

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Preble Soil and Water Conservation District

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AUGUST 2010

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Preble SWCD
Web Address:
www.prebleswcd.com

Preble SWCD Fish Sale Now Underway

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting orders now through September 24th for their annual fish sale. Fingerling-sized Largemouth Bass, Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, and Yellow Perch may be purchased for pond stocking. Black Fathead Minnows and White Amur will also be offered for sale.

Most ponds are stocked with a combination of a predator species and a forage species. Largemouth Bass is the recommended predator species for ponds in Ohio. Because bass feed almost entirely on other fish, a forage species should be stocked as a food source. Bluegill is the most commonly stocked forage species. Redear Shellcracker, commonly known as Redear Sunfish, is also a good food source. Their tendency to feed on snails, crayfish, and other mollusks earned them the name Shellcracker.

Channel Catfish can be stocked but probably won't reproduce in most recreational ponds. If they are fished out, restocking is the best way to keep a desired population. In larger ponds, structures have been installed to encourage spawning with some degree of success.

Yellow Perch and Black Crappie should only be stocked in larger ponds. They can compete with other species for food and eventually take over.



Stocking ponds with fish caught from streams and lakes is discouraged. It is easy for even the experts to misidentify some species. This practice usually results in an undesirable population in the pond.

White Amur, often called grass carp, are sometimes stocked as a biological method for controlling weeds. Even though they are a member of the minnow family, they have the potential to become quite large. As they grow, they develop a ferocious appetite for certain types of submerged aquatic vegetation, which is why they are effective in ponds. However, they are not effective for controlling algae and generally work best along with other means of weed control.

When stocking a pond, remember, the number and type of fish stocked will affect your success. Maintaining the proper balance of species is the key. The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District can assist you with questions on stocking a pond. For more information, call the office at (937) 456-5159.



Ohio No-Till Field Day to be Held on September 8th

Mark Wednesday, September 8th down on your calendar for the Ohio No-Till Field Day. The all-day event will be held on Keith Kemp's farm, just south of West Manchester. After an early morning program beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Bob Nielsen, Purdue University Extension Corn Specialist, the group will move to the field for some hands-on education. Keith has planted a half-dozen different cover crops following wheat harvest, and Jim Hoorman and Rafiq Islam will be present to show the "below ground" benefits of cover crops. Also, Dave Brandt, Fairfield County no-till farmer, will discuss the "above ground" features of cover crops.

Soil Scientists George Derringer of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Matt Deaton of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be speaking from two soil pits, showing the value of continuous no-till. Ron Hammond will discuss aphids and other current insect problems in soybeans.

After a lunch catered by Pork Chop Charley, it's back to the field for four more presentations. Bob Nielsen will be in a soil pit showing corn root development. Larry Brown, OSU Extension Agricultural Engineer, and Bob Featheringill, Seneca County no-till farmer, will discuss drainage systems and manure management. Safety issues with plastic poly and fiberglass tanks will be covered by Fred Whitford, Pesticide Coordinator, Purdue University. Fred will demonstrate how to use a baseball bat to check the integrity of these tanks.

The Kemp Farm has a new grain handling system which includes an energy efficient grain dryer. Matt Roberts of Purdue University will be on hand to discuss these systems.

For farm women who choose not to spend the day at the farm, there will be a special program organized in Greenville. Included are the Garst Museum, the Whirlpool-Kitchen Aid factory store, and lunch at The Bistro Off Broadway. Transportation will be by chauffeured vans, sponsored by AGCO Corp.

The event is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with morning registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration for the Field Day is \$30 per person if paid by August 30th, or \$35 the day of the event. To register in advance, please mail your name, address, and check to: Mark Wilson, Ag Stewards, 1122 Somerset Hoffman Rd East, Marion, OH 43302. Please make your check payable to: Ohio No-Till Council.

Sponsors for the day include: OSU Extension and OARDC, USDA-NRCS, Preble and Darke SWCD, Ohio's Country Journal, Monsanto, Oregon Ryegrass Commission, Kale Marketing, Farmers Commission, AGCO and Pioneer. For more details, contact Preble SWCD at (937) 456-5159.

— Special thanks to *Ohio's Country Journal* for the information included in this article —



Tour the Energy Efficient Grain-Drying System

Flags for Sale

Do you need flags to mark tree seedlings, field plots, garden rows, or tile holes? Preble SWCD sells 36" tall fluorescent pink Marking Flags which are easy to see in a variety of field conditions. Flags sell for \$1.50 per bundle of 10 or \$15.00 per 100.



Please patronize our sponsors who make this newsletter possible!

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
1651 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45320-1021

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Return Service Requested

FISH SALE

Now through September
Details Inside

All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

Annual Meeting and Open House



November 16, 2010 - Mark your calendars for the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District's 61st Annual Meeting & Open House. The SWCD Supervisor election will take place at this meeting.

Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides in Preble County can seek election to the SWCD board of supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot by one of two ways.

Candidates can be nominated by the SWCD nominating committee. This committee works throughout the year, looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county.

Interested individuals may also stop at the SWCD office at 1651 North Barron Street, Eaton, and pick up a nomination petition form.

Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on October 12, 2010. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on November 16, 2010 at The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District Office, Eaton, Ohio.

Soil and water conservation districts, located in all 88 Ohio counties, are legal subdivisions of state government that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is funded by the Preble County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member board of county residents. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.