



Shiawassee Conservation District

Your Land, Your Water ~ Your Michigan

1900 S. Morrice Road • Owosso, MI 48867 • (989) 723-8263, Ext. 3

Fall 2010

2010 Annual Ag Day

Date: Wednesday September 1, 2010
Time: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Lunch provided by the
Shiawassee County Farm Bureau
Place: Braid Farms
3142 Newburg Road, Durand
RSVP: Friday August 27, 2010
Shiawassee Conservation District
989-723-8263, ext. 3

3 CCA/CEU Credits
3 RUP Credits/Commercial & Private Core
MAEAP Phase 1 Credit

Topics, Tours & Demonstrations Include

- ▶ No-Till with Manure Application & No-Till Demonstration
- ▶ Farm Bill Programs
- ▶ Removing Fencerows & Permitting Process
- ▶ Nitrogen Management with Corn Plot Demonstration
- ▶ MAEAP Program
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management
- ▶ New Manure & Silage GAAMPs for Right to Farm Guidelines



75 Years A Legacy of Conservation

Helping People Help the Land

A Conservation Legacy of Working Partnerships

For 75 years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been a pioneer in conservation, helping private landowners maintain healthy and productive lands. Seventy percent of the Nation's land is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners critical to the health of our environment.

"The nearly three thousand districts, their state associations, and the National Association of Conservation Districts became the grass-roots support for federal conservation programs and helped sustain NRCS conservation -- partners working alongside NRCS employees have sustained conservation work," observes NRCS Historian Doug Helms. "NRCS field office in many states might have a mixture of federal and district employees working alongside one another."

The Shiawassee Conservation District would like to extend our congratulations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the occasion of the agency's 75th anniversary. As one of the longest partners of the Soil Conservation Service and NRCS in helping to deliver conservation across the land, the Shiawassee Conservation District Board and staff believe NRCS plays a very important role in helping this country use natural resources wisely while producing food, fiber, habitat and many other ecosystem values. Please accept our best wishes for a well-earned celebration of your many accomplishments during this past 75 years, and our commitment to continue working with the agency as a strong and valued partner.

Farm*A*Syst & Crop*A*Syst Opens Door to Financial Assistance

The Shiawassee Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) work in partnership to reduce risks to our soil and water resources. NRCS provides cost-share funds to producers through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Farmers who complete a Farm*A*Syst or Crop*A*Syst will achieve a higher ranking when they apply for EQIP cost-share funds through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The completion of a Farm*A*Syst or Crop*A*Syst demonstrates that you are concerned about the environment and are willing to make changes in your operation or management practices that will reduce risks to the environment.

In Shiawassee and Genesee Counties the Farm*A*Syst or Crop*A*Syst are conducted by Shiawassee Conservation District Agricultural Technician Tom Wert. These assessments are confidential, voluntary and non-regulatory. All materials remain on the farm at the conclusion of the process. The producer decides which changes, if any, make sense on your farm and the producer controls how, when and if they are made on the farm. Both assessments will help the producer to be in conformance with applicable Michigan Right to Farm guidelines and in compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations and laws.

The Farm*A*Syst is a series of risk questions that will help you assess how effectively your farmstead structures, management practices and site conditions protect your water resources. These risk questions deal with pesticides, fertilizers, fuel, manure and other possible sources of contamination that are present on your farm and their possible effect on groundwater and surface water.

Where “high risk” practices or situation are identified, alternatives will be explored that could reduce or eliminate that risk. Many times these alternatives are at limited or no expense to the producer. When high risks are identified, there may also be “cost-share” assistance available from NRCS as an incentive to encourage you to adapt the lower risk activity into your farm operation. One example of this assistance is an Agrichemical Handling Facility (AHF) for the storage of pesticides and liquid fertilizers on the farm. This cost-share assistance is available through EQIP.

The Crop*A*Syst is a series of risk questions that will help you assess how effectively your crop management practices protect soil and water resources

on your farm. This assessment will assist you to develop and implement a management plan that prevents loss of soil through water and wind erosion, prevent contamination of water resources and maintain economic crop production.

As with the Farm*A*Syst, when high risk situations are identified alternatives will be explored that could reduce or eliminate the risks. Financial assistance or incentives are also available from NRCS when a Crop*A*Syst is completed by the producer. Examples of practices in EQIP include cover crops, deep tillage, nutrient management, pest management, no-till or strip-till and filter strips. All of these practices, which help to reduce erosion of soil or prevent water contamination, provide a financial incentive to the producer when they are included in the management of the farm.

To learn more about Farm*A*Systs, Crop*A*Systs and how this will help you apply for the NRCS EQIP cost-share assistance, contact Tom Wert, Agricultural Technician for the Shiawassee Conservation District at 989-723-8263, ext. 3.

The Shiawassee Conservation District’s partnership with the YMCA continues to be a great outreach to the youth of Shiawassee County

The Shiawassee Conservation District has once again partnered with the Shiawassee YMCA to educate campers on natural resources throughout the 2010 summer. Each week the District engages the campers in hands-on fun lessons covering topics such as trees, water conservation and animal adaptations. The District is looking forward to the exciting activities planned for the campers throughout the rest of the summer.



Campers show off their “tree cookies”. Like tree rings, each ring on their tree cookie represent each year of their lives.

Cleaner Drains for a Healthier Community

Drains and ditches are important conveyers of water to our Great Lakes. It is important not to treat drains and ditches as dumping grounds, cropland or garden areas, or mowed lawn spaces because most ditches and drains are man-made streams that serve many of the same purposes of natural waterways. Flood control, drainage, water resources and habitat for fish, birds and mammals are just a few of the important functions drains and ditches provide. All streams, drains and ditches flow to downstream sources and land uses, especially streamside activities, have a direct influence on the quality and quantity of water delivered. Whether it's an urban or agricultural area, all the water that flows across the land to a stream can potentially carry with it pollutants from that land use. Trash, oil, gasoline, road salts, sediments and yard wastes are typical pollutants that contribute from urban sources, while fertilizers, pesticides, sediments and crop residues can runoff agricultural lands. Impervious surfaces, such as roads and parking lots speed up the flow of water and can contribute to flooding. Cropland with little cover also can accelerate the flow of water contributing to soil loss and impaired water quality. Yard waste, trash, foods, tires and other garbage do not belong in drains. Regardless if these materials enter drains through runoff or by intentional dumping, once they are in the drain they either remain to pollute the water and habitat of that waterway or are carried downstream to pollute other surface waters. It is also strongly discouraged to plow, mow and/or plant up to the streambank as these activities promote bank erosion, soil loss and general polluting of the waterway. Fortunately there are simple practices that can protect streams, drains and ditches from pollutants, reduce flooding and enhance the aesthetic appeal of waterways. Additionally, financial benefits from installing these practices on agricultural land may also be available.



A filter strip is a type of buffer strip composed of an area of vegetation, generally narrow and long, that slows the rate of runoff, allowing sediments, organic matter, and other pollutants that are being conveyed by the water to be removed by settling out. Filter strips reduce erosion and the accompanying stream pollution, and can be a best management practice. These riparian plantings can be easily installed in most areas. Urban and residential stream plantings with native plants, grasses and wildflowers can create backyard habitats for native birds and butterflies while enhancing natural settings and protecting water quality. Agricultural ditches planted with a narrow buffer of vegetation along streambanks protect fields from flooding by keeping the drain free of sediment and debris allowing water to flow freely, while filtering fertilizers, chemicals and sediments from runoff before it enters the stream. In both scenarios, water quality is improved, drainage protected and habitat created. An additional financial incentive is available for planting filter strips along drainage ways in agricultural areas through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Conservation practices that address erosion are also available for cost-share incentives through various Farm Bill programs offered by NRCS. For more information on types of practices and programs available or for specific types of plants that protect water quality, contact the Shiawassee Conservation District at 989-723-8263, ext 3. Improving water quality locally protects streams that contribute to our rivers and lakes. The water that leaves your land will ultimately drain to the Great Lakes and the cleaner that water is when it first makes its journey, the healthier Michigan rivers and lakes will be, translating to a stronger economy and better quality of living for our community.



Welcome New Student Trainee!

The Conservation District has a new face in their office! Keneisha Harrington is a student trainee for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) working toward her goal of becoming a Soil Conservationist. She is a junior at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, GA working on a B.S. in Agricultural Education and an A.A. in Spanish. After graduation she plans on attending graduate school to attain a degree in Diversity. Keneisha enjoys writing, listening to music and spending time with her family. She is enjoying her summer in Owosso, and we are glad to have her here.

Berry Bush & Tree Descriptions

Berry Bush & Tree Descriptions					
Variety		Height	Light Tolerance	Soils	Notes
Transplant	Colorado Blue Spruce	30-90'	Full sun	Best in moist to well drained soils but will tolerate dry conditions	Excellent for wildlife cover & windbreaks; drought tolerant
	Norway Spruce	75 - 100'	Shade tolerant	Prefers moist soils	Winter cover for wildlife
	White Cedar  Michigan Native	40-70'	Shade intolerant	Prefers neutral to alkaline soils	Foliage & twigs eaten by deer; fruit eaten by birds
	White Spruce  Michigan Native	50-80'	Shade tolerant	Able to establish on wet sites	Found with balsam fir, red maple, trembling aspen
Variety		Description			
Berry Bush	Heritage Red Raspberry	Very vigorous, hardy, erect, sturdy and suckers prolifically. Fruit size is medium, red, attractive, very firm for good shipping, very good flavor and excellent quality. Matures late August, early September.			
	Chester Blackberry	Most winter hardy of all thornless cultivars. Berries are firm, color does not leak or fade in sunny weather. Vine is resistant to blight. Ripens mid-August.			
	Michigan Huckleberry	A hardy ground over plant. The summer foliage is olive green and intense red in the autumn lasting thru most of the winter months. Flowers are bell shaped and pinkish in color. Black fruits are fairly abundant and are consumed by wildlife. The dense stem growth make a good hideout for birds and small animals. Drought resistant, grows best in rocky and sandy soils.			

Workshop Opportunities We are proud to offer a wide variety of workshops and field days each year that address the needs of the community. Topics we've covered in the past include beekeeping, pruning, gardening and ponds. We are in the planning stages of our fall/winter workshops and need to hear from you about topics you are interested in. Please give us a call at 989-723-8263, ext. 3 or send us a message on facebook and give us your input. We look forward to hearing from you!

Fall 2010 Berry Bush & Tree Fundraiser Ordering Information & Guidelines

- ▶ Return the completed order form with full payment to: **Shiawassee Conservation District
1900 S. Morrice Rd; Owosso, MI 48867**
- ▶ The final date to order is Monday September 27, 2010.
- ▶ Limited stock available. Orders will be honored in the order they are received.
- ▶ All returned checks will be subject to a \$35 fee; After orders are placed there will be a \$25 service charge for any substitutions or cancellations.
- ▶ We do not guarantee survival. Our liability ceases when seedlings are picked up. It is unlawful for these trees, shrubs and other plants to be resold with the roots attached in accordance with the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act. PA 189 of 1931 as amended.
- ▶ No refunds on orders canceled after September 27, 2010; Orders not picked up will not be refunded.
- ▶ The Shiawassee Conservation District reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to reasons beyond their control. Substitutions made by the nurseries are beyond the District's control.
- ▶ Add orders carefully. Any errors \$10 and under will be considered a donation to the District.
- ▶ All donations will be deposited into the Shiawassee Conservation District general fund.
- ▶ Pictures and descriptions of all trees are available in the District office.
- ▶ Orders can be picked up at the **Shiawassee Conservation District, 1900 S Morrice Road; Owosso**
- ▶ Pick up dates and times are all follows: **Thursday, October 14, 2010 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Friday, October 15, 2010 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

FALL 2010 TREE & BERRY BUSH FUNDRAISER

SHIAWASSEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Office Use Only

Order Number

Date

Initials

Name _____

Address / City / Zip _____

Phone-Day _____ Evening _____

Email _____

TRANSPLANTS	Age/Size	1	5	10	25	50	100	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Colorado Blue Spruce	4 yr/10-18"	\$4.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$150.00		
Norway Spruce	4 yr/15-24"	\$4.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$150.00		
White Cedar	4 yr/12-18"	\$4.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$150.00		
White Spruce	4 yr/15-24"	\$4.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$150.00		
BERRY BUSH		1	5	10					
Heritage Red Raspberry	3" container	\$4.50	\$16.50	\$30.00					
Chester Blackberry	2.5" container	\$4.50	\$16.50	\$30.00					
Michigan Huckleberry	1 gal container	\$15.00							
MISCELLANEOUS								Each	
Mesh Tree Guards								2/\$1.50	
Solid Tree Protectors								\$2.50	
Plantskydd 1 qt Pre-Mixed Spray - Deer, Moose, Elk and Rabbit Repellent								\$22.00	
Plantskydd 1 lb Soluble Powder Package - Deer, Moose, Elk and Rabbit Repellent								\$25.00	
Plantskydd 1 lb Granular - Rabbit and Small Critters Repellent								\$15.00	
Plantskydd 3 lb Granular Shaker Bag - Rabbit and Small Critters Repellent								\$30.00	
Plantskydd 5 qt Pre-Mixed Spray - Deer, Moose, Elk and Rabbit Repellent								\$55.00	
Tree Flag								\$.20	
Tree Collars **Inventory Reduction Sale**								\$1.00	

Orders can be picked up at the
Shiawassee Conservation District
 1900 S. Morrice Rd; Owosso

Deadline to Order
 Monday September 27, 2010

Subtotal	
6% Sales Tax	
Handling Fee	\$2.00
Donation	
Total	

Pick up dates & times

Thursday October 14
 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 Friday October 15
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



 Check One Visa MC Cash Check # _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name how it appears on Card _____ Security Code _____

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Address / City / Zip _____

Authorization Signature _____

Shiawassee Conservation District
1900 S. Morrice Road
Owosso, MI 48867

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Owosso, MI
Permit No. 87

CURRENT RESIDENT or



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conservation
YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER
YOUR MICHIGAN
MAKE A LONG-LASTING,
POSITIVE IMPACT ON
MICHIGAN'S NATURAL RESOURCES.
NO RESOURCE IS TOO SMALL
OR TOO LARGE.

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Greg Lenau, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS
Keneisha Harrington, Student Trainee, NRCS

www.shiawasseed.org

SHIAWASSEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT