

## **Tier 2 Essay Samples**

These are the highest ranking Tier 2 narratives from each quadrant in the 2010 Clean Ohio AEPP funding round. They are not to be copied or used in any application. These are samples intended to provide local sponsors and landowners with examples of successful responses and should be used for reference purposes only.

### **Quadrant I**

**16A: Provide some specific information about the property in this application. In particular, list or describe: (1) the kinds of agricultural activities conducted on the property; (2) the essential agricultural support services and facilities used in the operation; and, (3) the distance of those essential support services and facilities from the property.**

“Reservation Farm,” which my family originally purchased in 1926, is located in Parkman Twp in the SE corner of Geauga County. Perched on a hill overlooking the Grand River valley, this 284-acre farm is blessed with an awe-inspiring view of the surrounding countryside. At night, sitting on the front porch, you see the glimmering lights of Warren in the distance. We grow hay, oats, corn & soybeans in rotation to support our herd of 63 Holsteins & Jerseys. The Amish farm managers, who live on the property w/ me, also raise goats, chickens, horses & pigs, and maintain a garden. (2&3) The farm is nestled in eastern Geauga Co., a rich, vibrant farming region w/ numerous agriculture-related businesses. We’re 7 miles from the Village of Middlefield, which supports over 10 farming related businesses. Byler Seed & Hardware (1.1 mi from farm) and Western Reserve Farm Coop (7 mi) provide most of our supplies. Others include Countryside Vet Service (6 mi), Bloomfield Livestock Auction (11 mi), Cortland Tractor (21 mi), and Geauga SWCD & OSU Extension Offices (10 mi). Our milk was sold to Reiter Dairy for many years, and we now sell to Dean’s (30 mi). Our hay is sold locally to other farmers. In the future, the growing cheese industry in Middlefield may also be a market for our milk.

**16B: Discuss the management and future of the property in this application. In particular, describe: (1) what sort of estate plan is in effect for the property; (2) what sort of business plan is there for the operation of the farm; and, (3) what, if any, long-term investments have been made on the property.**

(1) I’m working on an estate plan with my attorney (who preserved his farm through AEPP), but I hope to preserve the farm before it’s finalized. I plan to pass the farm on to my son, who is committed to moving back to Ohio & running the farm, and is very involved in agriculture in Connecticut. He’s founder & chair of the Manchester Ag Preservation Assoc. and volunteers w/ the Hartford Food System, the CT Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. & a regional conservation assoc. He intends to integrate additional sustainable agriculture practices such as direct marketing and diversified product lines into our farm operations. (2) I

develop our annual business plan w/ the resident Amish family that manages it. Two generations of this family live on site, & I split the proceeds of the operation w/ them. Our dairy operation is profitable, & we lease an additional 72 acres to provide feed for our herd. (3) We've made long-term investments including a new heifer & pig barn (2002), a new milk pump barn (2001), & a new ribstone silo (1990's). We have kept the barn, built in 1909, in beautiful condition & retained the original slate roof & wood trim. We've also made improvements to the house, originally built in 1853, such as a new roof, windows & additions.

**16C: (1) What makes the property in this application a good showcase for the promotion of farmland preservation in Ohio? (2) List ideas for making this property a better showcase. (3) Describe any awards received in these areas, if any.**

(1) Our farm would make an excellent show case given its rich history and our plans for its future. The farm traces its history back to one of the first surveys of the Western Reserve. The name "Reservation Farm" refers to the fact that that in 1796 this land was reserved for the Parkman family (for whom Parkman Twp was named). We operate a profitable business while maintaining the historic character, natural resources, productive soils and scenic beauty of the property. Our homestead (built 1853-1909) overlooks gently rolling fields & pastures and paints a picture of the quintessential farm. A multi-generation Amish family has lived on and managed the day to day operations of the farm since the 1960's, which provides an interesting example of Amish culture and the ways they've adapted while maintaining traditional lifestyles. (2) Given my son's knowledge & experience w/ sustainable ag & conservation, we will explore direct marketing techniques such as farm demonstrations (agri-tourism) and a produce/market stand as we look to increase the sustainability of the farm operation. (3) We've been recognized for our milk quality, receiving numerous awards from Reiter Dairy: "1st Place" for highest quality milk in 2003, and "2nd Place" in 2002 & 2009.

**16D: What has your local government(s) done to (1) establish an agricultural preservation board; (2) fund an office of farmland preservation; (3) provide steady revenue to purchase agricultural easements; (4) create or support a land trust; or, (5) demonstrate other public commitment to farmland preservation.**

(1&2) Since Geauga Co. formed a farmland preservation board & adopted its Farmland Preservation Plan (1999), the Geauga Planning Commission has helped townships adopt land use plans, promoted the use of preservation tools like Ag Districts, & helped landowners apply to AEPP & FRPP. (3) Recently Geauga Co. created a wetland mitigation bank to provide a steady revenue stream that can be used as local match for AEPP & FRPP. Moreover, the County generously pledged to pay 10% of my farm's easement value to match AEPP. (5) Parkman Twp formally endorsed the Geauga Co. Farmland Preservation Plan and passed a resolution "encouraging both County and State officials to consider Parkman Twp for a Farmland Protection Program." When the Twp updated its Land Use Plan (2005) it mapped prime ag areas & recommended targeting them for Ag Security Areas & other preservation efforts. "Reservation Farm" is located in a targeted area and would help build a corridor of protected farmland linking a 128-acre AEPP easement & a nearby 106-acre FRPP easement. (4) This FRPP project was a partnership

between the Planning Commission, Geauga Park District, & Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The County supports the Conservancy's efforts by providing local cash match, landowner contacts, and technical support.

**16E: Explain the ways in which the property in this application demonstrates sustainable agriculture. List all programs (governmental or your own) you have entered into to address the following: (1) soil erosion, (2) water quality, (3) wetland protection/restoration, and (4) wildlife habitat enhancement.**

This farm demonstrates environmentally sustainable agriculture because we've voluntarily adopted best management practices & followed our NRCS Conservation Plan. To replenish the soil and naturally increase productivity we utilize crop rotation techniques and have experimented with no-till farming where it is practical. (1&2) To protect water quality and decrease erosion, we use livestock exclusion fencing to maintain wide, vegetated riparian buffers, and we have installed a sediment filtration system to keep soil from running off into our pond. We also recently worked with the NRCS to update our manure management and storage to protect water quality. (3&4) Tributaries to the Grand River flow through the low-lying eastern portion of the farm, and we have preserved the mature woods, streams, and wetlands in this area by leaving them un-tiled and by installing exclusion fencing to prevent our cows from destroying streams, wetlands and woodland habitat. The wildlife diversity in the Grand River watershed is a testament to the sound environmental practices employed on our farm and the surrounding agricultural community in our area.

## Quadrant II

**16A: Provide some specific information about the property in this application. In particular, list or describe: (1) the kinds of agricultural activities conducted on the property; (2) the essential agricultural support services and facilities used in the operation; and, (3) the distance of those essential support services and facilities from the property.**

We are a 92-acre diversified livestock farm in operation since 1999. We raise lamb which we sell through the Village Market in Gambier 4 miles away. We raise meat goats for wholesale at the Danville Auction, and sell lamb, beef, eggs, chicken, honey and turkeys from the farm. When help is available we sell produce through a CSA and at the Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. All service and supply firms are nearby. Knox County has a robust farm infrastructure and we are able to buy seed and minerals from the Farmers Coop in Mt. Vernon (8 miles) feed from D&L Grain in Utica (9 miles), organic feed from Curly Tail in Fredericktown (15 miles), equipment and repair services at Mt. Vernon Tractor and Jelloway Valley Equipment in Danville, (both about 10 miles). Our welding and fabricating is done by Gambier Welding only 2 miles away. We have superior fence builders in Mohican Valley Fence in Butler. And for all these services we have many other options close by in Mt. Vernon and Danville.

**16B: Discuss the management and future of the property in this application. In particular, describe: (1) what sort of estate plan is in effect for the property; (2) what sort of business plan is there for the operation of the farm; and, (3) what, if any, long-term investments have been made on the property.**

The farm is willed to my daughter and son-in-law who will operate the farm after we pass. We are currently investigating the benefits of a farm trust. We have no debt. The farm is managed and operated by us under a whole farm plan, which we established when we started farming. Since 1999 we have added 11,000' of high tensile woven wire fence at a cost of \$28,000 and now have the farm divided into 15 paddocks for rotational grazing. Water lines have been run and hydrants are accessible to all paddocks. The 2500 square foot house on the farm has been renovated and includes all new windows, roof and all new gas appliances and furnace. We have a new gas well on the farm. At a cost of \$10,000 a 18 Kw gas fired generator has been installed capable of running all electric on the farm. Gas has also been run to the garage/shop, greenhouse, lambing barn, and yurt. We have replaced the roofs on all outbuildings at a cost of \$12,000. In 2007 we built a 315 square foot yurt to house summer help at a cost of \$15,000. In 2006 we built a biodiesel manufacturing facility, which converts free waste vegetable oil to biodiesel. In 2005, with the help of KCSW we built a \$10,000 livestock composting facility in which we compost our dead livestock.

**16C: (1) What makes the property in this application a good showcase for the promotion of farmland preservation in Ohio? (2) List ideas for making this property a better showcase. (3) Describe any awards received in these areas, if any.**

We are the initiator and primary farm for Kenyon College's Environmental Studies program in Sustainable Agriculture and conduct a full-credit course that has now served 107 students in the past 9 years. We teach the farm class of Kenyon's Environmental Intro. Studies which includes time on our farm. We also have regular tours for other students, faculty and parents. We have student volunteers who work on the farm almost daily and do so without course credit. We have hosted the Heart of Ohio annual tour as a showplace farm. We are a recognized breeder of Texel sheep, and our grassfed lamb is consumed by many in our community. We teach other farmers how to build biodiesel processing facilities using waste vegetable oil from local restaurants. And our rotational grazing scheme reduces parasites. We founded Knox County Citizens for Smart Growth whose primary objective has been to preserve farmland and stop sprawl. Through Smart Growth we have worked extensively with our Regional Planning Commission to recognize the value of preserving farmland. I chaired the Harrison Township Zoning Board and spearheaded an effort to develop a comprehensive plan for the Township. I serve on the Local Food Council and worked to initiate a local food processing facility.

**16D: What has your local government(s) done to (1) establish an agricultural preservation board; (2) fund an office of farmland preservation; (3) provide steady revenue to purchase agricultural easements; (4) create or support a land trust; or, (5) demonstrate other public commitment to farmland preservation.**

The County Commissioners created the Farmland Preservation Task Force, now a sub-committee of the RPC. The RPC of Knox County has a land use and a farmland preservation committee, now called the Exurban Committee. The Committee recommended that the county conduct a cost of services study; the \$16,000 study was funded by the community foundation, non-profit trusts, and the commissioners themselves. The Commissioners passed a resolution supporting the Agricultural Easement Program and have committed \$291,000 over the past 6 years in County funds to support the matching requirements of the OAEPP, thereby making Knox County one of the few in the state to provide direct financial support for farmland preservation. The Philander Chase Corp. (a land trust and co-holder of 8 ag easements) has pledged to provide matching funds as well, in addition to providing leadership and administrative support for the application process. The Owl Creek Conservancy also works to prevent unwise development in the county. Kenyon College has several student-run/faculty-supported programs active in the issues of farmland preservation, including the Rural Life Center, the Brown Family Environmental Center, and an independent study program in Applied Organic Farming.

**16E: Explain the ways in which the property in this application demonstrates sustainable agriculture. List all programs (governmental or your own) you have entered into to address the following: (1) soil erosion, (2) water quality, (3) wetland protection/restoration, and (4) wildlife habitat enhancement.**

We have always been cooperators with the KCSW and with their advice and funding built a livestock composting facility, fenced livestock out of all creeks and wetlands, and built a farm pond, with a dry hydrant for use by several local fire depts. We protect wildlife through not using herbicides and pesticides and leave abundant nesting and protective cover. We have deer, fox, turkeys, rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, water fowl and songbirds in great numbers. Of our 92 ac. 30 is in woods and fenced off as protective habitat. We have used prof. foresters to advise us on woodland mgmt. I have completed the Level II LEAP; we have an approved conservation and nutrient mgmt plan and are also certified to compost dead livestock. We compost all barn manure and spread in summer and fall. Since 1999 we soil test every two years and have increased organic matter from under 2% to 5%. We have applied 30 tons of soft rock phosphate and 60 tons of high calcium lime. Our pH is now at 6.8 to 7.0 everywhere. We rarely plow and use a Grassfarmer no-till grass drill to renovate pastures and hay land. No soil is left open and we cover crop gardens with cereal rye. We have two wells both of which have been tested by National Testing Laboratories and are completely safe.

## Quadrant III

**16A: Provide some specific information about the property in this application. In particular, list or describe: (1) the kinds of agricultural activities conducted on the property; (2) the essential agricultural support services and facilities used in the operation; and, (3) the distance of those essential support services and facilities from the property.**

1) Our family farm is a beautifully maintained working Century farm, blending minimal and no till croplands, pasture, and woodland. It is a managed grain crop operation with corn, soybeans, and wheat rotations. Since 1986, the family farm has grown 900 acres of soybeans for Countrymark and now for Croplan. We also have a small registered Maine-Anjou cow/calf herd. Best management practices are of utmost importance to ensure this farm remains viable for, at least, another century. In total, we farm about 2,600 acres in Clark County. Last year, our farm brought over \$800/acre for corn and over \$600/acre for beans. 2 & 3) On the farm we have 120,000 bu grain storage and drying facility, a historic bank barn for cattle shelter and hay/straw storage, a workshop, and equipment storage. Ag support agencies essential to the management of our operation include FSA, Clark Co. SWCD, and OSU Extension, all housed in Springfield 10 miles away. We buy from JD Equipment in London, 13 miles away and use Southwest Landmark, 12 miles distant, for supplies and sales, as well as Cargill in Dayton, 42 miles, for contract corn sales. Our vet is 20 min away. Our farm is in a prime location for agriculture because of its close proximity to valuable services, I-70, and other preserved land.

**16B: Discuss the management and future of the property in this application. In particular, describe: (1) what sort of estate plan is in effect for the property; (2) what sort of business plan is there for the operation of the farm; and, (3) what, if any, long-term investments have been made on the property.**

1) Since 1881, my family has been involved in Clark Co ag. This farm is in an irrevocable trust which will pass only to my children & grandchildren. My will and life insurance will pay for the farm. My children are involved in the farming operation and are committed to our agricultural heritage. 2) The farm is a sole proprietorship but family is involved in management duties and decisions. The business plan focuses on creating and maintaining an efficient, sustainable, and profitable farming operation and involves service providers, bankers, attorney/estate planner and family. It is an evolving plan that addresses the changing face of agriculture and the needs of future generations. Annually our business plan is evaluated to gauge and address changes in agriculture and banking industries, respond to past year experiences and focus on expectations of the coming year. 3) Since '08 we have put in 2-55,000 bu bins for a total of 225,000 bu storage which cost \$150K. In 2008, I purchased an adjoining 235 acre farm (2002 AEPP recipient) and last year purchased 100 acres adjoining this farm. My son who will inherit this farm purchased 100 adjoining acres. We have invested over \$400,000 in new waterways, tiling & buildings.

**16C: (1) What makes the property in this application a good showcase for the promotion of farmland preservation in Ohio? (2) List ideas for making this property a better showcase. (3) Describe any awards received in these areas, if any.**

1) Our farm demonstrates a multi-generational farm that has been successful due to management that optimizes soil types and minimizes erosion, uses the newest technology and best conservation practices. With several generations involved, this farm is an ideal venue to showcase a family's commitment to providing a safe & sustainable food source while protecting a way of life. Because of the large block of land this farm comprises it would be an excellent showcase of farmland preservation. This farm has a diverse landscape & headwater streams-important features of Ohio farms. We have strong ties to the

community as elected officials and community leaders. My children participated in FFA & 4-H because of committed volunteers. I now serve on the FSA, Farm Bureau, & Fair boards so I can be there for the next generation, helping them become the next land stewards. 2)I'm reassembling the family farm with an old farmstead which can be shown to FFA, 4-H, and schools groups to help younger generations stay connected to the past and to urban groups so they can see how farming used to be in context of today's farming operation. 3)Awards: first father and son to receive the American Farmer Degree in Clark Co, placed second in national crop production, won state beef crop in FFA.

**16D: What has your local government(s) done to (1) establish an agricultural preservation board; (2) fund an office of farmland preservation; (3) provide steady revenue to purchase agricultural easements; (4) create or support a land trust; or, (5) demonstrate other public commitment to farmland preservation.**

1)Clark County has a strong history of supporting farmers and farmland preservation. It has an active Clark Farmland Preservation Workgroup that works with county planning department to educate the public about farmland preservation. 2)The county matched a state grant of \$10,000 to form a Farmland Preservation Task Force resulting in 40 acre minimum zoning & an ongoing commitment to farmland preservation. 3)Clark Commissioners have contributed \$65,000 & Mad River TWP has dedicated \$10K/year for easement purchase. 4)A land trust has been active in Clark County since 2000, holds 93 easements in their service area. The county provides much needed support to the land trust on farmland preservation including completing AEPP & ASA applications & public education. The county has provided over \$50,000 in employee time to farmland preservation. In 2008, the county provided funding for a farmland preservation voter survey & companion study to look at agriculture & economic development. Clark County officials are currently working with the land trust to take the first steps toward a ballot initiative asking the voters for farmland preservation funding through a levy. 5) Pleasant Township has enacted the toughest zoning standards (45 acre minimum) in Clark County to minimize lot splitting.

**16E: Explain the ways in which the property in this application demonstrates sustainable agriculture. List all programs (governmental or your own) you have entered into to address the following: (1) soil erosion, (2) water quality, (3) wetland protection/restoration, and (4) wildlife habitat enhancement.**

1)Because the land is our sole source of livelihood we recognize that soil health is of utmost importance. We have always farmed under a whole farm conservation plan. Dedication to soil testing & balancing with soil amendments (lime & nitrogen) along with retiring some less productive areas to CRP have all been incorporated in the farm plan. We practice 2/3 no-till to improve soil tilth & increase earthworm production. We are in CSP. We use GPS mapping to determine fertility levels and minimize nitrates. We've used a row starter & side dressing for corn which uses less nitrates for the same yield. 2)This farm contains Beaver Creek-headwaters of Little Miami River. To improve water quality, we work with SWCD to build & maintain waterways & tiles. We have put in 550,000-700,000 feet of tile (see attached maps) which has reduced surface erosion & improved water quality. NRCS has helped us implement

buffer & riparian strips. 2010 EQUIP money will pay for chemical storage. 3)There are no wetlands but we are committed to protect the abundant water resources on this farm. 4)14 acres of woods are for wildlife & brush piles are created along the perimeter of the woods for habitat. We respect & value the importance of stewardship & are committed to the quality of life offered by farming.

## Quadrant IV

**16A: Provide some specific information about the property in this application. In particular, list or describe: (1) the kinds of agricultural activities conducted on the property; (2) the essential agricultural support services and facilities used in the operation; and, (3) the distance of those essential support services and facilities from the property.**

This farm is part of our family farm operation. Recognized as an Ohio Century Farm it has been in our family since 1864. The parcel of land adjoins other land on our farm currently enrolled in the AEPP program. Our entire farm is in one continuous parcel and is operated by two generations of our family.

Our main farming practices include the development of a non-GMO, high-value vegetable. This crop goes from the field to the retail shelf and we focus on the latest advances in sustainable agriculture.

Recently our farm operation has expanded to include a food company – the American Sweet Bean Company – that creates retail branded edamame products. The edamame soybeans for this business are grown on the farm and we are now able to manage this specialty crop from seed to the retail grocer's freezer case.

When this land is used as part of our conventional corn/bean crop rotation, we use the services of several local grain elevators and ag supply companies. In addition we have begun marketing corn to a local ethanol refinery, operated by POET.

Support services in our area:

- \* 5 grain elevators, chemical & fertilizer suppliers within 10 miles
- \* ethanol processor within 10 miles;
- \* several implement & parts suppliers within 10 miles;
- \* Ohio State Research farm within 10 mile

**16B: Discuss the management and future of the property in this application. In particular, describe: (1) what sort of estate plan is in effect for the property; (2) what sort of business plan is there for the operation of the farm; and, (3) what, if any, long-term investments have been made on the property.**

The land is in a living trust. The trust has provisions for the succession of the farm from the current generation to the next. The trust has been in place for more than 15 yrs. Heirs are children. Ensuring a smooth operating transition 1 adult child is active on the farm today.

Regular planning includes investments in land, buildings & infrastructure. Careful financial planning & insurance has the farm covered in the event of death. Regular investments include tiling, removal of old fencerows, contouring land, & maintenance of woodlots/waterways. Longterm investments are part of the plan to keep the farm in active and sustainable production for the future. We spent more than \$750k in the past 10 years on land, buildings & infrastructure & \$500k getting our sweet bean company started.

Other land is enrolled in AEPP. Enrolling this parcel will complete protection of the entire farm from development. The family supports enrollment.

We intend to continue to use this farm as a working farm & part of our food company. The business benefits by continued involvement in farming, & the farm's future is protected through the diversification in to a value-added business.

- \* minimal debt
- \* financially sound
- \* estate plan
- \* succession plan
- \* regular & planned capital investments

**16C: (1) What makes the property in this application a good showcase for the promotion of farmland preservation in Ohio? (2) List ideas for making this property a better showcase. (3) Describe any awards received in these areas, if any.**

This farm has some of the most productive soils in Ohio, located in a county with 80% of the land use agricultural. This region of OH supports grain crops and vegetable crops. This farm typifies the best food-producing land in Ohio. Farmed since the 1800's by our family, the land represents not only the inherent quality of Ohio's farms, but it embodies the spirit of Ohio's farm families.

Adjoining acreage currently enrolled in AEPP. Local government is active participants in AEPP. Neighbors already protect their land or are applying for enrollment. The conservation of our farm and farm heritage is a serious matter to our family, our neighbors, and our local government.

We host two or three grower meetings per year on our farm. We demonstrate the production of our specialty crop, latest ag practices, and discuss development of new varieties of edamame soy. This has attracted national attention in the media and the marketplace.

Our farm is rich in heritage and tradition and continues to innovate and attract positive attention to Ohio farming. We host numerous events for local farmers, ag researchers, and international visitors. Our farm is an ideal candidate for preservation and the promotion of Ohio agriculture.

- \* Young Farmer award
- \* Farm Bureau magazine feature article

**16D: What has your local government(s) done to (1) establish an agricultural preservation board; (2) fund an office of farmland preservation; (3) provide steady revenue to purchase agricultural easements; (4) create or support a land trust; or, (5) demonstrate other public commitment to farmland preservation.**

Seneca County has a strong comprehensive plan that serves as a model for other counties to follow. Each parcel has been scored using Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) and designated according to factors such as size and proximity to metro areas & water/sewer. Parcels deemed most agriculturally sustainable are designated as agricultural preservation land. The Future Land Use Plan includes Ag preservation areas as a primary component. The county updated the open-space & transportation sections of their plan in 2008. In 2009 it hired an outside consultant to update/improve its LESA model.

The County Commissioners sponsored successful AEPP applications during past funding rounds and support continued efforts to preserve farmland within the county. 2 farms applying to 2010 AEPP (and others accepted in previous rounds) worked to establish the county's 1st ASA, which the commissioners, trustees, planning commission and engineer's office, wholeheartedly supported.

Black Swamp Conservancy has worked to protect over 8,800 acres of land in 12 Northwest Ohio counties through the use of donated & purchased conservation easements. BSC has the experience, expertise & resources to fulfill our monitoring & defense obligations, including a dedicated Stewardship Fund of over \$250,000.

**16E: Explain the ways in which the property in this application demonstrates sustainable agriculture. List all programs (governmental or your own) you have entered into to address the following: (1) soil erosion, (2) water quality, (3) wetland protection/restoration, and (4) wildlife habitat enhancement.**

Our farm is actively engaged in sustainable agriculture for two reasons: owner's desire for sustainability and the public scrutiny we invite to our practices. As fourth and fifth generations that farm this land, it is easy to see we have an inherent belief that what we do to the land will be handed down to future generations of our family. We strive to balance profitable production with conservation of our natural resources.

Our entire farm is tiled and we maintain waterways and ditches with regular maintenance. Combined with minimal tillage and winter cover crops, our water management reduces erosion. Existing woodlots are maintained through regular cutting and maintenance. One area of the farm has a recent prairie restoration effort under way and we maintain wildlife habitat wherever possible.

- \* participation in CRP;
- \* prairie restoration;
- \* woodlot management;
- \* minimal till ag practices;
- \* winter cover crops;
- \* vernal pool preservation (wetlands);
- \* regular ditch maintenance;
- \* reseeding fallow areas with native plant species;
- \* controlled burns for invasive plant control, and habitat improvement