Due to the great demand for quality rain barrels in Southwestern Ohio, Clermont SWCD is pleased to announce that we will be selling rain barrels at our 2008 Tree & Groundcover Sale. The high quality 60 gal. plastic rain barrel kits are available for the incredible price of $75 each (actual retail price is $120)! See the plant sale section on pgs. 3-6 for more details and order information.

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce the storm water runoff that home rooftops contribute to local rivers, streams, and lakes. They also conserve water and provide an inexpensive means to irrigate home gardens and landscaping. Rain barrels can fit beautifully into the landscape, and can be painted to match your home (using Krylon Fusion paint). The rain barrels offered by the district will be terra cotta color (note: black will be substituted if terra cotta supplies are exhausted - we cannot guarantee color). Reasonably priced rain barrels are very difficult to come by. Please get your orders in early; the district is anticipating a sell-out!!!

The District will also offer compost bins in this year’s conservation plant sale at the wholesale price of just $45! The Earth Machine is one of the most popular brands of compost bins on the market today and they retail for over $100 with shipping.

Mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed for the 16th Annual East Fork River Sweep. This annual event will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Clean up efforts will focus on selected segments of the East Fork Little Miami River that will be determined within the next month. We will also “sweep” shoreline areas at East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake.

Volunteers can either walk the riverbanks or use a provided canoe to collect litter. Gloves and trash bags are provided as well. Free T-shirts and a picnic lunch will be given to all volunteers at the conclusion of the clean-up.

Got a group? We encourage you to organize a group at work, at church, or in your club or civic organization for the River Sweep. Your “Team” can have fun while helping to protect the river. This is an excellent public service opportunity for scout troops, 4-H clubs, fraternities/sororities, etc.

If you would like to participate in the East Fork River Sweep, call the SWCD office at 732-7075 and ask for watershed coordinator Jason Brown.

NOTE: Children under 18 will need to have a waiver signed by their parents to participate.
New Technician Joins District

Wade Hawes has joined the SWCD staff as a District Technician. He has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management from Western Michigan University. He spent the last 3 years working as a technician with the Clermont County Storm Water Dept.

Mr. Hawes also has land management experience working with the Western Michigan Land Conservancy and the Hamilton County Park District. He has been very active in regional storm water initiatives, including the Greater Cincinnati Rain Garden Alliance. Mr. Hawes replaces Josh Will, who resigned recently to take a job with ODNR Division of Geologic Survey in Columbus. Welcome Wade!

Ohio Drainage Laws—A Quick Primer

Ohio Drainage Law legally addresses drainage rights and runoff issues. The “reasonable use” doctrine frequently applied by the Ohio Supreme Court permits broad latitude in the interpretation of individuals rights as they pertain to drainage. It states, “A possessor of land is not unqualifiedly privileged to deal with surface water as he pleases, nor is he absolutely prohibited from interfering with the natural flow of surface waters to the detriment of others. Each possessor is legally privileged to make a reasonable use of his/her land, even though the flow of surface waters is altered thereby and causes some harm to others. He incurs liability only when his harmful interference with the flow of surface water is unreasonable.”

The laws are not easily summarized. However, most people who work in the area of drainage or water management would agree that the following principles apply to landowners.

- Landowners are entitled to the reasonable use of the water that flows across their land as long as the water is returned to its natural water course. This includes ponding water behind a dam for personal use or making drainage improvements to protect structures.

- Landowners are generally required to accept the water that flows onto their property in a natural water course, so long as no additional water from another watershed has been added to such flow; subsurface drainage ( clay or tile) that has been installed for more than 21 years is considered a natural water course.

- Landowners are generally obligated to outlet a natural water course onto their downstream neighbor at the same point the water left the property prior to any development of the site. Changing the flow of water, by changing volume, direction or velocity, in a manner that causes damage to an upstream or downstream neighbor may result in legal liabilities for those damages.

- At this time, the authority to issue orders or resolve conflicts over water rights or drainage problems between neighbors lies with the common pleas court. Serious disputes between landowners are often settled in court on a case by case basis. The exception may be the few cities which have drainage or storm water ordinances.

- Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District can provide assistance to landowners who voluntarily wish to improve drainage on their own property. The District will not mediate conflicts between neighboring landowners.

- The county petition ditch process provides a mechanism for landowners to cooperate with the Clermont County Engineer and County Commissioners to solve drainage problems. The landowners in a watershed then pay for the construction and continued maintenance based on their acres of benefits derived from the drainage improvement.


Pond Clinic to be Held April 8th

If you own a pond or are planning on building a pond, plan on attending Clermont SWCD’s annual pond clinic on Tues, April 8th at 6pm. The clinic is free and there will be some nice door prizes!

The clinic will be held in the 4-H Building in the Clermont County Fairgrounds. The meeting will begin with some light refreshments at 6 pm. Several experts will be giving presentations on various pond topics. The evening should wrap up around 8:30 with a question and answer session. Call the office at 732-7075 to register.

Subjects to be discussed are:
- pond construction
- aquatic weed control
- fish stocking
- aeration
- goose control
- Anything else you would like to know about ponds!

Mini-Grants for Rain Gardens

The District is continuing to offer $100 mini-grants for homeowners interested in constructing a rain garden. The grants can be used to help with the cost of purchasing plants or installing a garden. Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features filled with deep rooting native plants. They often attract various birds and butterflies as well. Rain gardens collect storm water from rooftops and driveways and help filter and slow down storm water, thus helping keep our streams and lakes clean. If you are interested in constructing a rain garden or applying for a grant, contact the district office at 732-7075. Ask about how you can attend a workshop on rain garden construction!
RAIN BARRELS

The Clermont SWCD will again offer tree seedlings and groundcovers at discount prices. This program provides the opportunity for individuals to develop small areas of reforestation, wildlife enhancement, or enhance home landscaping.

Most of the plants described in this newsletter are 2-3 yr. old seedlings. Size varies from 8 to 4 ft.—see order form for details. Plants will be bare rooted; we dip the plants in a gel to help keep the roots from drying out and wrap them in a plastic bag. Most packets will be in a bag about the size of a grocery bag and can easily be placed in your car for pick up. We will not be selling trees in one gallon containers this year; we feel the bare root stock is healthier and grows at a better rate. All of our groundcovers will be in trays or pots.

In addition to trees and groundcovers, we will have bird houses, rain barrels and compost bins at discount prices. There are descriptions of all these items and an order form in this newsletter. The deadline to place orders is April 11, 2008. Please send your check or money order with your completed order form to Clermont SWCD at the address on the order sheet.

Pick up will be Saturday, April 19th, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville, Ohio. We will send you a receipt and directions once we receive your order. You must make arrangements to pick up your order, as we cannot ship.

NEW THIS YEAR!

We are offering these 60 gallon rain barrels made from Grecian pepper barrels to our conservation minded customers. The rain barrels have a screw-on, perforated top with screen mesh to keep out children, debris, and dirt. The barrels also include 2 top overflow male hose connections, a brass spigot and a bottom drain plug. The overflow fittings allow excess water to be diverted into a second (or third, or fourth) barrel or by attaching a hose, excess water can be diverted to a remote garden or flower bed. The brass spigot is shipped inside the barrel and will need to be screwed on. All you need to buy is a downspout diverter from any building supply store, and hose sections and fittings to link barrels, if you choose to do so. Easy to follow Instructions will be provided! Barrels are terra cotta color but black may be substituted if terra cotta supplies are exhausted. Barrels can be easily spray painted to match home exterior!

Do the right thing couldn’t be easier . . .

The Earth Machine produces an all-natural soil conditioner that provides gardens with much needed nutrients, while helping to retain moisture in the soil. The result is significantly higher yields, with a substantial reduction in soil erosion.

Top 10 Planting Tips…

1. Never let roots dry completely. Also, don’t leave seedlings immersed in water for long periods as they will drown. These are the most common causes of seedling death!
2. Plant the seedling at the same depth as it was in the nursery using the line where the base of the trunk meets the ground as your guide.
3. Make your planting hole deep enough to accomodate the roots.
4. It is better to prune the roots with scissors than to wad or curl the roots to make them fit in your planting hole.
5. Eliminate existing greenery using a product like Ortho "Kleenup".
6. Rototill or spade the soil to a depth of 6 to 10 inches and add organic peat and till once more.
7. Rake and finish grading the bed.
8. Plant so that the roots are free, not cramped. Ground level should be where the roots stop and the stem begins.
9. Water thoroughly. Use only water soluble fertilizer with root stimulating ingredients.
10. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide and mulch.

Plant Sale Order Forms and Sale Item Descriptions also available at clermontswcd.org
**Packet A**
**Colorado Blue Spruce**
$10.00
Prefers sun. **PINUS PUNGENS**
4 year / 12 to 20 inch seedlings

The most popular of the spruces for ornamental and Christmas trees. Blue-green stiff needles. Color is 95% blue depending on the plant-soil conditions. Has a slow to medium growth rate that should reach 6 feet in 8 to 9 years, and can reach a height of 100 ft. when mature.

---

**Packet B**
**Scotch Pine**
$10.00
Prefers sun. **PINUS SYLVESTRIS**
3 year / 14 to 22 inch seedlings

The French Blue variety. The most popular Christmas tree when young. Beautiful large tree with a crown of spreading branches that become round and irregular and rich blue-green stiff needles 1 1/2 to 2 3/4". Grows to 70 ft. at maturity.

---

**Packet C**
**Eastern White Pine**
$12.00
Prefers sun, partial shade OK. **PINUS STROBUS**
3 year / 18 to 24 inch seedlings

Beautiful hardy evergreen. Color is bluish green. Long soft needles. The fastest growing evergreen we offer. Will tolerate slightly wet areas but does best on dryer slopes. Grows to 100 ft. at maturity. Excellent for windbreaks and ornamental use.

---

**Packet D**
**Norway Spruce**
$12.00
Prefers sun, partial shade OK. **PINUS ABIES**
4 year / 14 to 22 inch seedlings

Fast growing 8 to 10 inches a year. Dark green, short needles with drooping branches and upswedt tips. Requires good drainage for best growth. Reacts well to shearing. Grows to 90 ft. at maturity. Excellent for windbreaks and Christmas trees.

---

**Packet E**
**American Plum**
$12.00
Prefers sun **PRUNUS AMERICANA**
3-4 ft. bare root

Also known as Wild Plum. Height and spread is 20 to 25 feet. It’s white, pungently sweet blossoms emerge in early spring and fruit is sweet when fully ripe, making excellent jelly and jam. Will grow just about anywhere.

---

**Packet F**
**Kousa Dogwood**
$10.00
Prefers sun **CORNUS KOUSA**
18 to 24 inch seedlings

An attractive small growing ornamental deciduous tree with long, dark green leaves producing showy white flowers in June, 3 weeks after Flowering Dogwood. The flowers, red fall color, and exfoliating bark gives year-round interest.

---

**Packet G**
**Tulip Poplar**
$10.00
Prefers sun **LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA**
2-3 ft. bare root

Also know as Yellow-Poplar because of the color of the heartwood. A great shade tree with a tall straight trunk and large crown. Leaves have a distinct tulip shape. Will grow to heights of 50 to 100 ft with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet.

---

**Packet H**
**Redbud**
$10.00
Prefers partial shade **CERCIS CANADENSIS**
24-36 inch bare root

Brilliant purple flowers in early spring. Very effective in mass plantings/ naturalized settings. Large, dark green heart-shaped leaves turning bright yellow in fall. Grows to 25 feet.

---

**Packet I**
**River Birch**
$10.00
Full to partial sun **BETULA NIGRA**
36-48 inch bare root

Striking deciduous tree with grey brown to rusty brown scaly bark. Leaves turn yellow in autumn. Performs well in either wet or dry soils that are acidic to neutral in pH. Height 50-100 ft. when mature.

---

**Packet J**
**Flame Maple**
$10.00
Prefers sun **ACER GINNALA ‘FLAME’**
18-24 inch bare root

Outstanding Fall color - Can be grown as single or multi-trunked specimen. Height to 30’, width to 25’. Dense growth when grown as multi-trunked, serves as excellent screen.

---

**Packet K**
**Butterfly Bush**
$10.00
Prefers full sun **Buddleia davidii**
18 to 24 inch seedlings

A vigorous growing deciduous shrub reaching a mature height of 6 to 8 feet. It produces long spikes of flowers on new growth from July to September that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

---

**Packet L**
**Common Lilac**
$10.00
Prefers sun **Syringa vulgaris**
18 to 24 inch seedlings

Dense vigorous growth, to 15’ tall by 6-10’ spread. Fragrant flowers in mid-May- prune flowers as they fade. Makes a wonderful flowering screen when planted 6’ apart.

---

**Packet M**
**Euonymus Burning Bush**
$10.00
Sun or shade **Euonymus alatus ’Compactus’**
6 to 12 inch seedlings

This shrub has brilliant flame red Fall color that shows best when grown in full sun. Height 6-8’, width 3-4’. Tolerates poor soils, drought. Makes beautiful screen when planted 4 feet apart. Unusual branches gives burning bush winter interest.

---

**Packet N**
**Snowmound Spirea**
$10.00
Prefers sun **Spiraea nipponica ’Snowmound’**
3 to 6 inch in pots

Dark blue-green leaves & masses of white flowers in late May. Height and spread of 3-5’ upon maturity. Ideal for group plantings. Tolerant of poor soils, heat, and drought.

---

**Packet O**
**Winterberry Holly**
$10.00
Prefers sun **Ilex verticillata**
4-6 inch in pots

One of the best plants for fall and winter color. Female plants produce bright red berries while the leaves are dark green. The leaves will turn yellow in late fall. Height and spread 6-12 feet. Likes acid soil and can be used as a wetland plant. A good shrub as a screen or background. Attracts winter song birds.
**GROUNDCOVERS**

**Packet G1**

Blue Rug Juniper $12.00

Prefers sun **JUNIPERUS HORIZONTALIS** 5/Packet

Hugs the ground in a low trailing fashion. Beautiful, silver-blue foliage. Center of plant remains full. Average mature height is 6 inches and spread is 3 feet. This ground cover likes lots of sun and well drained soil. Used in areas with a hard-to-mow slope.

**Packet G2**

Pachysandra $16.00

Shade **PACHYSANDRA TERMINALIS** Tray of 32 plants

Attractive rapid growing evergreen ground cover plant with bright green leaves. Small white flowers in early May. Clipping in early spring stimulates new growth. Plant 1 ft. apart in good loose soil and no competition from other plants for rapid growth and dense cover.

**Packet G3**

Periwinkle $16.00

Prefers partial shade. **VINCA MINOR** Tray of 48 plants

Nonaggressive evergreen that grows to a height of 4 to 5 inches. It spreads by stolons and grows quickly. Violet blue flowers in spring. Prepare loose soil with no competing roots. Can be slow to establish, but be patient. It's worth the wait.

**Packet G4**

English Ivy $16.00

Prefers shade **HEDERA HELIX** Tray of 48 plants

English Ivy grows to a height of 6 to 10 inches. Has a dark green Maple-like leaf on trailing branches. Will survive in the harshest winters.

**Packet G5**

Crown Vetch $16.00

Prefers sun **CORONILLA VARIA** Tray of 48 plants

A fast growing perennial ground cover for banks, slopes, and large problem areas. Produces pinkish white flowers from June until frost. Grows 12 to 18 in. tall. Very Hardy. Planted on 24 inch centers, this tray will plant 200 square feet.

**BIRD HOUSES**

**BH1**

Wild Bird House $9.00

This red cedar birdhouse is ideal for cavity nesting birds. Includes durable rope for hanging and bottom slides out for easy cleaning.

**BH2**

Bluebird House $11.00

Made from red cedar, this nesting box is naturally weather resistant and ideal for Bluebirds. Includes mounting hardware and hinged door for easy clean out.

**RAIN BARRELS**

**RB**

Rain Barrel $75.00

Please see front page for rain barrel description. This same barrel retails for $120 and is used in a demonstration project at Cler. Co. Fairgrounds. **LIMITED QUANTITIES...ORDER EARLY!**

**COMPOST BINS**

**CB**

Compost Bin $45.00

Earth Machine has become a sleek high-performance compost bin used by more than 2 million environmentally concerned people worldwide. Normally retails for $100 with shipping!

- Large capacity (80 gallon or 10 cubic feet)
- Measures 33”x33”x34 assembled, weighs under 20 pounds
- Easy snap together assembly
- Durable and lightweight design
- Convenient 13” x 16.5” Harvest Door
- Twist Locking Lid
- Vertical and horizontal columnar ventilation
- 10 year manufacturer warranty

**Ground Cover Spacing**

How many plants will it take to cover the area you need to protect? The following chart will give you an idea of how many square feet will be covered by various amounts of plants and spacings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant spacing in inches</th>
<th>50 plants</th>
<th>100 plants</th>
<th>150 plants</th>
<th>200 plants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>200sq ft</td>
<td>400sq ft</td>
<td>600sq ft</td>
<td>800sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>112.5sq ft</td>
<td>225sq ft</td>
<td>337.5sq ft</td>
<td>450sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>50sq ft</td>
<td>100sq ft</td>
<td>150sq ft</td>
<td>200sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.5sq ft</td>
<td>25sq ft</td>
<td>37.5sq ft</td>
<td>50sq ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following booklets will be available in limited quantities for purchase the day of the sale. We will not be taking orders for booklets this year.

- Enjoying Hummingbirds More
- Enjoying Butterflies More
- Enjoying Bluebirds More
- Enjoying Bird Feeding More
- Identification Guide to Backyard Birds
- A Guide to Bird Homes
- The Backyard Bird Watchers Answer Guide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pkt.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Plants/pkt.</th>
<th>Plant Size</th>
<th>Price/pkt.</th>
<th># of pkts.</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Colorado Blue Spruce</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12-20&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Scotch Pine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14-22&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Eastern White Pine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Norway Spruce</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14-22&quot;</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>American Plum</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36-48&quot;</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Kousa Dogwood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Tulip Poplar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24-36&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24-36&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36-48&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Flame Maple</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Butterfly Bush</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>Common Lilac</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18-24&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6-12&quot;</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>Snowmound Spirea</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3-6&quot; in pots</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Winterberry Holly</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4-6&quot; in pots</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GROUNDCOVERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>G-1</td>
<td>Blue Rug Juniper</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3-8&quot; in pots</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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<td>G-2</td>
<td>Pachysandra</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-3</td>
<td>Periwinkle</td>
<td>48/tray</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>G-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-4</td>
<td>English Ivy</td>
<td>48/tray</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>G-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-5</td>
<td>Crown Vetch</td>
<td>48/tray</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>G-5</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>BIRD HOUSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BH1</td>
<td>Wild Bird House</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>BH1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BH2</td>
<td>Bluebird House</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>BH2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RAIN BARRELS &amp; COMPOSTERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Rain Barrel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60 gallon</td>
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<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Compost Bin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80 gallon</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Order**

A check must accompany your order. Please make check payable and send to:
Clermont SWCD, PO Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160

Name: ___________________________ Telephone: _______________________

Address: ______________________________ Street __________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

Donation to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District.

All proceeds and donations go towards conservation education and outreach programs.

Thank You!

Check #: ___________________________
COULD YOUR FARM BENEFIT FROM A WATERING SYSTEM?

Do you currently have livestock on your property? Cattle, horses, sheep, goats, alpacas…..? Do you also have a stream running through your property that your animals have access to? If so, then there’s a cost share program that you may greatly benefit from called the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If you or someone you know is looking for a clean source of water to capture for your livestock to drink then read on….

The Conservation Reserve Program offers about 90% cost share on watering system practices. Yes that’s right, 90%! These practices include spring developments, pumps to distribute water from a pond or from county water hookups, pipelines, and different types of watering troughs (frost-free waterers, concrete tanks, portable plastic tanks, etc). This program, unlike others that are offered through the United States Department of Agriculture, is non-competitive. This means that if you qualify for eligibility, then offers are automatically accepted.

All you need to do is be willing to fence out your stream from livestock. The minimum buffer width is 20 feet and can go up to 120 feet. By restricting access to surface water on your property and giving your livestock a clean source of water to drink from, chances of sickness from pathogens are greatly reduced. Livestock illnesses associated with polluted water include: mastitis, scours, leptospirosis, cryptosporidiosis, and foot rot. Nitrates in water can also reduce lactation, lower blood pressure and cause anorexia. The danger of injury or death from falling on streambanks or even drowning will be nonexistent when your livestock are excluded from these areas. CRP will also cost share 90% on fencing for livestock exclusion. Other practices CRP reimburses 90% include stream crossings for stable access to pasture fields, gravel heavy use pads around watering troughs, and trees, shrubs, or native grasses that you choose to plant inside the buffer area.

Besides the cost share that is reimbursed, there is also a one time incentive payment when you sign your contract, and an annual rental payment on the buffer area for 10 or 15 years, depending on the length of your contract. Maintenance payments will also be made to help with upkeep of certain practices.

If you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity please call Steve Anderson with Farm Service Agency at 513-732-2181 ext. 2 or Lori Hillman with Natural Resources Conservation Service 513-732-2181 ext. 3. We look forward to hearing from you!
Believe it or not, Spring is coming!

Drought……..What Drought?

In 2007, a dry spring followed by record high summer temperatures led to extreme drought conditions over much of Southwest Ohio. But thanks to record setting rainfall in October, our area has recovered nicely. Coupled with other recent rain/snow, our area is now 4” above normal rainfall over the last 3 mos. and just about normal over the last 12 mos.

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed</td>
<td>Feb. 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pond Clinic</td>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>Apr. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Sale Pickup</td>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork River Sweep</td>
<td>Apr. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Board Meeting</td>
<td>May 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWCD Office Closed</td>
<td>May 26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USDA Rural Development Solicits Ohio Value Added Grant Program Applications


“We’ve been promoting this grant program so prospective applicants could develop their projects,” said Ohio’s Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. “It’s time to finalize project submissions, and with this relatively short application window it’s extremely important for interested parties to contact our office if they need assistance fine-tuning their application.”

The funding may be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum amount for a planning grant is $100,000 and $300,000 for working capital.

Value-Added is defined as any activity that expands the customer base for products resulting in greater on-farm revenues for agricultural producers. Examples might include processing corn into ethanol, slaughtering livestock or poultry, collecting and converting methane from animal waste to generate energy, aquaculture, fish harvesting and more. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, agriculture producer groups and producer-owned corporations.

Funding comes from the 2002 Farm Security & Rural Investment Act. Last year Ohio Mercer Landmark, Inc. received a $300,000 working capital grant to assist with a new soy crushing facility. For info, contact Rural Development Specialist, Deb Rausch (614-255-2425), Deborah.Rausch@oh.usda.gov