



Conservation Close Up

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation

Fall 2017

Supervisors Elected

Evan Jackson and Dave Reese were re-elected to the Hancock SWCD Board of Supervisors at the 71st Annual Meeting, August 1, 2017 at The Brugeman Lodge in Riverbend Recreation Area.

Evan and Dave will be sworn into office in January and will serve 3-year terms as supervisor. The Hancock SWCD supervisors and staff thank Matt Heitkamp for being a candidate for the board of supervisors.

The Hancock SWCD current supervisors are: Dave Reese-Chairman, Mark Shick-Vice-Chairman, Richard Gassman-Fiscal Agent, Linda Tuttle-member and Evan Jackson-member.

Outstanding Cooperator

The Outstanding Cooperator award was presented during the Hancock SWCD 71st Annual Meeting to Bruce and Denise Arnold.

Bruce and Denise have worked with the Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District on many conservation programs. They have made many improvements on their farm in Union Township.

The various practices include Erosion Control Structures, Filter Strips, No-Till plantings, Conservation Tillage and cover crops.

This award and plaque are sponsored by Sparks Commercial Tire, Inc. We appreciate Sparks Tire for its continued interest and encouragement of sound conservation practices.

2017 Board of Supervisors



Dave Reese - Chairman



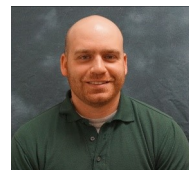
Mark Shick - Vice-Chairman



Richard Gassman -Fiscal Agent



Linda Tuttle - Member



Evan Jackson - Member



Pictured: Denise Arnold, Supervisor, Linda Tuttle and Bruce Arnold.

Milkweed Pod Collection

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is seeking public involvement to collect and drop off common milkweed seed pods from established plants, September 1 through October 31, 2017 at collection stations around Ohio. Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District will be a collection station in Hancock County. The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch butterfly throughout Ohio in coming years.

Seed pods from common milkweed should be collected when the pods are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they can attract moisture and allow mold to develop. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Harvesting seed pods from milkweed plants will not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.

For more information on OPHI or the seed pod collection contact OPHI at (614) 416-8993 or Hancock SWCD, 7868 C.R. 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio at 419-422-6569.



Establishment of pollinator plantings can be difficult and requires the Four Ps:

Planning: It is very important to plan ahead. Pollinator plantings require lots of thought on species and site selection, site preparation, planting, and maintenance.

Patience: Native plants are best for pollinator plantings, and most natives are not quick to establish and flower. It is important to be patient while native plants slowly emerge and set their deep roots to pull moisture for the toughest growing conditions.

Persistence: Persistence will pay off. Weed control is one of the most challenging and important parts of establishing a successful pollinator planting. Be persistent with weed control, monitoring, and care of your pollinator planting.

Project Size: Pollinator plantings can range in size from a couple hundred square feet to a couple hundred acres. It is obvious that smaller projects will likely receive more care per unit of area, but the establishment steps are basically the same. Smaller projects (typically < 1 acre) are more conducive to more intense establishment methods, such as solarization, planting plugs, hand-pulling weeds, etc.



Good Luck, Brandon



Brandon Ewing, District Technician, is exploring new opportunities and has left Hancock SWCD for a new job. Brandon worked for the District since 2008 and participated in many survey and engineering projects, programs and district events.

The supervisors and staff wish Brandon and his family the best of luck in his future endeavors. Thank you for the good work and many memories!

Thank You!

Hancock SWCD would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of our 71st Annual Meeting:

- * Sparks Commercial Tire
- * Kaleidoscope Farms
- * Ag Credit
- * Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc
- * Findlay Implement Co.
- * Legacy Farmers Cooperative

We also thank our great emcee, Vaun Wickerham, the fascinating speaker, Frank Gibbs and the delicious caterer, Kathy's Korner for helping make our annual meeting a success!



Why Plant a Windbreak?



The purpose of the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak program is to establish windbreaks on or adjacent to crop fields. Field windbreaks reduce wind erosion, protect crops and provide for wildlife habitat.

The program is not intended for farmstead, pasture, or home site plantings and orders will not be accepted solely for these purposes.

Incidental plantings adjacent to buildings may be accepted if they meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The planting is bordered on one side by a crop field and each row adjacent to the building area is a continuation of field windbreak row that is planted at the same time.
- 2) The planting is part of a larger field windbreak system and the area adjacent to the buildings constitutes no more than ten percent (10%) of the total row feet planted.
- 3) The total order constitutes a minimum of 3,500 row feet.
- 4) The section can be efficiently planted by the crew as part of the total job.

As a result of the increased interest for multiple row shrub plantings through the CRP & CREP, windbreaks having only wildlife shrubs as the species being planted are eligible to be planted through the NW Ohio Field Windbreak Program. These windbreaks will be considered as hedgerow plantings. The following guidelines will be used for hedgerow plantings through the Northwest Program:

- 1) The windbreaks must be through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The Division of Forestry agrees to plant the seedlings, apply an herbicide in the Spring, and return in the Fall to do a survival count and a second application of herbicide.

- 1) Replacement seedlings would be offered to the landowners to plant themselves.
- 2) Field wind break plantings will have a priority over hedgerow plantings. The preferred method for hedgerow plantings is through district tree planters or private tree planting vendors. Hedgerow plantings may be planted through the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program to the extent that time allows.

The landowner is responsible for and must be committed to the maintenance and upkeep of the field windbreak after planting. This includes protecting the windbreak from fire, grazing, herbicide and wildlife damage and replacing dead trees as needed.

Applications must be received by December 9, 2017. Contact Gary Tuttle at 419-422-6569 or <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/landownerassistance> for more information.



Field Windbreak



Multiple Row Shrub Planting



Manure Application

We have had many questions in recent weeks on manure application. Following are some suggestions to follow.

Surface application may need some tillage before liquid waste is applied to improve retention of manure and prevent runoff. You should till the soil 3-5 inches deep to allow for absorption of the liquid wastes. Leave as much residue as possible on the field. If applying on hay or pasture fields, you should plug all outlets before application.

For those injecting manure; you need to only go deep enough to cover the manure with soil. Soil should be tilled three inches below the depth of injection prior to application of manure. You should again use tile plugs and check for blow outs before application. It is a good idea to follow current USDA/NRCS Practice Standard #633 when you apply manure. These guidelines will help you reduce or eliminate the possibility of nutrients entering ditches, streams and rivers.

Following is a list of minimum setback distances for the surface application of manure:

- 1) 100 ft. from ponds and lakes with a minimum of 35 ft. of permanent vegetative buffer.
- 2) 100 ft. from residences/private wells down slope from the application area
- 3) 35 ft. from grassed waterways
- 4) 300 ft. from public wells
- 5) 35 ft. vegetative barrier or 100 ft. in non-vegetative setback from streams, ditches and surface inlets.





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All services of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Hancock SWCD are available to persons regardless of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion, Marital Status, Age, or Handicap.



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