

## 2014 Healthy Soils Mini-Grant Report

**Title:** Soil Health & Nutrient Management to Protect Water Quality Workshop Series

**Project completion date:** 11-19-2014

**Major accomplishments, examples of successful initiatives:** We were able to host five workshops on issues that affect soil health. The dates of the workshops were June 13, July 18, August 27, November 13 and November 19. The topics covered were the 4R Nutrient Management Stewardship Program, Soil Health Fertility, Best Management Practices, Interpreting Soil Test Results, Crop Requirements and Limiting Environmental Impact from Various Fertilizer Sources. There were twenty-three participants and 18 soil samples submitted. The small size of the workshops allowed for better interaction between the participants and the speakers. Multiple workshops instead of a long day of training allowed for a better pace in which to absorb all of the information provided by the speakers.

**Variations from the original proposal:** We added a fifth workshop especially for Master Gardeners. There was a scheduled conflict with the final workshop and the speaker was willing to come back for separate training. Also, this allowed the content to be customized for gardeners.

### Budget summary:

Item	Grant	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total
Soil Samples	\$ 192			
Speaker Fee	\$ 113			
Room Rental	\$ 100			
Travel	\$ 84			
Advertising	\$ 198			
Meals		\$ 487		
Reference Materials			\$ 130	
Staff Time (83 Hours)			\$ 2,378	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 687</b>	<b>\$ 487</b>	<b>\$ 2,508</b>	<b>\$3,682</b>

### Other Partners

	Deposit	
Participants	\$120.00	
OLC	\$120.00	
Farm Bureau	\$250.00	
OFSWCD 4R Grant*	-	*Not received at the time of this report
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$490.00</b>	

**Funds remaining**            \$    313

**Plans for use of remaining funds (if they exist):** Having the final workshop in November hindered farmers who were still in the field from participating. We plan to repeat the soil test workshop in the spring and offer the incentive of free soil samples again.

**Program evaluation and plans for continuation:** The workshop that provided soil test results showed participants the need for better nutrient management. The lawn and garden soil test results consistently had very high phosphorus levels – up to 75 years' worth of nutrients. The speaker noted that this is why farmers want to blame the homeowners; however, he also noted that farmland was a larger contributor based on size. The workshop has improved our relationship with members of the Master Gardeners and they are interested in having more programs with us in the future. For the cropland soil test results, we found that Spectrum Analytic made higher fertilizer recommendations than the Tri-State Fertility Guide. The speaker provided economic and agronomic reasons for following the Tri-State Fertility Guide, which is worth repeating at the proposed soil test workshop in the spring.

**Suggestions for improving similar future projects:** The format worked well. There were no suggestions for improving other than having more workshops.

**Examples of any print materials or media coverage generated by your project:** We advertised twice in the local paper (example attached).

Reported completed on 12-2-2014 by:



Julia Cumming  
Program Administrator

Contact Information:  
Madison SWCD  
831 US Hwy 42 NE  
London, Ohio 43140  
(740) 852-4004 Option 3



**Don't Miss  
Out on  
Your  
Chance to  
SAVE!**

**Includes  
breakfast or  
dinner!**

**\$5 per  
individual  
workshop**

**\*Receive 2  
free soil  
sample tests  
(\$28 Value)**

## **Soil Health Fertility Management 4 Part Series**

**Part II - Soil Lab Tour**  
July 18th at 9:00 A.M.  
Meet us at  
Spectrum Analytic Lab  
1087 Jamison Road N.W.  
Washington C.H., OH 43160

**Future topics include:**

Aug 27 - Drainage Control Structures, No Till Corn  
and Cover Crops

Nov 13 - Using Soil Test Results and Making a Plan  
(4Rs of Nutrient Stewardship)

Madison Soil & Water Conservation District  
831 US HWY 42 NE  
London OH  
(740) 852-4004



Ohio Department of  
Natural Resources  
Division of Soil &  
Water Resources



**\*The first 25 people to sign up will receive  
2 free soil sample tests (\$28 value).  
Reservations are required as seating is limited.  
Call (740) 852-4004.**

