

Mark Your Calendars !

to attend the

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Workshop

Date: March 18, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (8:00 a.m. registration)

Location: Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds

Please mark your calendars now to be sure and attend the Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Workshop. We have a group of sessions and speakers that we think you will find very beneficial and interesting. As in the past, there will also be a fully catered meal, however this year there will be a small charge. We have not been accustomed to doing this in the past, but due to the county's budget shortfall we need your assistance in helping cover a portion of the costs. Therefore a modest fee of \$10.00 will be requested from those attending the sessions and meal.

This year we are very pleased to announce that our keynote session will be given by Ray Archuleta, nationally known for his presentations on the immense importance of Soil Quality and how our very lives are intertwined with it. Mr. Archuleta is a Conservationist Agronomist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, East National Technology Center, located in Greensboro, North Carolina. The keynote address this year will be "Soil Health = Environmental Health = Human Health" with the concept being: as we work toward improving soil health there are broad reaching environmental gains which ultimately lead to improved nutrition and overall human health.

A series of breakout sessions will also be included:

“Cover Crop Cocktails” The value of planting cover crops are many, and we are learning new information every year. The choice of plant species and the various mixes that can be grown are many. Ag producers and even suburban small lot owners can take advantage of the information presented in this session. Come and learn from nationally known speaker on this subject, Ray Archuleta, how you can improve the health of your soil and crop.

“Learning the In’s and Out’s of Using the On-Line Hamilton County Mapping Program”

There is a great tool right at your fingertips that many residents in Hamilton County may not be aware of. If you have internet access and a computer you can take advantage of a Hamilton County mapping program, allowing you to view current and historical aerial photographs, soil types, county drain locations, topographic elevations, parcel ownership and acreage, etc. You will likely find this tool very beneficial.

“Soil Samples – How To Take Them, Interpret the Results, and Follow the Recommendations”

Lois Parker with A & L Great Lakes Labs will be discussing the importance of taking soil samples correctly, and how to interpret the results once you receive them from the lab. In addition, most soil reports include certain recommendations for the home owner to follow. Knowing what to do is vital in getting the most benefit from your soil test.

“The Top 5 Conservation Practices To Improve Your Backyard” Many homeowners in Hamilton County are increasingly becoming more interested in things they can do in their own backyards to improve wildlife habitat, water quality, soil conditions, etc. This session will present valuable information on nutrient management, rain barrels, composting, rain gardens, native plants and wildlife habitat, and how the SWCD can help you implement them.

If you would like to attend the Hamilton County SWCD Annual Meeting and Workshop, **please RSVP and purchase your meal tickets at 317-773-2181** by March 11, 2011. We hope to see you there.