

CONVERSATION

Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District

1206 E. Second St., Suite 2 Ottawa, OH 45875 Phone: 419-523-5159

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- District Technician II
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- Ag Nutrient Technician
- Sarah Rieman
- Office Assistant
- Sandra Springer
- Multi-Co. Ag Technician

NRCS Staff

- Brian Thomas
- District Conservationist

Maintaining your Sewage Treatment System

It is estimated that there are over 1000 household sewage treatment systems operating in Putnam County. Just like your house roof or car, your Sewage Treatment System (STS) requires care, maintenance, upgrades and possible replacement. If systems are maintained and cared for, they could last 30 or more years. However, failing systems contribute to the contamination in streams, ditches and rivers. Here are a few ideas that may assist in maintaining your system:

- **Conserving water!** All water that is used in your house must travel through your system and be received by the soil for final treatment. Water conservation may include; repair leaks, installing water conserving fixtures or spacing out water usage throughout the day and week.
- **Landscaping** It is extremely important to protect the soil absorption area of the treatment system due to its importance in the treatment process. Trees and plants with aggressive root systems should not be planted closer than 25 feet from the soil absorption area. Heavy equipment should not be parked or driven across the area. Also, additional fill should not be put over the soil absorption area. This can reduce the infiltration of air into the soil.

*Article written by: Brandi Schrader,
Putnam County Health Department

- **Pumping Septic Tank** The purpose of a septic tank is to allow for the settling of the solids from the effluent before traveling to the soil absorption area. Due to continual use and the accumulation of solids, pumping your tank is necessary before the system backs-up. Once a system backs-up, the damage has already been done. The frequency that your tank needs pumped depends on the size of the tank and the numbers of individuals using it. Septic tanks should never be entered for evaluation or repair due to the risks associated.

New STS regulations became effective January 1, 2015 and require all sewage treatment systems to be maintained under an operational permit through the local health department. These new standards have allowed for new and better methods to treat sewage. This in return will assist in protecting the health of our citizens and environment. The Putnam County Health Department is here to assist by providing guidance and advice to homeowners.

The Putnam County Health Department applied for 2015 and 2016 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) monies. Our county was fortunate to receive \$400,000 in funding to assist in the repair or replacement of household sewage treatment systems. To be eligible the home must be owner occupied and meet income guidelines. For additional information on this program or to see if you qualify, please contact the health department at 419-523-5608.

Blanchard River Maintenance - Dead Tree Removal Project

Crews will begin work this summer removing dead trees along the banks of the Blanchard River. They will start at the Hancock-Putnam county line and work their way west as weather permits. For those landowners who own property along the river, postcards will be mailed later this spring with more details as well as when work is scheduled to begin in their area. Any questions can be directed to the Soil and Water office.



Upcoming Events

- April 14
Tree Pick-Up at SWCD Office
- April 26
Monthly Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- April 27
Area 1 Envirothon - Paulding County
- May 24
Monthly Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- May 30
Memorial Day - Office Closed
- June 20-25
Putnam County Fair
- June 28
Monthly Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

● SAVE THE DATE ● AUGUST 13, 2016 ●

AG TOUR 2016

- * *Innovation*
- * *Education*
- * *Celebration*

Bus Tour around Putnam County highlighting current agricultural practices.
* Open to Public *

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Come See Us at the Putnam County Fair!!
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FREE POPCORN! June 20th - June 25th
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 We will be in the agriculture tent, north of the animal barns. Come check us out to vote for our Photo Contest and participate in other exciting activities.
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Ohio Nutrient Management Record Keeper



OnMrk App

CHECK IT OUT!!

This NEW mobile app available FREE on all smartphones/tablets helps famers to comply with the new state water quality nutrient management laws. The ONMRK app features drop-down menus that make it easy and quick for farmers to record their fertilizer or manure application as well as record the current weather conditions and forecast for the next 24 hours. After setting up the ONMRK app on their mobile device, farmers can easily record what nutrients they apply on their farms and fields. It uses a GPS system to pinpoint exactly where farmers are on their acreage and give an accurate report instantly.

EQIP Funding Opportunity

New 3-year initiative has begun for WLEB farmers to help aid in the improving of water quality. The initiative will help farmers implement science-based conservation measures to reduce runoff from farms entering waterways. WLEB area farmers have already made great strides in helping to reduce runoff, and with this new investment, they will be able to do even more. The WLEB Initiative sign-up began March 29 and runs through Friday, April 29. Financial assistance will help farmers apply selected conservation practices shown to help water quality, adding gypsum to soil, implementing conservation tillage or no-till systems, installing agricultural drainage water management systems, and implementing nutrient management plans. Funding will be through EQIP contracts at the NRCS office. They can be contacted at 419-523-4871.



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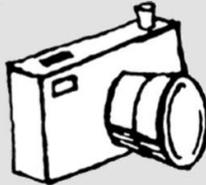
JOHN DEERE

Show us what **Agriculture** means to **YOU!!**



2016 Photo Contest

- Photo must be taken within Putnam County.
- Possible Ideas: Country Kids, Outdoor Landscape, Sunsets, Nature Scenes, Flowers, and Farm Animals.
- **1** Photo per person may be submitted. Must be a resident of Putnam County.
- All photos must be submitted electronically. By: Email - sarah.gerten@putnamcountyohio.gov, Memory Stick, or SD card
- All photos will be displayed in the Putnam Soil & Water Fair Tent and on the Facebook Page for voting.
 - All photos, used or unused, become the property of Putnam SWCD. May be featured in social media, a calendar, or on our website.



Cash Prizes Awarded:
1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$75
3rd Place - \$50

Winners will be chosen by a combination of votes at the **Putnam County Fair** June 20th - 25th

&
Total Likes on 

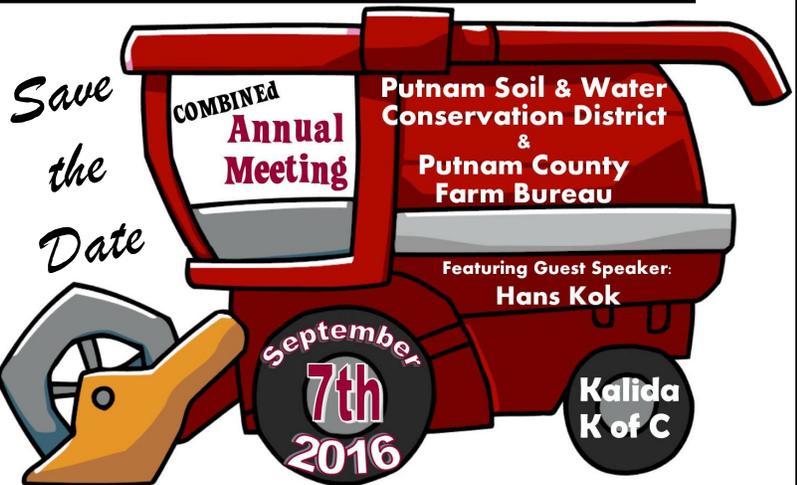
All Photos Must Be Submitted By:
June 10th, 2016

Any questions or for more information, please contact the office at 419-523-5159.



Miller City Cutoff & Pike Run Creek Watersheds

The sediment and phosphorus reduction project in the Miller City Cutoff and Pike Run Creek watersheds has been underway since Summer 2015. Many acres of cover crops and conservation tillage have already been put onto the farm. Water Control Structures are still available for cost-share opportunity. We have a waiting list for the other best management practices as funding becomes available. Contact the office today with any questions.



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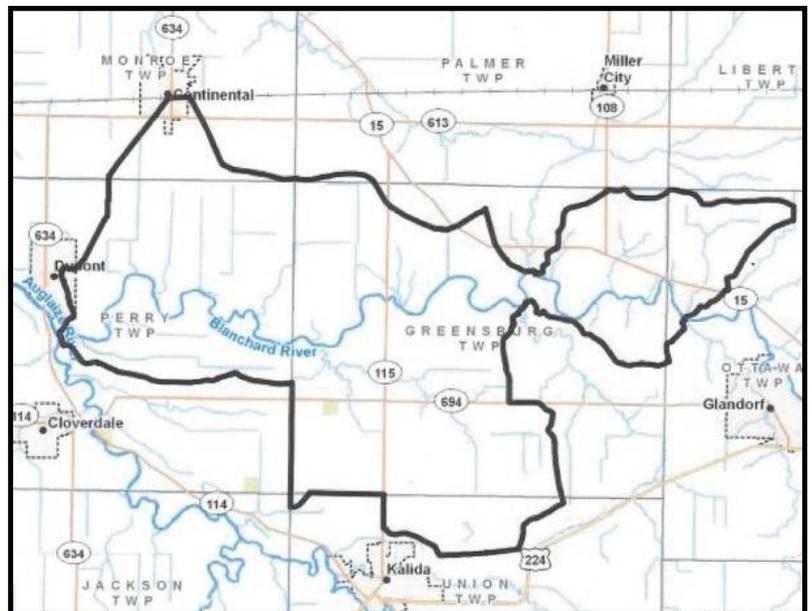
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Sediment & Nutrient Reduction in the Deer Creek Watershed

Available Cost-Share Best Management Practices

- **Cover Crops**
\$30 Flat Rate per Acre
- **Conservation Tillage**
\$8.50 Flat Rate per Acre
- **Precision Nutrient Management**
\$56.50 Flat Rate per Acre
- **Filter Areas/Buffer Strips**
Cost Share up to \$604 per Acre
- **Water Control Structures**
Cost Share up to \$1,500/each
- **Blind Inlets**
8-14 Acre Watershed
Cost Share up to \$2,500/each
- **Grassed Waterway**
Cost Share up to \$3,800 per Acre
- **Saturated Buffer**



The Putnam SWCD has been awarded a 319 Grant in the amount of \$285,638 for Sediment and Nutrient Reduction in the Deer Creek Watershed. Official sign-up begins **July 1, 2016**. If you have land in the proposed watershed and would like more information, please contact the office as we will start a wait list for best management practices available. This grant will aid farmers in reducing sediment and nutrients to help the water quality of Lake Erie.