osu.edu/>



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Current Resident or

Need to Know...

Board of Supervisors

Lee Sundermeier, Chairman
Bernie Scott, Vice Chairman
Dennis Ferrell, Secretary
Kris Swartz, Fiscal Agent
Ron Snyder, Member

District Staff

Nicki Kale, Dist. Administrator/
Education Coordinator
Jim Carter, Dist. Administrator/
Engineering & Technical
Julie Lause, Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Gerwin, SWAT Conservationist
Aaron Robinson, WLEB Conservationist

NRCS Staff

Kelly Niehaus, District Conservationist

Equal Opportunity
Employer and Provider

Equipment for Rent

Great Plains Drill
(for CRP Practices only)

- 10' working width
- 7 1/2' row spacing
- Minimum 65 hp with live hydraulics

Rental Rate is \$10.00/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
Pond Filter Float	\$ 92.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 53.00
Pond Safety Kit	\$110.00
Ring Buoy	\$ 45.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	\$ 0.25
Tile Probes	\$ 30.00
Soil Test Probe	\$ 56.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 2.00
Tree Wraps with Stake	\$ 4.00
Flags	\$0.10 ea.
100 4x5	\$ 8.00
100 5x8	\$ 9.00
Rat Guard Prices	
4"	\$ 5.00
6"	\$ 6.00
8"	\$ 8.00
10"	\$ 10.00
12"	\$ 15.00
15"	\$ 25.00
Wood County Plat Books	\$ 15.00
(Cash or Check payable upon receipt)	