

**THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE
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SPRING 2013

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.



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NEW LORAIN SWCD CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST



It is important to understand about the water we need each day. Fresh water is important to every citizen no matter what their age.

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular body of water such as a river or a lake. Rain or any type of precipitation that falls anywhere in that watershed eventually flows to a body of water. The water may travel over land as surface water or flow underground as groundwater. Look around your community or as you travel to see water traveling within a watershed.

Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring a new poster contest for grades K-6. The 2013 Stewardship theme is "Where Does Your Water Shed".

Contest rules:

- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category) Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2013 theme "Where does your water shed?" must be on your poster. (Don't use any other title)

- Names on back of posters and must have entry form signed to be eligible for judging.

Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, Lorain SWCD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored with adult assistance.

Poster Evaluations:

The posters are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Conservation message (50 percent)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent) and universal appeal (10 percent).

All winners will be sent be on to the State contest and winning posters will be displayed in the Lorain SWCD Fair Building August 19-25.

Contact the Lorain SWCD at 440-326-5800 with questions concerning the contest.

There are three age categories: Kindergarten thru 1st grade; 2nd thru 3rd grade; and 4th thru 6th grade. The contest is open to public, private and home-schooled students. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in each age category.

Why Participate?

Designing a poster and researching the theme, can give you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters tell important stories to present to future generations. Posters capture people's attention with a powerful graphic and inspire with a message for your community.

Resource Conservationist

Kevin Kaltenbach



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST'S COLUMN

The *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for persons who are engaged in livestock, forestry or agricultural production, including organic production. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Decisions related to how a crop is produced affect the environment, and vice-versa. EQIP provides payments for implementing conservation practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long term agricultural production and sustainability. NRCS professionals work with producers to develop a conservation plan for their operation, design conservation practices, and provide guidance to help implement the plan.

What Practices Can Receive Funding?

EQIP is designed to implement conservation practices that address existing resource concerns on farms in order to improve environmental quality both on and off the farm. The resource concerns addressed through EQIP include soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, and animal and plant species of concern.

NRCS, with input from the State Technical Committee, determines the eligible practices that address the state and local resource concerns.

What are the Payment Rates and Terms?

Program payment rates in Ohio are calculated at 75 percent of the typical cost of implementing the practice, as determined by the resource concern being addressed. When the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer, the rates are 25 percent higher, up to a maximum of 90 percent.

Contracts are subject to payment limitations. No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 during any six-year period. Organic farms have different limitations; \$80,000 during any six-year period with an fiscal year limit of \$20,000.

What is the Contract Period?

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice and a maximum term of ten years. These contracts provide program payments to the producer for the implementation

The schedule lists the conservation practice extent (amount), date to be installed, and payment. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. Any deviation from the contract schedule is considered a contract violation unless approved in advance.

Electing not to complete the required conservation practices after the contract is signed will result in liquidated damages assessed. The damages can be as much as 20 percent of the contract amount obligated whether or not any of the funds have been used. It is very important that participants have a solid commitment to complete the projects.

Although the contract ends one year after the last practice is installed, participants are responsible to maintain the practice for the life-span of the practice.

How Does Signup for EQIP Work?

Applications can be submitted anytime during the year. A signed application filed with the local NRCS office indicates an interest in developing a conservation plan as the first step in the application process.

A contract offer is developed during the annual ranking period. The final offer approved by the applicant is based on the conservation plan, and is ranked on how well the proposed practices meet national, state, and local environmental objectives, as well as their cost-efficiency.

JOEL MCROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship was created in 1998 in memory of Joel, District Technician with the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District for 20 years. Joel died in 1997 of leukemia. The scholarship was created at the request of his widow Connie McRoberts, of Litchfield.

The scholarship is available to any student in Lorain County who will be majoring in an agriculture or natural resources management related field at any two or four year college. They must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Originally, the scholarship started at \$500.00 per student and was increased to \$1,000.00 a few years later. Recently the scholarship has been expanded to include two awards annually. This now includes one for an incoming college freshman and one for any current college student with at least one year completed.

With the generosity of the individuals in Lorain County the scholarship has grown with time.

Joel McRoberts was a big supporter of agriculture and higher education. Although he never attended college, he understood the value of education and always encouraged students to further their education and better themselves.

Joel was devoted to farming and the farmers in Lorain County. He had a deep appreciation of our natural resources and their protection. This memorial scholarship is administered in his honor.



[JOEL McROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP](#)

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. High school seniors (Lorain county residents) who will enroll in an agricultural or natural resource related two or four-year course of study are eligible to apply. **Application deadline is April 30, 2013.**

[JOEL McROBERTS CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP](#)

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. Applicants (Lorain county residents) must be enrolled as a full-time student in a two or four-year course of study, in an agricultural or natural resource related field. **Application deadline is July 31, 2013.**

Applications can be requested by visiting our website: lorainswcd.com, from your high school guidance counselor, from the Lorain SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH, 44035, or by calling the office at (440) 326-5800.



Doing any construction this spring?

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) reminds Lorain County residents that the Lorain County Commissioners adopted Erosion & Sediment Control rules several years ago. These rules may have an impact on your building plans for 2013. The rules apply to all soil-disturbing activities in township areas of Lorain County intended for non-farm use. Such activities include home construction, commercial construction, and any grading or clearing activities associated with non-farm use. Please contact the Lorain SWCD at 440-326-5800 if you are planning such construction activities. Residents living in municipalities should contact their own city to determine if such rules apply in their community.

John Niedzialek of the Lorain SWCD administers the program. "I am sure that some view this as an unnecessary step in the building process, but the program serves a valuable purpose in helping protect our public waters, The program helps to reduce sediment entering our ditches, creeks, and rivers. Sediments can pollute streams in a variety of ways. Sediments can carry fertilizer and other materials that end up in our public waters and find their way to Lake Erie. The program also helps to protect downstream landowners from property loss due to sedimentation, erosion, and flooding. "It is much cheaper to the tax payers to stop this pollution from happening rather than address dredging or other downstream clean-up projects later on after the damage has occurred," states Niedzialek.

What does this mean for you as a homeowner or contractor?

Anyone considering such land-disturbing activities should contact the Lorain SWCD office prior to starting construction. The permit application may be obtained from the Lorainswcd.com website under the Phase II category. For typical home construction, the fee is \$50.00. The District then reviews the plan and offers suggestions on the type of erosion and sediment control practices recommended on the site. The District also advises the landowner regarding soil suitability for their construction plans. Inspections then occur during the construction process.

Depending on the site and proximity to any water bodies, different practices will be recommended. Usually the builder can help the homeowner with submitting the plan as most builders are familiar with the process. "The rules are relatively new to Lorain County but builders that have been working in surrounding counties where these rules have been in place for many years will be familiar with the process," states Niedzialek.

Common practices used include a stone construction entrance, temporary seeding's, mulch, black silt fence, and/or inlet protection around storm drains. "The individual home site will determine what practice is the most economical and efficient in doing the job. The bottom line is to keep sediments from leaving the site and polluting our waters," states Niedzialek. Small sites with less than an acre of disturbance require minimal documentation. Larger construction sites of over an acre require a more detailed plan and follow-up. These plans are commonly used for commercial building sites. Larger sites also require the operator to control storm water runoff and such practices need to be shown on the plan.

Communities across Ohio and the nation have been adopting these rules in recent years to comply with the U.S. EPA as part of CLEAN Water Act requirements. These national requirements are designed to address water pollution which can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways. "Lorain County and the Lorain SWCD is complying with these regulations in a common sense manner. Yes, a permit is necessary, but the intent of the program is to work with homeowners and builders to protect our waters and install practices that are necessary and economical to address the disturbance on each site," states Niedzialek.

NATURAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR- KARL SCHNEIDER

PLUM CREEK WATERSHED (Columbia Township).

Conservation funding is currently available for farm operators and landowners in the Plum Creek watershed in the *western half of Columbia Township*. This is a special project funded through the Great Lakes Initiative and is available for 2013 and 2014. Funds are for cropland acres only.

Conservation practices available and cost share rates are as follows:

- Grass Filter Strips next to streams. Must be 33-60 feet wide. Incentive payment is \$200 per year during the grant period.
- Grassed Waterways. Eligible for eroding watercourses through crop fields. Incentive payment of up to \$5000 per acre.
- Cover Crops. Annual cover crop on crop fields. Incentive payment is \$35 per acre for the first 25 acres and \$40 for additional acres.
- Fencing to exclude livestock from stream. Incentive payment is up to \$1.00 per foot.
- Equipment Rental for Zone Tillage. (Must leave 30% residue cover). Payment is \$10 acre up to a maximum of 50 acres
- Equipment Rental for Vertical Tillage. (Must leave 30% residue cover). Payment is \$15 per acre up to 50 acres.

Contact me at the office for additional information and to obtain an application. We will first need to determine if the field is within the boundary of the Plum Creek watershed for eligibility purposes.

POND DESIGN

The Lorain SWCD is no longer doing pond design for landowners in Lorain County. However, most townships in the county still require that a plan be developed for landowners interested in having a pond constructed on their property. As a result, the Lorain SWCD had developed a list of private consulting engineers who can do this work. These are engineers who are certified by the state of Ohio. We have had a training session with these folks informing them of our pond standard.

If you need a copy of the list let us know and we will send it to you. As usual, we make no endorsement and it is up to you to select a firm to do the pond design and pay their fees.

District Hires Secretary

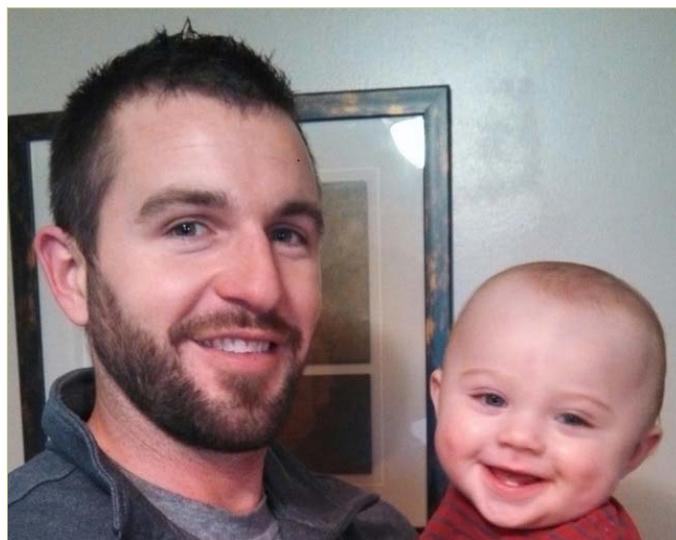
The Lorain SWCD has recently employed Mary Aungst as a part-time secretary. Originally a Lorain county native, Mary and her husband Joe live in Chatham Township with their three children: Jessica, Jenny and Joey. She is involved with several committees on the Medina County Fair Board where her husband is a Director and she is a 4-H advisor for the Guilford Go-fers. She was recently awarded one of three Ohio 4-H community service awards at the 2013 4-H Volunteer Conference in Columbus. She is also the Chairman of the 4-H Rabbit Committee, and Treasurer for the Medina Truck and Tractor Pullers Association. Mary and her family live on a small farm where they raise hogs, cattle, rabbits and goats. Mary enjoys crafting, baking and reading. Mary was previously employed with the Lorain County Farm Service Agency, and is very excited about her new position with Soil & Water.



She will be working with long-time employee Sandy Denes who retired at the end of 2012 and has returned on a part-time basis to work for the District. Aungst will be working Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday in this role. She can be reached at the Lorain SWCD office between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 440-326-5800.

New NRCS Resource Conservationist

The Lorain County SWCD would like to introduce our new NRCS Resource Conservationist, Kevin Kaltenschach. Kevin came to us from Huron County where he was a soil conservation technician with NRCS. Kevin currently lives in Bellevue, Ohio with his wife, Heather, and his son, Kason. His passion for the outdoors and agricultural began at a very early age as he was born and raised on a six hundred and fifty acre family farm located just outside Bellevue. While most kids were playing video games and riding bikes, Kevin was baling hay and hoeing weeds out of bean fields. At a young age, Kevin started hunting, trapping, and competing in local archery competitions. His passion for archery continued to grow and in 1998 he began competing and national and world competitions. In 2000, he won the International Bow hunting Organization (IBO) World and National Championship for his age group. The prize was a two year scholarship to Hocking College located in Nelsonville, Ohio. With that being said, he received his associates degree in 2006 from Hocking College in fish and wildlife management. Kevin decided to pursue a bachelor's degree and graduated from Rio Grande University in 2008. Like most wildlife majors, Kevin had a number of term positions following college until he started working for USDA-NRCS in Huron County in 2009. He started in Lorain County in September 2012 and is very excited to work with our landowners and producers to help them help the land.



FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Order deadline date: Monday, May 6, 2013

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone # (required): _____ County where Amur are stocked: _____

Mail & return **with payment** to:
 Lorain SWCD
 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Size</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u># ordered</u> | <u>\$ Total</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 2-4 " | \$0.90 | _____ | _____ |
| Bluegill | 2-4 " | \$0.75 | _____ | _____ |
| Channel Catfish | 4-6 " | \$0.80 | _____ | _____ |
| Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker) | 2-4 " | \$0.90 | _____ | _____ |
| Yellow Perch (larger size) | 4-6 " | \$1.65 | _____ | _____ |
| Flathead Minnow | per 100 | \$7.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Triploid White Amur | 10-12 " | \$13.00 | _____ | _____ |

TOTAL \$ _____



FISH SALE

We are taking orders for fingerling-size fish for stocking your ponds.

THURSDAY

MAY 9, 2013

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

AG CENTER PARKING LOT

42110 RUSSIA ROAD

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio, will be here for delivery on Thursday, May 9, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to distribute orders.

Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers), Flathead Minnows, and Triploid White Amur are available.

You will need to bring a container filled with your pond water to pick up your order—approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish. We suggest using a trash can with a new plastic liner—then put in the pond water so the top of the bag can be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 10-12" long and need a suitable container.

Triploid White Amur are stocked to control leafy pond vegetation. Algae is not a preferred food. Since the Amur were first stocked in Ohio the fall of 1987, you may need to replace your Amur. The life expectancy is in the 10 to 12 year range. Recommend stocking rates for the Amur are 2 to 5, per surface acre of water, based on how much weed cover is in the pond at its worst point over the summer.

Other stocking recommendations are 100 Largemouth Bass and 500

Bluegill per surface acre of pond area. Yellow Perch and Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers) can be stocked at the same rate as Largemouth Bass. Channel Catfish can also be stocked in ponds that are 1/2 acre or larger. Though they will not reproduce in a pond, they do provide excellent fishing. The stocking rate is 50 per surface acre of pond area. A 4–6" long Catfish stocked this spring will double in size by next spring.

Order Deadline:

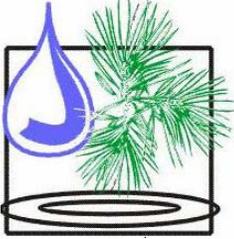
Monday, May 6, 2013

Remember to enclose payment with your order. Thanks!

Order form

on back page.





LORAIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

42110 Russia Road, Elyria Ohio 44035
Phone: 440-326-5800 Fax: 440-326-5807
www.lorainswcd.com

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DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

John Born , Chairman
Robert Ternes, Jr., Vice-Chairman
David Conrad, Treasurer
Will Schlechter, Secretary
Dean Rollin

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ron Baumann
Neil Breyley
Dan Buttler
John Forthofer
David Manning
Alan Pitts

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Mary Aungst, Secretary
Sandy Denes, Administrative Assistant
John Niedzialek, NPDES Coordinator
Karl Schneider, Natural Resources Coordinator

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Derrick Harmon, Lorain/Medina District Conservationist
Kevin Kaltenbach, Resource Conservationist
Dale Barr, Soil Conservationist Technician

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ted Kalo, Lori Kokoski, Tom Williams

STRAW BLOWER FOR RENT

The Lorain SWCD has received a grant from the 2009 Great Lakes Basin Commission for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. We were able to purchase a commercial Tailgate Straw-Mulcher to rent to landowners in Lorain County. The mulcher is designed for all mid to large-scale commercial and residential jobs with a capacity of shooting up to seven tons of straw per hour and shooting up to 35 feet out. The blower/mulcher is mounted on a trailer for easy transportation.

A cash deposit of \$100.00 is required prior to use. There is a minimum rental fee of \$50.00 per half-day rental (four hours or less), time over four hours will be billed at \$15.00 per meter hour. Fuel will be replaced by user after each use. If fuel is not replaced, user will be charged the cost of fuel plus a \$15.00 fee. Payment can be made in cash or check. Overnight or weekend usage is available but must be arranged in advance with the office and a cash deposit of \$200.00 is required.

Call the District office for more information on rental at 440-326-5800.

