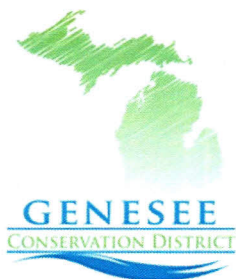


Address field



Time sensitive material enclosed.

Informational Meetings—August 6

**Learn more about USDA conservation programs and funding
available through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

- 10 a.m. at Porter Orchard

12060 Hegel Rd.

Goodrich, MI 48438

Meal provided including fresh doughnuts and cider

- 7 p.m. at Ron Nicks farm

6065 Grand Blanc Rd.

Swartz Creek, MI 48473

Meal provided

Please RSVP by Thursday, August 2. Call the Genesee Conservation District at
(810) 230-8766 Ext. 3 or e-mail at angela.warren@mi.nacdnet.net

USDA Targets Conservation Funding to Kearsley Creek - Swartz Creek Watersheds

Applications must be submitted by August 17, 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has \$2 million in conservation financial assistance available to farmers in the Kearsley Creek and Swartz Creek watersheds to improve water quality. The funding was provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Assistance Available

The funds will go to farmers who agree to employ conservation practices that reduce the amount of **phosphorus** entering surface water. The funding is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. A variety of practices are eligible for funding. Conservationists at local NRCS and conservation district offices will help producers determine which conservation practices will most benefit their farming operation.

Some Conservation Practices Eligible for Funding

Conservation Crop Rotation	Heavy Use Area Protection
Contour Buffer Strips	Hedgerow Planting
Cover Crop	Integrated Pest Management
Critical Area Planting	Prescribed Grazing
Drainage Water Management	Nutrient Management
Field Border	Residue and Tillage Management
Filter Strip	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Grade Stabilization Structure	Watering Facility
Grassed Waterway	Windbreak/Establishment or Renovation

This is a partial list of practices eligible for funding. A complete list of eligible practices is available at local NRCS offices or online at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

How to Apply

Farmers can apply for conservation financial assistance at their local NRCS field office. It is recommended that farmers begin the application process as soon as possible, this is especially important for farmers who have never enrolled in NRCS conservation programs before.

Cover crop, residue and tillage management and nutrient management stand out as the easiest practices to implement that have measurable effect on phosphorus loading reduction in surface waters.

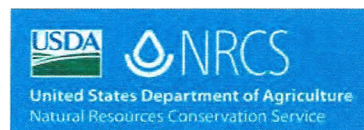
Planting cover crops represents one of the oldest ways to control erosion and surface run-off. These plantings control water runoff by covering the soil and plant roots holding soil in place. Plantings can be rye or oats, legumes, or radish for example. Cost share for this practice ranges from **\$19 to \$40** per acre.

Residue and Tillage Management practices control runoff by leaving last year's crop residue on the soil surface. This is accomplished by reduced tillage operations and turning the soil less. Pieces of the crop residue shield the soil from rain until the new crop forms a canopy. Common forms of this practice include No-till and Ridge till operations. Cost share for this practice range from **\$9 to \$18** per acre.

Of the three easiest practices and perhaps the practices that benefit the farmer most is nutrient management. The idea is based upon gaining soil tests of the land that take into account the benefit from nutrients left from last year's crop or from the application of manure and couple that to realistic crop yield goals. Nutrients in the form of fertilizer for instance are applied at the proper rate, time and method. Cost share for this practice range from **\$6 to \$30** per acre.

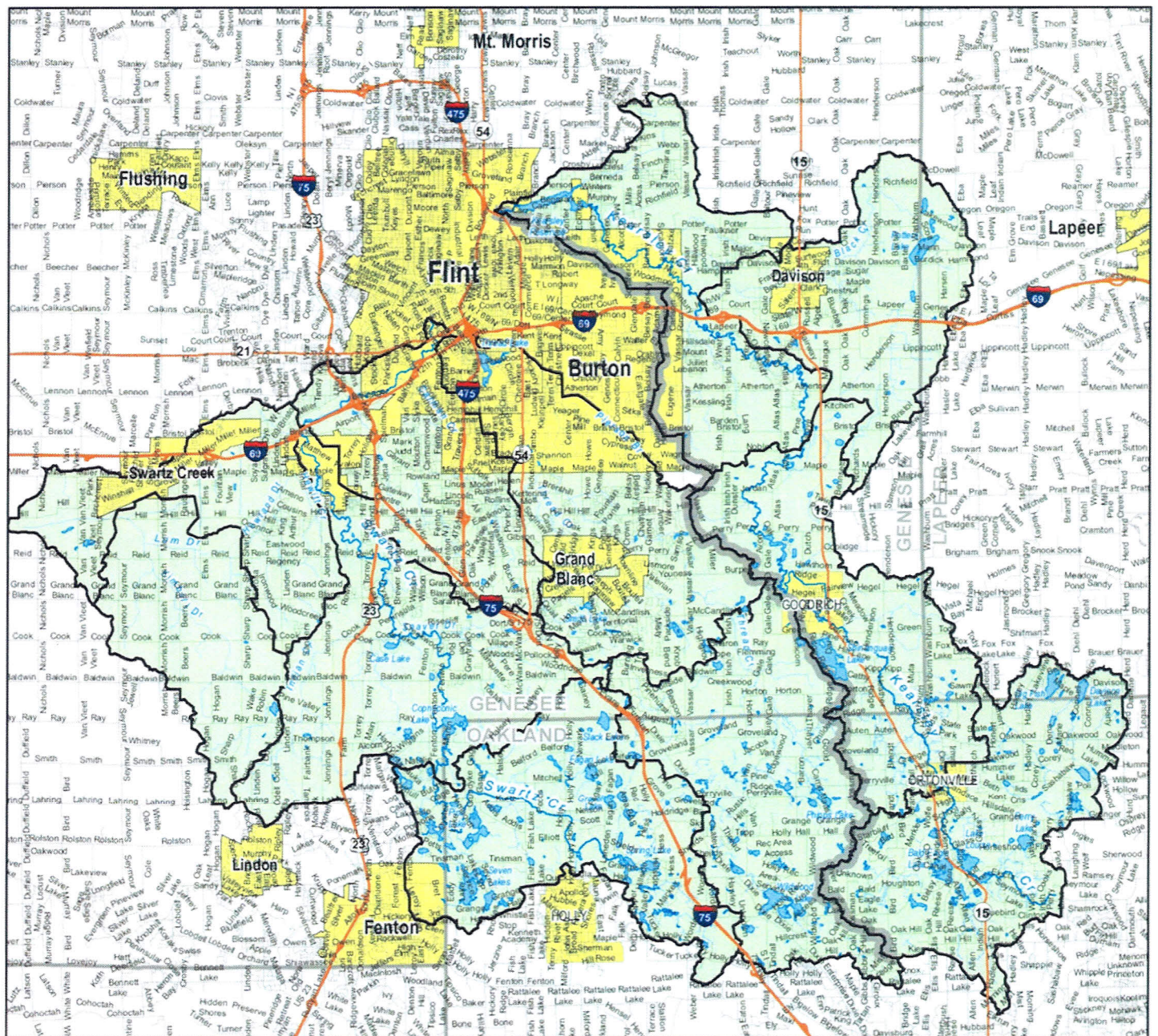
More Information

For more information contact your local NRCS office or go online to www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.



Kearsley Creek—Swartz Creek Watersheds

Genesee, Lapeer and Oakland counties





Conservation practices like these help reduce the amount of sediment blown and washed away from agricultural land. Farmers can receive financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for implementing these and other conservation practices. Not only do these practices protect our natural resources, they can also reduce fuel and fertilizer costs while maintaining or improving yields.



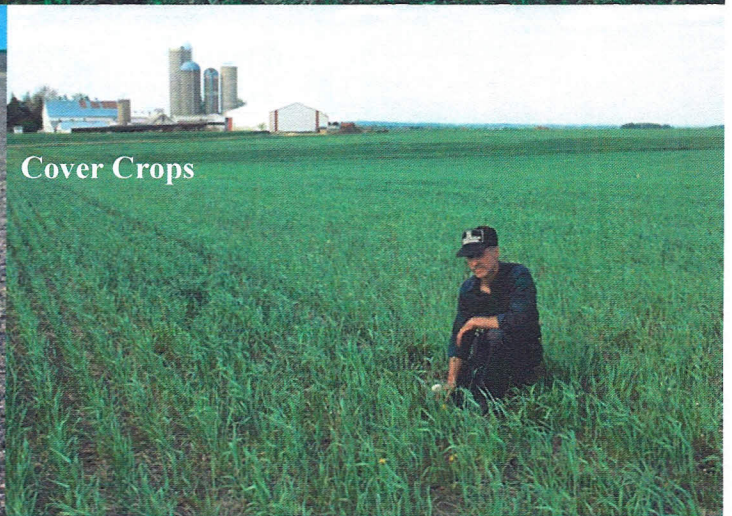
Residue Management



Nutrient Management



Conservation Tillage



Cover Crops

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Offices in the Kearsley Creek - Swartz Creek Watersheds

Genesee County
Phone: (810) 230-8766
1525 North Elms Road—Flint

Oakland & Lapeer counties
Phone: (810) 664-3941
1739 N. Saginaw, Suite 300—Lapeer

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