



# BROWN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Newsletter

Winter 2016

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## Upcoming Programs

Applications are being accepted for anticipated USDA funding for conservation practice implementation on farmland and forested land.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be accepted until February 19, 2016 to be considered for this year's funding. For more information about CSP or any of the NRCS Conservation programs visit [www.brownsxcd.org](http://www.brownsxcd.org) or call the office at 937.378.4424 ext. 3.

## Farm Service Agency Program Availability

FSA will offer CRP General Sign-up December 1- February 26. Farmers and landowners interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses and trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll. Contracts for land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are 10-15 years in length with reimbursement for land taken out of production. Please call (513) 732-2181 or (937) 378-6137 for more information at the Clermont or Brown County FSA offices.



# Forestry Update

By: Tim Wilson, Division of Forestry

I thought it would be of some interest to the readers of the newsletter to give an overview of the Ohio Division of Forestry. The Division of Forestry has three main branches that provide technical forestry assistance to Ohio.

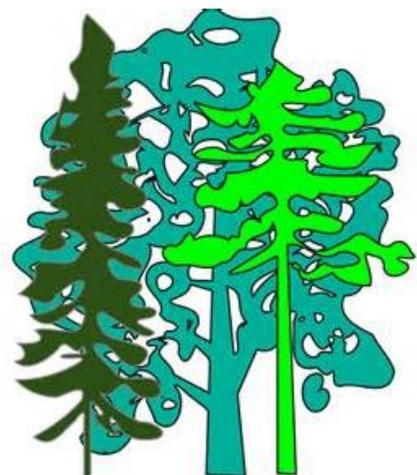
The first is the State Forest system. Ohio has 22 State forests ranging in size from 600 acres (Sunfish State Forest) to 63,000 acres (Shawnee State Forest). The State Forest system is managed for multiple uses. Some of those uses include; timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and clean water. State foresters are employed to oversee the operations on the state forest. Camping, hunting, hiking and horse trails can also be enjoyed by the public. Timber production is a part of the management of state forests. Timber sale proceeds are divided up between local townships, counties and school districts and for Division operations. Southern Ohio boasts the highest number of state forests.

The Division also has a Service Forestry section. There are 22 Service Foresters located throughout the state assisting private landowners with the management of their woodlands. Service Foresters offer technical advice on proper harvesting techniques, develop management plans, assist with tree plantings and insect and disease control. My Service Forestry project includes; Adams, Brown, Clermont and Scioto counties.

Urban Foresters with the Division of Forestry provide technical advice to municipalities. Some of the advice would center around proper planting and care of trees along the streets.

The Division of Forestry also trains fire departments and provides support with forest fires. A cornerstone of this training is providing qualified firefighters to support large western fires. Each summer, the Division of Forestry sends 20 person crews out west on large scale fires. These crews are gone for 2 weeks at a time.

The Ohio Division of Forestry is the leader in the management of Ohio's woodlands. If you have any questions about your woodlands, you can reach me at 937.378.4920 or email me at [tim.wilson@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:tim.wilson@dnr.state.oh.us).



## THANK YOU

The Brown SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff would also like to thank the Brown County Commissioners, The Solid Waste Authority and the Brown County Auditor for their continuing support and dedication to soil and water conservation in our county.

### Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 a.m. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Brown SWCD office.

### Calendar of Events

Board Meeting	Feb. 17
Board Meeting	Mar. 16
Board Meeting	Apr. 20
Board Meeting	May 18
Board Meeting	Jun. 15

*Stay tuned to learn more about exciting events we are planning for 2016!*

***“The earth is what we all have in common.”***

***-Wendell Berry***

## Cardinal Land Conservancy

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has certified Cardinal Land Conservancy, Inc., as Local Sponsor for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) six southwest Ohio counties. An agricultural easement is a voluntary, permanent, legally binding restriction placed on a farm that limits the use of the land to predominantly agricultural activity.

The farm will remain in one piece because the landowner and future generations will not be able to subdivide the farm into smaller farms or houses once the agricultural easement is placed on it.

Funding for this program is provided through the Clean Ohio Conservation fund, approved by voters in 2008. When combined with easements from all programs, family farms have collectively preserved more than 59,000 acres of prime farmland.

The program is highly competitive and funding is not guaranteed. Applications will be accepted until February 19, 2016, please contact the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District.

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# Contact Us

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**Stop by the office and see what we can do to assist you!**

Give us a call for more information about our services and products.

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Visit us on the web at:  
<http://www.brownswcd.org>

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