

CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District

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www.meigsswcd.com

Winter 2024

Freeman Named Technician of the year



Meigs SWCD watershed coordinator/technician Jim Freeman was named Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area 5 Technician of the Year for 2023.

Jim was hired on as Meigs SWCD Wildlife Specialist/Watershed Coordinator in 2000. Jim was called to active duty for the military from October 2004 to January 2006. In August, 2020 he was appointed to his current position.

“Jim is rarely ever found sitting,” said Meigs SWCD District Administrator Jenny Ridenour. “You may find him out at our 172– acre Conservation area located off of New Lima in Rutland, doing trail maintenance and regular upkeep on the trails. If not there, maybe working at our new equipment building where he’s responsible for upkeep on the equipment and delivery of the rentals including, two lime spreaders, two John Deere no-till Drills, a Haybuster no till drill, a Brillion seeder, and a tree planter.

“Jim is an invaluable member of the Meigs SWCD team, and always jumping in to help whenever someone else in the office needs something.

He teaches hunter education. Jim has taught over 40 classes since 1995. Along with hunter education he collects the deer heads for the CWD testing every year and helps with any crop or wildlife related issues.

“Jim has done all of these duties among other things while serving his country in the Army Reserves for 37 years but will finish his career on December 31st with 38 years and 1 day. We can’t say enough how thankful we are to have him working with us here at the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District.”

SWCD Bids Farewell to Litter Project

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is saying farewell to the Meigs County – Pick It Up! Program which was started in 2014 and officially ends at the end of this year.

The Pick It Up! Program was administered by the Meigs SWCD in cooperation with the Meigs County Board of Commissioners, the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs-Vinton Solid Waste Management District, and later the Meigs County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the program was implemented to help clean alongside county and township roads along with selected illegal dump sites.

During its 10-year lifespan, workers under the program picked up 13,513 bags of litter and collected 2,982 tires from along 3,637 miles of combined county and township roads (both sides of the road). Meigs County has approximately 765 miles of county and township roads with township roads making up roughly 505 miles.

In addition, workers cleaned or recleaned 109 illegal dumpsites throughout the county. The total cost of the program over its 10-year span was \$169,715.

To put those figures into perspective, that’s a distance roughly equivalent to driving from Pomeroy to Salt Lake City, and back again, all right here in Meigs County, and if we assume an average tire is 8 inches thick, imagine a stack of tires, neatly stacked on their sides, making a stack roughly 1,990 feet tall – or 200 feet taller than the new World Trade Center in New York City.

The Pick It Up! Program had its roots in the old county recycling program. The Meigs County Office of Recycling and Litter Prevention closed in 2011, with the Meigs SWCD taking over recycling in 2012 and 2013. During those two years the program collected over 1,135,662 pounds or nearly 568 tons of recyclable material, which is more than 14 fully loaded semi-trucks.

Rumpke of Ohio began running the recycling program in Meigs County in January, 2014 under a new contract with the GJMV Solid Waste District, replacing the wooden recycling sheds with drop-off containers that do not require people to sort the recyclable materials.

The mission 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.

Winter Application of Manure in Ohio



Columbus, Ohio— Most producers have had the needed dry weather this fall to get livestock manure applied to fields. However, a wetter than normal corn crop and full elevators. Did delay corn harvest longer than normal in some areas. For livestock producers waiting on frozen ground to apply manure, here are some things to keep in mind. Frozen ground would be soil that you cannot inject the manure into or cannot conduct tillage within 24 hours to incorporate the manure.

Permitted farms are not allowed to apply manure in the winter unless it is an extreme emergency, and then movement to other suitable storage is usually the selected alternative. Several commercial manure applicators have established manure storage ponds in recent years to help address this issue.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Code 590 was revised in 2020 and now applies statewide in Ohio. It states the surface application of manure on frozen and snow-covered soil is not acceptable. An emergency exists as a temporary situation due to unforeseen causes and after all other options have been exhausted. In this situation only limited quantities of liquid manure shall be applied to address manure storage limitations until non frozen soils are available for manure application. All applications of liquid manure to frozen and snow-covered soils must be documented in the producers' records and must be applied in accordance to all the following criteria:


- The rate of application shall not exceed the lesser of 5,000 gallons/acre or P removal for the next crop.
- Applications are to be made on land with at least 90% surface residue cover (cover crop, good quality hay or pasture field, all corn grain residue remaining after harvest, all wheat residue cover remaining after harvest).
- Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous area. Contiguous areas for application are to be separated by a break of at least 200 feet.
- Apply manure to areas of the field with the lowest risk of nutrient transport such as areas furthest from streams, ditches, waterways, with the least amount of slope.
- Application setback distance must be a minimum of 200 feet from grassed waterways, surface drainage ditches, streams, surface inlets, water bodies and 300 feet minimum from all wells, springs, and public surface drinking water intakes. The distance may need to be further increased due to local conditions.
- For fields exceeding 6% slope manure shall be applied in alternating strips 60 to 200 feet wide generally on the contour, or in the case of contour strips on the alternating strips.

For farmers with solid manure, stockpiling could be an option. There are two different types of stockpiles: Short term and long term.

The short term stockpile information can be found in NRCS FOTG 318 Short term Storage of Animal Waste and By-products Standard. Essentially, short term stockpile is a pile of solid manure that is being kept temporarily in one or more locations. It is considered a temporary stockpile as long as the pile is kept at the location for no more than 180 days and stockpiled in the field where the manure shall be applied. Setback distances listed in NRCS 318 should be followed to prevent discharge to waters of the state. There are multiple recommendations listed in NRCS 318 that speaks to location, timing, and preventative measures that should be taken while stockpiling the manure short term. The long term stockpile information can be found in NRCS FOTG 313 Water Storage Facility Standard. Long term stockpile is directly related to solid manure being piled and kept at a facility for longer than 180 days at a permanent location. It is recommended that all permanent long term storage stockpiles should be following the guidelines in NRCS 313 with the utilization of stacking facility and the structural designs of fabricated structures. A stacking facility can be open, covered or roofed, but specific parameters should be in place to prevent manure runoff from the site. These recommendations are listed in the NRCS 313.

*Regardless of your county, it's probably best to check with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office before considering winter manure application in Ohio. The rules have changed and you should become aware of those that affect your operation.

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Environmental Quality Incentive Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.



Benefits: Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement farm improvements, also known as conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

Program at a Glance: NRCS will help you develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision. This plan becomes your roadmap for selecting the right conservation practices for your land. NRCS offers about 200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests. NRCS financial assistance can cover part of the costs of implementing conservation practices.

Who is Eligible? Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Convention and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and Wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers
- Livestock operations



All applications submitted before February 16, 2024 will be considered for funding in the 2024 funding cycle.

For more information, please contact the office, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or email kevin.lewis@usda.gov.



Agronomy Update Athens– Meigs-Morgan-Washington

Join the Meigs OSU Extension for the second annual Corn and Soybean growers meeting to gain some information to help plan for the coming growing season. There is no cost for this event. To register call their office at 740-992-6696 or online at <https://go.osu.edu/SEcrops>. The deadline to register is January 19th.

It's being held **January 23, 2023**

Time: **8:30-12:15** with lunch provided

Location: Napoli's Pizza, 717 Main Street, Belpre, OH 45714



SWCD equipment for sale, rent

The following items are available for sale (not including applicable sales tax):

Marking Flags — \$.20 each
 Topographical Maps — \$8 each
 Ohio Pond Management Handbooks — Free
 Digital Soil Survey CD—\$10 each
 'Leading from the Past—Stories of Leading Creek' Book—\$15



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

John Deere Drill (10-foot)	\$110 min. plus \$11/acre over 10 acres	85 HP < 6,900 lbs min
Haybuster Drill (7 foot)	\$110 min. plus \$11/acre over 10 acres	45 HP < 3,600 lbs min
Brillion Seeder (8-foot)	\$100 min. plus \$10/acre over 10 acres	40 HP tractor min.
Lime Spreader	\$80 min. plus \$2/ton over 40 tons	60 HP tractor min.
Forester Tree Planter	\$50 per day	25 HP tractor min.
Planter Bars	Free with \$50 returnable deposit	
Box Trap	Free with \$40 returnable deposit	\$5/day after 2 weeks

A \$100 delivery/pickup fee will be assessed for equipment rentals out-side of the county. No out-of-state rentals.

All equipment rentals must be scheduled through the Meigs SWCD office at (740)992-4282 during regular business hours for delivery Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. A rental equipment agreement and tax-exempt form (if applicable) must be on file. Prices listed do not include sales tax. Prices subject to change.

The minimum 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.

*Joe & Janet
Bolin and Family*

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Meigs SWCD Calendar of Events

Regular meetings of the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors are generally held at 11:30 a.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at the SWCD office, 113 E Memorial Drive, Suite D, Pomeroy. Dates and times are subject to change.

Jan. 11th— Regular Board Meeting

Jan. 15th— MLK Day (office closed)

Jan. 23— Partnership Meeting (office closed)

Feb. 19th—Washington's Birthday (office
closed)

Feb. 22nd—Regular Board Meeting

March 28th— Regular Board Meeting

April 25th— Regular Board Meeting

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at the Meigs SWCD!
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