



Montgomery
Soil and Water
Conservation
District

The Conservation Advocate January 2009

Helping People and Communities Care for Land and Water

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VIP Luncheon 2008

On December 11, 2008 we at the District hosted a VIP luncheon. Four newly elected or reelected officials came to learn about what we do for the county's residents. The four officials attending were: Willis Blackshear, Montgomery County Recorder, Brittany Elking, Aide to Congressman John Boehner, Seth Morgan, Representative Elect - 36th District, and Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County Treasurer. Also in attendance were Montgomery SWCD Board Members Doug Crowe, Duane Plessinger, Board Member Elect Steve Boeder and Associate Supervisor Peter Lurker.



Before lunch was served, District employees gave a presentation about our new strategic plan. We described the projects that we have accomplished this past year and also shared with them future plans for the District. We appreciate these four officials taking the time out of their day to come learn more about their County's Soil and Water Conservation District.

Thanks to Doug Crowe

Doug Crowe is leaving the Board of Supervisors after serving a three year term. A supervisor is elected to serve a three year, non paid position. The Board's job is to set policy and guide the District in its actions. Doug served in the publicity chair his first two years and as vice chair in 2008. He will return next year as an associate supervisor.



During his three years of Board service, he has directed District resources toward the Sycamore Demonstration & Education Farm and its water quality and management programs. His specific areas of interest are educational activities directed toward the urban community; locating alternative funding sources for drainage projects, and the demonstration of precision farming technology which optimizes the use of chemical inputs in agricultural production.

Doug Crowe lives in Perry Township with his wife Lisa, daughter Katie, and step-son Eric. He is a member of the Crowe Family Farm, farming with his father Harold, brother Steve, and their families.

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Horsemen's Dream Series

Forages for Horses was the first workshop in the three part Horsemen's Dream Series. This workshop was held on November 17th and 20th at Miami Valley Career Technology Center. The event was deemed a success when 25 participants attended both nights.

The next workshop is Equine Environmental and Liability Awareness and was held at Miami Valley Career Technology Center January 12th and 15th. At this program the participants learned about maintaining horses, water quality, regulatory compliance, manure and nutrient management, pasture and forage management, facility management and design and equine liability law and neighbor relations. This program was also be taught by Gary W. Wilson and Bob Hendershot.

Did You Know?

- There are more than 70,000 types of soil in the United States.
- If you have your own well, instead of being served by "city water," please mark Thursday, March 5th on your calendar. That's the date of the "Test Your Well" event at Brookville High School. Between 6 and 8 p.m., private well owners may bring a water sample to the high school for a free, confidential nitrate screening. Private well owners ought to have their well water tested annually for nitrate, bacteria, and any other potential contaminant of particular concern. For more information call 937-854-7645 or check our website www.montgomeryswcd.org

Water Quality Program Report

2008 Wrap-Up

Another year of conservation activities has come to a close, and it has been a successful one. A total of 17 grass waterway practices were completed by Montgomery County landowners this year, with a combined length of over 2.25 miles covering 11 acres. Also, 2.4 miles of drainage tile were installed as part of the grass waterway projects. These practices received funding assistance through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), for an approximate total of \$108,000. Two ponds and one wetland were also constructed this year.

2009 Projects

To date, 28 landowners have requested assistance with erosion problems on farmland, 21 conservation practice sites have been identified, and 11 of those have been surveyed. In the next few months, district technicians will be busy surveying and designing these practices, and providing construction plans to the landowners and operators. There is no actual deadline for waterway project requests, but interested landowners/operators should contact Jeremy Huggler well before spring planting, so that the sites can be surveyed.



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