

# Fairfield SWCD

## 2009 Successes

### *Public Outreach Activities*

#### Hosted the following events:

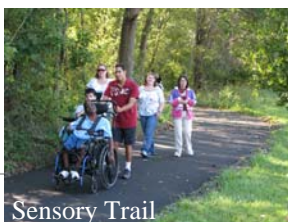
- Ohio Soil and Water Commission meeting in August; presented PowerPoint on FSWCD staff and activities
- Heart of Ohio RC&D Council quarterly meeting also in August; the group toured the completed portion of the Lancaster Sensory Trail and held their regular meeting
- ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources management staff in October, viewed PowerPoint and toured three sites: a dam rehab project, Fairfield County Litter and Recycling facility, and the Thomas Dairy Farm in Bremen
- Co-chaired the Agricultural Update Breakfast at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds in September with Farm Bureau and the Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce

### *Workshops*

- Co-hosted “Protect Your Family Land” meeting in Logan in February
- Contractors workshop for those that regularly work on conservation projects in this area, 62 people in attendance from 10 counties
- “Preserving our Agricultural Heritage” workshop in March with 42 in attendance

### *New Programs and Initiatives for 2009*

- REX pipeline coordination during construction activities
- Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow watershed group coordination
- 4 new land lab grants to county schools at \$500 each
- Assisted Regional Planning Commission with updating the county land use plan
- Paid a share of the cost for new aerial mapping, updated maps delivered in December 2009
- Assisted LHS with designing a large stream bank stabilization project near the bike path and football stadium; construction and bioremediation will begin in February.
- Completed Phase One of the Lancaster Sensory Trail
- Designed approximately 6,000 feet of tile for the Lancaster Festival to improve drainage at the site
- Completed necessary NPDES stream mapping in Violet Township
- 25 farms applied to the State’s Agriculture Easement Purchase Program in 2009, Fairfield Co. record “our highest ever”
- Easement finalized for the Tom Dixon farm through the Fairfield Land Preservation Association



# Fairfield SWCD

## *2009 Successes (Continued)*

### ***Media Contacts***

Vicki Kohli maintained her weekly Conservation Corner column in the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette and monthly radio show on 90.9 FM. Articles on our programs were printed in Buckeye News, Country Living magazine, The Columbus Dispatch (featuring Joe Young), Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, Towne Criers, and Ohio Farmer.

Two segments with Ben Gelber, WCMH 4 TV, on preserving farmland were aired. Jonathan Ferbrache was in both segments.

### ***Staff Leadership Roles***

- Amy Boyer is the Program Chair for the American Society of Ag and Biological Engineers
- Dave Libben is serving as the President of the All Ohio Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society
- Jonathan Ferbrache was appointed to the ODA Food Policy Council, Ag Viability Task Force. He also passed the certification test to be a Certified Professional in Sediment and Erosion Control (CPESC).
- Melissa Horton just completed two years as the Chair of the Ohio NRCS Civil Rights Committee
- Perry Orndorff just completed his two-year term as President of the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association
- Vicki Kohli holds a seat on the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; is a member of the State Education and Communication Committee; she also serves on the ODNR-DSWR team that developed the new training program for SWCD education specialists

*We continued to provide landowners, agencies and decision makers with direct answers to their questions and conservation needs via phone, e-mail, office visits and field appointments.*