



Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Seedling Sales Have Begun

The SWCD 2012 seedling sale has begun. Order forms are available in the office. The seedlings are packaged in packets of ten.

This year the order form includes: American Arborvitae, Austrian Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern Red Cedar, Eastern White Pine, Norway Spruce. Also American Cranberry, Arrowwood, Black Chokeberry, Black Walnut, Red Maple, Sawtooth Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Tulip Poplar.

Two assorted packets are available. They contain two each of five different varieties. They are :

- ❖ *Homeowner Packet* : Colorado Blue Spruce, Arrowwood, Red Maple, American Arborvitae and Tulip Poplar.
- ❖ *Wildlife Packet* : Red Cedar, Black Walnut, Sawtooth Oak, American Cranberry, and Black Chokeberry.

Three seed packets are offered. Wildflower, Hummingbird blend, and Bird and Butterfly seed. The Wildflower seed contains 10-12 different annual and 10-12 different

perennial species adapted for this area. Hummingbird blend contains 4-6 different annual and 4-6 different perennial varieties. Bird and Butterfly seed contains 7-9 different annual and 7-9 different perennial varieties.

This program is open to the public and orders will be accepted until March 16.

Stop in the office if you have questions or need help in developing a planting plan for a windbreak. Pictures and species information are available.

Payment is required when orders are placed. There is no warranty or guarantee on the seedlings.

Orders will be available for pickup from the office the middle of April. Post cards will be mailed with information on the specific delivery date and time.



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Special points of interest:

- ❖ *Seedling deadline is March 16, 2012*
- ❖ *Producers take additional precautions when applying manure this winter*
- ❖ *Thinking about field borders or filter strips? Stop in to get things started*

SWCD Board of Supervisor News

At the 62nd Annual Meeting held November 15 at Vantage Career Center Dave Jones was re-elected to another term on the Van Wert SWCD Board of Supervisors. Each supervisor term is for 3 years.

Congratulations Dave!

The SWCD Board of Supervisors monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. The meetings are held at the SWCD office, 1185 Professional Drive.



Plat Books and Lidar Maps Are Available

Newly updated plat books are now available at the office. One option is \$10.00 and it provides plat maps for each township with property owner name and acreage.

Another option is \$20.00 which will offer color aerial maps show-

ing each township with parcels outlined. This will be beneficial in finding wooded areas and other property features.

Also available are lidar maps which show elevation on the property and can be used for preliminary tile design and direction of

surface water. These maps can be printed for your particular area and are \$1.00 each for 8 1/2" x 11" or up to a 22" x 34" for \$5.00 each.

These maps can be scaled for use and label any significant features to be shown.

Spring Seeding Dates are Approaching

By: Justin Wagner , District Technician

With spring just right around the corner now is the time to start planning for any conservation grasses you would like to have on your property. Two of the most popular practices in Van Wert County are the Field Borders through the Conservation Reserve Program and Filter Strips through the Lake Erie CREP.

Field Borders will help you take any low yielding areas of your field out of production by seeding a strip of grass along road or wood lines. The owner will still receive a soil rental rate payment so they are still receiving income, and can square up their property in most cases too. Field Borders also provide great benefit to wildlife by requiring the use of warm season grasses in the seeding mixture

Filter Strips are another great option that is very helpful to the environment. They are placed along a

watercourse and can help shield some of the run-off a field may produce from getting into a ditch or a stream. Filter strips can also help landowners take low yielding areas out of production, square up farms, and provide good wildlife habitat. Landowners will also receive a rental payment every year to help offset the cost of taking land out of production. Filter strips can either be warm season or cool season grasses.

When a landowner applies to the Lake Erie CREP, or the Conservation Reserve Program they have to plant them during the Natural Resource Conservation Service's recommended seeding dates. The spring seeding dates are March 15th through May 1st for Cool Season Grasses, and April 1st through June 1st for Warm Season Grasses. If you stop in our office this winter the SWCD or NRCS staff can help you determine what practices

would fit well on your land, or even help you take measurements to lay out any practice you have already signed up for or want to sign up for in the future. The SWCD and NRCS staff also writes a conservation plan for each practice you sign up for which can be a lengthy process. Signing up for these practices at the Farm Service Agency, and then stopping at our office for any technical assistance you will need will speed up this process greatly. If a landowner does not get their practice signed up for and seeded this spring there are certainly other options in the late summer and fall. These are just two of the many practices available in Van Wert County. Stop in our office and we can give you more information on these practices as well as other practices that may suit your farm.

It's Official... I'm Back !

By: Ken Kottenbrock, D.C.

I would like to let everyone know that I have been chosen to be the District Conservationist for both Paulding and Van Wert counties. I will be in Van Wert on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and in Paulding on Mondays and Wednesdays. I will alternate my Fridays between the two counties. My phone number in

Van Wert is 419-238-9591 Ext. 109, in Paulding my number is 419-399-3841 Ext. 111. I am looking forward to the task of serving both counties.



Ken Kottenbrock

Manure Application on Frozen Ground

Over the past several years, manure application has come under some scrutiny, particularly when applied during the winter on frozen or snow covered ground. Producers should take additional precautions when applying manure under less than ideal field conditions and this is especially true during the winter.

Protecting water quality should be a primary objective when applying nutrients. Ultimately, any manure entering streams and watercourses is a violation of the state's agricultural pollution abatement laws. Best Management Practices (BMP's) identified by NRCS Standard 633, Waste Utilization can help avoid these situations. By following the guidelines in this Practice Standard, manure nutrients can be efficiently recycled and the risk of pollution significantly reduced. However, producers should keep in mind that manure applied in the winter has a higher risk of moving off-sight than will manure that has been incorporated under ideal conditions.

Application of manure to frozen or snow covered ground is not recommended and should be done only when deemed necessary due to extreme situations. If manure application is necessary, only enough manure should be applied to address storage limitations until non-frozen soils become available and only when ALL of the following criteria are met:

- ✧ Application rates are limited to 10 wet tons/acre for solid manure more than 50% moisture and 5 wet tons for manure less than 50% moisture. For liquid manure the application rate is limited to 5,000 gallons / acre.
- ✧ Applications are to be made on land with at least 90 % surface residue cover.
- ✧ Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres.
- ✧ Utilize fields which are furthest from streams, ditches, waterways, surface inlets, etc. and are

least likely to have manure move in a concentrated flow toward and into our water sources.

- ✧ Increase the application setback distance to a minimum of 200 feet from environmentally sensitive areas and areas of concentrated flow such as grassed waterways, surface drainage ditches, streams, and water bodies.
- ✧ Manure applied on frozen or snow covered ground should not exceed the nitrogen need of the next growing crop.

There are additional measures farmers can take to minimize the need for winter application of manure. For some, increasing storage capacity may help, and cost-share assistance may be available through the USDA/NRCS or SWCD office. Technical assistance is also available to help implement the BMP for recycling manure nutrients.

Rain Barrels Are Available

Ready to start "thinking Spring"?

The District has rain barrels for sale. They are a 55 gallon recycled food grade barrel that will work with a 2"x3", 3"x4", and 3" round down-

spout. The only thing needed to install the rain barrel is to drill into the downspout and connect the diverter. Included in the "kit" is a spigot, drain plug, outlet hose to diverter, and winterizing cap. The rain barrels are be-

ing sold for \$50.00. Stop in the office to check them out!

Van Wert S.W.C.D.
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Nonprofit Organization
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Board of Supervisors

Bob Gehres
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Julie Buggle, Office Manager
Justin Wagner, Technician / Education
Noel Morris, WLEB Conservationist

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
Rebecca Scarbrough, Field Engineer
Logan Welker, GLRI
Ted Welsh, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

Jan 1—March 16	Tree Seedling Sale
January 11	SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
January 12	Park District Mtg. 2:30 PM
January 16	Holiday (office closed)
February 8	SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
February 16	Park District Mtg. 2:30 PM
February 20	President’s Day (office closed)
Feb. 27/28	OFSWCD Partnership Mtg. in Columbus