

CONSERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of
the Defiance
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Autumn 2015

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2015 Cooperator of the Year Honored at SWCD Open House

Randy Groll was honored as the 2015 Cooperator of the Year and presented with a framed aerial photograph of his farm.

Randy farms 220 acres and participates in EQIP. He has been very active in planting cover crops and installing controlled drainage structures, filter strips, field surface drains, quail buffers, and grade stabilization structures.

Randy Groll
pictured
with an
aerial
photo of his
farm .



Senate Bill 1: What Do the Nutrient Application Restrictions Mean to Me?

Monday, November
16th

6-8 pm

@ Defiance SWCD Office

06879 Evansport Road



The Defiance SWCD along with OSU Extension, NRCS, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be hosting an informational meeting on Senate Bill 1 regulations on Monday, November 16th from 6 to 8 pm at the Evergreen Lane Office Complex at 06879 Evansport Road, Defiance. Matthew Lane, with ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources; Bruce Clevenger, OSU Extension Educator; and SWCD staff will review the new law and answer specific questions that producers may have about manure and fertilizer applications.

Effective on July 3, 2015, Senate Bill 1 places restrictions on agricultural nutrients, addresses dredging and disposal of dredged material in Lake Erie, and provides additional restrictions on waste water treatment plants throughout the Western Lake Erie Basin in an effort to curb the transport of algal-fueling dissolved reactive phosphorus to Lake Erie. This watershed encompasses nearly 5 million acres throughout 24 counties.

Understandably, the District has received many inquiries about the restrictions that this law will place on the application of fertilizer and manure. While the details are spelled out within this article, it is imperative to keep in mind that this law restricts the application of fertilizer and manure under specific conditions, such as frozen and snow covered ground, saturated soils, and before significant precipitation events. In addition, the law also provides a few exemptions such as when nutrients are injected into the soil, incorporated within 24 hours, or are applied to a growing crop. Remember that any

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Supervisors Elected

The District’s Open House provided an opportunity for Defiance County landowners/residents to vote for two seats on the Soil and Water Conservation District’s Board of Supervisors. A grateful thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve.

Roger Zeedyk IV will continue to serve and Terry Behnfeltdt will begin as a new Supervisor in 2016. Both Supervisors will be serving 3-year terms, joining Bill Moats, Keith Schroeder, and Jeff Hange.



Roger Zeedyk IV and Terry Behnfeltdt , SWCD Supervisors, 2016-19

Congratulations to the Word Search Winner

Orville Clark was the word search winner for the summer “Pollinator” word puzzle.

Orville received clover and wildflower honey produced locally from Kaydee’s Bee’s and Honey. “Bee” sure to submit your puzzle for a chance to win!



Prevented Plant Acres

As a result of our extremely wet spring/early summer, Defiance County lead the state in prevented plant acres with a total of 34,678 acres. Defiance County had a total of 154,347 acres planted. The State of Ohio had a total of 26,424 prevented plant acres for corn and 91,032 prevented plant acres for soybeans.

Although the window to seed is closing in quickly, consider cover-cropping these acres as they have been largely biologically inactive since 2014.



Stream Chemistry

Students from Mr. Panico’s chemistry class at Fairview High School participated in the Defiance SWCD water monitoring program. They visited two streams to measure water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, total suspended solids, nutrients, and aquatic life.



6th Grade School Tour

Over 280 students attended the 6th grade school tour held at Auglaize Village on Sept. 25th. The students from Holy Cross, Tinora, Fairview, and Ayersville schools visited stations to learn about forest products, water testing, bird migration, composting, stream life, beekeeping, & wildlife.

Office Holiday Schedule

The District office will be closed at noon on December 24th and December 31st. The office will be closed all day on December 25th and January 1st.

SWCD Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Any changes to this date/time will be posted in the local newspaper.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

Senate Bill 1, Continued from page 1

exemption to Senate Bill 1 is strictly an exemption on the ability to apply manure or fertilizer. The NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard still applies regardless of Senate Bill 1 exemption status. This standard includes guidance on nutrient application rates in addition to specific application setbacks from residences, wells, ditches, and other features. The 590 Standard can be found at: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/OH/11-01-2012_Ohio_590_Standard.pdf.

Also, Ag Pollution Abatement rules continue to be applicable, with or without exemptions, prohibiting the discharge of manure and sediment to waters of the state. Be aware that the precipitation and soil saturation stipulations under Senate Bill 1 are applicable 365 days a year; therefore, it is important to check and print off a copy of the weather forecast prior to applying any nutrients.

So, what specifically does Senate Bill 1 restrict? Under the law, no person in the Western Lake Erie Basin shall surface apply manure under any of the following circumstances:

- On snow-covered or frozen soil
- When the top two inches of the soil are saturated from precipitation
- When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period

As mentioned above, restrictions on the surface application of manure do not apply under any of the following circumstances:

- The manure is injected into the ground
- The manure is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application
- The manure is applied onto a growing crop

In the event of an emergency, the Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources or the Chief's designee provides written consent and the manure application is made in accordance with procedures established in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation

Service practice Standard Code 590 prepared for Ohio.

Senate Bill 1 does not prohibit the stock piling of solid manure provided stockpiling is performed in compliance with Standards for Stockpiling in NRCS Job Sheet 634.

Small and medium sized livestock operations may also apply for an exemption through local SWCDs with small operations potentially being eligible for an exemption through July 3, 2017 and medium sized operations potentially qualifying for an exemption through July 3, 2016.

Also, for those receiving manure from an ODA permitted livestock facility, all recipients must either be a Certified Livestock Manager or have completed the Fertilizer Applicator Certification program.

In addition to restrictions on manure, Senate Bill 1 also restricts the application of fertilizer. These restrictions are identical to the above manure application restrictions with the exception of the local weather forecast. Fertilizer application is prohibited when the local weather forecast for the application contains greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a 12-hour period. As with manure, the fertilizer application restrictions do not apply if:

- The fertilizer is injected into the ground
- The fertilizer is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application
- The fertilizer is applied onto a growing crop

It is important to note the difference between the local forecast requirements for manure and fertilizer applications and plan applications accordingly. A weather prediction can be obtained from the National Weather Service at <http://weather.gov>. The local forecast can be found by entering the zip code for the area where the manure application will occur. Before applying nutrients, an applicator needs to check this weather forecast and print a copy to keep with his or her records.

As producers prepare for next year's crop nutrient applications, it is important to understand Senate Bill 1 restrictions and make nutrient applications accordingly.



Open House

Kids enjoyed searching Tiffin River water for stream life at the Defiance SWCD Open House.



***SWCD Welcomes
Education Specialist:
Linda Krouse***

Linda has been involved in education for the last 40 years. She started out teaching ballet to adults and the college wrestling team. She found an affinity for teaching and earned degrees in Child Development and Early Childhood Education. Linda is also trained as a Montessori teacher for the 3-6 year old level.

As a former Girl Scout, her love of nature and the environment was developed. She has been a naturalist for the Girl Scouts of America in Colorado and Ohio. Moving from western Colorado to Ohio was a big change but learning about the Great Black Swamp and reading the works of Gene Stratton Porter encouraged her to learn as much about the area's natural places as possible. She says "I literally fell in love with the swamp".

"As Education Specialist, not only do I want to connect children with the wonders of nature but teach them about the Lake Erie watershed in which we live; helping them understand the science behind keeping the watershed pure so we can all enjoy living near such a



Linda Krouse, District Education Specialist

great area for recreation and natural beauty. This is a generational endeavor. We must emulate a respect for the earth and its waterways for the young people. I look forward to working with the teachers, children and anyone who wants to learn more about nature."

Please contact Linda for programming at 419-782-1794 or lkrouse@defiance-county.com.

Cover Your Fields and Plan for Next Year

Some people may think that it is too late for cover crops to be planted and that is not true. At this point in the year, cereal rye is your best option. Cereal rye can be planted as late as November, as it has a low germination temperature. Although, it would be best to plant cereal rye as soon as possible to get the most benefit from the rye allowing it to put down soil building roots this fall. If at all possible, it is recommended to drill the rye in the soil or incorporate the cover crop in the soil to get a better stand. Most of the other cover crops will frost kill and at this point would not provide enough benefit to outweigh the cost of planting.

Cover crops provide many benefits to your future crop and your soil, those benefits vary by species. In general, cover crops scavenge nutrients or are a nutrient source for your coming crop, helping to hold your fertilizer in your field and keep it out of Lake Erie. Having a growing crop in your field also makes an ideal time to apply nutrients for the coming cash crop that will give those nutrients the greatest opportunity to be utilized instead of being lost off the farm. They can also build soil structure as well as loosen soil compaction either caused by weather conditions or man-made compaction, which will help those fields dry out faster in the spring and hold more moisture during the summer months. Most cover crops prevent erosion and provide lasting residue to help manage soil temperature and moisture for your future

crop. They can also help prevent weed pressure possibly resulting in reduced herbicide cost. This plant diversity growing on your farm will also help the soil micro and macro biology to flourish, helping your cash crop to earn you more cash.

Like anything that is new to your operation, there are always questions and concerns. Just try a field and see what you think and leave a test strip to visually see what that cover crop is doing for you. One place to go for help on selecting a species, planting dates, and benefits would be the Midwest Cover Crops Council website mcccdev.anr.msu.edu/VertIndex.php. Also, the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide is a handheld book full of cover crop information. Be cautious about purchasing seeds from the internet or from a source that seems too good or cheap to be true because it probably is and you don't want to create a weed or other problem in your field. So, although it has been a tough year, farmers have to be the eternal optimist, and there is always next year. So let's get a head start on next year by planting some cover crops.

For all those areas where the erosion in your fields is too great to be helped by cover crops, it may be time to consider a grass waterway or grade stabilization structure. This is the perfect time of year to get plans developed to fix those problem areas for next year. Our office can help you develop and see those plans through.

Then maybe next year's April showers will just bring May flowers...

DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2016 Tree Seedling Sale

(order deadline March 11, 2016)

	<u>Packets</u> <u>Ordered</u>	<u>Packet Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Coniferous Trees		10 - American Arborvitae 8" - 14"	\$8.00	
		10 - Blue Spruce 9" - 15"	\$8.00	
		10 - Norway Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10 - Red Cedar 10" - 16"	\$8.00	
		10 - White Pine 10" - 16"	\$8.00	
		10 - White Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
Deciduous Trees		10 - Black Gum 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Bur Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Ohio Buckeye 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Red Bud 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Red Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Sassafras 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Swamp White Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
Deciduous Shrubs		10 - American Elderberry 12" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10 - Silky Dogwood 12" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10 - Winterberry 12" - 18"	\$8.00	
Planting Aids		1 - 3' Tree Shelter Kit	\$4.75	
		1 - 4' Tree Shelter Kit	\$5.35	
		10 - Marking Flags	\$1.00	

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Grand Total

Ask About Borrowing
a Dibble Bar or Hoedad
Tree Planter



Please make checks payable to: **Defiance SWCD**, 06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512. *All orders must be paid in full.* You will be notified in April via postcard or email when your order will be available for pickup.

For Office Use Only:

Order Number _____

Receipt Number _____

Seedling Descriptions

Coniferous Trees

American Arborvitae – A pyramidal shaped conifer that grows well in a wide range of soils and drainage conditions. Excellent for screens and windbreaks as it is dense and full to the ground. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 6 feet. [40-60 feet tall by 10-15 feet wide]

Blue Spruce – A dense, conical evergreen with stout, prickly 3/4 - 1 1/4 inch needles, bluish green to bright silvery-blue in color. Adaptable, it prefers rich, moist soil, full sun, and thrives in dry well-drained sites. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [80-100 feet tall by 30 feet wide]

Norway Spruce – An extremely attractive pyramidal evergreen with strong, weeping branches that extend all the way to the ground. Needles are shiny green 1/2-1 inch long and flat. One of the fastest growing of all spruces. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 25 feet wide]

Red Cedar – A small, dense, pyramidal, native conifer with somewhat prickly, scale-like needles. Tolerates many soil types and conditions and grows where many other woody plants will not survive. Excellent tree for windbreaks and erosion control. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 6 feet. [40 feet tall by 20 feet wide]

White Pine – Pyramidal in youth, this shade tolerant tree forms a graceful plume-like crown at maturity. Thrives in moderately well-drained soil types. The soft needles occur in 5's, are 3-5 inches long, and are rich green to bluish green. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [75-100 feet tall by 50 feet wide]

White Spruce – A cone-shaped, medium to fast growing evergreen. The 1 inch needles are light green/bluish. Branches extend to the ground giving excellent low level wind protection. Adapted to cold weather and wet clay soils. Not preferred by deer. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 20 feet wide]

Deciduous Trees

Black Gum – Spectacular fall color. High wildlife value. Spring flowers are beneficial to pollinators and fall berries are important food source for birds and mammals. Does best in moist soils but has a high drought tolerance. Straight trunk and uniform crown. [50-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

Bur Oak – A slow growing but long lived tree. Does best in full sun and can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. One of the most drought-tolerant oaks. Will mature to a massive size with trunks up to 10 feet in diameter. The acorns, which are the largest of native oaks, have a big, deeply furrowed cap and provide a source of food for many mammals and birds. [70-80 feet tall by 80 feet wide]

Ohio Buckeye – The Ohio State tree. One of the first to leaf out in spring. Attractive ornamental because of broad crown. Prefers moist soils and stream banks. Shade-tolerant. Young trees

show moderate growth rates and may begin producing fruit at 8 years. Plant parts are poisonous. [35-50 feet tall by 30 feet wide]

Red Bud – A small, moderate growing native tree that produces showy, lavender-pink flowers in early spring. When mature, tree has a rounded, vase shape. Tree prefers full sun to partial shade. Reddish-purple leaves change to dark green, then to yellow in the fall. It provides winter food for birds and can be used for nesting sites and materials. [30 feet tall by 10 feet wide]

Red Maple – Brilliant red fall foliage makes an excellent landscape tree. Extremely rapid growing with oval shaped crowns. Can thrive in a wide range of soil conditions. [65-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

Sassafras – A medium sized, native tree recognized by its brilliant display of fall foliage and aromatic smell. This rounded-canopy tree is slow growing, thrives in full sun, and is well adapted to various soils. Medium green leaves turn to colors of orange, scarlet, purple, and yellow in the fall. [30-60 feet tall by 25-40 feet wide]

Swamp White Oak – A medium-sized tree with dark green leaves and a whitish gray bark. Well adapted for growth in very wet, swampy conditions, but is also very drought-tolerant. The acorns that fall from the tree are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks and deer. The Swamp White Oak is valued for its timber used for furniture, flooring and cabinet making. [70 feet tall by 50 feet wide]

Deciduous Shrubs

American Elderberry – Very decorative, fragrant white flowers blooming late June-August. At least 50 species of mammals eat fruit during late summer and early fall. Berries make jellies, pies and wine. Raw berries and other plant parts can be toxic. Can be used for erosion control on moist sites. [4-12 feet tall by 6 feet wide]

Silky Dogwood – A slow to medium-growing branched rounded shrub with yellowish-white flowers in May, pale blue berries in the fall along with dense foliage which turns red. This shrub performs best in wet soils but can adapt to dry soils in the summer. The berries attract birds. [8-12 feet tall by 8-12 feet wide]

Winterberry – Extremely showy dense clusters of bright red berries remain on the branches throughout the fall and winter. Although berries are great wildlife food, they are toxic to humans. Leaves are dark green in the summer with small white flowers. Grows in both wet and dry sites, it is an adaptive naturalizer. A tough plant that is easy to grow with few diseases or pests. [5-15 feet tall by 10 feet wide]



Senate Bill 1 Word Search: Find the words in the puzzle below pertaining to Senate Bill 1. Once completed, return the puzzle to the District by December 18th. An entry will be randomly drawn and the winner will be awarded a \$20 gift certificate for our Spring Tree Sale. Thanks for reading *Conservation News* and good luck!

S E T B A C K S E C N Y W G T R E C Z N O S
 L E G K H I C X P O L I A S X E R H Z O D E
 V I I D O T E Y I P N O A D T S U I A I E H
 W S O S N M Z T M C E C I K O T N E O T T C
 I A W S P T A O O U E R I V M R A F Z U C N
 S C G T N C C R V R Z F P U A I M Q Z L E I
 D E I R I E P N O C O M M E R C I A L L J O
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 W M J T A T A O R U A O L P T E V G S R P T
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 X N E N V E H A S V P O V S R C R A G E L R
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 H S D E T A R U T A S C P F A V Y T N T N H
 V I O L A T I O N I P A B C M O I R Y G G E
 X Z K N O I T C U D E R E N F I E L D S M D

Agricultural
 Application
 Approved
 Capacity
 Chief
 Commercial
 Comply
 Conservation
 Emergency
 Exemption
 Fertilizer

Fields
 Frozen Soil
 Growing Crop
 Healthy
 Incorporated
 Injected
 Lake Erie
 Livestock
 Manure
 Monitoring
 Nutrient

ODA
 ODNR
 Penalty
 Pollution
 Precipitation
 Reduction
 Restrictions
 Runoff
 Saturated
 Senate Bill
 Setbacks

Snow Covered
 Soil Testing
 Stockpiling
 Surface
 SWCD
 TA Dollars
 Top Two Inches
 Violation
 Water Courses
 Watershed
 Weather Forecast

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

CONSERVATION NEWS

Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone 419-782-1794 Fax 419-782-1791
swcd@defiance-county.com
www.defiance-county.com/swcd

Board of Supervisors

Bill Moats
Keith Schroeder
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Roger Zeedyk IV
Jeff Hange

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Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock
Ed Walters
Josh Limber
Dave Sines

NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder
Lori Shank
Mike Boff

Upcoming Events!

- **Senate Bill 1: What Do the Nutrient Application Restrictions Mean to Me?:** November 16, 6-8 pm at Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District large meeting room.
- **Farm Fair** January 14-17 at the Northtowne Mall, Defiance.
- **Photo Contest** is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are residents of Defiance County or attend a Defiance County school. Students may submit up to five entries, with one entry for each category of wildlife, education, conservation, trees and plants, and landscapes. Photos must be taken in Defiance County. All entries are due on April 15.
- **Poster Contest** theme is "We All Need Trees". Grade levels are broken down into five categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 or computer designed for grades 7-9. Posters must be on 11" X 17" paper and *must have the words "We All Need Trees"* The posters are due to the Soil and Water office on March 11.
- **NW Ohio Woodland and Wildlife Family Festival** is on May 21 from 10 am - 2 pm. The free event will be open to the public and will be held at 4H Camp Palmer near Fayette, Ohio.
- **Kids Camp at Penney Nature Center** June 1-3 from 9 am-11:30 am
- **Black Swamp Educators' Extravaganza** June 21-23 at Secor Metropark National Photography Center from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily.



More information about contests
and events at:
defiance-county.com/swcd.

