



Conservation Almanac

Website: www.ashtabulaswcd.org

Newsletter 313

December, 2009

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Start Planning Now for EQIP Cost Incentives

The USDA NRCS offers a yearly sign-up for cost incentives through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. The EQIP program offers landowner the opportunity to receive significant cost reimbursements for many conservation practices on the farm.

The collection period for applications will be announced in February of 2010. Applications are then ranked and selected for contract funding. After contracting, NRCS provides all of the needed design assistance and construction oversight. Interested landowners should begin the planning process now to obtain soil samples and other background information for the application.

Horse Stables - Many horse farms in the county have used EQIP assistance to install Waste Storage Structures and Heavy Use Areas. Waste Storage Structures allow for better storage and handling of wastes. Heavy Use Areas, also called all weather paddocks, help maintain pastures in poor weather conditions by providing an all weather surface for horse turn out.

Nursery and Specialty Crops - Last year was the first opportunity to receive irrigation assistance. EQIP funds are now used to help producers convert to the more efficient micro-irrigation techniques. Pumps, filters and all conveyance lines are a part of the project that can reduce water needs and runoff significantly.

Dairy, Beef and Other Livestock - Many producers have used EQIP assistance to install fencing, waterlines and water sources to develop intensive grazing systems. A significant increase in forage production is realized by frequently moving livestock to fresh paddocks with fresh water available in all areas. Waste Storage Structures, Access Roads, Stream Crossings all are common practices.

Grain Crops - Producers are realizing increased profits by changing to more efficient nutrient management techniques. GPS driven precision farming and other nutrient management multi year incentive practices are helping to place crop nutrients where they are needed most.

Woodland Owners - Many woodland owners have used EQIP funds to complete needed grapevine removal or crop tree release work, promoting forest health.

USDA Conservation Program Announcements Expected in February.

Details on the 2010 conservation programs should be announced in February. Though producers can apply for the programs all year long, the program details and collection periods will be announced after January 1st. Some of the programs available include:

Wetland Reserve Program - WRP provides significant financial incentives to restore farmed or converted wetlands and provides one time payments for conservation easement on these sensitive areas.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - WHIP provides significant incentives to restore or create wetlands. Monies are also used to create nesting habitat with warm season grasses and to control invasive species.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP provides incentives to improve farm soil, water and related resources. Cost incentives are provided for many practices including waste storage structures, fencing, water supply, micro-irrigation and a long list of other practices that may be needed.

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP provides a per acre payment on lands where the producer has demonstrated excellent stewardship efforts and is willing to make further improvements treating farm resources.

Those who wish to apply or to learn more about the program are invited to contact the Orwell USDA Service Center at 1-888-217-3947. Information about EQIP and other NRCS conservation programs is available on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

Happy Holidays!
Ashtabula S.W.C.D. Board of Supervisors and Staff

Special Points of Interest

Dec. 17 Board Meeting
Dec. 25 Closed-Christmas Day
Jan. 01 Closed-New Year's Day
Jan. 14 Board Meeting
Jan. 18 Closed-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

ASHTABULA SWCD
39 Wall Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047
2010 TREE SEEDLING/GROUNDCOVER SALE

Orders for the year 2010 Tree Seedling Sale will be accepted through Friday March 19, 2010 or until supplies are exhausted. Orders are taken on a first come, first served basis. *Additional order forms are available on our website at www.ashtabulaswcd.org. We are not responsible for packets not picked up on time. There are no refunds on orders of seedlings, groundcover, and flower seeds not picked up. Those orders not picked up by the following Monday will become a donation. Any unspoken for seedlings will be available for purchase on Monday.*

All orders must be picked up at the District Office between **8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Friday April 9 or between 8:00 am – 10:00 am Saturday April 10.** Full payment must accompany all orders. Please make payments to **“Ashtabula SWCD”**. *All nursery stock sold through the Ashtabula SWCD is sold “as is” without warranty, expressed or implied as to quality, variety, description, or results from customer planting. Bare root nursery stock is perishable. All orders should be immediately and carefully taken to planting site to ensure the highest percent of survival as possible. Extra measures should be taken to avoid exposure to sun and wind while planting. All sales are final with no guarantee of survival.*

- Packet 1- White Pine:** (25 per pkt.) 3-yr seedlings (6-10”) Excellent for windbreak and hedges.
- Packet 2- Colorado Blue Spruce:** (25 per pkt.) 3-yr seedlings (10-18”) Used for landscape, windbreaks, reforestation and Christmas trees
- Packet 3- Norway Spruce:** (25 per pkt.) 3-yr seedlings (10-20”) Used for Christmas trees, ornamentals, timber and windbreaks.
- Packet 4- Scotch Pine:** (25 per pkt.) 3-yr seedlings (12-16”) Hardy, short needle, blue-green.
- Packet 5-White Spruce:** (25 per pkt.) 3-yr seedlings (8-12”) Thrives in well drained or moist soil. It can endure heat and drought better than others. Extremely hardy and grows to 50 ft. Stiff needles are light bluish-green usually less than 1” in length.
- Packet 6- Canadian Hemlock:** (10 per pkt.) 4-year seedlings (16-20”) Likes moist well-drained soil. Grows 70 feet; spreads 35 feet.
- Packet 7- Pin Oak:** (5 per pkt) 2-yr (12-18”) Native tree with fast growth 75’ in good soil. Acorns are good wildlife food. Excellent specimen as a lawn tree. Will tolerate wet soil but prefers moist rich, acidic well drained soil.
- Packet 8- Swamp White Oak:** (5 per pkt.) 2-yr seedling (1-2’) Grows 50 to 60’ in height and spread. Does well in wet, swampy conditions along rivers and streams. Excellent choice for wetland plantings.
- Packet 9- Sawtooth Gobbler Oak:** (5 per pkt.) 2-yr seedling (12-18”) Grows 40-60 feet and as wide. Gobbler acorns are smaller than regular Sawtooth strains, but produce twice as many nuts. Acorns are excellent food for wildlife. Disease and insect resistant.
- Packet 10- Sugar Maple:** (5 per pkt.) 2-yr seedling (18-24”) Brilliant yellow, burnt orange and limited red tones in autumn, does not do well in wet areas.
- Packet 11- Snow-in-Summer:** (2 potted Perennials) Small, white, star-shaped flowers smother the bright, grey leaves in early summer. Blooms May -June. 6-12”, spreads 18-24” or more. Likes well drained soil. Disease and pest free; very drought tolerant.
- Packet 12- Grandi Flora Rock Cress:** (2 potted Perennials) Low growing, ground cover 4-6” in height. Spreads 12-24” making a carpet of flowers that tend to be in pink to purple tones. Blooms April-June. Plant in full sun or partial shade. Likes well drained soil. Attracts butterflies.
- Packet 13- Palace Purple Coral Bells:** (2 potted Perennials) Height of 15-18 inches; spreading 15-18 inches. Late spring sprays of tiny, pinkish white, bell shaped flowers are borne on wiry, red stems. Plant in full sun or shady woodland edge in moist soil. Attracts hummingbirds.
- Packet 14- English Ivy:** (25 per pkt.) 1-year transplants bare-rooted. Likes full sun or full shade.
- Packet 15- Pachysandra Cuttings:** (25 per pkt.) 1-year transplants bare-rooted. Grows on any soil type.
- Packet 16- Hummingbird Mix:** contains 12 varieties of annuals and biennials; will cover 75 sq. ft.
- Packet 17- Wildflower Mix:** contains 24 varieties of annuals, perennials and biennials; will cover 250 sq. ft.
- Packet 18- Bird & Butterfly Mix:** contains 17 varieties of annuals and perennials; will cover 250 sq. ft.
- Packet 19- Perennial Wildflower Mix:** contains 12 varieties of perennials; will cover 250 sq. ft.

CUT AND RETURN BOTTOM HALF OF ORDER FORM

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIPCODE _____ PHONE _____

_____ OF PACKET 1 @ \$12.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 2 @ \$12.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 3 @ \$13.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 4 @ \$11.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 5 @ \$11.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 6 @ \$10.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 7 @ \$ 8.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 8 @ \$ 8.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 9 @ \$ 8.00 EA FOR \$ _____

_____ OF PACKET 10 @ \$8.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 11 @ \$6.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 12 @ \$6.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 13 @ \$6.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 14 @ \$8.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 15 @ \$8.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 16 @ \$3.00 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 17 @ \$3.50 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 18 @ \$3.50 EA FOR \$ _____
 _____ OF PACKET 19 @ \$3.50 EA FOR \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$ _____

CASH _____ CHECK# _____ RECEIVED BY _____ DATE RECEIVED _____ RECEIPT NO. _____

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All Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Supervisor Election Results

Election of one supervisor took place at the 60th Annual Banquet Meeting on November 5, 2009. Wendell Obermyer was elected to his first term as a member of the Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. His term will commence on January 1, 2010 and runs through December 31, 2012.

Held at the Williamsfield Community Center, forty reservations were made for the banquet

which was catered by Roberta Lahti and Donna Zahn of “Catering”.

Awards presented during the evening were: The Conservationist of the Year went to Springer Farm; Grand Champion Silage Award to Lester Marrison of New Lyme Township and the Grand Champion Hay Award to Krulic Farms of Dorset Township.

Nathan Paskey, District Manager, discussed the changes that have taken place with the district over the last sixty years. He also thanked Loren Ring for his 26 years of service

to the board. Loren is retiring at the end of December with the Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

We wish to thank Chutas Farm and Western Reserve Farm Cooperative, Inc. for their continued sponsorship of the Grand Champion Hay and Silage Awards.

An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District
39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137 Phone: 440-576-4946 FAX: 440-576-9546

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Board of Supervisors

Robin Boggs - Chairman
Robert Wilson - Vice Chairman
Ron Smoker - Secretary
Loren Ring - Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Dr. Paul Mechling - Member

Associate Supervisor

Erick Smith
Wendell Obermyer

District Staff

Carla Henson-Administrative Assistant
Nathan Paskey-District Manager/Technician
Jim Welker-District Technician/Education Coordinator

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

2010 FISH ORDER FORM
Ashtabula S.W.C.D.
39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047
(440) 576-4946

The District will be selling fish for stocking ponds beginning December as a service to its landowners. These fish come healthy and ready to be gently placed in your pond; *We can not guarantee that they will all survive.*

The fish truck will come to the Ashtabula County Fair Grounds (west parking lot by horse barns) on **Tuesday, March 30, 2010 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. MARK YOUR CALENDARS**, as there will be no notification sent to remind you of the pick up day and time. On pickup day, please bring a clean container of your own pond water. You must bring one 5-gallon bucket per 50 fish ordered. For white Amur, bring one 5-gallon bucket with lid for every two Amurs ordered. For all fish, line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers 3/4 full with water (no more, no less!). Let us know if you will be driving more than 30 minutes on your way home.

All orders should be made by Friday, March 26; payment must accompany your order. All fish must be picked up at this time; we cannot hold or deliver your fish for you. **NO REFUNDS ON FISH NOT PICKED UP.** Make checks payable to **ASHTABULA SWCD.** Additional orders forms are available on our website at **www.ashtabulaswcd.org.**

CLIP HERE AND KEEP TOP HALF

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip-code _____ Phone _____

_____ 2"-4" Largemouth Bass	@ \$0.80	= _____
_____ 2"-4" Bluegill	@ \$0.75	= _____
_____ 4"-6" Channel Catfish	@ \$0.75	= _____
_____ 1"-2" Fathead Minnows	@ \$6.00/100	= _____
_____ 3"-5" Perch	@ \$0.75	= _____
_____ 10-12" Triploid White Amur	@ \$13.00	= _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I will be driving more than 30 minutes on my return trip YES NO

County where Amur will be stocked _____

Cash _____ Check # _____ Received By _____ Date Received _____ Receipt # _____