



Resource Reviews

November 2008

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,
please call to verify date and time.

Local and District Soil Judging Results

1st Place Local Rural Team ~ New Bremen FFA

Zak Kemper ~ Brock Verhoff ~ Jessica May ~ Rachael Dabbelt

Individual Local Score

- 1st Individual Score ~ **Matt Poepelman** ~ Minster
2nd Individual Score ~ **Kaleb Vondenhuevel** ~ Wapakoneta
3rd Individual Score ~ **Jeff Kuenning** ~ New Bremen

1st Place Local Urban Team ~ Minster FFA

Brendon Conrad ~ Maria Conrad ~ Scott Borges ~ Josh Watercutter

Individual Local Score

- 1st Individual Score ~ **Curt Muhlenkamp** ~ Minster
2nd Individual Score ~ **Brendan Conrad** ~ Minster
3rd Individual Score ~ **Matt Albers** ~ Minster

The Local Soil Judging contest was held on September 19th on the farm of **Jeff and Judy Zwiebel** near Fryburg. Approximately 130 students from Wapakoneta, Minster and New Bremen FFA chapters participated in the contest. Auglaize SWCD staff served as official soil pit judges for the event.

Three 4' deep pits located on varying soil types were dug for the competition. Students in the Urban contest judged the soil pits for slope, flood hazard, soil stability, soil texture, and had to decide if the sites were suitable for buildings with basements, septic tank absorption fields, driveways and lawns. Students competing in the Rural contest judged the pits for slope, depth of topsoil, soil texture and erodability. They also recommend farming, tillage or conservation practices for that pit sight. The students will be awarded plaques for their achievement. The district would like to thank **Mike Schaub Excavating** for donating their time and equipment to dig this years test pits.



District Soil Judging Competition Results

The top students from each school can compete at the district, state and national soil judging levels. Auglaize County hosted District 4 and District 5 Soil Judging contests this year on the farm of **Denny and Judy Werling** in Clay Township. The District competitions were held on September 24th and 25th and the official judges were **George Derringer** – Resource Soil Scientist from Englewood and **Don Burgess** – Soil Scientist from Findlay. The district would like to thank **Gallaspie Farm Drainage** for donating their time and equipment to dig this years tests pits.

District 4 Urban Results

Wapakoneta's Urban Judging team placed **9th out of 28 schools**. Individually, out of 100 students Wapak students placed the following: **Royce Kantner 18th ~ Maverick Liles 37th ~ Trevor Thompson 67th ~ Dylan Regula 85th**

District 4 Rural Results

Wapakoneta's Rural Judging team placed **12th out of 30 schools**. Individually, out of 121 students Wapak students placed the following: **Nick Fisher 20th ~ Nick Warner 21st ~ Drew Davis 82nd ~ Mallory McDevitt 101st**

District 5 Urban Results

Out of **21 schools Minster placed 5th and New Bremen placed 8th**. Individually, out of 122 students **Curt Muhlenkamp 8th** (Minster), **Matt Albers 17th** (Minster), **Nick Homan 21st** (New Bremen), **Rachael Dabbelt 29th** (New Bremen), **Maria Bruns 31st** (Minster), **Josh Watercutter 38th** (Minster), **Matthew Albers 39th** (Minster), **Dustin Goubeaux 42nd** (Minster), **Trevor Wynk 46th** (New Bremen), **Drew Charlson 49th** (New Bremen), **Jennifer Bruns 59th** (Minster), **Brendon Conrad 81st** (Minster).

District 5 Rural Results

Out of **28 schools Minster placed 1st, New Bremen placed 9th and St. Marys placed 22nd**. Individually, out of 176 students **Jacob Dircksen 1st** (Minster), **Matt Poepelman 2nd** (Minster), **Ryan Albers 5th** (Minster), **Steve Homan 21st** (New Bremen), **Jake Winner 33rd** (Minster), **James Boroff 44th** (New Bremen), **Adam Poepelman 62nd** (Minster), **Jeff Kuenning 60th** (New Bremen), **Nick Wilker 64th** (St. Marys), **Brock Verhoff 69th** (New Bremen), **Mark Zink 74th** (New Bremen), **Josh Tipton 76th** (Minster), **Jacob Grunden 91st** (Minster), **Braedan Miller 96th** (St. Marys), **Devin Winner 102nd** (Minster), **Jo Steva 109th** (St. Marys), **Seth Stoner 111th** (St. Marys).

New Soil Conservationist – Lee Walker

My name is Delwyn Lee Walker. I go by Lee because my dad and I have the same first name. My wife Dorothy and I recently moved to Sidney from Hillsboro, Ohio (Highland County). I earned the 2006 Earth Team Volunteer of the year award for the NRCS in Ross County. I graduated from Wilmington College in December 2007 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. In 2007/2008 I worked in Highland County as a Work Assigned Employee/Soil Conservation Technician for the NRCS. Before my wife and I moved to Sidney, I worked on a 900 acre crop and livestock farm in southern Ohio. I intensively grazed 10 ewes and a llama on a 2 acre hillside.

I am currently a Soil Conservationist in the Wapakoneta NRCS office. The area here is a little different land form than it is in Highland County. I am trying to learn as much as I can while I am here and hope to get to know everyone.



62nd Annual Meeting Highlights

The Auglaize SWCD's 62nd Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 19th at the St. Joseph Parish Life Center in Wapakoneta. A wonderful buffet dinner catered by Buckeye Catering was enjoyed by all followed by comedian Rick Reader. Approximately 220 cooperators and guests enjoyed this year's meeting.

A powerpoint show highlighted some of the recent practices that the SWCD/NRCS office assisted with over the past year. **Lou and Alan Brown** of Brownhaven Farms graciously accepted the Outstanding Cooperator Award. **Tyler Shipp** of Wapakoneta received an academic scholarship from the SWCD Auxiliary.

The night ended with the SWCD Board Supervisor election results in which Allen Imwalle and John Schwarck were both re-elected to each serve another 3 year term defeating candidates Joyce Pugh and Edward Schultz. The district would like to thank all the individuals, organizations and businesses that donated and supported this year's Annual Meeting.



Luanna and Allen Scott getting picked on by comedian Rick Reader

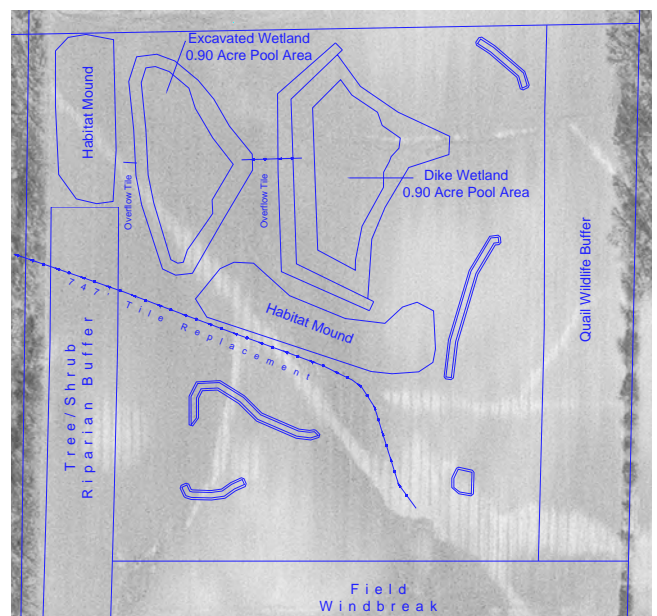
Wetland Restoration Projects Continue

Wetland restoration projects are continuing to gain popularity here in Auglaize County. Wetlands serve many important functions to our natural resources since they provide wildlife habitat, temporary storage of surface runoff to reduce flooding, help trap soil erosion and are a natural filter that improves water quality.

Programs are currently available to help with the creation and installation of wetland areas. Eligible land must be located within the Lake Erie Watershed and fortunately a large percentage of Auglaize County drains into Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) began in 2000 and the goal of the program is to enroll conservation practices such as buffer strips, tree and shrub riparian buffers along watercourses, and wildlife habitat on sensitive areas. Eligible landowners who voluntarily take land out of production receive annual payments and cost share from USDA to establish, maintain and extend conservation practices. One of the major goals of CREP is to reduce the sediment loadings into Lake Erie and its tributary streams.

A recently completed wetland project located in Logan Township east of Conant Road will be thriving by next spring. Two separate .9 acre pool areas have been installed and a 12.8 acre buffer mix of grasses, legumes and forbs has been seeded to create wildlife habitat. A 1.7 acre tree field windbreak, a 1.4 acre riparian buffer and a 2.2 acre quail habitat buffer will be planted next spring. The windbreak and riparian tree and shrub areas will include planting over 1,200 tree and shrub seedlings in early spring. The excavated dirt was moved to create pool areas and wildlife habitat mounds.

Technical assistance and engineering design work are all services that the office staff can assist participants with in order to meet their goals or ideas. Enrollment is on a continuous basis, as funding permits. There are only a few requirements that land must meet to be eligible for the program.



Auglaize County Tillage History

Sediment and nutrients are the highest contributors to the deterioration of the water quality in most of our local watersheds. Dredging sediment out of state waters is very expensive and time consuming. Conservation tillage and no-till practices reduce the risk of erosion and prevent nutrient laden sediment from entering drainage ways. The last few years research and incentive programs are leaning towards having a growing crop year round in agricultural fields that provides, retains and recycles nutrients and helps create and hold organic material in the surface layer of the soil. Cover crops are a great way to achieve this because economically, they are affordable to use and fairly easy to manage in the spring. By utilizing these practices, the enriched soil stays in place, ready to provide nutrients for the next crop. The more organic material in a field, the better the infiltration of water. This helps to reduce surface runoff and soil erosion.

| | Corn | Soybeans | Wheat |
|-------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| 1987 | | | No Data |
| Conventional Till | 18 % | 32 % | |
| No-Till | 2 % | 2 % | |
| Mulch Till | 2 % | 6 % | |
| | | | |
| 1994 | | | No Data |
| No-Till | 40 % | 55 % | |
| Conservation Till | 4 % | 9 % | |
| | | | |
| 1997 | | | No Data |
| No-Till | 36 % | 52 % | |
| Conservation Till | 9 % | 11 % | |
| | | | |
| 2008 | | | |
| No-Till | 4.6 % | 40.8 % | 3.9 % |
| Mulch Till | 4.1 % | 7.3 % | 6.9 % |
| Strip Till | .5 % | 0 % | 0 % |
| Reduced Till | 22.6 % | 7.1 % | .6 % |
| Conventional Till | 5.2 % | 1.6 % | .6 % |

Since the late 1980's Auglaize County has completed a tillage transect for each year and some years have a spring and fall transect. The tillage transect is a systematic route with a site every half mile. At each site the left and right side of the road is observed and recorded. If the site is in a residential area, it is noted. Observations include the last crop planted and the last type of tillage used. For water quality no-till is ideal because it keeps the nutrients and soil from floating downstream during the winter months.

Figures from previous Auglaize County tillage transects include Conservation Till (Mulch Till/Ridge Till) that leaves at least 30% residue over winter. Conventional Till leaves less than 30% cover.

In our records it is noted that in the 1994 Tillage Transect figures, for the first time ever showed Conservation Tillage (Mulch, Ridge and No-Till) was the predominate systems used here in Auglaize County.

Winter Manure Applications

Ohio's livestock producers are at the risk of losing the sometimes necessary option of winter manure application if pollution problems resulting from wintertime manure spreading continues. To protect this option, farmers and applicators need to guard water quality by minimizing winter application and by following the current USDA/NRCS Practice Standard #633 when winter manure application is unavoidable.

Ohio has not implemented any rules on the manure application window for small to medium size livestock farm operations. However, there are suggested guidelines (#633) in place that if implemented will greatly reduce or eliminate the potential for nutrients to enter into watercourses, road ditches, streams and rivers. Anyone applying manure should be aware of all catch basins, watercourses, concentrated field flow areas, grassed waterways, riser pipes, tile inlets, culvert pipes and tile blowouts. In the winter, the ground becomes frozen with snow and ice and any manure applied to the surface will run when the sun shines or the ground begins to thaw out. *The soil cannot absorb manure if the ground is already saturated.*

Winter manure application is *not* encouraged and should be avoided at all costs. However, some producers do not have the capabilities to store manure for the entire winter period. Some ways to protect surface and ground water in the winter months is to cover more acres thus applying less manure per acre. Split applications on the same land may also be an option.

Ground covered fields that have at least 90% surface residue remaining are good to utilize in the winter months. This includes all grain residue remaining after harvest including corn fodder, wheat stubble and old hay fields or winter cover cropped fields including wheat, oats and rye sowed into silage fields. Ground that *does not* meet the 90% ground cover criteria are corn silage fields, clipped and baled wheat stubble, soybean stubble, tilled ground and hay ground that has less than a couple inches of new growth after the last harvest.

Liquid applications are limited to 5,000 gallons per acre and solid manure is limited to 10 wet tons of manure. Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres. Contiguous acres for application are to be separated by a break of at least 200' of non manured land. Utilize the areas that are furthest from streams, road ditches, rivers, surface tile inlets and bodies of water. A 200' minimum setback distance from manure sensitive areas is also suggested (this includes but is not limited to wells, catch basins, road ditches and concentrated flow areas).

For some farmers, adding storage capacity would help. Others might need to manage applications more carefully. Federal incentive dollars through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may be available to producers to increase storage capacity and to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). For more information about manure application criteria, EQIP or other manure management issues, contact the office.



NRCS / SWCD Staff & Board Members

Steve McDevitt ~ NRCS District Conservationist
Lee Walker ~ NRCS Soil Conservationist
Nancy Fisher ~ SWCD District Administrator
T. J. Place ~ SWCD Technical Administrator/Ditch Coordinator
Ron Schneider ~ SWCD Erosion Control Specialist
Frances Springer ~ SWCD MNM Specialist/Education Coordinator
Chad Scott ~ SWCD GPS Coordinator/Ditch Assistant
Julie Rutschilling ~ Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist
John Wallace ~ Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

John Schwarck, Chairman
Jerry Lehman, Vice Chairman
Bill Tostrick, Secretary
Allen Imwalle, Fiscal Agent
Gary Truesdale, Treasurer

Auglaize County Agencies - Phone Numbers

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Auglaize SWCD and NRCS | 419/738-4016 |
| Farm Service Agency | 419/738-3918 |
| OSU Extension Service | 419/738-2219 |
| 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 |

Check out our updated Web Site: www.auglaizeswcd.org

Thanks To Our Commissioners

John Bergman - Ivo Kramer - 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.

The Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District and The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET CENTER at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). The USDA and Auglaize SWCD are equal opportunity providers and employers.

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

Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District
110 Industrial Drive, Suite G
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-4016

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