

**MEIGS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**65<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Conducted 161 Class Room Presentations with 3,312 students and 435 teachers  
Area 5 Envirothon – 2 teams participated at Shawnee State Park in Scioto County  
Multi-County Envirothon – 4 local school teams participated at Hocking State Forest  
    With 25 teams and 125 students and assisted with competition  
Provided Multi-County Envirothon test questions for Current Environmental Issues,  
    Aquatics and staff assisted with competition  
Multi-County Soil Judging – 48 participants from 2 local school districts and additional students  
    From Athens and Vinton counties  
Meigs County Fair Display – approximately 220 adult and student participants  
Co-Sponsored Hay Show at Meigs County Fair  
Annual Meeting and Banquet – 169 participants  
Annual Tree Packet Program – 41 customers  
Science Fair Judge – 92 participants  
3 Educator Workshops – 3 participants at each  
**Conservation Commentary**, quarterly District newsletter—annual distribution: 2,600 customers  
Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp, June 4 & 5—Meigs SWCD Conservation Area-20  
    Participants with presenters and volunteers from various local agencies  
Leading Creek photo contest, 'Water: Essential to Life' – 15 entries/3 winners  
Meigs 4-H Judging – 47 participants  
Conservation Area Field Trips – 203 participants from local school districts  
4-H Kickoff Event – 120 participants  
Meigs Rotary Club Presentation – 10 participants  
Conducted one Hunter Education Class and participated in two with approximately 130  
    participants  
Prepared 25 bi-weekly columns of "In the Open" for the Sunday Times-Sentinel  
Assisted 11 landowners with Wildlife Damage Investigations  
Assisted 5 landowners with Wildlife Nuisance Reports  
Assisted Huntington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with public meeting for  
    Southeast Ohio Watershed Assessment Study – 25 participants  
Rain Garden Presentation for Athens Master Gardener's Club – 30 participants  
Eighth Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep – 120 volunteers collecting 3 tons of trash  
Fourth Annual Amateur Photo Contest 'The Streams of Meigs County' – 22 entries  
Water Fest with Athens SWCD – 160 third grade participants  
Leading Creek Improvement Committee Meetings – 112 participants  
**Leading Creek News**, Watershed newsletter 4 issues—annual distribution: 1,600 customers  
Leading Creek volunteer of the Year award presented at 2008 SWCD Annual Meeting  
Ohio River Sweep: coordinated sites in Pomeroy, Racine and Reedsville; collected several tons  
    of trash over nearly 15 miles of the Ohio River – 75 volunteers  
Wetlands of the Watershed Tour – 14 participants  
Buckeye Hills RC&D meeting and tour at Meigs SWCD Conservation Area along Little  
    Leading Creek – 20 participants  
Printed and distributed a threefold brochure and a 10 page booklet about Leading Creek  
    Watershed issues, funded through USFWS

Worked with Ohio EPA on the Leading Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report that was approved in January 2008

Little Leading Creek Sediment Study draft has been received from Ohio University  
Water Quality sampling in Thomas Fork – 18 samples on August 25 and 20 samples on August 26 for the Thomas Fork Doser project

Congressional contact with Legislative Assistant of U.S. Congressman Charlie Wilson in Washington, D.C. on July 23 and November 19, 2008

Monthly contact with Field Representatives from U.S. Senator Voinovich and U.S. Congressman Wilson

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Equipment Rentals		62
Rental Customers		53
John Deere Drills		616.90 acres
Tye Drill		165.50 acres
Brillion seeder		141.20 acres
Lime Spreaders		657.72 tons
Tree Planter		11,500 trees planted
Tree Planter		1,000 grape vines planted
Timber Harvest Plans reviewed		5
Environmental Quality Incentive Program Applications		28
19 contracts approved	\$352,166	
Forestry EQIP Applications		9
9 contracts approved	\$ 21,679	
Appalachian Special Project Applications		1
1 contract approved	\$ 62,063	
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program		3
3 contracts approved	\$ 6,231	

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Access Road (560) (ft)	16,978	823
Brush Management (314) (ac)	107	
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	19	9
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	2,056	2,198
Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)	13	1
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647) (ac)	22	12
Fence (382) (ft)	61,730	23,916
Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)	310	173
Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)	487	321
Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (sq. ft.)	21,480	10,834
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	411	802
Pasture and Hay Planting (512) (ac)	236	5
Pest Management (595) (ac)	4	2
Pipeline (516) (ft)	24,025	10,462
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	2,217	788
Pumping Plant (533) (no)	3	1

Spring Development (574) (no)	10	1
Structure for Water Control (587) (no)		1
Subsurface Drain (606) (ft)		5,382
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)		14
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (ac)		14
Underground Outlet (620) (ft)	1,100	40
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	674	1,043
Use Exclusion (472) (ac)	198	
Waste Storage Facility (313) (no)	1	
Waste Utilization (633) (ac)	505	
Watering Facility (614) (no)	66	16
Wetland Creation (658) (ac)		3
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)		6

Total number of customers assisted (approximately)

4,578

### **2008 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Ed Gibbs	Chairman/Fiscal Agent
Tonja Hunter	Vice Chairman
Bill Baer	Secretary-Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Joe Bolin	Fiscal Agent
Marco Jeffers	Member

### **DISTRICT STAFF**

Jim Freeman	Wildlife Specialist/Watershed Coordinator
Raina Fulks	Leading Creek Watershed Coordinator
Steve Jenkins	Administrator/District Technician
Vicki Morrow	Administrative Assistant
Jenny Ridenour	Education Coordinator/District Technician

### **NRCS STAFF**

Mary Ann Hawk	District Conservationist
Jason Crislip	Soil Conservationist

### **FUNDING**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$352,166
Forestry EQIP	21,679
Appalachian Special Project	62,063
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	6,231
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$442,139</b>

## **GRANTS**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Mini Watershed Grant to publish the  
*Leading Creek News* with additional funds from USFWS  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Watershed Coordinator Grant  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Wildlife Specialist Grant

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized in 1943 for the purpose of planning and carrying out programs for the conservation of our natural resources. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Meigs County, who serve alternating three year terms without pay or compensation for their time or services.

Cooperation with the District is on a voluntary basis and anyone that wants assistance to solve natural resource problems may apply for help by contacting our office during regular business hours of 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Technical assistance in planning and applying needed conservation practices will be furnished by District Staff, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel assigned to the District. The District also sponsors various educational programs and is available to assist students and educators with projects. All services provided by the District are at no charge to the public.

Funding for the District's work is provided by the Meigs County Commissioners, with additional financial assistance provided by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Monthly board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise announced. All meetings are open to the public. If you plan to attend, please contact the office at 740-992-4282.

Thanks to the Farm Service Agency and Meigs County Extension Service for all of their assistance in promoting our activities throughout the year. Also thanks to the Daily Sentinel, The Athens Messenger, WYVK Radio, and WJOS Channel 27-TV for their coverage throughout the year.