

# 2014 HEALTHY SOILS GRANT FINAL REPORT

Submitted by the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District  
Prepared by: Kevin Yost, Conservation Technician

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## **PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:**

The Pike SWCD completed the final item of the grant by holding a workshop on Soil Health and Cover Crops on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

To highlight the purpose of the initial proposal for this project, the District provided the following project summary:

*According to a 2012 report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pike County had 9,900 acres planted to corn for grain production and 12,400 acres planted to soybeans. Our county is primarily woodland with approximately 60% of our land base in trees (165,000 acres) and while our grain crop land use is small (less than 8%), educational outreach efforts by the District have likely left this group underserved.*

*The Pike Soil and Water Conservation District is in the infant stages of educating the public on cover crops and their value and uses in soil health and nutrient management. We have planned for the fall of 2013 our first soil health/cover crop field day, which will show those in attendance fields planted to cover crops on a local farm with guest speakers, included David Brandt from Walnut Creek Seeds Inc. and Greg LeBarge from OSU Extension, to educate landowners on the benefits of healthy soil.*

The 2013 Soil Health/Cover Crop field day drew a crowd of 27 participants.

In March 2014, we hosted a Cover Crops for the Gardener workshop at the Pike County Government Center. This indoor event featured a presentation by Jay Brandt with Walnut Creek Seeds in Carroll, Ohio. This event had 35 in attendance and provided education on the importance of soil health to improving yields in gardens and using cover crops to correct compaction issues.

For the purpose of the 2014 Healthy Soils grant, the District wanted to expand upon this educational effort and offer a program directed toward cash grain farmers. Our plan for the grant was the following:

- Solicit participation from 3 grain producers to adapt cover crops into their crop rotation in late summer 2014 (August 2014)
- Provide soil sampling and testing analysis prior to cover crop planting (August 2014)
- Provide cover crop seed to these 3 producers to install 5-acre demonstration plots of cover crops (September 2014)
- Provide use of the District's no-till grain drills for cover crop establishment (September 2014)
- Host a multi-stop field day at these locations to further educate those interested in soil health and cover crops (November 2014)

## **PROJECT VARIATIONS:**

The District began marketing for this project in March 2014 by a direct mailing to 3 cooperators that the District thought might be interested in participating. Other marketing included landowner contact at the Cover Crop for the Gardener workshop in late March and direct mailing through newsletter and field visits.

One landowner (Gabe Glenn) first contacted in May during an I&E farm visit for an EQIP contract, decided to participate. This landowner's primary focus was livestock production, but had leased cropland in an adjacent county. Our agreement with this landowner was to plant a field (3.6 acres) that had been used as a sacrifice/heavy use area for livestock during the winter of 2013 into a cover crop in the summer of 2014. Detailing the activities on this farm and the cooperation of this landowner can be found on the referenced page "A Season of Cover Crops at Glenn Farms"

In summary, we were able to assist another landowner with a small planting of fall cover crops (5,000 sq. ft.), but this property was not in the vicinity of Glenn Farms, so we were not able to utilize this property for the purpose of a multi-stop field day. We did, however, accomplish the following:

- 2 participating landowners (Gabe Glenn, Delbert Reisinger)
- (1) S1 Soil Analysis
- 3 cover crop plantings (Gabe Glenn x2 @ 3.6 acres each, Delbert Reisinger x1 @ 5,000 sq. ft.)
- Direct mailing to 135 landowners with information about the Soil Health/Cover Crop field day and 4R Tomorrow information
- 1 partnership with the Scioto SWCD to host a multi-county workshop and provide an incentive payment for another cover crop planting
- 1 workshop with 12 in attendance

As previously mentioned, Glenn Farms has cropland in adjacent Scioto County, so we contacted that District to engage them in a partnership effort to host a multi-county workshop. In addition, the Scioto SWCD had some additional funds from a previous grant and they were able to enter into an agreement to plant winter cover crops (triticale) on 30 acres of harvested soybean ground. Unfortunately, the soybean harvest was delayed on this farm and Gabe was unable to plant this farm to cover crops this year, therefore, we were not able to utilize this field as part of our workshop. This incentive payment provided \$750.00 (\$25.00 per acre) to the landowner.

**Budget Summary**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>In-Kind Match</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agronomic Soil Analysis, S1 Test (x1 @ \$8.00) =	<b>\$8.00</b>			
Seed purchase for cover crop demonstration Gabe Glenn - 3.6 acre summer annual planting (36 lb. sorghum-sudan grass, 36 lb. pearl millet)	<b>\$136.48</b>			
Gabe Glenn – 3.6 acre winter grazing mix planting (200 lb. winter grazing mix)	<b>\$210.00</b>			
Delbert Reisinger – 5,000 sq. ft. fall cover crop planting (20 lb. fall cover mix)	<b>\$28.00</b>			
Use of the District’s No-Till Grain Drill Gabe Glenn x2 \$10.00/acre or \$100.00 minimum x 2 plantings =		<b>\$200.00</b>		
Direct USPS Mailing to Landowners (4R/Cover Crop Promotion and Field Day Marketing) 135 landowners x \$0.49 per envelope	<b>\$66.15</b>			
Food Purchased for November 8, 2014 workshop		<b>\$50.32</b>		
Staff Coordination (Kevin Yost, Conservation Technician) \$17.11 hr. x 133% benefits = \$22.76 hr. \$22.76/hr. x 117 hrs.			<b>\$2,662.92</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$448.63</b>	<b>\$250.32</b>	<b>\$2,662.92</b>	<b>\$3,361.87</b>

= \$176.37 remaining from grant funds

## **PLANS FOR REMAINING FUNDS**

In 2015, we are planning to offer some additional cover crop outreach to the home gardener. We will be purchasing 50 pound of interseed mix and 50 pounds of fall cover mix from Walnut Creek Seed. This cost is estimated at \$296.00 and will exhaust the remaining funds from the 2014 grant.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Our program experienced limited success, but with most efforts of outreach to the agricultural community in southern Ohio, it seems we reach a few more people with each effort. After two years of cover crop promotion, it may be time to focus our outreach efforts where more can be educated with less. The cost-effectiveness of reaching this small community within our county needs to be questioned.

## **PRINTED MATERIALS**

The following items promotional items are attached:

- Pike SWCD Article for News Watchman.doc
- Pike SWCD Newsletter August 2014\_FINISHED.pdf
- 2014 Soil Health-Cover Crop Field Day.pdf
- A Season of Cover Crops at Glenn Farms.pub

## **Pictures from the Field Day**



(Display from Walnut Creek Seeds)



(Roundtable discussion of landowners and resource people)



(Winter grazing cover crop mix germination)



(Cowpea plant showing attached seed and nitrogen fixation)



(Matt Lane, ODNR-DSWR Soil Scientist discussing healthy soils)



Jay Brandt, Walnut Creek Seeds, and Bob Hendershot, ODNR-DSWR addressing the crowd)

Saturday, November 8

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

### **Glenn Farms**

909 Stockdale Road  
Beaver, Ohio 45613  
(Off SR 335 between  
Beaver and Stockdale)

REGISTRATION IS FREE  
AND LUNCH IS PROVIDED

## **COME LEARN ABOUT:**

- What makes a soil “healthy”?
- Soil testing and nutrient management
- The “4R” concept of nutrient application
- Cover crops—  
*Uses and benefits for livestock and row crop operations*  
*Economics and environmental considerations*  
*How to incorporate them into your crop rotation*  
*How they can reduce erosion, add organic matter,*  
*and when combined with no-till, really boost your benefits*

The Pike and Scioto SWCD's presents

# **SOIL HEALTH & COVER CROP FIELD DAY**

### **AGENDA:**

- 10:00—Introductions and overview of Glenn Farms
- 10:15—Travel from headquarters to the field to view cover crops used in a beef grazing operation for soil health improvements and increased grazing/forage opportunities
- 11:30—Return to headquarters for **lunch / refreshments**
- 12:15—Travel off-site to view cover crops planned after soybean harvest for soil erosion control, soil health improvement, and spring forage harvesting
- 1:30—Questions and answers with our hosts/speakers and evaluations
- 2:00—Adjourn and have a safe trip home!

### **ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS:**

**JAY BRANDT**—Jay serves as the Product Advisor for Walnut Creek Seeds, LLC. Jay is instrumental to the family-owned business that strives to promote soil health and improved land management practices through the use of cover crops.

**MATT LANE**—Matt is a Soil Scientist with the ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources. Matt is the source of all information related to soil health and productivity and will add to the discussion on environmental benefits of using cover crops for soil health and water quality.

### **Directions to the farm -**

From SR 32, take SR 335 south 4.6 miles, turn left onto Stockdale Road. Drive 0.9 miles on Stockdale Road. The farm will be on your left. Signs will be posted.



<http://www.4rbarnrow.org>

### **To Register, please contact:**

**Kevin Yost, Pike SWCD**  
(740) 947-5353  
[kevin.yost@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:kevin.yost@oh.nacdnet.net)

**Scott Lewis, Scioto SWCD**  
(740) 259-3075  
[scott.lewis@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:scott.lewis@oh.nacdnet.net)



**Pike Soil & Water Conservation District**  
 11752 State Route 104  
 Waverly, Ohio 45690  
 Phone: (740) 947-5353



## A SEASON OF COVER CROPS AT GLENN FARMS

### JUNE 2—

SWCD collected soil sample from Glenn Farms and mailed to Spectrum Analytic, Washington Court House

### JUNE 4 -

Landowner surface applied manure at an unknown rate and disked field (field was heavily pugged due to livestock use from previous winter)

### JUNE 5—

Field drilled with pearl millet/sorghum-sudan seed @ 10 lb./ac. each  
 Cover crop intended for forage harvest for winter feeding.



### JUNE 6—OCTOBER 3

Original objective of 3 cuttings of hay from this field were not successful due to weed pressure (pigweed).

Landowner was able to graze 6 heifers in this field and they were not able to keep up with the rapid growth, so summer foraging opportunities were met when cool-season pasture growth was slow.



OCTOBER 3—Summer cover crop terminated

with herbicide.

OCTOBER 8—Field drilled with WCS winter grazing mix at 50 lb./ac. with no disking prior to planting.

11752 State Route 104  
Waverly, Ohio 45690

August 2014

Phone: (740) 947-5353  
(740) 947-2026

Hours of Operation: Monday—Friday 8:00—4:30

# Pike Conservation Gazette

## District Office Staff

Mary Sibole—  
Administrative Assistant  
Kevin Yost—  
Conservation Technician

## NRCS Partners

Abbe Copple—  
Resource Conservationist  
Mel Smith -  
District Conservationist



## Mark Your Calendars!

**The District's Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Please use the form on the reverse side of this newsletter to reserve your spots, or contact the office at (740) 947-5353 or (740) 947-2026 to reserve or for more information.**

## Come Learn About Cover Crops

In continuing our effort in providing educational opportunities on this hot topic, the District is offering its third workshop on cover crops. **Saturday, November 8th**, we're planning a field event near Stockdale that will be beneficial to both livestock and row crop operators, as well as anyone else interested in improving soil health and all the many benefits of cover crops. Keep an eye out for more information in the newspaper and social media, or contact the District office for more information.

## Meet our Board of Supervisor Candidates

Two Pike County residents are running for one open position on the Board of Supervisors. Read about them both below.

### David Adams

David is a 1968 graduate of Waverly High School and a 1972 graduate of the Ohio State University. He and his wife Kristina have been married for 43 years and have two sons and six grandchildren. David and his family returned to Pike County in 2010 after retiring from a 40-year career in the forest products industry. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and managing his Scioto County tree farm.

### Jeffrey W. Davis

Jeff has been a resident of Pike County for 42 years, most of which has been near Beaver. He's a graduate of Eastern Local Schools and the Vern Riffe JVS where he studied electricity. He is currently the manager at Callahan Do-It-Best Hardware in Jackson. He and his wife Cheryl (who has been a teacher at Eastern Local Schools for 14 years) have been married for 22 years. Jeff is a member of the Fourth and Mullens Church of Christ in Waverly and currently he serves as President of the Beaver Village council. His interests include outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, gardening, and animals. He enjoys reading, wood working, and studying history.

The District Board of Supervisors are responsible for developing policies and coordinating the overall mission of the SWCD. They attend meetings and supervise staff, all while receiving no salary or compensation.

The public can vote for open positions on the Board at the Annual Meeting or by absentee ballot. See page 2 for more details on voting.

## Board of Supervisors

**Martha Trent**  
*Chairperson*  
**Adam Smith**  
*Vice-Chairman*  
**Sharon Manson**  
*Secretary / Treasurer*  
**Thomas Brewster**  
*Fiscal Agent*  
**Vacant**  
*Member*

*The Pike Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our 65th Annual Meeting and Banquet.*

Join us for the evening as we recognize our Outstanding Woodland Cooperator of the Year, our photo contest winners, as well as the big tree contest winner, not to mention, enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by the staff and students of the Pike Career Technology Center, including baked steak and fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cole slaw, rolls, dessert, and drinks.

Voting for **one** position on the Board of Supervisors will occur prior to the beginning of the Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but you are an eligible voter (at least 18 years of age, a resident or property owner in Pike County) and would like to vote absentee, ballots can be requested at the Pike SWCD office between the hours of 8:00—4:30, Monday—Friday, beginning September 4th and ending at 1:00 p.m. on September 11th.

- Board of Supervisor candidates:** David Adams, Jeffrey Davis
- Outstanding Woodland Cooperator of the Year:** Schmidt's Overlook Hills Tree Farm
- Photo Contest winners:** Ashley Merritt (1st), Sandra Walls (2nd), Kaki Sibole (3rd)
- Big Tree Contest winner:** (Contest still in progress)

Reservations are required and can be made by completing the form below and returning to:



Pike SWCD  
11572 St Rt 104  
Waverly Oh 45690



Questions?: (740) 947-5353 or 947-2026

## Pike SWCD 65th Annual Meeting & Banquet

September 11th—Vern Riffe Career Technical Center (Piketon JVS)

Voting for one position of the Board of Supervisors will take place from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Board candidates are: David Adams, Jeffrey Davis

Banquet to begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$11.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Children 7—12 years: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.50 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Children 6 and younger: \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send total count and check made payable to the Pike SWCD, 11752 State Route 104, Waverly, Ohio 45690.

**No refunds.** Prices reflect amounts paid by September 11, 2014

Prices at the door will be \$15.00 for adults, and \$8.00 for children