

Calendar of Events

July 5th:	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day
July 13th:	Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
July 14th:	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 P.M., held at the Crawford SWCD Office
July 18th-24th:	Crawford County Fair ~ Come see us in the Old Merchants Building
July 18th:	Conservation and Agricultural Tour ~ Leave Fairgrounds at 3:00 p.m.
July 19th:	Whetstone Building ~ Kids Activities ~ Soil and Worms ~ 4-5 p.m.
July 21st:	Whetstone Building ~ Kids Activities ~ Trees and Natural Resources ~ 3-4 p.m.
July 23rd:	Whetstone Building ~ Kids Activities ~ County Ag ~ 3-4 p.m.
August 3rd:	Evening Pasture Walk in Seneca Co.
August 10th:	Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
August 11th:	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 P.M., held at the Crawford SWCD Office
September 6th:	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
September 8th:	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 P.M., held at the Crawford SWCD Office
September 14th:	Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
September 14th:	Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting, Youth Building Fairgrounds

Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service

3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, OH 44820-9601
 Phone: 419-562-8280 Fax: 419-562-8815
 Website: www.crawfordswcd.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Board of Supervisors:

Tom Miller, Chair
Nathan Brause, Vice-Chair
Tom Brause, Secretary
Joyce Schimpf, Treasurer
Kent Stuckey, Fiscal Agent

SWCD Staff:
Mike Hall
Program Administrator
Liz Miller
Administrative Assistant

Board Meeting Dates: (Public Welcome)

2nd Wednesday of each month
 at 8:00 p.m.

NRCS Staff:

Brad Van Voorhis
District Conservationist
Nathan Weber
Soil Conservationist

Don Fishpaw
Technician
Diane Sand
Education Information Coordinator
Bret MarGraf
Honey Creek Watershed Technician
Kendall Stucky
MNM Specialist

Ag News & Views is published free of charge by the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District with contributions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To subscribe, contact the Crawford SWCD office at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820-9601; phone 419-562-8280 or 419-562-2203 extension 3.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



3rd Quarter
2010

Join Us at the 2010 Crawford County Fair!

The 153rd Annual Crawford County Fair will be held July 18th – July 24th, stop by the Crawford SWCD and NRCS booth in the Old Merchants Building.



Sunday July 18th from 3:00-5:00p.m., we will host our annual Conservation and Agricultural Tour. This year's featured stop will be Elk Ridge Game Farm, Ohio's largest producer of adult pheasants. We will tour the pheasant facilities, hatchery and view several conservation practices found on the farm.

This tour is opened to the public and is offered free for all ages, but children under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. The bus will leave the fairgrounds Picnic Park promptly at 3:00p.m. Seating is on a first come first served basis beginning at 2:45p.m. We will return to the Picnic Park at 5:00p.m. To register or for more information contact our office at: 419-562-8280.

New this year for the kids!

Bring the kids to the Whetstone Building, Farm Bureau sponsored "Fun and Education Center". Our staff will be offering activities at the following dates and times:

Monday July 19th ~ 4:00-5:00p.m.
Soil and Worms

Wednesday July 21st ~ 3:00-4:00p.m.
Trees and Natural Resources

Friday July 23rd ~ 3:00-4:00p.m.
County Agricultural Commodities



2010 Photo Contest

The Crawford SWCD annual photo contest is open to all ages. Send us your best agriculture and livestock, nature and wildlife, or scenic Crawford County photos. Photos need to be submitted by **September 8th**, to be eligible for the cash prize. Full contest details and entry form can be found on the web at www.crawfordswcd.org or at the Crawford SWCD office.

Oats: A Simple Cover Crop Option

With wheat harvest just beginning, it is time to begin thinking about fall cover crops. Whether you have utilized cover crops in the past or if you are new to the idea, the period after wheat harvest provides several beneficial opportunities to utilize cover crops. The big advantage to planting cover crops at this time is that there is plenty of growing season remaining to utilize the cover crop in some fashion, either haying or grazing, while still getting sufficient re-growth to provide the beneficial cover over winter. The additional "crop" is an added benefit that can directly improve your bottom line.

One of these cover crops that can be a valuable feed source for many livestock producers is oats. Oats sown after wheat harvest provide a great forage opportunity for livestock producers looking to extend their grazing season or harvest a high quality winter feed source. In a 2009 Crawford County trial, a producer seeded "feed" oats after manure applications to wheat stubble in August. The oats were harvested as "oatlage" in October and yielded 3-4 tons of DM per acre with a feed value of 33% DM, 18% CP, 35% ADF and 51% NDF. This is simple, inexpensive, and high quality feed source for livestock.

continued on page 2

Address Service Requested

CRAWFORD SOIL AND WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 3111 STATE ROUTE 98
 BUCYRUS OH 44820-9601

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 BUCYRUS OH
 PERMIT NO. #260

continued from page 1

Another advantage of oats as a cover crop is their ability to scavenge crop nutrients. Local test plots using oats to scavenge manure nutrients indicated that for each ton of yield, 70 lbs. of Nitrogen, 9 lbs of Phosphate and 80 lbs of Potash were scavenged. A sizable portion of the soluble nutrients – primarily Nitrogen – would likely have been lost without a cover crop. While release of nitrogen for the next crop is variable, these nutrients are still retained in the soil. With recent trends in fertilizer prices, the economics of cover crops are becoming more appealing to many producers.

Oats as a cover crop also have subtle influences that may not be seen directly, such as improved soil structure- loosening soil surface compaction, reduced erosion, weed suppression and improved eye appeal on the farm. As with many other aspects of modern agriculture, cover crops must be managed in order to achieve their maximum benefit. If you are planning to try cover crops, allow yourself time to select the best fit for your operation and crop management approach. If you would like more information on cover crops contact the Crawford SWCD/NRCS office at 419-562-8280.



Oats being harvested as "oatlage"

Would You Like to be a Crawford SWCD Supervisor Candidate?

Recent changes to rules governing the special elections held around the state to elect local SWCD supervisors offer two ways for interested persons to become candidates. Any resident 18 years of age or older within the county of the election can run to be a board member of the local Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Let us know if you are interested.

The first way for a candidate to be nominated is to be placed on the ballot by the Soil and Water Conservation District nominating committee. This committee works throughout the year looking for candidates from the community interested in conservation and protection of our natural resources. Contact Kent Stuckey, the nominating committee chair, at 419-562-3950.

The second method is to procure a nomination petition form at the SWCD office, 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus Ohio or download it from the website at www.crawfordswcd.org. You will need to secure ten (10) signatures from residents and or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business August 10, 2010. If you meet the requirements and deadline, your name will be placed on the ballot for the Crawford SWCD election which occurs on September 14, 2010, at the Crawford County Fairgrounds Youth Building at 5:30 p.m.

Summer Manure Application Tips

Summer is an ideal time for many to apply manure...it can also be a risky time to apply liquid manure because of the increased preferential flow issues in July-Aug-Sep. Preferential flow is the movement of nutrients from the soil surface to tile lines via worm holes, cracks in the soil and/or old root channels. The following tips will reduce your risk of preferential flow of nutrients from your farm.

1. Do not apply manure if rain is forecast within the next 24-48 hours.
2. Till the upper 3-5" of the soil surface prior or at application. This will disrupt the preferential flow channels and allow the manure time to soak into the soil surface.
3. Fix all tile blowouts in field prior to application.
4. Reduce application rates to less than 7,000 gal./ac or less than 1/4"/ac.
5. Monitor all tile outlets associated with the application area prior to manure application and for at least 2 days after application and have a plan in place to stop any preferential flows.
6. Always maintain at least 30 feet of good vegetated buffer between any tile breather, tile inlet, tile blowout, culvert, road ditch, drainage ditch, stream, river, pond or lake.
7. Calibrate your application equipment. Do not over apply liquid manure.

If you have any questions about preferential flows or would like to consult with a manure nutrient management specialist, please contact the Crawford SWDC/NRS office.

Survey Indicates Increase in No Till Crop Acres

The Crawford SWCD has completed its annual cropland tillage transect survey of Crawford county. The survey is completed in two parts, the first done after fall tillage is complete and the second the following spring, after crops are planted. Each year a predetermined route is driven in the county and crop survey points recorded in the same location along the route. Data collected at each point includes current crop, previous year crop, % residue, and tillage. This data is then compiled and compared to previous years to determine trends in cropland tillage and planting methods. This survey has been conducted since 1987.

The 2010 figures show an 18% increase in overall cropland acres in conservation tillage systems. Compared with 2009 data, 22% of the total corn acres had greater than 30% crop residue after planting, up 6% from 2009. Soybeans with greater than 30% residue after planting were up 15% over last year at 84% of the total crop. Total wheat acres indicated a 7% decrease in no till, with 90% of the acres no tilled compared to 97% in 2009. For more information or more detailed survey data contact the Crawford SWCD office at 419-562-8280 or visit us on the web at www.crawfordswcd.org.

SWCD 65th Annual Meeting Will Feature Election & Conservation Accomplishments

Plan now to attend the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District's 65th annual meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the Crawford County Fairgrounds Youth Building in Bucyrus. Tickets will go on sale August 2nd for \$12.00 for the dinner and they must be reserved by September 9th.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the supervisor election, which will conclude at 6:45 p.m. This year two (2) supervisors will be elected to a three-year term of office. The terms of current supervisors Tom Miller and Nathan Brause expire on December 31, 2010. Nathan Brause was appointed in April of 2010 to fill Tyler Pope's remaining term.

All county residents and county landowners eighteen years of age and older are eligible to vote in the supervisor election at the youth building between 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. on September 14th without purchasing a ticket. A person who is unable to vote on September 14th may vote by absentee ballot at the Crawford SWCD office during regular office hours between August 24th and 4:30 p.m. on September 14th. Absentee voters may also request a ballot by mail.

As always, we anticipate a delicious full course dinner, catered by Special Occasions of Upper Sandusky

featuring sirloin tips with mushrooms and sliced pork roast entrée with an ice cream sundae bar for dessert.

The program will feature a slide presentation on conservation activities, the Crawford County photo contest, the outstanding cooperator award, Lake Erie buffer achievement award, and affiliate members' recognition.

Tickets may be purchased from the following individuals: Ben Ackerman, Nathan Brause, Tom Brause, Don Fishpaw, Mike Hall, Edward Harer, Allen Hartschuh, Marvin James, Don Lohr, Sandy Cashman, Liz Miller, Tom Miller, Tyler Pope, Floyd Reinhart, Diane Sand, Wayne Scheffler, Joyce Schimpf, Ron Schroeder, Mike Shell, Mark Shumaker, Kent Stuckey, Mike Stump, Brad Van Voorhis, and the Crawford SWCD office.

You can also reserve your tickets for pick up at the door by mailing your payment to the SWCD office with the form below. Tickets must be reserved by noon on September 9, 2010.

Please contact the Crawford SWCD office at 419-562-8280 for more information on the meeting, the absentee voting procedure, or to purchase a ticket.

2010 Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting ticket order form. Clip and mail with your payment to:
Crawford SWCD, 3111 St. Rt. 98, Bucyrus, OH 44820.

Please reserve ticket(s) for (Name, address & phone number) to be picked up at the door:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

_____ dinner tickets x \$12.00 = \$ _____
(Number)

Payment must be included to reserve your tickets. Ticket reservations are due by noon, September 9, 2010.