



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Spring 2019

Board of Supervisors

Natalie Hammer, Chair
Jim Halter, Vice Chair
Rodney Campbell, Fiscal Agent
Ann Wolfe, Secretary

District Staff

John S. Weedon
Rich Rohn
Matthew Ferrel
Jay Jordan
Anthony Lerch

NRCS Staff

Sandy Chenal

2650 Richville Dr.,
Suite 100
Massillon, 44646
330.451.7645
www.starkswcd.org

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed: Memorial Day
(May 27th); Independence
Day (July 4th)

Board Meetings: May 8th,
June 19th, July 10th @ 8:45
a.m.

Green Cleaning

Explore simple, safe, and economic alternatives to conventional cleaners. Create samples using natural ingredients, vinegar, and essential oils. Receive recipes for additional household cleaners. Help reduce harsh chemicals going down the drain.

- Thursday, July 18th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- USDA Service Center (2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon)

Rain Barrel Workshop & Sale

Learn how to keep clean water clean by saving rain water for gardens and lawns with a rain barrel. Purchase a rain barrel and diverter kit for \$65 and receive hands on instructions on how to install and maintain a rain barrel.

- Wednesday, June 5th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Dogwood Park Shelter (241 7th Street NE, North Canton)

- Thursday, June 13th, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Hartville Village Hall (202 W. Maple Street, Hartville)

Compost Bin Workshop & Sale

Want to turn leaves, grass clippings, and table scraps into soil gold? Purchase a compost bin for \$50 and learn how to install and maintain a bin as well as the art and science of composting.

- Wednesday, June 19th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Werley Park Pavilion, East Canton (Werley Road North, East Canton)

- Thursday, June 20th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Constitution Center, Louisville (1022 W Main St, Louisville)

Soil Testing for Homeowners

Test your soil for texture, pH, and essential nutrients, interpret the results, and develop a plan for your lawn or garden. Bring a sample by removing ground cover, digging a 4 inch hole with a hand trowel, taking a slice of soil, and dumping 1 to 2 cups of soil in a container. Bring a glass mason jar or something similar to test soil texture.

- Monday, June 24th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- USDA Service Center (2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon)

Farmer's Breakfasts

Join District board members, staff, and partners for the Farmer's Breakfast series at Thompson's Dairyland (7519 Columbus Rd. NE, Louisville). Meals are optional and at your own expense.

- Thursday, June 6th, at 8:00 a.m. — PLANTING CONDITIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
- Thursday, July 11th, at 9:00 a.m. — MANURE MANAGEMENT

Cover Crop for Newbies

Join District staff to learn about the 2019 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District cover crop program. Learn the basics of cover crops including mixes, planting, and termination. New enrollees receive a premium rebate to plant cover crops.

- Thursday, July 11th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- USDA Service Center (2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon)

Soil Testing for Farmers

Join District staff to learn about different soil tests, how to interpret the results, and incorporating the information into tillage and rotation planning for your crop fields and pastures.

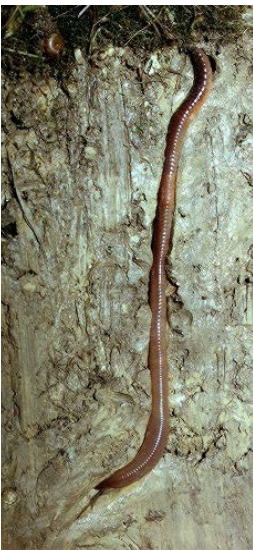
- Monday, July 22nd, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- USDA Service Center (2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon)

Weather Corner

Current conditions . . . The extreme cold of late winter/early spring has eased off. In March average temperatures were one degree higher compared to last year in Stark County, and total precipitation was 0.38" more (3.09" vs. 3.47").

Impact . . . Wet soils combined with cold temperatures and precipitation has delayed farmers getting into fields. All Midwest states report late small grains planting. Winter wheat is showing the effects of poor fall planting conditions.

Going Forward . . . Over the next three months (May-July), there is a 40 to 50% chance of ABOVE normal temperatures, and 33 to 40% chance of ABOVE normal precipitation.



GOOD NEWS!

- 50% increase in number of acres under cover crops over the last five years
- No-till production increased about 8%
- Reduced tillage increased about 27.5%
- Approximately half of all cropland was in no-till or reduced tillage

not so good news

- Nearly 31 million farmland acres were lost between 1992 and 2012
- 11 million were some of the best farmland acres in the nation
- 62% of all development was on farmland



Three Year Plan

The Board of Supervisors and staff along with our partners recently finished a three year plan (2019-2021).

Five Initiatives: Heathy Soils, Clean Water, Sustainable Forests and Wildlife, Robust District, and Communication

Three Scales: Parcel, Watersheds, and Ecoregions

Highlighted Activities: Provide leadership for reborn Nimishillen Watershed Partners; Promote Soil Tests among Producers; Encourage Healthy Soil Practices (cover crops, no till, rotation, nutrient management, adaptive grazing); Strengthen Green Infrastructures for Homeowners; and Develop Forest Management Plans



Cover Crop Program provides rebates to plant cover crops per NRCS Practice 340 in the Muskingum Watershed Conservation District jurisdictional boundary. \$12 an acre for repeat participants; \$15 per acre for first time enrollees. Deadline: July 19th.

Critical Area Seeding Program provides a financial incentive for producers to seed high-risk erosion areas in permanent vegetation for at least 3 years. The areas being targeted are concentrated flow paths through corn and/or soybean fields where a grassed waterway is impractical due to small drainage areas or small field sizes. 100% reimbursement not to exceed \$500 per acre with a maximum area of 1 acre.

Livestock Exclusion Fencing Program provides a rebate up to \$10,000 per project to keep livestock out of streams and other waterbodies. Producers must follow NRCS standards.

Contact Jay Jordan at 330.451.7643 or jmjordan@starkcountyohio.gov to see if you qualify.

Mission: Stark Soil & Water is dedicated to conserving our natural resources by educating, guiding, and assisting the citizens of Stark County.

Function: We provide educational, financial, and technical resources to residents and landowners, solely or in partnership with other organizations, so that we help them steward soil, water, and other natural resources for today and tomorrow.

Vision: We are committed to providing responsive services & programs at a reasonable cost so that we can help effectively and efficiently conserve our natural resources in Stark County.

Values: Fiscally Sustainable, Innovative, Collaborative, and Integrity



2650 Richville Dr. Suite 100
Massillon, Ohio 44646
330.451.7645 (SOIL)
www.starkswcd.org
Facebook: StarkSWCD
Twitter: @Stark_SWCD



Spring into the Growing Season with a Natural Lawn



Why not set your lawn free and let it grow naturally? Some easy ways to obtain a natural lawn are to choose an indigenous grass; aerate to allow circulation of air, water, and nutrients; mow to a height of 2.5" to 3.5"; water deeply but sparingly to promote deep roots; control thatch to help increase water infiltration and plant uptake of nutrients; and lay gravel or pavers for high traffic walkways. Finally, beautify your lawn by planting flowers and shrubs to attractive pollinators. A natural lawn increases water infiltration so rain water enters the soil profile instead of flowing to the storm water system with pollutants from driveways and roads.

For more information about natural lawns, call Anthony Lerch at 330.451.7649 or email aslerch@starkcountyohio.gov.

"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively the land." **The Land Ethic**, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Help Us Save Money

Request this newsletter electronically and help reduce our postage and printing expenses.

Send an email to jsweedon@starkcountyohio.gov with the message, "Want to save you money" or "Please put me on your electronic mailing list" or "Spend your money on other stuff."

Much appreciated.