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Cooperator
 Newsletter
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2011 
MIAMI SWCD ANNUAL
T R E E
SEEDLING
 **SALE!**

*For in the true nature of things,
 if we rightly consider,
 every green tree is far more
 glorious than if it were made
 of gold and silver.
 ~Martin Luther*



Once again it's time! Please take a look at the Miami SWCD Tree Order form insert in this newsletter to learn more about the 24 species of trees and two kinds of ground cover offered this year. We've added a few and replaced a few, but we think you'll find the smaller packet choices convenient. Deadline for ordering will be March 18th (Postmarked). Order forms are also available online at www.miamiswcd.org and in the District office located at 1330 N. County Road 25A, Troy. Happy Planting!

*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
 The next best time is now.*

~Chinese Proverb

Straw Mulcher and Trailer Up For Individual Sale

The Miami Soil and Water Conservation District is offering for sale in individual sealed bids a 2001 Goosen Straw Mulcher and 2000 Trailer. The Goosen Straw Mulcher is a loose straw distributing blower. The 12-foot Interstate Brand Trailer will tilt for easy loading.



The Miami SWCD claims the right to refuse any and all bids.

Bidding window will close February 4, 2011. (Postmarked)

Contact Kreig Smail at 335-7645 for more information regarding these items.

Please use this form when submitting your sealed bid(s).

Miami Soil and Water Conservation District Sealed Bid Form

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Goosen Straw Mulcher Bid _____ Interstate Trailer Bid _____

Please mail or deliver to: Miami SWCD 1330 N. County Road 25A, Troy OH 45373

Miami SWCD 2011 SCHOLARSHIP Opportunities!

In the ongoing tradition to assist Miami County students in their educational endeavors regarding agriculture and natural resources, the Miami Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors once again approved the offering of **two \$750 scholarship awards** to Miami County, Ohio residents who are majoring in Agriculture or Natural Resources. The scholarships are for the purpose of continuing higher education at a two or four year college or university.



A few elements of the scholarship have changed! Now, both the \$750 Larry Studebaker Memorial Scholarship and the \$750 Miami SWCD Scholarship are available for incoming freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Also, if you've received this scholarship in the past, you're eligible to receive this scholarship again!

QUALIFICATIONS – Applications will be accepted from students meeting the following qualifications:

1. Must be a Miami County, Ohio resident.
2. Must be an Agriculture or Natural Resources major.
3. Must be enrolled for Fall Quarter of 2011.

CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP – The award will be used towards the student's tuition and fees and will be processed through the scholarship office of the chosen school.

WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY – Send the completed application to the scholarship committee:

Miami SWCD Scholarship
1330 North County Road 25A; Suite C
Troy, Ohio 45373

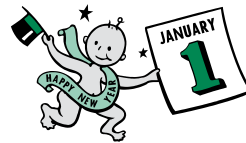
Three (3) letters of recommendations from three (3) references listed on the application form are to be sent directly to the Miami SWCD. Applications, recommendations and school transcripts must be received by **Friday, March 18, 2011 (POSTMARKED)**. The application and information received will be property of the Miami SWCD and will be held in strict confidence. Call Kristin Lewber for more information at 335-7645.

Miami County Youth Pheasant Hunt

The Miami County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever will be holding their 8th annual youth pheasant hunt on February 5, 2011. The hunt will be held at Stull Hunting Preserve in New Carlisle, Ohio. This is a great opportunity to get area youth involved in a traditional outdoor activity or to expose them to a new outdoor activity. It is a great chance for beginning hunters to get out and experience this rich traditional pastime. It is a very safe and well controlled event that will provide a great hunting experience in a safe environment.

Youth that attend this free event will get to learn about gun safety and hunting ethics, conservation and wildlife habitat, and a little about Pheasants Forever. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is also a hunting/shooting simulator and a few rounds of sporting clays to get the kids warmed up for their hunt. There will also be awards provided to kids who participate in the hunt.

For more information or to get registered please check the Miami County Chapters website www.miamicounty.org or email Rob Blakey chapter youth coordinator at robblakey@woh.rr.com.



Upcoming Events

DEC 31	New Year's Holiday Office Closed
JAN 11	Miami SWCD Board or Supervisors Meeting 9AM District office public welcome
JAN 14	The Original Tribute to the Eagles 8PM Hobart Arena 937-339-2911 or www.hobartarena.com
JAN 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Office Closed
JAN 22	Mad River Theatre Presents "John Henry" FREE Contact 339-045, www.troyhayner.org or http://www.madrivertheater.org
JAN 28	World Champion Ice Racing-The Greatest Spectacle on Ice! For tickets call 937-339-2911 or visit www.hobartarena.com

REMINDERS

Water Quality Credit Trading Program

Local Application Deadline March 11th. Call Kreig Smail at 335-7645 for more details about this program that provides funds for agricultural management practices that reduce nutrient discharges into rivers and streams in the Great Miami River Watershed.

Be an Affiliate Member!

Affiliate members help support the Miami SWCD in the promotion of conservation practices and education programs. Membership cost is \$25 for a 3½ by 1½ ad, approximately the size of a business card. You'll receive at least one ad in the Cooperator Newsletter, a free monthly publication that is currently received in nearly 2000 homes. This membership is tax deductible. Call Kristin Lewber for more information at 335-7645.

Receive The Cooperator Electronically!

Last year, we began giving the option for The Cooperator to be received via e-mail. Contact Kristin by calling 335-7645 or email info at www.miamiswcd.org to tell her your email address and that's all it takes to add you to the list!

OSU Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference February 24-25

The 2011 Ohio State University Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference will be held Feb. 24-25 at the McIntosh Center of Ohio Northern University in Ada. The conference is the largest, most comprehensive program of conservation tillage techniques in the Midwest. About 60 presenters (farmers, industry professionals, and university specialists) from around the country focus on cost-saving, production management topics.

Sponsors include Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Northwest Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Ohio No-Till Council.

Early registration is \$50 for one day or \$75 for both days. At the door, registration is \$60 for one day and \$85 for both days. Complete registration and program information will be available after Jan. 1, 2011 at <http://ctc.osu.edu>.

QUAIL, HABITAT, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!! (CP33 habitat buffers help restore quail habitat)

By: Erik Lewis, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist



Here we are, 5 years after the USDA introduced its first wildlife specific conservation practice aimed at restoring declining habitat for the Northern Bobwhite Quail and other grassland dependent wildlife. The practice, known as CP33-habitat buffers or “quail borders”, is designed to provide nesting and brood rearing habitat as borders on the edges of crop fields. The USDA offers rental and cost share payments to eligible landowners with eligible crop land who establish CP33 on their crop fields. The borders are planted into native grasses and wildflowers that provide early succession grassland habitat that quail require as a part of their habitat needs.

The Northern Bobwhite Quail population has been in decline for many decades throughout its entire range. This is due to factors like severe weather, changes in farming practices, and habitat loss. I have met with many landowners who remember days of abundant quail and multiple coveys on their farms, but also recall the lack of quail following the heavy snow storms of the late 70's. Quail populations in Southwest Ohio have managed to hang on, probably due to less large scale farming. The other benefit to quail is the rolling type landscape with more fencerows, smaller crop fields, and woody draws in the region. These areas have also seen some of the best quail responses to the CP33 habitat practice. I personally have seen increases in quail numbers in Butler, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble counties.

CP33 has had success here in Ohio and as of July 2010 there were 15,207 acres of CP33 in the state (ranking 5th in number of acres nationwide) with acres still available. The idea of restoring habitat for a native bird that has such a rich history with farming in Ohio is attractive to farmers, landowners and bird watchers alike. It hits home with many people, but the big question is, “does it work and make a difference”? Research has shown that CP33 buffers established in an otherwise agricultural landscape receive a positive and rapid response from quail and other targeted grassland songbirds. Trends also show that this positive response increases with the first 3 years as buffer vegetation develops.

Optimal Bobwhite habitat should have 5-20% woody/shrubby cover, interspersed with herbaceous cover consisting of native clump grasses and native wildflowers (i.e. Forbs) with 30 to 60 percent bare ground underneath so the young quail chicks can forage. The buffers also provide food and cover from weather and the many species of quail predators.

Partnerships among conservation and wildlife agencies and groups help spread the message and get habitat back on the ground. The Ohio Division of Wildlife is taking quail management very seriously and have very experienced and passionate biologists who can help private landowners. “The Division of Wildlife is seeing positive results from the CP33 Quail Borders. I have heard from numerous landowners that quail are using the borders and that they have seen quail on their farm for the first time in many years” said Al Gerhart, District 5 Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor. I also had a chance to talk with Terry Lavy, who is habitat chairman for the Miami County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, who says “I am delighted that each spring I get more and more reports from our members and landowners who call us and remark that they just saw a rooster pheasant cross our driveway or quail are calling from the fencerow! It is also obvious that other wildlife, both game and non-game critters, are benefiting as well. The recovery is not always as fast as we would like to see it, but it is working.”

So, how can you as a landowner manage for quail on your property? Management for quail should be primarily targeted at cover management; woody cover, herbaceous cover, and ground cover. Landowners who are eligible for CP33 should also consider establishing habitat buffers into their agricultural practices. It has been shown that CP33 can be used to recover regional populations if used on a broader scale (i.e. township size) and would require a high number of landowner participation in an area. With partnership funding at the local, state and federal level, there is also minimal cost to the landowner and in many cases it can increase farm income.

** Coming Feb, 2011 - Quail Management Workshop** (more details to follow)

To find out more about quail management or CP33 please contact Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Erik Lewis at 937-654-3884.

Agriculture for a Clean Environment (ACE) Banquet January 26th, 2011

Agriculture for a Clean Environment (A.C.E.) is a group that provides information and resources on conservation related issues. The group holds field days, informational meetings, and support local conservation efforts. The group invites anyone interested in learning more about conservation and nutrient management to the annual banquet.

The annual banquet will have a representative from Ohio Farm Bureau presenting information on current issues in agriculture. Producers are faced with a wide array of issues spanning from animal rights to nutrient management and our guest speaker will help get the attendees up to speed on what we face in 2011 and beyond. The banquet will take place at Buffalo Jacks in Covington, OH on January 26th, 2011 starting at 6:30PM. Please contact the Miami SWCD at 937-335-SOIL(7645) by January 21st to let us know you're attending. Space is limited, so act fast. Reminder: participants are responsible for their own meal.

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Vision: To be responsible leaders in promoting innovative stewardship of natural resources through the development of conservation partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

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