



Conservation Commentary

July, August, September October 2007

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Meigs SWCD
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Technician

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Leading Creek Watershed
Coordinator

NRCS

Mary Ann Hawk
District Conservationist

Jason Crislip
Soil Conservationist

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2007 Meigs SWCD Annual Banquet

David Adkins, Ohio's gypsy moth program manager with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control Section, Reynoldsburg, gave a brief overview of Ohio's efforts to control the gypsy moth at the 64th annual Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Approximately 140 people attended the event which was held September 25 at Meigs High School.

The gypsy moth was brought to the United States in the mid 1800's in an attempt to cross with native silk worms. They escaped in Bedford, Mass., and have been spreading westward ever since, he said.

In Pennsylvania and West Virginia, nearly 800,000 and 78,000 acres respectively were defoliated this year by the gypsy moth. Ohio had just less than 1,000 acres this year, about the same as last year, Adkins explained. Nationwide, slightly more than 1.45 million acres were reportedly defoliated.

Adkins said Ohio is one of 11 states participating in a national, integrated program to combat the gypsy moth, an invasive species which defoliates numerous tree species but is particularly hard on oak trees.

Gypsy moths are contested in three zones with separate strategies for each zone. First is the infested zone, where attempts are made to suppress the moth population, next is the transition zone where the emphasis is on slowing the spread of the moths, and last is the uninfested zone, where isolated moth populations are targeted for eradication. Meigs County straddles the infested and transition zones.

In Meigs County two substances are used to combat the moths: BtK a bio-insecticide derived from a naturally occurring bacterium found in the soil that causes the moth's stomach muscles to stop working, and synthetic gypsy moth pheromones impregnated into tiny plastic flakes that disrupt the male's ability to find the female. This year, 607 acres in the county were treated with BtK while 12,500 acres were treated with pheromone flakes, Adkins said. No treatments are planned for 2008.

Residents may have seen the yellow plane used to spread pheromone flakes or the little green moth traps hanging in trees along roads, he said.

"Overall, Meigs County has stayed pretty much even," Adkins said.

In other business, Bill Baer, Racine, was reelected to a second three-year term on the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors.

NRCS soil conservationist Jason Crislip presented the Cooperator of the Year Award to S&M Shorthorns Farm owned by Scott Knepper and Mahla Hankins, Pomeroy.

The Kneppers installed 922 feet of woven wire fence, 3,160 feet

of 8-strand high-tensile wire fence, 538 feet of pipeline and a frost-free concrete tank, a 1,152-square-foot gravel feeding pad and 425 feet of access road under the NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program for 2006. They also completed a prescribed grazing management plan.

Joan and Bruce May of Rutland were named the Leading Creek Volunteers of the Year by Raina Fulks, Leading Creek Watershed coordinator.

Jim Freeman, wildlife specialist/watershed coordinator, reported on the progress of the wetland being constructed at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area and on the American Chestnut tree planting there.

Each year the Meigs SWCD sponsors a county-wide soil judging contest for Vocational Agriculture students. This is held in conjunction with the Athens and Vinton SWCD's. This year's contest was held in Vinton County at Zaleski State Forest.

Students from Meigs and Southern vocational agricultural departments participated in the contest. Meigs had 50 students, six in urban and 44 in rural, while Southern had seven students, four in urban and three in rural.

High scoring individuals in the Agricultural Soil Judging Contest were: Jennifer Fife, Meigs, first place; Shane Milhoan, Meigs, second place; Lacey Arms, Meigs, third place.

The top scoring rural team was from Meigs High School and included Jennifer Fife, Shane Milhoan, Lacey Arms and Melissa Snowden.

High scoring individuals in the Urban Soil Judging Contest were: Michael Ball, Meigs, first place; Dax Holman, Southern, second place; Rusty Carnahan, Southern, third place.

The top scoring urban team was from MHS and included Michael Ball, Jesse Pullins, Adam Lavender and Julia Lantz.

Hay show winners were recognized including Roy Holter, all grasses and 49 percent or less legumes, and Cindy Koblentz, 75 percent or more alfalfa.

The Meigs SWCD is a county agency founded in 1943 that works in conjunction with several state and federal agencies to help landowners conserve their soil and water resources.



OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR – Scott Knepper and Mahla Hankins, Pomeroy, owner of S&M Shorthorns Farm were named Outstanding Cooperators by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District during the district's annual banquet and meeting at Meigs High School. Presenting the award were Jason Crislip, Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Conservationist, left, and Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors President Bill Baer, right.



Meigs Agricultural Soils Judging Team
Lacey Arms
Shane Milhoan
Jennifer Fife
Melissa Snowden



Meigs Urban Soils Judging Team
Michael Ball
Jesse Pullins
Adam Lavender
Julia Lantz



Southern Agricultural Soils Judging Team
Eric Perry
Ryan Lain Beegle
Justin Eblin



Southern Urban Soils Judging Team
Dustyn Johnson
Dax Holman
Ryan Lee Beegle

Conservation Area Wetland

Work is complete on the new wetland at the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Area on New Lima Road.

The long, winding dam, the viewing "peninsulas" and "islands," and the water-level control structure are all installed and waiting to function. The topsoil has been replaced and the area has been seeded and mulched. At this time the only missing ingredient is water.

However, the district is confident that at some point the wetland will be full of water along with the blend of aquatic plants and macro-invertebrates (bugs) that call wetlands home.

Even though the wetland is currently dry, enough work has been completed so that it is now easy to see how the completed project will look. Designed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, it is essentially a long, low dam designed to catch and hold water draining off a hill behind it.

The wetland will consist of 2.25 acres of surface area with two viewing areas or peninsulas; it will be only three feet deep at its deepest point and a water level control structure will be installed allowing the wetland to fill or be drained for maintenance.

The Meigs SWCD Wetland Project is the result of a combination of local donations and federal funding including approximately \$8,500 from the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), \$2,400 from American Electric Power's Gavin Generating Plant, and approximately \$535 in equipment from the Agri Drain Corporation from Adair, Iowa.

Ground was broken for the project on Aug. 2. The contractor is Home Creek Enterprises Inc. of Pomeroy.



Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District announces winners of our Mystery Farm Contest held during the Meigs County Fair.

Winners of the Mystery Farm contest receive \$10 each. There were 34 entries throughout the week. The daily winners of the Mystery Farm Contest along with the farm they identified are, as follows:

Day	Farm	Winner
Monday	Caldwell Greenhouses	Bruce McKelvey
Tuesday	Tillis Farm	Don Mohler
Wednesday	Collins Farm	No Winner
Thursday	Jeffers Farm	Justin Cotterill
Friday	Delille Farm (old Strawsbaugh farm)	Jason Pierce
Saturday	Cotterill Farm	Marlene Pierce

Winners of the hay show co-sponsored by the Meigs SWCD and Meigs County Fair Board were: Class 1, 75 percent or more alfalfa, Cindy Koblentz, first place, Jason Pullins, second place, Patricia Holter, third place; Class 2, all grasses, Roy Holter, first place, Patricia Holter, second place; Class 3, 49 percent or less legumes, Roy Holter, first place, Patricia Holter, second place, Cindy Koblentz, third place.

Winners received cash awards and ribbons from the fair board; and first place winners received plaques from the Meigs SWCD at the annual meeting and banquet. We want to congratulate all winners and thank everyone who participated in the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Contest at the 2007 Meigs County Fair.

Timber Harvest & Soil Responsibilities

It takes about one hundred years to form an inch of topsoil and around fifty years to grow a saw-sized tree for timber production on good soil. With those two statements being said, there are several reasons to follow Best Management Practices for erosion control. The handbook *BMPs for Erosion Control for Logging Practices in Ohio* states, "Failure to plan for and correctly implement silvicultural Best Management Practices during forest operations will result in unacceptable non-point source pollution and can result in regulatory action(s) initiated against the landowner and operator in order to achieve pollution abatement." According to Ohio law, both landowner and operator are to do their part to prevent soil entering into Ohio waters. That is why it is so important to choose a logger carefully. Ask for references from past jobs. Insist on a written contract that requires the logger to use Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion. Loggers and/or landowners can file a Timber Harvest Notice of Intent plan (NOI) with their local Soil and Water Conservation District office before a harvest begins. A NOI is basically a pre-harvest plan detailing what erosion measures are going to be used to prevent soil erosion.

NOIs are not mandatory for timber harvests. However, filing a NOI signals that a logger and/or landowner take erosion control seriously. It also lets the local SWCD know that a timber harvest is planned in the county. If the SWCD sees a problem, changes and recommendations can be made before the harvest begins. A plan approved by the SWCD can also protect a landowner from nuisance lawsuits as long as the BMPs are being followed according to the plan. Timber is a renewable resource and with a little bit of planning, knowledge, and respect we will have quality timber for generations to come. For more information on Timber Harvest plans contact Jenny Ridenour Education Coordinator/District Technician at 740-992-4282 Ext. 104.



L-R

Logging in Progress

Logging complete, no Best Management Practices installed



Water bars installed by Southern Ohio Loggers Chapter

Southern Ohio Loggers Council Role Model for Local Loggers

In a more ideal world, there would be much less water pollution. And anyone causing a problem – say from a livestock operation or timber harvest – would jump to fix it.

But if you ask Meigs SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District), we aren't there just yet.

In January 2005, the district received complaints from several landowners about a local logger who was not using best management practices (BMPs), which was causing siltation to a local stream. According to Steve Jenkins, Meigs SWCD Manager, the logger “refused to cooperate with us in solving this matter.”

After nearly a year and numerous attempts to work with the logger, the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors recommended that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Soil and Water Conservation take further enforcement action against the logger.

In January, 2006, ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation chief David Hanselmann issued a chief’s order requesting that the logger install the needed BMPs immediately or risk further legal action. When the chief’s order was also ignored, the division requested assistance from the Ohio Attorney Generals office, which pled the case in Meigs County Common Pleas Court. A default judgment was awarded in favor of the state requiring the logger to fix any problems he had caused on timber harvesting sites.

Shortly thereafter the division was made aware that the logger was ill and unable to complete the work needed to comply with state law.

Enter the Southern Ohio Loggers Council (SOLC) and Ohio Forestry Association. Earlier this year, members of the council approached the division with a plan to fix problems caused by the original logger. SOLC offered to install the needed BMPs at the timber harvest site to halt soil erosion and prevent pollution to neighboring surface waters.

“The loggers chapter felt that this was the right thing to do. By doing this we hope to send a message that loggers are responsible people and that we cannot tolerate bad actors within the forest industry.”

On a spring weekend, SOLC members met at the site and, using their own equipment and labor, installed the needed best management practices and completed the work necessary to stabilize the soil and bring the site into compliance.

“The Division of Soil and Water Conservation appreciates the actions taken by SOLC members,” Hanselmann said. “We are fortunate that most loggers in the state install the necessary practices to prevent erosion.”

The Meigs SWCD would like to also thank the SOLC for volunteering and the great job they did installing BMPs. They have given the Meigs SWCD hope that there are responsible loggers in southern Ohio, if landowners take the time to do the research to find them.

Calendar of Events

Nov 22	Office Closed – Thanksgiving
Nov 23	Office Closed
Nov 26-30	Limited Staff
Dec 4	Limited Staff
Dec 6	Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
Dec 13	Leading Creek Improvement Committee meeting 9:45 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
Dec 24	Limited Staff
Dec 25	Office Closed-Christmas
Dec 26-31	Limited Staff
Jan 1	Office Closed- New Years Day
Jan 21	Office Closed-Martin Luther King Day
Jan 24	Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office

Mission Statement of the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance for the wise use of our natural resources for present and future generations.

“Water is Life”

Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) are pleased to announce “Water is Life” as the theme for the 2008 Stewardship program. The program will cover water as a resource used in everyday life, the water cycle, water quality, water quantity, watersheds, storm water runoff and more. Stewardship Week will be celebrated April 27 to May 4, 2008. The Meigs SWCD office will be conducting a first grade coloring contest, a fourth grade poster contest and a sixth grade essay contest using this theme.

Order forms for the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Seedling and Groundcover Sale will be available in January. Contact the Meigs SWCD office at (740) 992-4282 for information. Orders are accepted until early March and will be received in mid-April—in time for Spring planting.

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and its Supervisors would like to thank these individuals and businesses for generous donations to the Annual Meeting and Banquet:

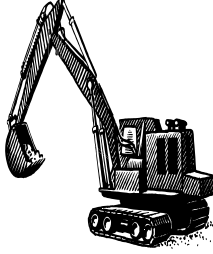
AB&T Auto, Racine
Anderson’s Furniture, Pomeroy
Baum Lumber, Chester
Constance White, ODNR Program Specialist
Darrell Norris & Son Greenhouses, Racine
Dettwiller True Value Lumber, Pomeroy
Farmers Bank & Savings Company, Pomeroy
Fox’s Pizza Den, Rutland
Fruth Pharmacy, Pomeroy
Hill’s Citgo, Racine
Home National Bank, Racine
Janet Bolin, President North Central NACD Auxiliary
Jeffers Dairy, Albany
Karr Contracting, Pomeroy
Karr Farms, Pomeroy
Wagner Hardware, Racine

King Ace Hardware, Middleport
Kinsale Corporation, Pomeroy
Krider’s Kountry Kitchen, Portland
Meigs County Farm Bureau, Pomeroy
Meigs SWCD, Pomeroy
Millie’s Restaurant, Middleport
Mitch’s Greenhouse, Middleport
NAPA Auto Parts, Middleport
O’Bleness Hospital, Athens
People’s Bank, Pomeroy
Pomeroy Auto Parts, Pomeroy
Powell’s Foodfair, Pomeroy
Star Supply, Racine
Swisher & Lohse, Pomeroy
Valley Lumber & Supply, Middleport



Wetland During Construction

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FARM EQUIPMENT
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 JACKSON, OH 45640
ANCIL CROSS Phone (740) 286-1966
OWNER (740) 286-6451




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 46078 S.R. 124
 P.O. Box 397
 Racine, Ohio
 45771



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 27938 Tower Rd.
 Langsville, Ohio
 45741
 Phone: 740-669-4836

Home National Bank
 949-2210 Racine
 992-8333 Syracuse




Consolidation Coal Company
Southern Ohio Coal Co.
 P.O. Box 98
 Cumberland, OH 43732
 Phone: 740-558-7225



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King Builders Supply, Inc.
 Middleport
 Meigs County Farm Bureau
 Pomeroy
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 Margie J. Lawson, D.D.S., Inc
 Racine

SWCD Equipment for Rent, Sale

The following items are available for sale:

Platbooks	\$15 each
Meigs SWCD caps	\$6 each
Marking Flags	\$.08 each
Topographical Maps	\$8 each
Ohio Pond Management Handbooks	\$2.25 each
Digital Soil Survey CD	\$10 each

The following equipment is available for rent (subject to scheduling and availability):

John Deere No-Till Drill	\$48 min. plus \$8/acre over 6 acres	70 HP tractor min
Tye No-Till Drill	\$36 min. plus \$6/acres over 6 acres	45 HP tractor min
Brillion Seeder	\$30 min. plus \$6/acre over 5 acres	45 HP tractor min
Lime Spreader	\$25 min. plus \$1/ton over 25 ton	60 HP tractor min
Forester Tree Planter	\$25 per day	25 HP tractor min
Planter Bars	Free with a \$20 returnable deposit	
Box Trap	Free with a \$30 returnable deposit	

All equipment must be scheduled through the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282 during regular business hours for delivery Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4: 30 p.m. A \$20 fee will be assessed if equipment is delivered and not used. **A \$10 charge per month will be added to all unpaid bills after 60 days.**

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District has equipment available to help with your reseeding, planting, and planning projects.



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