

Paulding SWCD Lower Auglaize Tributaries Watershed Program

Progress through Dec. 31, 2019

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In July 2019, the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), was awarded a Watershed Program Grant through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to track/implement water quality and soil health projects in the Flatrock, Auglaize River, Little Auglaize River, Blue Creek, Sixmile, Middle Creek, and Prairie Creek watersheds. The watershed program focuses on the following priorities: controlled drainage, waterways, livestock nutrient management, stream restoration, home septic systems, filter strips, wetlands, soil health, and subsurface precision fertilizer placement. Below are some highlights of our program progress through December 31, 2019.

Waterways

A waterway design was started in the Sixmile watershed with funding through EQIP. The waterway will be 48' wide for 985ft. with the last 300ft being 32ft. wide with two 24 ft. wide laterals bringing the grand total to 1906' long with 6 rock checks and a 20'x30' rock chute for bank stabilization. Erosion blankets will be used for erosion control. Plans for this waterway are in review by NRCS Staff.

Filter Strips

Through the Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program, Paulding SWCD signed up 66.3acres of forage to filter run off along streams.

Home Septic Systems

Through December 31, there were 24 sites sent to the Paulding County Health Department of home septic systems discharging into local waterways.

Soil Health

Paulding SWCD promoted soil testing via Facebook posts, Ohio Small Grains Program, and our NPK Lunch & Learn in July. Through the Small Grains Program, nearly 7600 acres were signed up with the requirement of a recent soil test. A portion of the soil tests were new this year.

Variable Rate Technology was implemented on 116 acres by Paulding SWCD with our 2510H tool bar that came to us through a grant. The wet spring set our numbers back, as producers were still planting into July and trying to catch up on normal operations.

Cover crops were promoted by Paulding SWCD. Through the Ohio Small Grains Program, nearly 7600 acres of small grains were planted this summer. Residue will be left until the planting season in 2020. Of the 7,600 acres of small grains, 5,967 acres of cover crops were planted. The 1590 No-Till drill was rented/used on 292 acres.

Paulding SWCD had seven events promoting soil health. There were three NPK Lunch & Learns with TNC, a Stream Clean-up on Flatrock Creek, Annual District Meeting near the Auglaize River, a stakeholder meeting, and a landowner meeting for most of the lower Auglaize area for NPS-IS planning. Media outreach included Facebook and website posts. We made posts about our outdoor events, cost-share programs, and notified landowners of our watershed efforts. Four news articles were published in local newspapers.

The following table further breaks down program progress to date:

Practices	Values	Units
Plant Manure Crops/Small Grains	7,600	Acres
Plant Cover Crops	5,967	Acres
Install Filter Strips (50 ft or wider)	66.3	Acres
Develop Nutrient Management Plans	7,600	Acres
Implement Conservation Tillage Practices (No-Till Drill Use)	292	Acres
Conduct Soil Testing	7,600	Acres
Inspect Home Septic Treatment Systems	24	Inspections
Conduct Public Meetings	7	Meetings
News Articles on Soil Health/Water Quality	4	News Articles
Social Media Outreach on Soil Health/Water Quality Efforts	27	Social Media/Web Outreaches
Conduct Stream Clean-ups	1	Clean-ups
Conduct Field Days - Landowner / Manager	1	Field Days
Conduct Training	2	Training Sessions
Develop Manuals	1	Manuals
Develop Newsletters	1	Issues
Develop NPS-IS 9-Element Plans	5	Approved Plans

Stay tuned for further progress on the Lower Auglaize Watershed Program as we seek funding and projects to help improve water quality and soil health in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Together, we can make a difference. Contact the Paulding SWCD with any questions or project ideas at 419-399-4771 or email patrick.troyer@pauldingswcd.org.