

May 2009

The Conservation Express

Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District

Volume 2, Issue 1

Thank You To Our County Commissioners

The Supervisors and Staff of Fayette Soil & Water Conservation District wish to express their appreciation for the continued support for local conservation provided by Fayette County Commissioners Tony Anderson, Jack DeWeese, and Bob Peterson. County financial contributions draw matching funds from the State of Ohio. Fayette SWCD uses these monies to provide conservation technical assistance, information, and education to all Fayette County residents.

Fayette SWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio governed by a locally elected five member board of supervisors. It works on a voluntary, cooperative basis to insure the viability of Fayette County's natural resources through local leadership and community partnerships.

District Holds Safety Training

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District and the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District recently hosted a Trenching and Safety Awareness workshop at the Fayette Agriculture Service Center. Contractors and Public Employees from surrounding counties took advantage of the safety course. Jerry Peters of Mid Ohio Safety Consulting presented the safety program for the day.

Those in attendance were updated on OSHA standards and how they are applied to the jobs found commonly in the county. Pat Ernst, USDA-NRCS Area Engineer and Terry Mescher, ODNR-DSWC Engineer were on hand to answer questions regarding farm bill programs and site safety. Those in attendance received a certificate of attendance for the three hour training. If you have any questions about the programs the FSWCD offers please call 740-636-0279.



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2009

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Marchant Ditch SB160 Work of Improvement Report

Bob Groff, FSWCD Drainage Coordinator

The Marchant Ditch Project has now been completed under budget and on time!

We are pleased to report that this project is completed and will be a great benefit to all the landowners who are located in this watershed area of Jasper Township. The project area contained over 875 acres and will mean advantages to the land, owners, and operators resulting from improvements in drainage, conservation, control and management of water, and environmental aspects. The final inspection met approval by FSWCD, NRCS, and the County Engineer's office and was accepted into the county ditch maintenance program on March 24, 2009.

This project was requested under a SB160 petition to the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District, under provisions of Section 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. The filing of a SB160 petition requires specific procedural steps to ensure the project meets all legal and construction guidelines. A review of the earliest historical records for Marchant Ditch date back to 1897. At that time the subsurface clay tile was installed from an outlet on Grassy Branch to the upper terminus, northwest of Pearson-Octa road. The original records show that the clay tile installed ranged from 10 to 18 inches in diameter and included an assessed watershed area of 832 acres. This clay tile, in new condition, would only drain 157 acres at the standard drainage coefficient for subsurface drainage design of 3/8". Note!! The standard drainage coefficient of 3/8" equates to draining 3/8 inches of rainfall from the land in a twenty-four hour period.

A public viewing of the site of the proposed work of improvement was conducted on December 13, 2005. The area in question was flat, had minimal slope for allowing adequate surface drainage, and did show evidence of extensive flooding. Further investigation near Grassy Branch revealed that three Texas Eastern and one Teppco gas pipelines crossed the proposed project area. This required close cooperation with the current pipeline representatives and preplanning for the anticipated new REX pipeline. At the northern reaches of the ditch, near Pearson-Octa Road, many large blow holes (photo) were discovered and evidence of substantial loss of top soil was documented. It was decided that an improvement to the drainage situation was clearly needed for Marchant Ditch.



Photo dated 3/29/2006
Blow hole location (#1)

Marchant Ditch SB160 Work of Improvement Report Continued,

The FSWCD Board of Supervisors met on April 4, 2007 and approved the petition for the Marchant Ditch Improvement. Work immediately commenced on the project with a detailed survey, soil tests, watershed delineation, identification of landowner parcels and the development of preliminary plans and specifications. A public hearing was held on August 14, 2007 and design plans were presented which called for the replacement of the current failing clay tile main with a new 18 inch perforated smooth wall tile. Watershed and parcel maps were presented under this design in agreement with O.R.C. § 1515 and used to develop the preliminary assessment report of benefited acres. The Supervisors stated that on inspection of the information presented, the benefits of the project are reasonably certain to exceed the estimated costs. The improvement was deemed necessary and the motion was made to submit the required documents for certification to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners on May 19, 2008 passed the resolution approving construction of the Marchant Ditch Improvement and authorized FSWCD Board of Supervisors to proceed to prepare bid documents for construction. Competitive bids were reviewed and the lowest and best bidder was selected. Contracts were signed by the successful bidder on October 28, 2008 and construction was started on November 12, 2008. A final construction check was completed by FSWCD, NRCS, and the County Engineer's staff and the Certificate of Completion was issued in accordance with the approved contract, plans, and specifications on December 15, 2008.



Photo dated 3/29/2009

Blow hole location (#1)

Drainage- What is it worth? Not only does it pay to properly drain the land with increases in crop production, but many other benefits must be considered, such as improvement in soil tilth and permeability which may not be evident for several years.

New Employee at the District



My name is Larry Fleak, and I am the new District Conservation at the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District. I was born and raised in Fayette County and graduated from Miami Trace High School. My background experience in excavation ties into what I do at the District. Larry says, "I really enjoy working with the staff and am looking forward to working here."

Upcoming Dates

May 5, 2009– Area IV Envirothon

June 16, 2009– FSWCD Annual Planning Meeting

June 20, 2009– Women in the Outdoors, **for more information please contact Kathryn Smith at 740-335-1012**

July 20-24– IDEA Workshop, Educators workshop. **For more information please contact the office at 740-636-0279.**

July 27-31– Fayette County Fair

September 8, 2009– Fayette SWCD Supervisor Elections and Annual Meeting

Fayette SWCD, a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, is funded by the Fayette County Commissioners and the General Assembly. The District cooperates with many local, state and federal conservation agencies. The District is administered by a board of five locally elected supervisors which helps coordinate the efforts of all of these agencies to address local resource issues.

FSWCD is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.