

LOGAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
324 Co. Rd. 11
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

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www.co.logan.oh.us/soilandwater/

Hours: Monday–Friday
7:00 AM–5:45 PM

LOGAN SWCD SUPERVISORS

Eric Johnson Tim Lyden

Frank Phelps Joe Ramsey Renee Winner

LOGAN SWCD STAFF

Lorre Culp –Secretary
Deb Roberts–District Administrator
Steve Searson –District Technician

NRCS STAFF

Bob Stoll –District Conservationist
Brian Leptak–Civil Engineering Technician
LaRae Baker –Soils Conservationist

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
BELLEFONTAINE, OH
PERMIT NO. 324



FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

“It is the goal of Logan Soil & Water Conservation District to promote stewardship of soil, water and other natural resources.”

FALL 2011



LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Logan Soil & Water Conservation District’s 68th Annual Meeting was held September 8, 2011 at the Winner’s Harvest Barn in conjunction with the Logan County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Three individuals were on the ballot to run for the two supervisor positions. The candidates were: Jim Hoffman, Frank Phelps and Joe Ramsey. Frank Phelps and Joe Ramsey were re-elected to continue to serve as supervisors. Their 3 year term commences January 2, 2012. Frank has served as supervisor since 1998 and Joe has been a supervisor since 2006. Congratulations to both Frank & Joe.

The Logan SWCD supervisors and staff would like to sincerely thank Jim Hoffman for running for the position of Logan SWCD supervisor and for his continued efforts toward agriculture and conservation.

Logan SWCD Supervisor Renee Winner gave a presentation describing Logan SWCD activities.

Forsythe Family Farm, Joe, Kim, Andy and Aryn Forsythe were honored as the Logan Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Farm Family of the Year. Becky Hoffman with Farm Credit Services presented a farm sign to the Forsythe’s.

Joe and his family reside on the 100 acres originally owned and operation by Grandpa Forsythe. Forsythe’s and their ancestors have lived and farmed this acreage since early 1900’s. In recent years, Joe and Andy purchased 50 acres adjoining the original 100 acre farm.

Andy and his family reside on the original 150 acres owned and farmed by Grandpa Davis. This farm has also been in the family for almost 100 years. Their 600 acre farm is in McArthur Township and consists of 250 acres of hay and 350 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. The alfalfa/grass hayland remains for three years and then is rotated to corn, soybeans and wheat before it is planted back to hay.

Joe and Andy have a cow calf operation that consist of 60 cows. They feed out all the calves on their farm and sell the beef locally. They rotate their cattle to keep the pasture grass stand thick and viable.

In recent years, Joe and Andy have participated in many conservation programs including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

They have installed over 3 miles of pasture fencing to better manage their pastures and keep their cattle out of the stream. They have installed 2 livestock heavy use areas and access roads. These areas are used to keep the cattle off the pasture during muddy winter/spring months, protecting the pasture and reducing erosion issues. Their double chemical containment structure keep chemical spills or leakage on site in a controlled setting. This has a positive impact on the environment, especially water quality. They have also constructed a dry stack manure holding facility and are in the planning stages to construct two more manure pen pack barns, solutions necessary when manure application to fields are inappropriate.

Joe and Andy participate in the Conservation Reserve Program, having installed eight grassed waterways. These waterways control gully erosion on their steep fields and keep valuable topsoil on the fields where it belongs, not in the streams.

Joe and Andy believe that conservation of the soil and water resources is important. “Treat the land right and it will treat you right”. Their goal is to leave the land better for the fourth generation of the Forsythe’s.



Meet the Forsythe’s

Joe, Kim, TJ age 7, Kelley age 4 and Aryn, JD age 1, Andy.

ALL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 18 Logan SWCD Board Meeting
5:00 PM- Logan SWCD office

November 8 Election Day

November 11 Veterans’ Day
(Office Closed)

November 15 Logan SWCD Board Meeting
5:00 PM-Logan SWCD office

November 24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

December 20 Logan SWCD Board Meeting
5:00 PM-Logan SWCD office

December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 26 Office Closed-for Christmas

SOMETHING TO “CHEW “ON

The Logan SWCD/NRCS hosted three grazing schools in January, February and March, 2011. The grazing schools convened at the Ohio Hi-Point Joint Vocational School. Participants with interests in beef, sheep, horses and other animal lovers learned about pasture management and the many inter-actions of animal husbandry, animal health, soil health and forage quality. A Pasture Walk was the final featured attraction to the grazing schools. The Pasture Walk was hosted by Bob and Lois Stoll at their beef farm. Bob and Lois successfully practice many of the grazing techniques presented at the grazing school. Bob Hendershot, NRCS Grazing Specialist, enlightened the group on management techniques to optimize utilization of forages, practices to improve the economics of winter forage stock piled in the field and the benefits of winter annuals incorporated into a grazing program. The group enjoyed a leisurely wagon ride through the hills of Logan County and a great dinner provided by the Logan County Cattle Association.

A properly grazed animal is a “productive animal”



FOCUS ON CONSERVATION



2011 TOP OF OHIO AG TOUR SCHOOL DAY

More than 800 first and fourth grade students from Benjamin Logan Schools, Calvary Christian School, Bellefontaine City Schools, Indian Lake Schools and Riverside Schools attended the 2011 Top of Ohio School Day Ag Tour on September 16.

The tour provided the first grade students with an opportunity to visit local farms to learn about agriculture in Logan County. The students had an up close and personal experience learning about dairy farming, raising beef cattle, animal care, sheep/wood production, honey production, fruit/vegetable production, farm equipment and farm safety. They now have a better understanding of how agriculture impacts their daily lives providing a nutritious, safe and abundant food supply, clothing and a host of other products. The petting zoo and the pumpkin painting were popular with the students too. We are sure the students join us in expressing appreciation to our tour hosts and topic presenters: Henry Farms, Don and Virginia Miller Family Farm, Dr. Tim Tillman, Skidmore Apiaries, Mary Rutan Hospital, Wenger Produce and Jim/Leslie Warne Beef Farm.

All fourth grade students attending the 2011 Top of Ohio School Day Ag Tour learned about electricity and power at Logan County Electric Cooperative. Their tour stops also included visiting the Miller Family Farm to learn about farm safety, farm equipment, sheep production and wool. The fourth graders also had the opportunity to visit Grey Oaks Tree Plantation to learn about wetlands, native plants, pheasant habitat, wildlife habitat/activity and tree identification and management. The fourth graders enjoyed trying their hand at archery too. We extend our thanks to the fourth grade tour hosts and presenters: Dena Early, Louise Denham, Steve Jacks and Randy Smith, Pheasants Forever, Logan Co Chapter, Vert Molitor, Indian Lake State Park Naturalist, Adam Smith, Logan County Wildlife Officer, Chad Grote, Marion County Wildlife Officer, Steve McGinnis, Division of Forestry Service Forester, Karen Norris, Wildlife Communications Specialist, Logan County Electric Cooperative, and Robert Walker and Catherine Eastman, Grey Oaks Tree Plantation.

A big "thank you" to Tamplin Trust and Milroy Foundation for sponsoring the School Day materials and to all who participated in educating Logan County students about farm life, agriculture and conservation.

To be commended are the students and teachers from the Ohio Hi-Point Career Center FFA/Animal Management Technology and Professional Turf and Landscape classes, The Benjamin Logan FFA students and teachers, and the Ridgemont FFA. They were essential to keeping the student activities moving smoothly.

This day would not have been possible if not for Logan County Electric Cooperative who obtained funding for bussing for the schools.

Thank you to our gracious hosts: Jim & Leslie Warne, Don, Virginia, Tim and Lynn Miller, the Wenger Family, the Henry Family, Robert Walker and Catherine Eastman. A lot of hard work and

dedication went into preparing for this tour.

Thank you to the tour sponsors:

- Logan County Cooperative
- Farm Credit Services
- Heritage Cooperative

- Indian Lake Watershed Project
- Logan County Farm Bureau



Adam Smith, ODNR State Wildlife Officer, Logan County, instructing students about the fine art of archery at Grey Oak's Tree Plantation.



1st grade students making seed charms at Wenger's Produce.

LOGAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



The Logan Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Employees would like to thank Logan County Farm Bureau for collaborating with Logan SWCD to hold our Annual Meetings together and also for their continued support.

WHAT IS A 0.5% SALES TAX?

This one-half percent sales tax is collected at the cash register on any taxable item purchased in Logan County. For example: If you purchase an item for \$100.00, the 1/2% sales tax collected for roads and bridges will be 50 cents.

SALES TAX FOR ROADS & BRIDGES 5-YEAR RENEWAL PLAN

The Commissioner passed Resolution #235-11 to place the sale tax initiative on the ballot for a five-year renewal to commence collecting in July 2012 for the following:

- 60% is to be used for County Roads & Bridges
- 16% is to be used for Municipal Roads & Bridges
- 16% is to be used for Township Roads & Bridges
- 8% is to be used for long-term Economic Development

Sales Tax Renewal Plan

- Maintain & preserve the highway system
- Complete the surface paving courses of the remaining roads in 2012 and 2013
- Resurface all major collector roads
- Restore Bridge 21-1.00 in state fiscal year 2015
- Resurface on a 20 year cycle
- Implement pavement preservation sealants on all resurfacing to extend life expectancy
- Slurry seal resurfacing projects to extend life expectancy & improve wearing surface deficiencies
- Replacement, rehabilitation, preservation and protective coating of bridges

Municipal Sales Tax

The municipal sales tax is divided among the city of Bellefontaine and the villages within Logan based on population counts. Bellefontaine received 58% of the municipal funding based on this division. These funds are dedicated to municipal roads and bridges.

Economic Development

The Logan County Commissioner have stated that they plan to use this funding to support the following agencies

- The Ohio State University Extension Office of Logan County
- Logan Soil & Water Conservation District
- Greater Logan County area economic development

The Ohio State University Extension Office of Logan County

OSU Extension services make our lives better...

- By helping our children succeed in school and life
- By helping our largest industry, agriculture, adapt and thrive in a changing world
- By helping our families and communities grow & grow stronger
- By bringing resources of the Ohio State University to the citizens of Logan County

Logan Soil & Water Conservation District

- Assists with USDA Farm Bill Programs
- Rural & urban drainage assistance
- Group drainage project planning & assistance
- Farmland Preservation assistance

2011 Conservation Programs and Technical Activities

The following conservation programs have provided funding for technical assistance and financial assistance for the implementation of conservation practices. Logan Soil and Water Conservation District (Logan SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance. Farm Service Agency administers the government programs with the exception of EQIP and CSP which is administered by NRCS.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -628 contracts, 8,865 acres, \$786,027.00 to Logan County producers.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) – 2 easements, 861 acres, \$ 2,177,816.00; also 6 applications involving 1,189.2 acres.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – 5 contracts, 2,726 acres, \$26,933.00.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program Forestry (EQIP Forestry) -1 contract, 40 acres, \$16,693.00

Conservation Security Program (CSP) – 3 contracts, 766.7 acres, \$122,810.00

CONCLUSION: **13,258.70 acres in conservation programs in 2011**

\$ 3,130,279.00 brought in to Logan County in 2011 from conservation programs

With technical assistance from Logan SWCD

Waterways planned – 41, 33,900 ft.

Cost Estimate of waterways - \$280,000.00

Estimated tons of soil saved by the installation of waterways– 4,476 tons

Pond site investigations -6

Manure Investigations – 8 –This does not include follow-up visits and correspondence with agencies and landowners

Drainage Investigations -23 -46.5 hours

Group Ditch Projects -2 –total of 41 hours

Urban -17.5 hrs.

Contracted with Logan County EMS Association – created maps and notebooks for the Sheriff's Department, each squad and fire department to use for communication for locations of runs in the county.

Logan County Land Trust – Assisted with 7 applications for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program

2011 Top of Ohio Drive It Yourself Tour – Served on the Tour committee, compiled teacher and student packets for 812 students and 38 students; coordinated the conservation school day stop – 13 4th grade Logan County classes, including 285 students

Logan SWCD 2011 Tree Sale-2,680 seedlings sold, 16 wildflower packets, 12 tree protectors

“It is the goal of Logan Soil and Water Conservation District to promote stewardship of soil, water and other natural resources.”

In 1943, Logan Soil and Water Conservation District was formed by a group of landowners to assist farmers in dealing with cropland erosion and soils after issues resulting from the Dust Bowl or the “Dirty Thirties” that occurred in the United States and Canada in the 1930’s. Millions of acres of farmland became useless, and hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes.

Soil and water conservation districts are the only local agencies that are dedicated to protecting and conserving natural resources and providing direct technical support to agricultural businesses, local governments and other landowners.

According to the Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning, Logan County consists of 458.5 square miles with 52.81% of cropland, 8.70% of pasture, 31.01% of forest, and 2.11% of wetlands. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture (the latest completed), Logan County had 956 farms, equaling 201,306 acres of Logan County in agriculture.

The Logan SWCD Board is governed by a board of 5 locally elected officials, who are familiar with the county’s resource needs and supervise staff to specifically deliver a tailor-made conservation program – and also receive no salary.

Logan SWCD provides assistance to urban, rural and agricultural land users, specializing in soil erosion prevention and water management. We work with farmers through a voluntary cooperative agreement. Services include survey and design of:

- Grassed waterways
- Erosion control structures
- Surface and subsurface drainage
- Farm ponds
- Windbreaks
- Livestock waste management facilities

On the urban side, Logan SWCD works with local governments, business developers, property owners, etc. to assist in the following areas:

- Stream channel and floodplain erosion
- Watershed action planning and implementation
- Storm water/land use management development and education
- Inspection of detention/ retention pond
- Farmland Preservation and Conservation Easements
- Floodplain management regulation

Working agreements among all 88 local SWCD’s include ODNR –Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

- Logan SWCD identifies and prioritizes natural resource concerns;
- The State provides administrative, financial and training support; and
- The Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service provides the technical standards by which all partners abide.

By supporting strong partnerships, conservation practices reach thousands of Ohioans every day. This partnership has been used as a template for formal and informal working agreements between Logan SWCD and other conservation partners:

- Pheasants Forever
- US Fish & Wildlife
- The Ohio State University Extension office
- Conservancy Districts
- Logan County Land Trust
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Department of Agriculture