



Early Spring Newsletter



TREE AND GROUNDCOVER EDITION

"To promote the wise use of our natural resources through service and education"

Volume 53

Number 1

February 2008

Rain Barrels, Compost Bins Highlight This Year's Conservation Plant Sale

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!!!



Clermont SWCD's Demonstration Rain Barrels on the Fairgrounds.

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.



Earth Machine

The durable 80 gal. bin holds approximately 10 cu. ft. of recycled kitchen waste and comes with a 10-yr. warranty. Help reduce the waste stream going to landfills and produce your own rich soil conditioner right in your back yard. This composted material is an excellent soil amendment for vegetable and flower gardens. See pg. 3-6 for more details and order information.

2008 EAST FORK RIVER SWEEP SET FOR APRIL 26TH!

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.

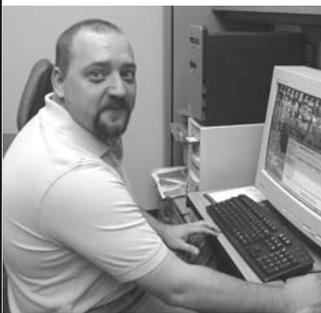
Got a group? We encourage you to organize a group at work, at church, or in your club or civic organization for the River Sweep. Your "Team" can have fun while helping to protect the river. This is an excellent public service opportunity for scout troops, 4-H clubs, fraternities/sororities, etc.

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.

For a copy of OSU Extension Bulletin 822, "Ohio Drainage Laws: A Brief Overview", visit www.ohioline.ag.ohio-state.edu. You can also obtain a copy at the SWCD office at the Fairgrounds.

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!



2008 PLANT SALE (AND MORE!)

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District

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.

RAIN BARRELS



NEW THIS YEAR!

**EARTH MACHINE
COMPOST BINS**

Doing 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.



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!



Plant Sale Order Forms and Sale Item Descriptions also available at clermontswcd.org

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 accommodate 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.



2008 Tree and Groundcover Sale



Packet A **Colorado Blue Spruce** **\$10.00**
 Prefers sun. PICEA PUNGENS 10 /pkt.
 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 10 /pkt.
 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 10 /pkt.
 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. PICEA ABIES 10 /pkt.
 4 year / 14 to 22 inch seedlings
 Fast growing 8 to 10 inches a year. Dark green, short needles with drooping branches and upswept 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/pkt.
 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 3/pkt.
 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/pkt.
 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 3/pkt.
 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 2/pkt.
 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-

Packet J **Flame Maple** **\$10.00**
 Prefers sun ACER GINNALA 'FLAME' 3/pkt.
 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 3/pkt.
 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 3/pkt.
 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' 3/pkt.
 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 SPIREA NIPPONICA 'SNOWMOUND' 3/pkt.
 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 3/pkt.
 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/Package
 3-8 inches in pots

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.

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.

Plant spacing in inches	50 plants	100 plants	150 plants	200 plants
24	200sq ft	400sq ft	600sq ft	800sq ft
18	112.5sq ft	225sq ft	337.5sq ft	450sq ft
12	50sq ft	100sq ft	150sq ft	200sq ft
6	12.5sq ft	25sq ft	37.5sq ft	50sq ft

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.

NEW RAIN BARRELS **NEW**



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!**

NEW COMPOST BINS **NEW**



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

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

2008 ORDER FORM - CLERMONT SWCD

Pkt.	Description	Plants/pkt.	Plant Size	Price/pkt.	# of pkts.	Total Cost	Pkt.
A	Colorado Blue Spruce	10	12-20"	\$10.00			A
B	Scotch Pine	10	14-22"	\$10.00			B
C	Eastern White Pine	10	18-24"	\$12.00			C
D	Norway Spruce	10	14-22"	\$12.00			D
E	American Plum	3	36-48"	\$12.00			E
F	Kousa Dogwood	3	18-24"	\$10.00			F
G	Tulip Poplar	2	24-36"	\$10.00			G
H	Redbud	3	24-36"	\$10.00			H
I	River Birch	2	36-48"	\$10.00			I
J	Flame Maple	3	18-24"	\$10.00			J
K	Butterfly Bush	3	18-24"	\$10.00			K
L	Common Lilac	3	18-24"	\$10.00			L
M	Burning Bush	3	6-12"	\$10.00			M
N	Snowmound Spirea	3	3-6" in pots	\$10.00			N
O	Winterberry Holly	3	4-6" in pots	\$10.00			O

Cut Here

GROUNDCOVERS

G-1	Blue Rug Juniper	5	3-8" in pots	\$12.00			G-1
G-2	Pachysandra	32/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-2
G-3	Periwinkle	48/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-3
G-4	English Ivy	48/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-4
G-5	Crown Vetch	48/tray	1 year	\$16.00			G-5

BIRD HOUSES

BH1	Wild Bird House	1		\$9.00			BH1
BH2	Bluebird House	1		\$11.00			BH2

RAIN BARRELS & COMPOSTERS

RB	Rain Barrel	1	60 gallon	\$75.00			RB
CB	Compost Bin	1	80 gallon	\$45.00			CB

Donation to Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District. Thank You!
All proceeds and donations go towards conservation education and outreach programs.

Total Order

Check #: _____

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

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, lepto, 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!

**Looking for a place to
advertise your business?
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Clermont County Farm Bureau



A membership organization which fights for fair property taxes, property rights, and the interest of agriculture.

Call the Farm Bureau for information on
upcoming events. 831-5870

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All NRCS / SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

If your address is incorrect or you would like to be added / removed from our mailing list, please contact us at (513) 732-7075

- Discount Rain Barrels, Compost Bins p. 1
- New Technician p. 2
- Plant Sale Info & Order Form pp. 3-6
- East Fork River Sweep p. 8

Inside this issue:



Believe it or not, Spring is coming!

Phone: 513-732-7075
 Fax: 513-732-7077
 Email: susie.steffensen@oh.nacdn.net
 Web: www.clermontswcd.org

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
 P.O. Box 549, 1000 Locust Street,
 Owensville, Ohio 45160

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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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

SWCD Office Closed	Feb. 18th—Holiday
SWCD Board Meeting	Mar. 12 - 6pm
Pond Clinic	Apr. 8 - 6pm
SWCD Board Meeting	Apr. 9 - 6pm
Tree Sale Pickup	Apr. 19 - 8:30-2pm
East Fork River Sweep	Apr. 26 - 9-1pm
SWCD Board Meeting	May 14 - 6pm
SWCD Office Closed	May 26—Holiday

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meri Johnson David Anspach Jim Wilson Bill Skvarla Joe Glassmeyer

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Lori Hillman - District Conservationist

DISTRICT STAFF

Paul Berringer Judy Krebs Susie Steffensen Jason Brown Wade Hawes

USDA Rural Development Solicits Ohio Value Added Grant Program Applications

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 30, 2008 – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development has authorized \$18.4 million in Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant funding for FY2008. Applications are accepted through March 31st.

“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