



CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

Awards Presented at 63rd Annual Meeting

The 2010 Conservation Farm Award went to the Sterling Heights Dairy Farm. Sterling Heights Dairy Farm is a 400



Anne & James Saal, Sterling Heights Dairy

head dairy in Milton Township that is owned and operated by Jim Saal and his sons Matthew and Mark. The farm consists of 459 acres with 420 acres of cropland. Crops include corn silage, small grain, and alfalfa. A conservation plan and a comprehensive nutrient management plan is being followed on all the land and conservation practices include crop rotations, mulch tillage, no-till, contour strips, surface and subsurface drainage, grassed waterways, roof runoff management, a silage leachate collection system, and four waste storage facilities.

Dan Fulk and Heather Tegtmeier received the Conservation Education Award. Both Dan and Heather graduated from the Ohio State University with degrees in the field of agriculture. Both are FFA teachers, with Heather also taking on a Junior High Agriculture program that involves about 200 students. Dan and Heather have done an outstanding job to



Dan Fulk & Heather Tegtmeier

make outdoor and agricultural learning a fun and important component of teaching. Dan Fulk has taught for 25 years, 23 years at Northwestern High School. He and his wife Tonya have 2 children, Hannah and Zach. Dan has a farm west of Jeromesville. Dan teaches his students how important soil and water are to all of us. Heather Tegtmeier has been teaching Ag Science and Environmental Management at Northwestern for 14 years. She lives in Congress Township on the family farm with her husband, Randy and their 3 children. She is also a member of the Northwestern Ruritan Club. Heather is constantly exploring new ideas and providing environmental insight into her lessons. She and Dan have taught State Winning Teams in the

areas of Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Sales, Dairy Cattle Judging and Dog Obedience.

Fred Galehouse received the Conservation Stewardship Award. He is a US Army Veteran from 1942-

1945. Graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Worked for the Hoover Company for a year and then started a drainage contractor business in 1948 with his father's Buckeye number 1 machine. He has upgraded machines periodically since then. After attending his first Drainage Contractors workshop at The Ohio State University in 1953, he has assisted with the



Fred Galehouse

program every year since. It's now called the Overholt Drainage School. It was held here in Wooster in 2009. Fred has been a reviewer and contributor to numerous OSU fact sheets. Fred is a past National President for the Land Improvement Contractors of America and an Ohio president for the Ohio Chapter. Their mission statement is “Dedicated to Professional Conservation of Soil and Water.”

Dr. David Baker, Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH was the speaker for the evening. He spoke on Agricultural Pollution Abatement Programs in the Lake Erie Basin: History and Current Status. Dr. Baker currently serves the laboratory as coordinator of the tributary loading programs for the National Center for Water Quality Research. He is also serving as project director for two grants related to agricultural pollution abatement programs.

David Maurer, Wooster and David Rohrer, Orrville were reelected as Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors.

Thank You to Annual Meeting Donors

The Wayne SWCD would like to thank the following donors for their contribution to our Annual Meeting.

Pine Tree Barn - The J. M. Smucker Co.

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What is Water Quality Trading?

By Duane Wood

Every five years the Ohio EPA reviews point source discharge permits for allowable limits of pollutants within their discharge. Pollutant examples include nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, water temperature, sediment, etc. If the point source is no longer meeting their permitted limits they need to develop a plan to take corrective action. The traditional method has been to change the physical treatment facility to bring them into compliance. This “compliance” is typically costly to the business or community. However this review does create an opportunity to



use a new tool called water quality trading. Water quality trading is not an easy concept to understand. I've struggled with an easy way to explain it.

Basically it happens when a business or public facility needs to improve the quality of water leaving their treatment plant. They either upgrade the treatment plant, upgrade the plant and trade, or maybe just trade. Trading or buying credits allows the business or public facility to meet the requirements of their permit through improvements that happen in other parts of the watershed.

“Water quality trading is a voluntary exchange of pollutant reduction credits. A facility with a higher pollutant control cost can buy a pollutant reduction credit from a facility with a lower control cost thus reducing their cost of compliance.” (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

What's a point source? "Point source" means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

What's a credit? “A credit is a unit of pollutant reduction usually measured in pounds equivalent. Credits can be generated by a point source over-controlling its discharge or by a nonpoint source installing best management practices (BMPs) beyond its baseline.” (USEPA)

What are the benefits? The benefit is a lower cost to achieve the same or a better water quality goal.

A successful example of water quality trading occurred with Alpine Cheese in Holmes County. The business was able to decrease its pollutant discharge through a combination of constructing an improved treatment plant coupled with credit trading. This was done at a lower cost than simply constructing a waste water treatment plant alone. To accomplish this Alpine Cheese partnered with the Holmes

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), The Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), and upstream farmers.

The Holmes SWCD role has been to promote and provide technical assistance with conservation practices within the Sugar Creek Watershed that have a nutrient reduction value serving primarily local dairy farms. The nutrient value is assigned a number of credits of nutrient reduction that were then purchased by Alpine Cheese. The Ohio EPA has established that credits must be traded 3 to 1. Or in other words one pound of phosphorus reduction required by the Alpine Cheese plant (beyond what the new treatment plant reduced) must be met with 3 pounds from conservation practices within the watershed.

What's a watershed? A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. (USEPA)

The Ohio State University, OARDC role has been to help facilitate an agreement between the OPEA, Alpine Cheese Company, and Holmes SWCD. They also provide water testing within the watershed to monitor the progress of the nutrient reductions.

The farmer's role has been to voluntarily install conservation practices with Holmes SWCD assistance that are basically paid for by Alpine Cheese. The nutrient reduction credits that are generated are credited towards the needed improvement by Alpine Cheese.

Another success of the project has been economic development. Alpine Cheese has been able to add capacity to their plant that requires more milk and employs more people. This also strengthens dairy farms by increasing demand for milk.

On June 17th the Muskingum River Watershed Joint Board of Soil and Water Conservation Districts met for the first time. The formation of the twenty county joint board is one of the first steps to establish nutrient credit trading within the Muskingum River Watershed. The formation of the joint board in the Muskingum River Watershed formally allows the districts within the watershed to work together across county boundaries to facilitate credit trading. The Wayne County Commissioners and Wayne SWCD have been strong supporters of this movement as we work to gain incentives for our local landowners.

The goal is more conservation achieved and more water quality improved with trading than with a waste water treatment plant improvement alone. For every pound of reduction required at a treatment plant three pounds of reduction will occur within the watershed through conservation practices. Conservation practices typically cost less than improvements at the treatment plant allowing more money to be invested in the business or saving public money.

The Joint Board will continue to meet and work towards establishing a water quality credit trading area with the Ohio EPA. We'll keep you up to date with progress as it develops.

Catch Basin Stenciling

by Rob Kastner

On August 23rd, Wayne SWCD coordinated catch basin stenciling in the Westview Mobile Home Park in Chippewa Township. Sixteen catch basins, which are a part of the mobile home park's storm sewer system, were marked with the symbol and words shown in the picture. The storm sewer system discharges to the headwaters of a tributary of the Silver Creek, which runs south through Rogues Hollow and empties into the Chippewa Creek.

The catch basin stenciling is one of the components of Wayne County and Chippewa Townships' Storm Water Management Plan required for their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit with the Ohio EPA. The MS4 area is identified by the Census Bureau as an area of dense population, which requires an EPA permit to discharge storm water to local waterways. The MS4 area is generally located in the northeast corner of Chippewa Township.

The purpose of the catch basin stenciling is to alert local residents and passersby that catch basins, and the storm sewer pipes they discharge to, are a direct connection to the

closest waterway. Reinforcing the fact that anything that enters a catch basin will flow directly to the waterway untreated.



I would like to extend a special thanks to those who participated in the stenciling and to the Westview Mobile Home Park for allowing us to use their storm sewer system to help get the word out about protecting our streams from pollution.

Swampbuster and the Farm Bill

by John Knapp

Farmers who participate in the USDA programs are reminded to check with the Farm Service Agency prior to any clearing or drainage activities. The current Farm Bill has specific provisions pertaining to wetland conservation



on agricultural land. These provisions are not new but build upon the provisions in the original 1985 Farm Bill so they

have been around for some time. Don't assume an area is not considered a wetland because there is no standing wa-

ter or cattails present. Many wetland areas dry up during the summer but they are still considered to be wetlands. Farmers who intend to do any of the following need to have the area checked before doing the work:

- clearing fencerows, woodland, or other land for new fields
- installing tile in existing or proposed cropland,
- tiling wet spots or low lying areas,
- bringing old fields into production that have not been farmed at least 5 years or more.

If you plan to do any clearing or drainage work this needs to be checked prior to doing the work. A request needs to be made at the Farm Service Agency at least 30 days in advance of any work being done so we have time to complete the determination. You may lose all USDA program benefits if you do any clearing or drainage without getting a determination prior to beginning the work.

Winter Time Trivia!

On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?

- a. 10 inches
- b. 1 inch
- c. 5 inches
- d. a foot

Answer: a. 10 inches of snow melts down to about an inch of liquid rain.

Which of the following is NOT affected by wind chill?

- a. person
- b. dog
- c. car radiator
- d. bird

Answer: c. Car radiator. Wind chill is the combination of wind and temperature and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin such as that of a person or animal. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving the body temperature down. Wind chill has no effect on cars or other objects.

Calendar

- Jan. 11 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
- Feb. 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
- Feb. 11 **Agronomy School**, Fisher Auditorium, OARDC 9:30 am – 12:30 pm - \$20 fee – will cover core 1 & 2
- Feb. 24 **Deadline for Tree Sales**
- Mar. 18 **Pesticide recertification School**, Sprunger Bldg., Kidron 12 - 3:30pm - \$20 fee – will cover core 1, 2 & 3

Natural Resources Conservation Service
 John Knapp, District Conservationist
 Jeff Lefever, Civil Engineering Technician
 Jonathan Mauk, Soil Conservationist
 Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist

Wayne SWCD Staff
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 Steve Grimes, No-Till Specialist
 Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
 Adam Liston, Conservation Technician
 Debbie Pettijohn, Secretary
 Kelly Riley, Education Specialist
 Duane Wood, District Program Administrator

Tree Order Form Inside

SWCD Sponsors Annual Fish Sale



The Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District will begin taking orders for our annual fish sale. The fish will be purchased from Fender's Fish Hatchery in Baltic. The types of fish which are available include fingerling size largemouth bass, channel catfish, white amur, perch, minnow, bluegill, crappie and redear shellcracker. White amur (grass carp) are an excellent alternative to chemical control of weeds in ponds.

Orders for the fish will be taken until **Friday, April 15th**. **Pickup** date will be **Tuesday, April 19th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds**. Orders must be picked up at the specified time. At the pickup, you will need to bring a container filled with your own pond water, 5 to 10 gallons of water per 100 fish is required. Line the container with a new plastic liner before adding water. The White Amur must be placed in a container with a lid or a liner large enough to be tied at the top. Only 2 Amur to each 5 gallons of water. If you have any questions concerning stocking rates, please contact our office at 330-262-2836. Send order to Wayne SWCD, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691.

Keep this section for reference

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Return this section with payment

	No.	Species	Size	Price	Total
Name _____	_____	Largemouth Bass	2-4"	.80	_____
	_____	Bluegill	2-4"	.70	_____
Address _____	_____	Channel Catfish	4-5"	.75	_____
	_____	White Amur	8-12"	12.00	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	_____	Perch	2-4"	.70	_____
	_____	Minnow	1-2"	.07	_____
Daytime Phone _____	_____	Redear Shellcracker	2-4"	.85	_____
	_____	Black Crappie	2-4"	.85	_____
		Total			_____

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Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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