



Resource Reviews

April 2011

Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District

110 Industrial Drive, Suite G
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Office Hours
6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

www.auglaizeswcd.org
www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov

Board Meetings are usually held
the first Wednesday of each month at
8:00 a.m. please call to verify date and time

SWCD Annual Meeting – August 16th



When: Tuesday, August 16th
Where: St. Joseph Parish Life Center – Wapakoneta
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. - Buffet Style with Dessert
Speaker: *****
Election Registration and Voting: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The public will be electing two members to the District Board of Supervisors and the election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. There will also be the presentation of the SWCD Outstanding Cooperator Award, the SWCD Scholarship, the High School Soil Judging Awards and a short slide show review of this year's installed practices. Dinner ticket price is \$11.00 per person and the reservation deadline is August 5th.

Reservation and ticket information will be available in our next newsletter.

Filter Strips: Priceless

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water Resources

Landowners are likely to finance filter strips with cost share programs, not credit cards, but like those credit card commercials say, the benefits are priceless. Not only do filter strips protect water quality by trapping soil particles, nutrients, and pesticides, they can also improve water infiltration and enhance wildlife habitat.

The recommended vegetation and dimensions vary depending on soils, land uses, and surface water flow (runoff), but filter strips all have the same basic function. Ideally, water runoff spreads out and flows as a thin "sheet" across the filter strip.

Vegetation slows the runoff enough to let some suspended soil particles, plant debris, and other contaminants settle out. This reduces sedimentation in streams. Trapping sediments in filter strips can be especially beneficial in streams that provide subsurface drainage outlets, as it can help reduce sediment removal costs associated with drainage maintenance.

Some plant nutrients, such as phosphorus and the ammonium form of nitrogen, bind to soil sediment, so trapping the sediment also traps those nutrients. Certain pesticides are also trapped with soil particles. In the filter strip, those pesticides break down and the nutrients fertilize the vegetation rather than disrupting the balance of life in the water downstream.

Another advantage is that water moving slowly through a filter strip has more time to soak in instead of running off and adding to surface flow. The ground in a filter strip is often more permeable than crop ground, so water soaks in faster, too.

Although filter strips usually aren't installed primarily to benefit wildlife, the vegetation provides food and cover that is especially attractive to songbirds and small mammals. The strips can also become travel corridors so wildlife can move from one area of habitat to another without the risk of crossing open fields.

Researchers have measured the advantages of filter strips with small-scale studies on individual fields and small watersheds. But showing the benefits in larger watersheds is still a challenge. Even if a filter strip makes a dramatic difference in the quality of water leaving a particular field, the benefit can be hard to measure in water from the whole watershed. That's why it's so important for landowners throughout a watershed to install filter strips.

Senate Bill 160 Ditch Update

By T. J. Place, Technical Administrator/Ditch Coordinator

Recently Completed Ditches

Gene Topp Farm Drainage installed the **Kettler Ditch** in July and August 2010. The tile main consisted of 2,953 lineal feet of 30" plastic pipe; 5,121 lineal feet of 24" plastic pipe; 2,679 lineal feet of 18" plastic pipe; 1,476 lineal feet of 15" plastic pipe; and 2,069 lineal feet of 12" plastic pipe. A branch tile consisted of 1,658 lineal feet of 15" plastic pipe. The open ditch which served as the outlet was reconstructed a total of 600 feet. The total cost of the project was \$321,484.29. The watershed consisted of 773 acres and involved 52 parcels. The Kettler Ditch is located in St. Marys Township, Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33.



Edge Excavating installed the **Burr Oak Ditch** in September of 2009. The tile main consisted of 3,063 lineal feet of 18" plastic pipe. A surface drain 475 feet long was constructed along with a 250 foot grassed waterway. The watershed consisted of 251 acres and involved 24 parcels. The total project cost was \$54,624.95. Burr Oak Ditch is located in



Section 18 of Pusheta Township.

Ready for Construction

The **Bennett Ditch** is located in Wayne Township, Sections 19 & 30. The tile main consists of 1,452 lineal feet of 24" plastic pipe; 1,484 lineal feet of 18" plastic pipe; 1,558 lineal feet of 15" plastic pipe; and 1,408 lineal feet of 12" plastic pipe. The open ditch will be reconstructed a total of 1,348 feet. This will consist of dipping the bottom and pulling the banks back; placing rip rap; replacing outlet pipes and removing brush along the banks. This project will cost approximately \$121,836.92. The watershed consists of 403 acres and involves 18 parcels.

The **Moulton Ditch** is located in Moulton Township, Section 4. Plans are to reconstruct 2,232 feet of open ditch and will consist of dipping the bottom and pulling the banks back; placing rip rap; replacing outlet pipes and removing brush along the banks. This project will cost approximately \$18,253.40. The watershed is 277 acres and involves 31 parcels.

Preliminary Stage

The **Lowry Ditch** is located in Salem Township, Section 27. The proposal is to replace an old broken down 18" clay tile with 1,156 feet of 18" plastic pipe. There are 342 acres in the watershed and there are 18 parcels of land involved. The cost estimate and final plans are currently being updated after the initial hearing and viewing took place on January 27th.

The **Crow #2 Ditch** is located in Moulton Township, Section 24. The proposal is to replace a broken down tile with 3,649 feet of plastic pipe with diameters of 18"; 15"; 10"; and 6". There are 140 acres in the watershed and 12 parcels involved. The current cost estimate is approximately \$49,400. An initial hearing and viewing took place February 8th.

The **Jacob Ditch** is located in Clay Township, Section 19. The proposal is to replace 3,753 feet of old clay tile with plastic pipe of diameters of 18"; 15"; and 12". There are 238 acres in the watershed and 12 parcels involved. The current cost estimate is approximately \$54,000. An initial hearing and viewing took place on February 17th.

The **Newland Ditch** is located in Wayne Township, Section 20. The proposal is to replace an old broken down clay tile with 3,300 feet of 15" tile and 1,031 feet of 8" tile. There are 159 acres in the watershed and there are 24 parcels involved. The current cost estimate is approximately \$57,700. An initial hearing and viewing took place on February 24th.

The **East Shelby Joint Ditch** is located in St. Marys, Township Section 24. The proposal includes removing 1,100 feet of log jams, dipping out 2,700 feet and pulling the banks back; placing rip rap; replacing outlet pipes and removing brush along the banks. The watershed is 1,340 acres and there are 80 parcels involved.



The current cost estimate for the stream reconstruction is approximately \$85,000. The proposal also includes replacing 700 feet of broken tile with 12" and 10" plastic tile in a sub-watershed of 54 acres. The current cost estimate for the tile is \$8,600. An initial hearing and viewing took place March 8th.

2011 SWCD Fish Sale

The Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District is conducting our Annual Fingerling Fish Sale. The fish offered are intended for stocking ponds and lakes; with the minimum pond size suggested for stocking is 1/4 acre with a minimum depth of 8 feet. The following are suggested stocking rates per acre for a new or un-stocked pond. These rates apply to surface area and should be adjusted to fit your pond size: Largemouth Bass 100, Bluegill 500, Yellow Perch 100, Channel Catfish 200, Minnows one gallon and White Amur 10.

The District is working with a new supplier this year, Fenders Fish Hatchery. **You will need to bring some of your pond water with you. They recommend to take a 5 gallon bucket with a plastic liner, such as a trash bag, and fill half full with your pond water. Recommendation: 100 fish; 500 minnows; 2 white amur per 5 gallon bucket.**

Fish will be delivered on **Tuesday, May 17th at 11:00 a.m.** at the SWCD Office. Please return the order form by **May 10th** to
 Auglaize SWCD, 110 Industrial Drive, Suite G, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____



<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____	Hybrid Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.90/each	\$ _____
_____	Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$0.80/each	\$ _____
_____	Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.70/each	\$ _____
_____	Readear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.85/each	\$ _____
_____	Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.80/each	\$ _____
_____	Yellow Perch	2-3"	\$0.75/each	\$ _____
_____	White Amur	8-11"	\$13.00/each	\$ _____
_____	Minnows (1,000)		\$60.00/1,000	\$ _____

Check payable to Auglaize SWCD must accompany your order form.	Total Order Amount \$ _____
---	------------------------------------

Joint County Pond Clinic – May 5th



The 2011 Auglaize/Allen SWCD joint county pond clinic will be held on Thursday, May 5th in Auglaize County. The program will run from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Keith Richardson's pond located at 13259 Buckland Holden Road, approximately 1/8 mile east of State Route 501. Bill Lynch of OSU Extension is our featured speaker and will address topics on pond aerator systems, pond stocking, fish species/management, pond management and vegetation/weed control. The clinic is free and will be held rain or shine, but participants are asked to bring their own lawn chairs. For more information contact the Auglaize SWCD at 419-738-4016 or Allen SWCD at 419-223-0040.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

By Ron Schneider, Erosion Control Specialist

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a great way to help protect the regions natural resources and improve water quality in the Lake Erie Watershed. Over ½ of the land in Auglaize County is eligible for the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. There are several different types of practices to choose from: **Field Windbreaks, Riparian Buffers, Grass Recharge Areas and Restoring Wetlands**. Sediment loading into Lake Erie and tributary streams is still a problem due in part to the fine clay soils and their erodibility. Depending on which practice is being installed, each one offers different types of incentives and contract durations. Landowners must meet eligibility factors such as, land ownership and established cropping history. Technical assistance and engineering design work are all services that the office staff can assist participants with to help them meet their goals or desires. Contact our office if more information is needed at 419-738-4016.

National Stewardship Week

April 24th – May 1st

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation related observances. The program relies on locally led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation. This year the stewardship theme is “**Forests for People – More Than You Can Imagine**”.

Each and every day, we all have a connection to forests. This connection includes things as obvious as paper products we use at work and school; the food and spices we eat; the furniture we sit on and the houses we live in. But trees also provide other critical benefits that we often take for granted including clean water and clean air. Forests also offer families the opportunity to take a peaceful walk and picnic on a sunny afternoon; provide children with the perfect atmosphere to learn about the great outdoors; and serve as a refuge for animals and plants.



Take some time to explore the great outdoors. 2011 marks the 56th year of the National Association of Conservation Districts National Stewardship Week. Help us celebrate National Stewardship Week, April 24th thru May 1st. Visit www.nacdnet.org for more information.

NRCS / SWCD Staff & Board Members

Jenelle Ott, *NRCS District Conservationist*
Nancy Fisher, *SWCD District Administrator*
T. J. Place, *SWCD Technical Administrator/Ditch Coordinator*
Ron Schneider, *SWCD Erosion Control Specialist*
Frances Springer, *Grand Lake St. Marys Conservationist*
Jason Bell, *Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist*
John Wallace, *Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist*

John Schwarck, *Chairman*
Jack Rohrbach, *Vice Chairman*
Lou Brown, *Secretary*
Karl Marshall, *Fiscal Agent*
Allen Imwalle, *Treasurer*

Auglaize County Agencies - Phone Numbers

Auglaize SWCD and NRCS	419-738-4016
Farm Service Agency	419-738-3918
OSU Extension Service	419-739-6580
Auglaize County Commissioners	419-739-6710
Auglaize County Engineer	419-739-6520
Auglaize County Wildlife Officer	937-372-5639
Auglaize County Health Department	419-738-3410
Grand Lake/Wabash Alliance Watershed	419-586-2548
John Mueller, ODNR Service Forester	419-424-5004

Thanks To Our Commissioners

John Bergman ~ Don Regula ~ Doug Spencer

The Auglaize SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff wish to thank the Auglaize County Commissioners for their continuing support and dedication to soil and water conservation in our county; the financial assistance at the county level draws matching funds from the state that enables the District to continue to provide assistance to all Auglaize County residents.

Check out our Web Sites: www.auglaizeswcd.org and www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov

Auglaize SWCD Mission: Provide leadership, technical assistance, education and conservation of natural resources in Auglaize County.