

“It is the goal of Logan Soil and Water Conservation District to promote stewardship of soil, water and other natural resources.”

In 1943, Logan Soil and Water Conservation District was formed by a group of landowners to assist farmers in dealing with cropland erosion and soils after issues resulting from the Dust Bowl or the “Dirty Thirties” that occurred in the United States and Canada in the 1930’s. Millions of acres of farmland became useless, and hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes.

Soil and water conservation districts are the only local agencies that are dedicated to protecting and conserving natural resources and providing direct technical support to agricultural businesses, local governments and other landowners.

According to the Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning, Logan County consists of 458.5 square miles with 52.81% of cropland, 8.70% of pasture, 31.01% of forest, and 2.11% of wetlands. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture (the latest completed), Logan County had 956 farms, equaling 201,306 acres of Logan County in agriculture.

The Logan SWCD Board is governed by a board of 5 locally elected officials, who are familiar with the county’s resource needs and supervise staff to specifically deliver a tailor-made conservation program – and also receive no salary.

Logan SWCD provides assistance to urban, rural and agricultural land users, specializing in soil erosion prevention and water management. We work with farmers through a voluntary cooperative agreement. Services include survey and design of:

- Grassed waterways
- Erosion control structures
- Surface and subsurface drainage
- Farm ponds
- Windbreaks
- Livestock waste management facilities

On the urban side, Logan SWCD works with local governments, business developers, property owners, etc. to assist in the following areas:

- Stream channel and floodplain erosion
- Watershed action planning and implementation
- Storm water/land use management development and education
- Inspection of detention/ retention pond
- Farmland Preservation and Conservation Easements
- Floodplain management regulation

Working agreements among all 88 local SWCD’s include ODNR –Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

- Logan SWCD identifies and prioritizes natural resource concerns;
- The State provides administrative, financial and training support; and
- The Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service provides the technical standards by which all partners abide.

By supporting strong partnerships, conservation practices reach thousands of Ohioans every day. This partnership has been used as a template for formal and informal working agreements between Logan SWCD and other conservation partners:

- Pheasants Forever
- US Fish & Wildlife
- The Ohio State University Extension office
- Conservancy Districts
- Logan County Land Trust
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Department of Agriculture