



# Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District

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[www.BelmontSWCD.org](http://www.BelmontSWCD.org)

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## **2014 Healthy Soils Mini-Grant Final Report Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District**

The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its first ever Soils Health Workshop on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at the OSU Extension conference room. The workshop was open to local landowners and interested residents of Belmont County. A total of twenty-six people attended the workshop, where they learned about soil structure, soil fertility, the 4 R's, equipment usage, no-till vs. conventional tilling, cover crops, pH kits, water quality, watersheds, drainage, Web Soil Survey, and how to take and read soil tests. Other sponsors included: OSU Extension, ODNR DSWR, and NRCS.

Participants were able to receive a maximum of 3 free soil tests and a free Belmont County Soil Book for attending the workshop. The grant was able to pay for 60 soil tests to be done through OSU Extension. All 60 soil tests were used by the participants. One of our demonstrations at the workshop was showing them how to use a pH kit. We used the Cornell wide range pH kit to show this demonstration.

### *Major Accomplishments and Successful Initiatives*

A major accomplishment of this soil health workshop was providing conservation education to twenty-six local residents. Participants left the workshop with the knowledge of what makes a healthy soil and how to establish or maintain a healthy soil.

Another accomplishment is bringing awareness to these landowners about healthy soils and the hope that these residents will use their increased knowledge of these practices to help spread conservation awareness among the community.

Finally, close partnerships were formed as a result of this opportunity. These partnerships contributed to the success of the program and will be valuable as we develop future programs.

### *Program Evaluation and Plans for Continuation*

We were very surprised by the interest in this workshop expressed by local residents (our registration filled up quickly!). Therefore, we are interested in holding future soil health workshops and continuing the partnerships developed through this program.

We thought that the following contributed to the success of the event:

- length of the program (3 hours) was just right
- length of presentations, pH test kit demonstration, and the soils health demonstration
- the distribution of educational handouts and flyers about natural resource conservation and Belmont SWCD programs
- Completion of surveys of the landowners' evaluation of the workshop

Improvement of future soil health workshops includes:

- Bigger space for the workshop

### *Variations from the Original Proposal*

No variations of this workshop were made from the original proposal, except for the variations in store pricing, but these changes did not affect the overall budget for the project.

### **Budget Summary**

| <b>GRANT TOTAL</b>           | <b>\$1000.00</b> |                      |                |                   |                      |                |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Expense item</b>          | <b>Quantity</b>  | <b>Cost per unit</b> | <b>Grant</b>   | <b>Cash Match</b> | <b>In-kind match</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
| OSU Extension 60 Soil Tests  | 60               | 12.00                | 636.64         | 83.36             |                      | 720.00         |
| Hanna Backpack Soil Test Kit | 1                | 331.86               | 331.86         |                   |                      | 331.86         |
| Printing Material Cost       | 128              | .13                  |                |                   | 16.64                | 16.64          |
| Cornell Wide Range pH Kit    | 1                | 31.50                | 31.50          |                   |                      | 31.50          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                |                  |                      | <b>1000.00</b> | <b>83.36</b>      | <b>16.64</b>         | <b>1100.00</b> |

*Note: All cash match and in-kind match were provided by the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District.*

### *Attachments included:*

Photographs  
Belmont SWCD press release  
Brochure

# Sponsors



## Soils

## Health

## Workshop

**March 3, 2014**

**6 pm - 9 pm**

**Belmont SWCD**

**101 N Market St**

**St. Clairsville, OH 43950**

Belmont SWCD

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## HEALTHY SOILS

6 pm – Steve Prebonick, ODNR Soil Scientist

What is Soil?

6:45 pm – Bob Mulligan, ODNR Pollution Abatement and Resource Management

Soil Fertility, 4 R's, Drainage, Equipment Usage, Cover Crops

7:30 pm – Kim Brewster, Belmont SWCD Watershed Coordinator

Water Quality

7:50 pm

pH Demonstration/No-till vs Conventional Tillage Demonstration

8:05 pm – Joe Lehman, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

Web Soil Survey

8:25 pm – Dan Lima, OSU Extension

Soil Tests

Participants are able to receive a maximum of 3 FREE soil tests and a Belmont County Soil Book. Soil tests will be done through OSU Extension. Space is limited. RSVP by February 28, 2014.



For More Information Contact:

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