

Ditch Maintenance

In 1998, The Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, The Greene County Commissioners, and The Greene County Engineer entered into an agreement for Ditch Maintenance work. Under the authority of the County Engineer, district personnel inspect, recommend work needed to be done, perform the work approved to be done and/or arrange a contractor for it, keep track of expenses and balances for each ditch, and recommend assessment rates.

A Ditch Maintenance advisory committee was formed to review the performance of the program each year and to make recommendations to improve the program. Members of the committee include the County Engineer; a Greene SWCD Supervisor; the Drainage Coordinator of the Greene SWCD, and nine at large members who are located in the watershed of a ditch under maintenance.

We are continuing with our original plan of annually mowing the ditch berm, spraying the ditch bank for broadleaf and brush control as needed and ditch bottom spraying as needed. Other repairs such as dip outs, rip rap placement, and outlet repairs are completed as needed. This sort of program has lowered the costs, helped the stream bank stabilization and is more environmentally friendly. All herbicides used are labeled for ditch bank use. The applicator is licensed by the State of Ohio to apply these herbicides. We remind landowners/operators along the open ditches under maintenance to leave a minimum of 10 feet along the ditch bank for maintenance operations.

Each ditch under maintenance pays only for the work done to the ditch through a maintenance assessment. Accurate records are kept showing expenses, receipts and ending balance for each ditch. Assessments are adjusted based on the amount of work needed and the balance in each ditch account. Currently, there is over 35 miles of open ditch and 6.5 miles of tile ditch in the Greene County Ditch Maintenance program. If you have any questions or comments about ditch maintenance, please call our office at 937-372-4478 or by e-mail, don.leeds@oh.nacdnet.net.