



# Conservation Comments

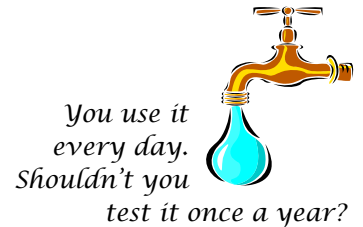
Fall 2011

**LOCAL CONSERVATION  
EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

Greene SWCD — 1363 Burnett Drive — Xenia, OH 45385-5681 — Phone (937) 372-4478 — Fax (937) 372-8774  
 Located in the USDA Service Center for Greene County. Website: [www.co.greene.oh.us/soils](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/soils)

## 5th Annual Greene County Test Your Well Event

Wednesday,  
November 2, 2011  
4 to 6 pm  
(stop by any time)



Bring in separate well water samples for nitrate\* and arsenic\*\* testing. Confidential results at no cost. Pick up bottles and sampling instructions at:

Greene County Combined Health District	374-5600
OSU Extension, Greene County	372-9971
Greene County Environmental Services	562-5925

Purchase \$15 discount coupons (reg. \$50) at the event (cash or check) to have your well water tested for bacteria.

\*Nitrate results ready at the event only, while-you-wait.

\*\*Arsenic results will take several weeks.

Arsenic bottles can also be picked up at the event.



Private and Public vendors on-hand to answer your water questions.

Sponsored by Greene County FFA, Greene Soil & Water Conservation District, Greene County Combined Health District, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, City of Xenia, OSU Extension, Miami Conservancy District, Central State University, ODNR Division of Soil & Water Resources.



**Greene County  
Environmental Services**  
2145 Greene Way Boulevard  
Xenia, OH 45385  
*(across Progress Drive from Kroger)*

**For more information:**

[www.co.greene.oh.us/soils](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/soils)

or call (937) 372-4478

## Conservation Stewardship Program

**C**SP is a voluntary program that encourages producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional practices on their operations. The program is popular for producers who go the extra mile with conservation and sustainable operations—whether they've accomplished goals on their own, with other conservation partners, or through USDA and NRCS programs.

**C**SP recognizes ag producers and landowners who do the right things and it moves them forward as they add new resource protection practices on their land.

**W**hile CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, only applications received by the national cutoff date around November 15, 2011 will be considered for funding in fiscal year 2012. For more information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, visit your county USDA Service Center in Xenia today.







## 2012 Opportunities for Financial Incentives through Farm Bill Programs

Landowners interested in improving their cropland, pasture and woodland have several new opportunities coming this fall. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is now taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). While the application period for these conservation programs are continuous, funding

selections are made once or twice a year, depending on the number of applications and availability of funds. It is anticipated that funding will be available for EQIP this fall, and the cutoff date for taking applications for fiscal year 2012 will be around the end of November.

Many opportunities exist for addressing priority natural resource issues under EQIP. Some of the most popular practices on cropland include cover crops, conversion to all no-till, rebuilding grassed waterways, and high tunnels for specialty crop growers. Widely used practices on pasture include fencing livestock from streams and ponds, permanent water systems, access roads, manure storage facilities and heavy use area protection. Woodland owners can apply through EQIP to control honeysuckle, grapevine, and Tree of Heaven, and for timber stand improvement.

The program reimburses a significant part of the cost of the improvements. Limited resource producers, beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers may be eligible for up to 90 per cent cost share. Organic farmers and those in transition to organic have a separate funding pool for cropland and pasture practices.

More than 20 conservation practices are available to landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat using WHIP funding. Native grasses, wetland creation and tree planting are a few. WRP is available to landowners who wish to create or restore wetlands on agricultural land then protect that land through a permanent easement.

Applications for each program are competitively ranked then funded from high score to low score. Interested landowners should call NRCS for an on-site planning visit before making application so that a complete and workable plan can be developed ahead of funding deadlines.

In addition to the programs listed above, the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is available to agricultural landowners interested in controlling gully erosion with new grassed waterways or developing wildlife habitat using field borders, filter strips and wetland restoration. Continuous CRP is not competitive. Planning appointments are recommended before making application. Contact Steve Hall at 937-372-4478 for more information.



## Envirothon Challenge

Greene County High Schools are invited to compete in the 2012 Envirothon. Students work in teams of five to answer outdoor, site-specific questions on soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and current environmental issues. Students study on their own from provided on-line resources.

Montgomery - Greene County Local Envirothon will be held in Greene County in late April. Combining a shortened testing period with one-on-one time with local resources professionals, students are both learning and competing.

The Southwest Ohio Area IV Envirothon is scheduled for May 1 in Preble County. The top four teams from Southwest Ohio will join 16 other teams from around the state for the Ohio Envirothon, held June 11 and 12 at Deer Creek State Park. Ohio's winning team will compete at the Canon Envirothon July 22-28, 2012 in Pennsylvania.

Registration begins in January. Interested students, teachers, or parents can contact Jill O'Banion at (937) 372-4478 or [jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net). More information can also be found on-line: [www.areaivenvirothon.org](http://www.areaivenvirothon.org) and [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org). Check it out!

## 2012 GSWCD Tree Sale



Trees are offered as a low cost source of plant materials for wildlife, windbreaks, and other conservation uses. They are available to anyone without restriction.

Look at our website at [www.co.greene.oh.us/soils](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/soils) for tree information, including photos and detailed information about each species offered, and order form. This information will be posted by the first of the year. Orders are taken through the end of February, 2012.

## How Do I Vote for a GSWCD Supervisor?



**Y**ou have two options:

- (1) join us at the Open House on December 6 from 4:00—6:00 pm and vote while you are here or
- (2) vote by absentee ballot.

**R**equests for Absentee Ballots: People who are unable to attend the annual meeting may request an absentee ballot and registration form, beginning November 15, from the district office:

- In writing, no later than November 29, 2010 (date of receipt in office, not postmarked).
- In person, no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 6, 2011.

**R**equests should be limited to your own personal ballot and registration form, except that written requests signed by other qualified electors in the same household may be mailed in one envelope.

*All Greene County residents or landowners at least age 18 are eligible to vote.*

## Greene SWCD Open House SAVE THE DATE!



**Tuesday, December 6  
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

- ⇒ Conservation Awards
- ⇒ Vote for 1 Supervisor

Stop By Anytime - We're in the Xenia Industrial Park off U.S. 68 just south of Xenia

### Greene SWCD

Office Hours Monday - Friday  
7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Greene SWCD Staff

Don Leeds - Program Administrator  
 Warren McCarren - Technician  
 Jeremiah McDowell - Technician  
 Ken Middleton - Urban Technician  
 Jill O'Banion - Education Specialist

#### Greene SWCD Supervisors

Doug Anderson  
 Scott Harner  
 Dave Linkhart  
 David Quallen  
 Don Wolf  
 Glenn Harner, Associate

#### Greene NRCS Staff

Steve Hall - District Conservationist

All programs and services of the Greene SWCD and NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital and familial status. We are located in the USDA Service Center—in the Xenia Industrial Park.

Funding to the Greene SWCD is provided by the Greene County Commissioners and Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Conservation provide assistance. Programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

## How To Get On The Ballot

**A**ny resident 18 years of age or older, who resides within Greene County can seek election to the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot in one of two ways.

**C**andidates can be nominated by the GSWCD nominating committee. This committee works throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county.

**I**nterested individuals may also stop by the GSWCD office, 1363 Burnett Drive, Xenia, Ohio and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on **November 1st**. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on December 6, 2012 at the Annual Meeting. This year, we will be electing one supervisor for a three year term.

**S**oil and Water Conservation Districts, located in all 88 counties, are legal subdivisions of state government that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is funded by the Greene County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member board of county residents. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

