

CONVERSATION

Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District

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

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- Albert Maag
- Technical Manager

- Roger Rieman
- EWP, Part Time

NRCS Staff

- Brian Thomas
- District Conservationist
- Dominic Goshe
- Resource Conservationist



GREAT Lakes Restoration Initiative Nutrient Reduction Program

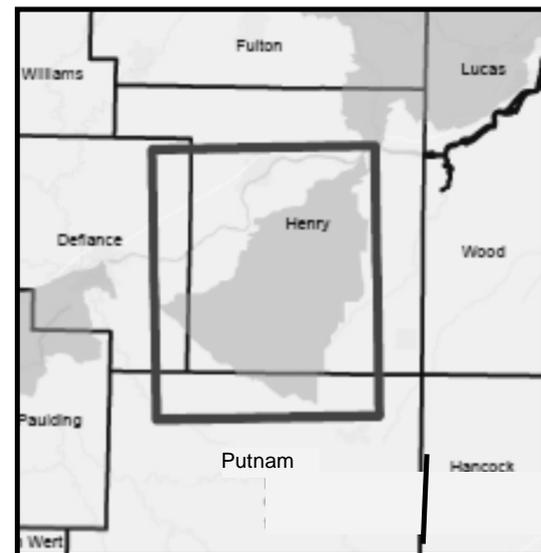
Ohio's Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Resources has a new conservation program for local farmers and landowners to participate in that will help improve water quality in Lake Erie. This Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has approved funding to help combat the recent harmful algal blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie. This program aims at reducing the phosphorus loading, including dissolved phosphorus loading from agricultural landscapes in the Maumee River to waters into the western basin of the lake.

The program will be targeted to four specific watersheds in the western basin that lie within parts of nine counties. The selected watersheds are: South Turkeyfoot Creek, Flat Rock Creek-Auglaize River, Bad Creek-Swan Creek and Rock Creek-Sandusky River. South Turkeyfoot Creek is the area eligible for funding in Putnam County.

The GLRI-NRP is a voluntary program that reimburses farmers to implement and install the best management practices available. In addition to reducing runoff of nutrients and pesticides, the practices will allow farmers to manage and maintain the water from their fields after harvest and during the growing season, ultimately enhancing production.

Best management practices that will be available for funding include:

- Precision Fertilizer Placement & Cover Crop System
- Soil Testing
- Cover Crops
- Controlled Drainage Structures
- Manure Storage & Roofing



For more information and to get signed up, contact the Soil & Water office at 419-523-5159.

What about Application of Manure/Nutrients to Frozen and Snow Covered Soils?

The rules states any discharge of nutrients into a ditch or stream is a violation and will be investigated

Currently, there is plenty of talk about changing the regulations for applying fertilizer and or manure on frozen and snow covered soils. I anticipate this will happen in 2015.

Today, permitted livestock operations must follow ODA rules which state no application of manure on frozen and snow covered ground. Application of manure on frozen and snow covered soils is not recommended for non-permitted livestock operations. However, if manure application becomes necessary on frozen or snow covered soils below is a list of recommended management practices to implement.

Application rate is limited to 10 wet tons/acre for solid manure. For liquid manure the application rate limited to 5,000 gallons/acre.

Applications are to be made on land with at least 90% surface residue cover.

Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres. Contiguous areas for application are to be separated by a break of at least 200 feet.

Increase the application setback distance to 200 feet "minimum from all grassed waterways, surface drainage ditches, streams, surface inlets and water bodies.

Manure application with incorporation is allowed, because the soil is not considered frozen.

Soil Probe Available

Plan on taking soil tests this Spring? Stop by the office and use our soil probe for an easier, more accurate sample. It is FREE to use upon availability.



Strip-Till Plot Results

The District was awarded a Conservation Innovative Grant (CIG) to put out 5 plots over the course of 2 years. Soil types included: Roselms Silty Clay Loam, Lenawee Silt Loam, Paulding Clay, Hoytville Silty Clay, and Lenawee Silty Clay. Bushels /acre and moisture were compared between the two test plots. Below are the average results over the 5 test plots. For a more in-depth comparison, visit the SWCD office.

	<u>Strip-Till with Deep Placement Fertilizer</u>	<u>No Strips—Surface Broadcast Fertilizer</u>
2013 Average	210.7 Bushels/Ac	207.9 Bushels/Ac
2014 Average	216.0 Bushels/Ac	216.0 Bushels/Ac

Blanchard River Maintenance

The office continues to administer the Blanchard River and Ottawa River maintenance programs. The staff is planning more work to commence late this winter, weather permitting. As always, we are interested in knowing the locations of any logjams that you may see in or along the river.



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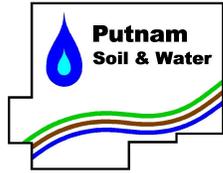
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2015 TREE ORDER



<u>Tree Varieties</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
10 Colorado Blue Spruce	___	\$ 8.00	_____
10 Norway Spruce	___	\$ 8.00	_____
10 Scotch Pine	___	\$ 8.00	_____
10 Austrian Pine	___	\$ 8.00	_____
10 White Pine	___	\$ 8.00	_____
10 American Arborvitae	___	\$ 8.00	_____
1 Black Walnut	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Red Oak	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Sugar Maple	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Red Maple	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Common Lilac	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Eastern Redbud	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 White Flowering Dogwood	___	\$ 2.00	_____
1 Tulip Popular	___	\$ 2.00	_____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

All orders and checks due **March 6, 2015** to:
Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District
 1206 E. Second St. Suite 2
 Ottawa, OH 45875

Upcoming Events



January 14-18 National No-Till Conference (Cincinnati)

January 22
Agronomy Night (Kalida K of C)

January 27
Monthly Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

February 24
Monthly Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

March 6
Tree Orders Due

March 24
Monthly Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

March 28
Farmers Care Breakfast (Glandorf)

Putnam SWCD Scholarship

Putnam SWCD is offering a Scholarship to High School Seniors in Putnam County. Applications can be picked up at the Soil and Water Office during business hours or through your high school guidance counselor.

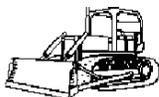
Applicants must have a 2.5 high school grade point average, be enrolled for the 2015 fall semester at a 2 or 4 year college institution, and also major in agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, or a closely related field.

Applications are due **April 17, 2015**.

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Tom and Jean Forster

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**Farmers Care
 Breakfast**

March 28th
 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited the 5th annual breakfast featuring pancakes, locally raised eggs, sausage, Danishes, coffee, milk and orange juice. No reservation needed; we will serve until we are out of food! Come and enjoy a great opportunity to learn more about agriculture in Putnam County.

Breakfast will be served at the Glandorf Community Center cafeteria (old elementary school)

Donations will be accepted

**2015
 Recycling Schedule**

Weekly Bin Schedule

Kalida - 1st full week of month
 Continental - 2nd week
 Leipsic - 3rd week
 Columbus Grove - 4th week

** Bins are always open daily at Walmart parking lot **

