

MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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2009 DISTRICT PERSONNEL



2009 Board of Supervisors:

Shane Mender, Chairperson
Larry Ball, Member
Rollin Hetrick, Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Cathie Kreager, Secretary
Lance Deal, Vice-Chairman



Muskingum SWCD Staff:

Richard Sorg, District Program Administrator
Paul Holdsworth, District Engineer
Clayton Rico, Forest Resource Specialist
Patty Dyer, District Conservationist, **NRCS**
Jeanette Weinberg, Information/Admin Assistant
Kenneth Rupe, Part-time Technician
Kylene Newman, Agricultural Resource Specialist
Ryan Fink, Agriculture/Wildlife Specialist
Lisa Crock, Administrative Assistant
Nicole Hafer, Education Specialist

No Photo:

Dee Wiseman, Soil Conservation Technician, **NRCS**



OPERATIONS OF THE MSWCD

The Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District is governed by a board of five (5) supervisors, duly elected by landowners and residents within the boundaries of Muskingum County. They serve a term of three (3) years without compensation. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly to administer the business of the District. They attend state and national meetings and donate countless hours of their personal time for the benefit of conservation in Muskingum County.

An Annual Plan of Work is developed each year to determine the priorities of the District. This work is coordinated with all agencies, organizations, and individuals with responsibilities in natural resource conservation and development.

Through financial assistance from the Muskingum County Commissioners, the State of Ohio, grants and donations, the District was able to employ nine staff members in 2009. The District appreciates the continued support of their efforts to develop the conservation and educational programs in Muskingum County.

FROM OUR DISTRICT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

2009 had its share of hurdles as does every year. It just seemed that the hurdles were getting a little higher! With this noted, the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District continued to professionally deliver a diverse and high quality program.

Earlier in 2009, our Education Specialist, Nicole Hafer, was recognized nationally at the 2008 National Educator of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation. She received her award at their national convention in Nashville, TN in February 2009.

The District, even with budget restrictions, continued to deliver a quality education program. This included our "District Newsletter" being printed and distributed quarterly (previously bi-monthly) to over 2,000 residents of Muskingum County, highlighting upcoming and on-going programs. Teachers, in public, private, and home school systems received the "Mud Puddle" teacher newsletter, packed with educational information for our youth (AKA Future Decision Makers), with over 500 teachers receiving this newsletter in Zanesville and Muskingum County. The District also completed bi-weekly television programs during the "Live at Noon" segment on WHIZ-TV. This program offers thousands of households in Muskingum and surrounding counties informative current programs events being carried out by the District and partner agencies. **Continued**



Richard E. Sorg
District Program
Administrator

EDUCATION FOR MUSKINGUM COUNTY YOUTH

Nicole Hafer,
Education Specialist

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS: Staff members presented approximately 315 school programs, reaching over 8,807 students in our city, county and home school groups in Muskingum County. Student's experienced one of the District's 22 conservation education programs in their K-12 classrooms.

SCHOOL FIELD DAYS: This year the District hosted four outdoor field days at the Friendly Hills Grange Camp. Student's attending came from McIntire\Munsen Elementary and Westview Elementary. In addition, West Muskingum Middle School participated in our first middle school stream monitoring field day in early October. The field days provided the opportunity for 267 students to participate in hands-on conservation related activities and learn about issues facing wildlife and water quality in our county.

ENVIROTHON 2009: For the second year, the Envirothon team from Mid-East Career and Technology Center advanced to compete at the State Envirothon after receiving 2nd place at the Area 3 Envirothon. Muskingum County had a total of six teams from three schools compete in the Area 3 Envirothon.

CAMP ADVENTURE: Our 9th annual Camp Adventure changed locations this year. Due to the lack of funding for busses, staff decided to have camp at Friendly Hills Grange Camp. Our new location worked out very well and we are happy to report a full camp of 100 children again this year. The theme was "Soil ROCKS" with stations related to soil, soil ecology, geology, archaeology and worms to name a few. The highlight was an interactive soil trailer on loan from Butler Soil and Water Conservation District.

KIDS CONSERVATION CAMP: Conservation campers had a busy and exciting summer. We received a grant from the Dollar General Corporation to help with our conservation project, including a butterfly way station built at Friendly Hills. Another exciting event was our that our camp was featured during the Environmental section of the Ohio News Network (ONN) nightly newscast, which aired all over the state. Campers also enjoyed our first camp overnight with a campfire, night hike and fun all around. The camp is a corroborative project with the Muskingum Family YMCA.

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP: A combined project WET, WILD, PLT and Flying WILD workshop was again offered for area teachers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS: District staff assisted Guernsey and Noble SWCD with their summer day camps. A frog festival was hosted at Friendly Hills as well a Passport to Fishing program. The District had a display with activities at the Earth Day Celebration on the Muskingum River.

NATIONAL AWARD: The District was awarded the National Wild Turkey Federation's Conservation District of the Year award for 2009.



CONTINUED, DISTRICT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Attendance of various educational events in 2009 totaled over 16,000 people. These programs ranged from classroom visits to the Forage Clinic, Fair Display to the Forest Landowners Workshop, and Camp Adventure to Kids Conservation Camp. Additionally, the District hosted two Public Officials Tours, the first for local officials, and the second for our State Representatives and State Senator, with Rep. Balderston and Sen. Stewart attending.

The District staff assisted many landowners with the installation of various conservation practices throughout the year, many of which received either state or federal cost sharing through various incentive programs.

The District's forestry program assisted landowners with a wide array of programs, with over 5,700 acres of forest land either receiving a management plan or being inspected in order for these landowners to qualify for the Current Agricultural Use Program and maintain reduced real estate taxes.

Since 1998, the District has worked with the ODNR-Division of Wildlife to reduce wildlife damage to agricultural crops in Muskingum County. In 2009, seventy-six damage investigations were completed, with seventy landowners receiving damage control permits.



Over the past three years, the Salt Creek Watershed program has seen many landowners installing conservation practices to make our water cleaner, not only in Muskingum County, but counties downstream of us.

Regardless of the program, the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District takes pride in delivering the best possible programs for our residents.

CONSERVATION ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Kylene Newman,
Agricultural Resource Specialist

Engineering of conservation practices is a service provided to the cooperators of Muskingum County. The practices are listed below. The District also provides help in the planning of grazing systems and no-till seedings.

- Animal Waste Storage Facility
- Rock Stream Crossings
- Tile Drainage
- Livestock Exclusion Fence
- No-till, Forage and Crops
- Spring Developments
- Livestock Watering Systems
- Access Roads
- Heavy Use Pads
- Grassed Waterways

FORAGE FIELD DAY: The Forage Field Day was held July 29, 2009 at the Kreager Farm on Tom Road in Chandlersville. Over 90 people were in attendance from Muskingum, Morgan, Guernsey, Noble, and Coshocton Counties. The attendees were able to visit the seed, equipment, and fence dealers. During dinner, which was served by MSWCD Staff, vendors were announced and given the opportunity to speak. After dinner, speakers and a demonstration filled the evening with valuable information. Dave Dailey from Daily Fence & Supply gave an update on fencing technology. Mark Mechling, Muskingum Co. Extension Educator, followed with a session on field fertility and soil testing. Ryan Fink, MSWCD Ag Technician, followed with water system information. Patty Dyer, NRCS District Conservationist, lead a pasture walk while discussing grazing and plant identifications. Eldon Sarbaugh provided a brush removal demonstration. Door prizes concluded the evening.

SALT CREEK WATERSHED: The Salt Creek Watershed 319 implementation grant completed its final year in 2009. The 319 implementation grant was for landowners to voluntarily install the following practices to improve water quality in the Salt Creek Watershed: cover crops, livestock exclusion fence, off-stream watering systems, and streambank revetment.

- Total Cover Crops Planted: 303 ac. each year.
- Livestock Exclusion Fence Built: 10,091 ft.
- Currently Repaired 500 ft. of streambank
- Stream Crossings Installed: 1
- Off-Stream Watering Systems Installed: 1

This grant was administered through the MSCWD office.



Forage Field Day



Streambank Revetment Project – Blue Rock

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Ryan Fink, Ag/Wildlife Specialist

MANY CONSERVATION PRACTICES INSTALLED IN 2009

- Rock Crossings
- Water Ways
- Water Systems
- Streambank Stabilization
- Spring Developments
- Intensive Grazing Fence
- Seep Tile
- Heavy Use Pads

LIVE TRAP RENTAL AND PROPANE CANNON RENTAL

Continued the rental program for both the live traps and cannon.

MOLE TRAP RENTAL

Started mole trap rental.

COYOTE DAMAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Assisted with 6 coyote investigations during 2009.

2009 ENVIROTHON WILDLIFE QUESTIONS

Test writer for the Area 3 wildlife test questions.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Represented Area 3 for a second year.

PHEASANTS FOREVER DISCARD SEED SALE

Wildlife food plot seed sold for spring 2010.

NUISANCE DEER PERMITS

76 deer damage investigations were done in 2009.

CONSERVATION PLANS

Completed 3 certified conservation plans.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Presentations for over 500 people Including:

- Lions Club
- OSU Master Gardeners
- Forestry and Wildlife Seminar
- Mid East Career and Technology Center
- MC Farmers/Ag Leaders Breakfast
- Six "Live at Noon" T.V. shows
- Five Times Recorder Articles



THE DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISERS AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE MSWCD'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

- ALAN WILSON, BUTLER & ASSOCIATES REALTY
- AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER
- BALDERSON MOTOR SALES
- CABELA'S TROPHY PROPERTIES
- CENTURY NATIONAL BANK
- FARM CREDIT SERVICES
- FARM SUPPLY CENTER, INC.
- FINTON EQUIPMENT
- GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
- HENDLEY & COMPANY, INC.
- HUPP—STIVERSON COMPANY
- MILLERSPORT AGRI SERVICE
- MUSKINGUM VALLEY WOODLAND SERVICES
- SHELLY MATERIALS
- ZANESVILLE BEARING

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE:

- ODNR, DIVISION OF FORESTRY
- ODNR, DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
- ODNR, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
- USDA, FARM SERVICE AGENCY
- USDA, NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
- OSU EXTENSION, MUSKINGUM COUNTY

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Clayton Rico,
Forest Resource Specialist

CAUV FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: MSWCD continued to assist the Muskingum County Auditor with the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) Forest Management program for the fifth year. In 2009, CAUV Forest Management plans were written for over 2,900 forested acres involving 37 landowners in Muskingum County. The CAUV Forest Management plans helped landowners with qualifying forest land to receive reduced real estate taxes while at the same time improving the value of their forest land. Previously written management plans were inspected this year and they involved inspecting 57 landowners covering over 2,600 acres.



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANNING: MSWCD began writing detailed forest stewardship plans to help landowners qualify for the Forest Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP). In 2009, Forest Stewardship plans were written for over 96 forested acres involving 2 Muskingum County landowners. Format for the plans was guided by the area service forester and Ohio Division of Forestry.

ALTERNATIVE INCOMES SEMINAR: MSWCD hosted an alternative incomes seminar that included topics on ginseng planting, BMPs for recreational vehicles, CAUV tax law updates and woody invasive and herbicide recommendations. There were approximately 80 people in attendance with speakers from Rural Action, OSU Extension, Ohio Division of Forestry and AEP.

ANNUAL MUSKINGUM SWCD TREE SALE: In 2009, the District sold 16,000 tree seedlings. Several species were offered this year that were not offered in the past. We believe this helped reach some new landowners.

SILVICULTURAL OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS: The SWCD Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code, reviewed 11 Muskingum County landowners' Silvicultural Timber Harvest Plans for timber.

ANNUAL BIG TREE CONTEST: The 2009 winner was a Yellow Poplar tree that measured 15.5 feet in circumference and 119 feet in height. The tree is owned by Donald Frame of F&H Farm Partnership, LLC.

ANNUAL ROTARY FREE TREE GIVE-A-WAY: The district worked with the Noon Rotary to help them distribute over 9,000 free tree seedlings to all Muskingum County K-6th grade students.

OTHER WOODLAND ACTIVITY/INVOLVMENT: The District worked regularly with Peter Eales, Service forester with the Division of Forestry, on projects ranging from tree planting to American Tree Farm certifications.

