



HENRY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2260 North Scott Street, Napoleon, Ohio 43545
Phone (419) 592-2926, Ext. 3 • Fax (419) 599-0300

The Henry Soil and Water Conservation District and the Henry County Pheasants Forever Chapter had a very successful sign-up for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project in 2003.

The project targeted four townships in the southwest quadrant of Henry County with bonus dollars and free seedings of buffer strips signed up into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

In 2003 100 landowners signed up 193.1 acres of buffer strips on 124 different fields. These buffer strips protect and reduce runoff on over 55 miles of ditch banks in Henry County. They also benefit the wildlife by increasing habitat acres and creating corridors. Seeding the buffer strips is no easy task as the recommended cutoff seeding date is May 15th. In 2002 many of the buffer strips were seeded after this date (due to equipment shortage) and failed.

Seeding the buffer strips this year was more efficient than the past. This was due to the Lake Erie Protection Fund grant they received last spring. This allowed the District to purchase a 10' no-till drill to seed the buffer strips.

The 10' drill is bigger than our existing drill which allows for a more timely seeding of the buffer strips. During the critical spring seeding time, the District used both drills. This increased our efficiency and dramatically improved the establishment of the grass on the buffer strips. A very small percentage of the buffer strips were reseeded this fall. This was directly due to the new drill and the timely manner in seeding the buffer strips last spring.

Another benefit of the new drill is the ability to seed forages. We had several farmers use it this late summer to establish hay fields.

The installation of buffer strips is a high priority for the Henry SWCD. This new drill has shown a benefit in our effort of putting conservation in Henry County.