The annual Great Miami River Watershed Network BMP Tour was held on October 18, 2012 and hosted by the Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District. The tour took us to three farms located west of Middletown, Ohio. At each farm we saw and discussed practices implemented to protect water quality, AND reviewed the funding programs that made the practices possible.

Here, John Williams, NRCS District Conservationist, discusses the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the projects it funded on this 500-head cattle operation. The projects included a chemical storage pad, covered feedlots and a covered manure storage pad. EQIP is geared primarily for livestock operations but may also be used for forestry operations as well.

This grassed waterway, one of hundreds installed by Butler SWCD under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is designed to keep eroded soils from reaching waterways. This 30-feet wide waterway reduces sediment reaching a stream by as much as 90%. The CRP is intended more for row crop operations.
Below, local farmer Jeremy demonstrated the one-pass tiller, specially designed for his operation. The Low Till practice he is using is funded by the Miami Conservancy District's Water Quality Credit Trading Program. Finally, here is our guide for the day, Ryan Smith, from Butler SWCD holding Oil Seed Radishes which are used as cover crop to reduce runoff in the winter months.