

Calendar of Events

- November 8th: Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
- November 9th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 P.M. held at the Crawford SWCD Office
- November 11th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day
- November 24-25th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 13th: Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
- December 14th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 7:30 A.M. held at the Crawford SWCD Office
- December 26th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of the Christmas Holiday
- January 2nd: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day
- January 10th: Tune in to AM 1540 for SWCD on the "Talk About Town" 9:00 A.M.
- January 11th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting, 7:30 A.M. held at the Crawford SWCD Office
- January 16th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

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 Meeting Dates:
 (Public Welcome)

2nd Wednesday of each month
 at 8:00 p.m. April-Nov
 and 7:30 a.m. Dec-March

Board of Supervisors:

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

NRCS Staff:
Brad Van Voorhis
District Conservationist
Nathan Weber
Soil Conservationist

SWCD Staff:

Mike Hall
Program Administrator
Liz Miller
Administrative Assistant
Don Fishpaw
Technician
Diane Sand
Education Information Coordinator
Bret MarGraf
Honey Creek Watershed Technician
Kendall Stucky
MNM Specialist

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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.

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Need Help Making Cover Crop Decisions?

The decision to use cover crops is one that all producers should be considering. With the current spotlight being held on ag producers, especially those in the Great Lakes watershed, the decision to use cover crops or not to use them on your farm is an important one. Producers are encouraged to look into the multitude of different cover crops that exist and consider working them into their farming operation. Now is the time to begin planning where and what types of cover crops will be utilized next year. In order to determine the best cover crop options, a few questions need to be answered. What do we want the cover crop to do for us? What is our primary goal of the cover crop? Perhaps erosion control is a concern or capturing nutrients? Maybe reducing compaction issues or growing additional forages or feeds is a priority? We also need to consider current cropping rotations. What was the previous crop? What is the next crop going to be? What about seeding dates and seeding methods? When will you be seeding the cover crop? All of these questions are important in determining what cover crop is going to work best. Each farm may have its own unique issue or situation and cover crop options should be planned accordingly. To maximize the benefits cover crops offer requires planning the right cover crop, for the right reason, in the right field, using the right methods. The Midwest Cover Crop Council has a very useful cover crop selection tool that helps producers select the cover crop that fits their operation best. This simple and easy to use guide can be found online at www.mccc.msu.edu/SelectorTool/2011CCSelectorTool.pdf. Another great source for cover crop information is at www.plantcovercrops.com. This interactive website is full of articles about all aspects of cover crops and provides an opportunity to interact with other producers regarding specific questions and answers from the field. You can also visit the Crawford SWCD office for information, cost share and incentive payments for cover crops. The cover crop programs offer the opportunity to try different types of cover crops in different scenarios to determine which will benefit you the most. For more information on cover crops or any of the information mentioned, contact the Crawford SWCD/NRCS office.

Livestock Mortality Composting Workshop

When: January 18th, 2012 at 7:00PM

**Where: Wyandot Co. Solid Waste & Recycling Center
 11385 County Rd. 4, Carey, Ohio 43316**

The Crawford SWCD office will be co-hosting a livestock mortality composting workshop along with OSU Extension, Wyandot SWCD and Seneca SWCD. Mortality composting is a legal and efficient way of disposing of dead livestock in the State of Ohio. This workshop will provide the techniques and certification requirements for livestock producers to legally and properly compost mortality on farm. Registration is required before January 13th, 2012. Cost of \$15 covers all materials. Contact the Crawford SWCD at 419-562-8280 to register.



Address Service Requested

CRAWFORD SOIL AND WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 3111 STATE ROUTE 98
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Grassed Waterways Offer Major Benefits for Little Expense

As fall progresses and you finish up harvesting crops, you may notice a few spots that have erosion problems developing in your fields. If left unattended, these areas will become worse, increasing the soil loss from your fields. A gully one foot wide, one foot deep, and 500 feet long, equates to 24 tons of valuable soil lost to runoff. A grassed waterway installed in these problem areas can solve your gully troubles with little “out-of-pocket” expense.

Through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), you can receive approximately 50% of the installation cost, as well as an additional 40% Practice Incentive Payment on eligible crop ground. This means approximately 90% of the cost of installing a grassed waterway can be recovered through CRP. In addition to recovering installation

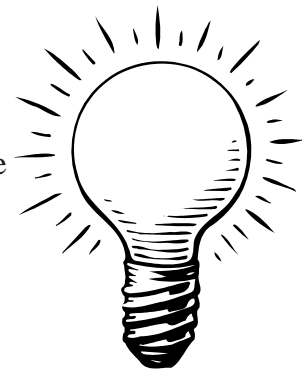
costs, there will also be an annual rental payment based on soil type and the total area of land taken out of production.

Now is the time to plan for a grassed waterway for spring or summer 2012 construction. Stop by the office to set up a time to look at the site. Once we have visited the site we will complete a survey and the design for your specific need. Average waterways are a 30 foot wide grass strip and 1 foot deep with side-slopes designed to allow equipment to cross; however, there are instances when a larger waterway is necessary.

So if you bounce across a gully while you are in the fields during harvest, stop in or give the office a call and we will assist you with planning a grassed waterway.

SWCD Wants Your Conservation Ideas

The Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District will be holding a planning meeting on Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00 am in the Lower Level Conference Room in the County Administration Building. The SWCD is seeking local input to develop and prioritize its conservation priorities and programming within Crawford County. If you have a local agricultural or natural resource related issue you feel should be addressed you can submit your request in writing or by phone to the Crawford SWCD office or online at www.crawfordswcd.org. Ideas and issues brought up in past years have resulted in thousands of dollars in grant money to address local conservation related projects. All issues and concerns will be discussed and prioritized for potential funding or action. Registration for the December 6th meeting is requested. Contact the Crawford SWCD for more information.



2012 Tree Sale Information

As in the past, we will be offering a variety of evergreens, hardwoods, shrubs, and a fruit tree during our annual tree sale. The evergreen trees available include arborvitae, Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, and white pine. These species are being offered in packs of ten. Our hardwood tree selection includes black walnut and red oak. These trees are also available in packs of ten. The shrub choices include flowering dogwood, Nanking cherry and sergeant crabapple. These seedlings are in packets of five. New this year, we have added a fruit tree variety to our sale. Bartlett pear will be available in packets of five.

There are a few ways to get an order form and reserve your trees. Watch for an order form in the next issue of our newsletter, or go to our website www.crawfordswcd.org and print it out. You can also pick one up at our office. The deadline for ordering trees is April 6th. For more information about our tree sale or questions about ordering trees, contact us at 419-562-8280 or stop by our office at 3111 State Route 98 in Bucyrus.

Important Planning for Winter Manure Applications

This fall has been very challenging for livestock producers to haul and apply manure properly to fields due to wet conditions. Many producers may be faced with applying manure later this winter onto frozen or snow covered ground. In order to apply manure under these conditions, there are several criteria or conditions that must be met. All of the following criteria must be met for manure applications onto frozen or snow covered grounds.

- 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 5000 gallons/acre.
- Applications are to be made on land with at least 90% surface residue cover (i.e good quality hay or pasture field, corn field where all residue remains after harvest, or a well established cover crop).
- Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres. Each 20 acre block receiving manure should be separated by a break of at least 200 ft.
- Utilize fields which are furthest from streams, ditches, waterways, tile surface inlets, etc; and are least likely to have manure move in a

concentrated flow toward water resources.

- Increase the application setback distance to 200 feet from sensitive areas and areas of concentrated flow such as grassed waterways, surface drainage ditches, streams, tile surface inlets and other water bodies. This distance may need to be greater as local conditions warrant.
- For fields with slopes greater than 6%, manure should be applied in alternating strips 60 to 200 feet wide generally on the contour. In the case of contour stripped fields, on alternating strips with application rates limited as identified above.
- Manure applied onto frozen or snow covered ground should not exceed the Nitrogen need of the next growing crop, or the crop removal rate for P2O5 or K2O for the next crop.

Manure application rates onto frozen or snow covered ground should always be carefully planned and always based upon the most limiting factor listed above. For questions or concerns about manure applications and rates contact Kendall Stucky Crawford SWCD Manure Nutrient Management Specialist 419-939-3065.

Sign Up now for EQIP CONSERVATION FUNDING

Agricultural producers wanting to apply new conservation practices on their farms can get assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is offered through a continuous sign-up, but NRCS periodically makes funding selections as program dollars allow. Crawford NRCS is now accepting applications for funding in the next round of EQIP projects.

EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices or adopt new management practices. This voluntary program aims at conserving, protecting, and restoring soil and water quality, air quality, and habitat for plants and animals. A variety of conservation practices, such as grassed waterways, animal waste storage facilities, cover crops, and fence and watering facilities to improve grazing operations are eligible for funding. Recently, the Forestry EQIP program has also been very popular. Participants can receive payment for doing timber stand improvement practices such as grape vine control on their woods.

For more information or to apply for EQIP, contact the Crawford NRCS/SWCD office at 419-562-2203 extension 3 or go online to www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/.