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# Welcome to *Focus*, our E-Newsletter

## Protect the Edge!

Farmers are always looking for ways to leave their land in better shape each year. It makes economic sense to keep nutrients and soil where they belong – on the farm and not in streams and waterways. Surface runoff from an unbuffered field can degrade aquatic habitats and threaten public health, recreation, and drinking water supplies. Buffers are a proven conservation practice and are beneficial for many reasons:

- Buffers help filter surface runoff. Manure and fertilizers are as good at growing algae blooms in streams as they are at growing corn. Excessive growth can lead to harmful algal blooms which are unsafe for people, farm animals, pets, and wildlife.
- Plant roots help stabilize stream banks and waterway banks. Unstable banks are susceptible to slumping and undercutting which can lead to a loss of farmland.
- Buffers intercept sediment and prevent its accumulation in the water. Sediment build up can affect the freeboard of subsurface drainage that outlet into streams and waterways.
- Buffers absorb rainwater and snowmelt, recharging groundwater supplies and allowing runoff to be released more slowly.

[Read More Here>](#)



## Updated Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations

These recently updated recommendations, last updated 25 years ago and based on decades of research, provide farmers with a framework to manage nutrients. The full version, available as a free [PDF](#), can be purchased as a printed copy. [Read More Here>](#)



## In The Press

A variety of natural resources topics (written by our staff) are available, courtesy of the Delaware Gazette:

- [Oh, Ho the Mistletoe](#)
- [GIS Remains as Important as Ever](#)
- [Save More Than Food for the Holidays](#)

## Farmland Preservation

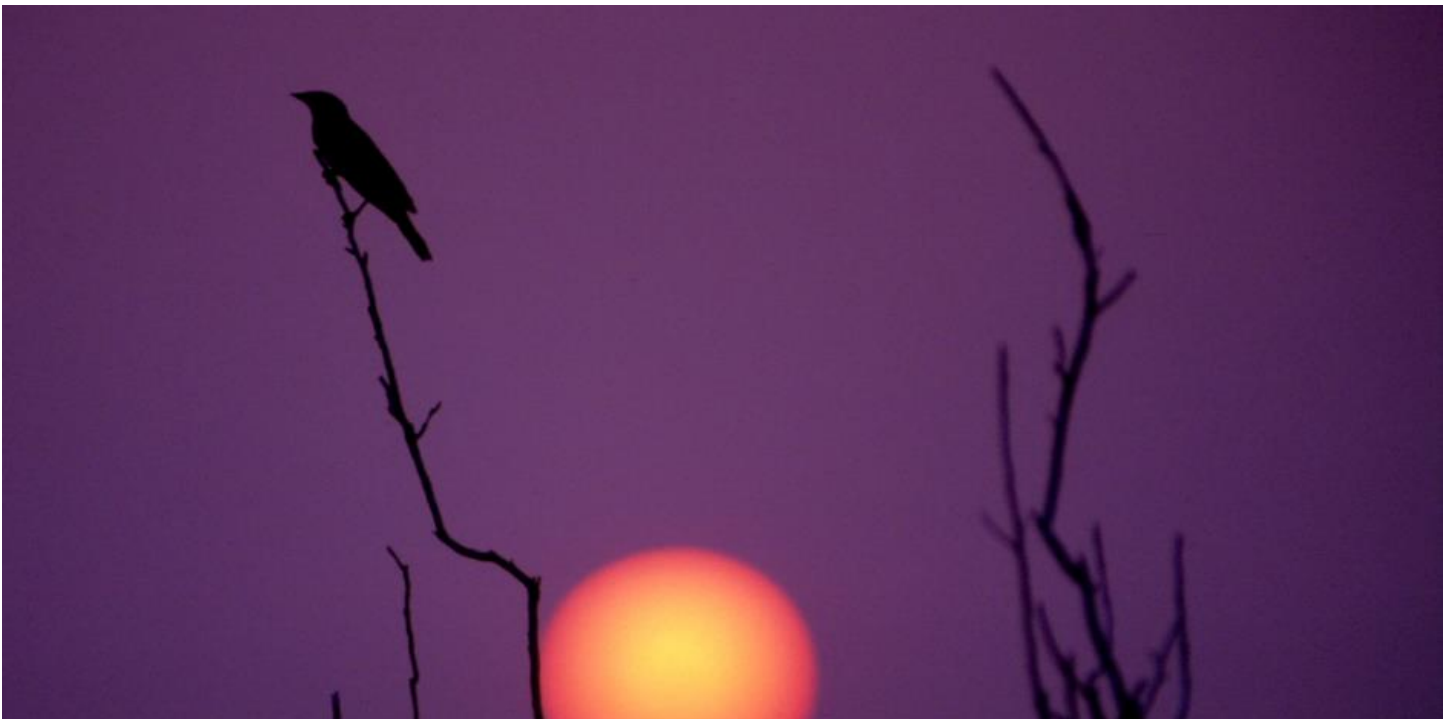
The Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program provides funding annually to assist in the preservation of farmland throughout Ohio. Once all pending easements have been finalized, over 1,743 farm acres in Delaware County will be under preservation. [In December, 2020 ODA made the decision to not accept applications in 2021.](#) Please look for details concerning the 2022 funding round in December of 2021 on our website.

## ~ A Message from our Staff to You ~

2020 had its share of challenges, but we continued to provide great services to the citizens of Delaware County. Let 2021 bring good health and hope to you all!



***"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face." — Victor Hugo***



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