Ohio County Conservation District Fact Sheet - 2014

* The District was formed in 1949 and is in its 65rd year of operation
* Current members – Darren Luttrell (Chairman); Cletus Greer (Vice-Chairman); Walter Porter (Treasurer); Jason Anderson; Garry Igleheart; Brian Milligan and Mike Newman.
* Office Staff: Barbara Swindler, District Administrative Secretary; Dan Porter, NRCS Manager; Kris Boyd, NRCS Soil Conservationist and Brad Haney, NRCS Conservation Technician.
* The District meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM in the local USDA Service Center.
* We are on a millage tax and receive approximately $50,000 dollars per year.
* We also offer two no-till drills for rental to the landowners of our county. These drills average being used on about 1000 acres per year.
* We delivered $2500 in educational grants to our schools to promote agriculture and conservation ($1000 for the Beaver Dam Elementary Community Garden and $1500 in support of Youth Ag Camp).
* We also offer **three** $500 scholarships to graduating seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture.
* We provide $500 in support of Ohio County Junior Achievement.
* The District sponsors an art and writing contest, promoting conservation, to all school age children in Ohio County.
* We sponsor the annual Youth Ag Days, attended by all Ohio County 4th grade students.
* In addition, we are a sponsor of the Annual Farm/City Supper. This event promotes and highlights the cooperation of our urban and rural citizens.
* In celebration of Arbor Day, we sponsor an annual tree give-a-way program where 2000 trees are handed out to Ohio County residents. Approximately 150 people benefited from this program in 2014.
* With our partners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we offer incentive payments through various programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). In the last ten years, we have leveraged over **$905,000** in EQIP payments to Ohio County producers, **directly impacting over 8500 acres of land**, for conservation practices such as:
  + Fence (to exclude cattle from 450 acres of sensitive areas like woodland, streams and ponds) – Over 60,000 ft. or 12 miles.
  + Pipeline (to ensure a clean water supply for livestock) – Over 50,000 ft. or 9.5 plus miles
  + Watering Facilities (for livestock) – 60 ea.
  + Nutrient Management Plans (to safely apply animal waste) – 1138 acres
  + Pasture and Hayland planting – 400 plus acres
  + Grade Stabilization Structures – 20 each
  + Grassed Waterways – 10 plus acres
  + Seasonal High Tunnels (similar to a greenhouses, allows local vegetable producers to extend their growing season) – 5 ea.
  + Energy Management Plans (an energy audit that allows producers to identify energy conservation measures that can be implemented) – 1 ea.
* We work with NRCS on the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP). In the event of a major natural disaster, this program is available to assist in protecting critical infrastructure such as bridges, culverts and possibly homes/businesses by removing debris/sediment from creeks or rivers.
* The District also sponsored the following State and Local Cost Share programs:
  + **State CS**, including pasture planting/renovation, litter storage structures, pipeline/tanks and fence - **$200,000**
  + **Local CS**, which included the Hay, Straw and Commodity program (Hay barns, feed systems, silos, augers) and the Technology Program (GPS units, precision farming components, computers and software) - **$481,000.**
* In the past 10 years, almost **$1.6 million dollars** have been leveraged through the District office to assist our clients address multiple resource concerns (Millage tax of $50,000 received per year being leveraged to bring in approximately $160,000 per year to our local economy)