



Conservation Close Up

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation

Spring 2019

Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program

The Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to establish year-round vegetative cover on eligible cropland. The program promotes the conversion, establishment and maintenance of forage/hay land on certain cropland acres. As the name implies “Working Lands Buffers” act as a buffer on cropland and provide another line of defense to filter surface water while allowing participants to harvest forage from established areas.

Guidelines for the program are:

1. Land must be located in the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed.
2. Only cropland acres where

Sediment and nutrients have the potential to be transported from the field and enter environmentally sensitive areas are eligible for the Working Lands Buffer Program.

3. The maximum enrollment width is 300 feet average. The minimum eligible width is 50 feet.
 4. An annual payment of \$120 per acre per year over a 5-year period is available for establishment and maintenance.
 5. Practice must be maintained for a 5-year period.
- Several benefits of the program are:

1. You receive annual payments for maintaining established forage.
2. You can harvest hay and

forage from you Working Lands Buffer.

3. Improved soil health with year-round conservation cover.
4. Working Lands Buffers provide conservation benefits while maintain agriculture production.
5. Working Lands Buffers are a visual demonstration of your commitment to land stewardship.

Interested? Contact Hancock SWCD at 419-422-6569, visit our webpage at www.hancockswcd.com or visit us at our office; 7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio, 45840.



2019 Stewardship Week



“Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper” is the theme for the 64th NACD Stewardship Week, April 28-May 5, 2019.

Soil is a dirty topic, but everyone needs to learn more about it! Soil is the foundation for many of the items we use in our daily life, such as food, clothing, clean water, homes and more. Healthy soil equals healthy food, which equals a healthy you.

Don't treat your soil like dirt! For more information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact the NACD website at: <http://www.nacdnet.org>.



Good Luck!

Chad Carroll resigned his position with the District to further his career in Natural Resources. Supervisors and staff wish Chad the best in his future career.

Please remember that we currently have one District Technician, Tyler Koenig and you should call the office first if you need assistance. Our number is 419-422-6569.

Camp Canopy - *Live It, Learn It, Love It*

The Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp Canopy is held at FFA Camp Muskingum in the rolling hills of Carroll County. The camp is June 9-14, 2019 with a camp fee of \$375.

The camp began in 1950 and since then about ten thousand high school students from all over Ohio have attended the camp. Campers will learn about all things forestry and wildlife at Camp Canopy. Camp Canopy is the only place for future foresters and wildlife specialists to get their hands dirty and put their knowledge of forestry and wildlife to the test.

Camp Canopy comes to life the second week of June each year at Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum located on Leesville Lake in the picture-perfect rolling hills of Carroll County, when high school students-turned-explorers delve into our educational-yet-oh-so-fun activities and become masters of forestry and wildlife. As camp progresses over the course of the week, campers will use the knowledge and experience they gained the day before to take the next step in understanding how it all fits into the bigger picture. By the end of camp week, they'll be experts on Ohio's great outdoors!

Each camper will learn to ID trees and wildlife, learn about insects, timber harvesting and forest ecology. Campers will conduct stream sampling, hike through the woods, monitor for wildlife and much more! Free time activities include fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, volleyball and more!



Camp is open to students who are at least fifteen years of age and who have completed the eighth grade. Camp Canopy is tobacco free and all tobacco products are strictly prohibited.

Deadline to apply for camp is June 6, 2019. For more information contact: Ohio Forestry Association Foundation at 888-388-7337 or e-mail: info@ohioforest.org. or you may visit the website at: www.ohioforest.org. or <https://campcanopy.com/camp/>

2019 Ditch Spraying

Tyler Koenig reports that seven ditches are scheduled to be sprayed in 2019. The ditches are:

J.H. Shafer	4,700 ft.
Walton Ditch	7,800 ft.
Folger Ditch	17,100 ft.
Ropp Ditch	13,300 ft.
Glauner Ditch	16,665 ft.
Harriet Measle Ditch	4,500 ft.
Sand Run Ditch	19,700 ft.



Log jam Removal



Maintained Ditch

Brights Ditch Grant

The Great Lakes Commission approved an amendment for the Brights Ditch Watershed Grant. The grant now offers the following practices: Precision Soil Testing, Fertilizer Placement, Cover Crop, Conservation Tillage, BMP—Water Control Structure-No Main and BMP-Water Control Structure—with Main.

First priority for contracts will be given to landowners/farmers in the Brights Ditch watershed, then the Eagle Creek watershed, Potato Creek watershed and then the entire Hancock County Blanchard River watershed.

Landowners may sign-up for one practice or all practices with a maximum of 100 acres per practice. This is a great opportunity for landowners/farmers to take action in reducing sediment and phosphorus going into the Blanchard River and eventually Lake Erie.

For more information you may contact the Hancock SWCD at 419-422-6569/www.hancockswcd.com or visit our office at; 7868 CR 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

This grant in partnership with The Great Lakes Commission, Wyandot SWCD, and Blanchard River Watershed Partnership.

Office Information

Hancock SWCD has changed its office hours to: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The district currently has one technician, Tyler Koenig, and we encourage you to contact the office first at 419-422-6569 to ensure that we will be in the office to answer your needs!

The Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election will take place on August 6, 2019. We do need interested candidates to run for supervisor! If you are interested in being part of an excellent team and are passionate to improve our natural resources; contact the office at 419-422-6569!

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 590 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.



Congratulations!

Gary Tuttle, retired District Technician, received an award for his 40 years of service. The award was presented during the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Partnership Conference in Columbus.



Ohio Working Lands Small Grains Program

The Ohio Working Lands Small Grains program encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to establish small grains in a crop rotation that can be used for manure application following harvest.

The program applies to cropland areas where a small grain is added into the crop rotation. Eligible land must be used for manure application following harvest of the small grain. A cover crop must be established following manure application.

The guidelines for this program are: 1) Only cropland acreage will be considered eligible for this program 2) Practice size is limited to acres receiving a manure application 3) a small grain must be planted and harvested-Eligible small grains include: wheat, barley, oats, cereal rye, triticale spelt. Small grains are planted with the intention to harvest the crop for grain and not forage. 4)

Baling straw is allowed following the harvest of small grain 5) Manure application shall follow setbacks and guidance in NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Practice Standard 6) No manure applications are allowed on fields with soil tests above 50 ppm Phosphorus (Bray) 7) Soil tests and manure analysis must be supplied and meet Criteria for Working Lands Small Grains Program Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance 8) Records of manure application are required and must be turned in to the SWCD prior to any cost-share payment 9) Cover crop or double crop must be established following small grain harvest and manure application 10) cover crops residue must be maintained until March 1st of the following year 11) No tillage may be done after September 30th 12) Cost-share funding to provide records, establish small grains, and to establish a cover crop following manure application is authorized at a rate of \$75 per acre. Participants will receive payments when verification of all program requirements are met. SWCD/DSWC staff are responsible for determining the need for the practice and certifying that the practice meets the criteria.

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 Linda Tuttle, Vice-Chairman
 Richard Gassman, Fiscal Agent
 Matthew Heitkamp, Member
 Evan Jackson, Member

District Staff
 Jean Derr, DPA
 Tyler Koenig, District Technician

NRCS Staff
 Megan Burgess, District Conservationist

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

	 <p>1/4 Mile West of I-75 on US 224 Findlay, 419-422-6673 www.streakertractor.com</p>	<p>Farm Ponds • Land Surface Drainage Backhoe Work • Box Cleaning • Pumphouse Stone and Water Lines • Heavy Work Boring Piers • Septic Systems Excavation</p> <p>KARHOFF BROS. EXCAVATING 408 West Main Street Findlay, Ohio 45840 Office: 419-422-6887 Branch: 330-3365</p>
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<p>NEFF CONSTRUCTION L.L.C.</p>  <p>2063 County Rd. 28 Bluffton, Ohio 45817 BRETT NEFF Shop: 419-477-4163 Cell: 419-733-0521</p>	<p> 419.422.7632 AgCredit.net</p> <p>DEAN RECKER JONATHAN FECK Branch Manager Account Officer ALLISON DAN WALTON WENSINK Mortgage Loan Originator Account Officer NMLS #519368</p>	<p>INBODY DRAINAGE CO. 50 Years of Serving The Agricultural Community</p> <p>8603 Rd. 5 Leipsic, OH</p> <p>Steve Gerwin 419-255-1885 Cell phone 419-255-1885</p>
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<p>Boes Brothers, Inc Excavating & Trucking</p> <p>Randy Boes Owner</p> <p>21960 Township Road 264 Findlay OH 45830</p> <p>P: 419-438-9954 F: 419-438-1217 C: 419-722-5531</p> <p>rboes@gmail.com www.boesbrothers.com</p>	<p> West Central Ohio Land Conservancy</p> <p>Helping Landowners Preserve Their Land</p> <p>Serving: Allen, Aughsie, Hancock, Mahon, Mercer, Putnam and Van Wert Counties</p> <p>www.wcoic.org 367-204-9126</p>	<p>Nic Stacy Rick Stacy 419-721-4074 419-721-4071</p> <p>Stacy Drainage LLC</p>

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