Wood Soil & Water Conservation District

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Current Resident or

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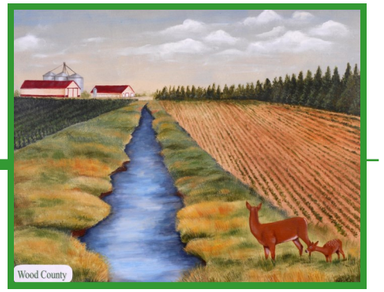
BOWLING GREEN
OH 43402

Spring 2016

Eye On Conservation

Wood Soil & Water Conservation District



Soil and Water Conservation transfer to ODA

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) was established beginning January 2016 through a transfer of programs from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture as directed by the 131st Ohio General Assembly in HB 64. The Division's central office is located on the Ohio Department of Agriculture campus in Reynoldsburg with many field offices and staff stationed throughout the state.

The DSWC:

Provides administrative guidance, training, program development support and financial assistance to Ohio's 88 SWCDs, their 440 elected board members and over 430 staff.

Implements agricultural and non-point source water pollution control programs. A regulatory component enforces agricultural sediment and livestock manure.

Supports and help fund local development of watershed management and protection action plans; help development and environmental interests with innovative stream protection within rural and urban landscapes

Implements a comprehensive statewide soils information program; assist private and public sectors in using soils and natural resource information.

Our Mission: Provide leadership and services that enable Ohioans to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water, and land resources.

Our Vision: To be a leader in soil and water resource management by providing the highest quality customer service.

The Wood SWCD was chartered on July 8, 1949. Working with the Wood County Board of Commissioners, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are independent political subdivisions of state government organized along county boundaries providing technical assistance to urban and rural land users. An elected board of supervisors provides district leadership.

www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/SWC/SWC.aspx

Wood SWCD Office Hours
7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Monday—Friday

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

Need to Know...

Board of Supervisors

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

District Staff

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/ Education Coordinator
Jim Carter, District Administrator/ Engineering & Technical
Jeremy Gerwin, District Technician
Beth Landers, Portage River Watershed Coordinator
Abby Wensink, Strategic Watershed Action Team Conservationist
Julie Lause, Administrative Assistant

NRCS Staff

Becky Duncan, District Conservationist
Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist
Jim Stafford, Hydraulic Engineer

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
(for conservation projects)
$25.00 First Day
$45.00 Each Additional Day

Weed Wrench
$225 Refundable Deposit
$20 Rental 1-3 Days
$20 Each Additional Day

For Wood County Residents Use Only

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	$245.00
Pond Filter Float	$ 92.00
Replacement Filter	$ 55.00
Pond Safety Kit	$110.00
Ring Buoy	$ 64.00
Deep Water Sign	$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	$ 0.25
Tile Probes	$ 33- 35
Soil Test Probe	$ 63- 95
Tree Protectors	$ 2.50
Tree Wraps with Stake	$ 4.00
Flags	$0.10 ea.
100 4x5	$ 8.00
100 5x8	$ 9.00
Nut Wizards	$ 40- 56
Composters	$50 -185
Rat Guards	
4"	$ 5.00
6" stainless steel	$ 10.00
8" stainless steel	$ 12.00
10"	$ 10.00
12"	$ 15.00
15"	$ 25.00
Wood County Plat Books	$ 20.00

(Cash or Check payable upon receipt)

Visit us at the Wood County Fair, Aug—1– 8

The Wood SWCD in cooperation with Wood County Park District, Wood County Solid Waste Management, OSU Extension, Farm Bureau, and the Wood County Agricultural Society formed The Grove, a natural resource area located near the train depot at the north end of the fairgrounds.

Look in the Wood County fair schedule or www.woodcounty-fair.com for daily activities and events for both adults and youth as we are "Celebrating Our Roots" throughout fair week!

Backyard Conservationist Nominations Sought

Sponsored by The Andersons, the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District will recognized a rural, Wood County homeowner for utilizing conservation practices such as rain barrels, composting, rain gardens, vegetable and flower gardens, windbreaks, and prairie grasses right in their own backyard.

2015 Recipients
Ron & Linda Dunmyer

As you drive through the countryside, take note of the home sites which catch your attention. **Please submit your nomination by July 7** to Wood SWCD, 1616 E Wooster St. Suite 32, Bowling Green, OH 43402; julielause@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 Annual Meeting in September.

Farm Beautification Nominations

The late Harold and Iva Lou Bordner established the Farm Beautification Award in 1975. The award was designed to encourage farmers pride in their farmsteads.

Each year the Wood SWCD 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.

2015 Recipients
Stanley & Lisa Wilhelm

Has a beautiful farm caught your attention? If so, **please submit your nomination by July 7** to Wood SWCD, 1616 E Wooster St, Suite 32, Bowling Green, OH 43402; julielause@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 Meeting in September. *To be eligible the nominated farm must belong to a working or retired farmer.*

Soil Health - Ron Snyder, NACD Soil Health Campion

Today one cannot pick up a magazine and not see an article on cover crops or soil health. Just what is soil health and what do cover crops have to do with it? Soil Health is the same as human health; we all want to be healthy. To be healthy we try to eat a balanced diet. The balanced diet includes a variety of different foods.

Now let us look below ground level. The micro biology of the soil is like life above the soil. The micro biology lives off of plant exudates, chemical secretions from plant roots. With our current cropping systems we currently go grow plants about four months of the year. Microbes, like humans, want to eat all year long. Imagine eating for four months then having your home tilled up and trying to survive. This is the reason for cover crops. Providing food and shelter for the microbes.

The underground is as complex as we are above ground. The under ground's road ways are soil aggregation created by roots. A variety of roots from hair-like to tap roots create roads from small country roads to super highways moving air and nutrients from place to place. Roots also excrete glues that help to keep soils aggregated. Deep probing roots reach down and grab onto nutrients bringing them back up to the surface creating a recycling effect. Legumes create nitrogen to be used by cash crops when timely terminated. Buckwheat's roots accumulate phosphorus. Oats are very mycorrhizal. Brassicas are like Red Bull™ for soil microbes. Radishes promote earthworms and are a huge nutrient capturing device. As roots decay they create more channels for water, air, and new roots to follow. Different combinations of cover crops create a different effect that is why blending is important.

Mycorrhizal fungi also benefit from cover crops. Mycorrhizal fungi probe into roots creating a network that can enhance the plants root systems. Fungi are some of the largest living organisms on earth, covering several hundred sq. miles. It is also important to recognize that fungi cannot withstand tillage.

Soil health also requires Soil Organic Matter (SOM). Bluntly, the more the better. For every 1% of SOM it holds about 1" of water. Here are a few statistic I recently came across.

2% SOM holds 32,000 gallon of water or 21% of a 5.5" rain

5% SOM holds 80,000 gallon of water or 53% of a 5.5" rain

8% SOM holds 128,000 gallon of water or 85% of a 5.5" rain

With water being our greatest limiting factor in crop production, it only make sense to increase SOM. SOM also increases nutrient cycling so decreases in fertility can also be realized. As soils become healthier, a habitat is formed for beneficial predator microbes possibly eliminating the need for soil insecticides.

Remember soil insecticides just don't eliminate the bad bugs but also the beneficial ones. You need to a few bad ones to have a good population of good ones.

The latest test I find helpful is the soil health field test. This test measures the soil's CO_2 respiration. Testing a soil's health can lead to a smaller application of nutrients thus saving money. We need to remember Soil Health does not pay in dollars, it saves in dollars.