

DIVISION HAS NEW TITLE WITH NEW PARTNERS

In 2009 the ODNR Divisions of Soil and Water Conservation, Water, and Litter Prevention and Recycling merged to become the Division of Soil and Water Resources. In Fairfield County this will be an extremely easy transition, as the Lancaster Fairfield County Litter Prevention and Recycling Program has long been a partner of ours. We have collaborated annually to host Earth Day, Earth Camp, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, some litter pickup and disposal activities, and judge the third grade recycling poster/billboard contest.

Our Litter Prevention and Recycling Program is part of the Coshocton, Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Solid Waste District. The Fairfield County facility located at 1761 E. Main Street in Lancaster is a complete recycling center, with sorting lines utilized daily. They “practice what they preach” on a daily basis too by accepting and using waste motor oil to heat their building. Staff includes Patty Bratton, Program Director; Chad Reed, Education Specialist; and Austin Rohr, Marketing Coordinator.

The Fairfield County Recycling Center educates the residents and students of this county about the concepts of reducing waste, reusing any items that can be and of course the most common option, recycling. They spend many hours with in-school programming. Their goal is to reduce the overall volume of waste going into the landfills. They

have an education/meeting room that allows you to look into the recycling center and see and understand the waste-sorting process at work. This room is also used for classrooms to come and see the recycling process firsthand.

Fairfield County can also boast of a drive through drop-off, a service that allows cars to drive through the center and your recyclables will be taken out of your car or truck for you.

The center accepts aluminum, steel, glass, #1 and #2 plastic, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office paper, paperboard, and corrugated cardboard. They have coordinated special tire and appliance collection days too. They are active in promoting products made from recycled materials, and they have numerous collection bins placed strategically throughout the county for recyclables. *(continued on next page)*



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET



Bob Hoffman (right), Fairfield SWCD Board Member, presented Leo Lamb with a 2008 Cooperator of the Year Award. Leo received this award for the implementation of tile systems, waterways, and developing a pond.



David Hague & Tammy Miller were presented with a 2008 Cooperator of the Year Award. They have built a wetland, done warm/cool season grass plantings, and planted trees.



Robert & JoEllen Wolfinger accepted a 2008 Cooperator of the Year Award for Jake Wolfinger of Wolfinger Farms, Inc. Jake received this award for the implementation of a spring development, ag containment, heavy use pad, fencing, waterways and his participation in grazing trials and field days.



Bonny Calderwood (right), Fairfield SWCD Board Member, presented Karen Walter (teacher at Liberty Union Elementary) with the 2008 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award.



Vicki Kohli (right) presented Derrick McWilson and Anita VanGundy (Lowes Heros) with the 2008 Hockhockin Award.



David Horn, Director of Ohio Biological Survey, gave a presentation about "Pollination: The Real Story about the Birds and Bees."

66TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked the 66th anniversary of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. The annual meeting/banquet was held on September 9, 2009, at the Goslin Nature Education Center on the grounds of Alley Park. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. After dinner David Horn, Director of Ohio Biological Survey, gave a presentation about "Pollination: The Real Story about the Birds and Bees."

The 2008 Cooperator of the Year Awards were presented to the following: Leo Lamb, David Hague & Tammy Miller (Kingfisher Farms), and Robert & JoEllen Wolfinger (accepting the award for Jake Wolfinger of Wolfinger Farms, Inc.).

The Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award is presented to a Fairfield County teacher who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to teaching conservation, environmental awareness, and natural resource education to students in Fairfield County. This year the 2008 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to Karen Walter, a teacher at Liberty Union Elementary. The Hockhockin Conservation Award is given annually to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to promoting conservation education and awareness to the people of Fairfield County. This year the 2008 Hockhockin Conservation Award was presented to Lowes Heros of Lancaster for the hours that they volunteered to help on the Lancaster Sensory Trail.

Trey Miller and Scott Praither were announced as this year's scholarship program recipients. Jacqueline Maple was presented with a certificate for being the first place SWCD winner of the 2009 NACD Conservation Poster Contest. The winners of the 2009 Photo Contest (pollinator theme) were: 1st place - Joyce Nolan, 2nd place - Rochelle Menniger, 3rd place - Joy Davis. All of the photo contest winners were given gift certificates to Cord Camera.

Joe Young, Vice-Chair of the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors, presented Dick Kilbarger with a certificate of appreciation for the three years he has served on the Board of Supervisors.

John Albert was re-elected to serve another three-year term and Mike Wolfe was elected to serve a three-year term starting January 1, 2010. Mike will join current board members John Albert, Bonny Calderwood, Bob Hoffman and Joe Young.

THANKS DICK FOR SERVING THREE YEARS!



Dick Kilbarger is shown above (right) accepting his service award from fellow board member Joe Young for his service on the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Dick served for one term on the District Board from 2007 through 2009. Dick served as Member, Vice-Chair and as Chair this past year. As part of our board of supervisors he directed staff assignments and guided our District through some very challenging times, both in terms of expanding our programs and more recently in managing with less state funding. Dick also served Fairfield County as our SWCD board representative to the Heart of Ohio Resource Conservation and Development Council, a nine-county resource agency that helps local governments with grants and sources of funding for a variety of development projects. The RC&D Council helped to make the Lancaster Sensory Trail project adjacent to Forest Rose School a reality.

Dick knew our staff well, having worked with the District on several conservation projects prior to his term on the board. These included a spring development, fencing and a prescribed grazing management system for his cattle. When it comes to conservation, Dick has been an early adopter and an example to his neighbors of various management practices. Fellow Board member Joe Young relates "Dick always arrived at our monthly board meetings with his boots on ready to get down to work. His humorous anecdotes and quick wit always added to our meetings making them shorter and more enjoyable. He will be missed for his logical thinking and common sense approach to District concerns."

Best Wishes Dick, and thanks from all of us!

(Recycling continued)

Shredding is another service that they offer. This service is available to both residents and commercial businesses. They are currently recruiting businesses and schools to join in this effort. For a fee they will come to your site to collect papers. Individuals can drop off shreddable items at any time through the drop off, or schedule an appointment with Austin Rohr if you would actually like to see your items shredded. There is no cost for the first two copy paper sized boxes and 12 cents per pound thereafter, with a \$25 service fee for a mobile truck. Call Austin at (740) 653-4146 for details on what to shred.

Here's a few tips for all of us to help reduce the waste that our households produce:

- Buy in bulk when possible
- Reuse any item that can be reused until it is no longer useful
- Use cloth napkins and reusable shopping bags
- Start a compost pile at home for yard waste and food scraps
- Stop junk mail from coming to your house by having your name removed by contacting www.directmail.com

- Buy products made from recycled materials

The recycling center is open 8-4, Monday-Friday. If you have questions you can call them at (740) 653-4146.

Help Support Ohio Sustainable Agriculture



Specialty License Plate Now Available

All proceeds will benefit Sustainable Agriculture in Ohio

http://bmv.ohio.gov/sp_ohio_sustainable_agriculture.stm

COW/CALF 101

The Cow/Calf 101 School is specifically designed for the new and beginning person starting out with a few cows, but even those who have had a cow herd for years are welcome to attend. The school will be held the 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursdays and the 3rd Wednesday in January 2010. Specific dates are January 7, 14, 20 and 28, 2010, and the sessions will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and will be held at the OSU Extension Office, Hocking County, 150 N. Homer Avenue, Logan, OH 43138, on the Hocking County fairgrounds.

Cost for the workshop is \$10 per adult and \$5 per student per session and registration will be collected at the door. It is not necessary to send registration money in advance, but calling the Hocking County OSU Extension Office at least the day before at (740) 385-3222 to let them know how many will attend that session is appreciated.

For more information contact Jim Skeeles at (740) 385-3222 in Hocking County or Jim or Stan Smith in Fairfield County, (740) 653-5419, with Jim having Extension 23 and Stan having Extension 24. You may also e-mail Jim at skeeles.1@osu.edu or Stan at smith.263@osu.edu to make reservations or to get more complete details.

This event is sponsored by OSU Extension, Hocking and Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Feeder Creek Veterinary Clinic is supplying expertise and is a sponsor of the event.

MIDWEST GRASS FARMERS TO MEET IN WILMINGTON, OHIO

A multi-state meeting of grassland farmers, "Heart of America Grazing Conference," is coming to Roberts Centre, Wilmington, Ohio, January 20-21, 2010. The conference registration fee is \$65, which includes dinner, lunch and breaks. Registration for OFGC members will be \$60. Those attending must be registered by January 13, 2010. A \$10 late fee will be assessed for registrations after January 13, 2010. For more information, please call Jeff McCutcheon at (419) 947-1070.



WINTER WEATHER COMPLICATES MANURE APPLICATION

Protecting water quality would be a lot easier if farmers never needed to apply manure when fields are frozen or covered with snow. But the fact is, some farmers don't have enough storage capacity to get through the winter. Sometimes, even farmers with storage facilities need to apply manure in the winter because wet fall weather or other problems delayed application.

Unfortunately, uncooperative winter weather can lead to pollution, even for farmers who follow winter manure application guidelines. Last winter, for example, a quick thaw led to a rash of pollution complaints in early March. Manure applied earlier in the winter had remained frozen on fields for weeks or even months, but after the thaw surface flow carried it into streams.

To guard against such problems, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has revised the standard for application of manure on frozen and snow-covered soils. The new standard will significantly reduce the risk of pollution problems, but winter application can still be risky.

The new standard includes six criteria and all six must be followed to comply with the standard. The requirements include a 200-foot setback from waterways and streams, at least 90 percent surface residue cover, and specific application rate limits depending on manure moisture content. Manure should not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres and additional criteria apply for fields with slopes greater than six percent.

Although some other states have prohibited manure application to frozen or snow-covered ground, it's still permitted under very careful management in Ohio. To protect this option, farmers need to guard water quality by minimizing winter application and by following the standard when winter application is unavoidable. Fairfield SWCD can offer suggestions to help you through the process.

For some farmers, adding storage capacity would help. Others might need to manage application more carefully. For example, farmers might adjust crop rotations to open up application sites earlier in the fall. Those who must apply manure in the winter might reserve fields farthest from waterways for winter application. Staking out application areas ahead of time could also make it easier to meet application criteria.

For more information about the new application criteria, or other manure management issues, contact the Fairfield SWCD/NRCS at (740) 653-8154 or (740) 653-5320.

SENSORY TRAIL UPDATE

With the musical instruments installed, the Lancaster Sensory Trail has become a reality for our county. This section of the Lancaster Bike Trail is now equipped not only with musical instruments to enhance hearing, but also with various herbs for the sense of smell and an incredible tactile bark display for the sense of touch. The bark display was sponsored and installed by the Baltimore Lions Club and is complete with Braille signage for visual impairments. Grants from the Wendel Family Fund and the Nannie B. Martens Trust were secured through the Fairfield County Foundation for the purchase of the musical instruments. Nature and outdoor education learning activities will be used by the students and teachers from Forest Rose School beginning in 2010.

If you have not seen this project, please stop by the site located directly behind Forest Rose School on College Avenue in Lancaster.

If you or an organization you belong to would be interested in helping with this project in any way, please call the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154. There is a phase II and III scheduled for the coming year.



BEGINNING BEEKEEPERS COURSE BEING HELD

A Beginning Beekeepers Course is being held on Saturday, February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The course will be held at the Jacksontown Methodist Church at 9350 Jacksontown Road (located on S.R. 13 immediately south of U.S. 40). The cost is \$50 per person which includes a reference book and the opportunity to be mentored by experienced beekeepers during the first year of beekeeping. Questions may be directed by e-mail to Karen at crutch102895@verizon.net, or you may call Earl James at (740) 452-1819.

Congratulations to Maggie Feyko for winning the Blue Spruce tree and Carly Kunkler for winning "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" book. Thanks to everyone who visited the Fairfield SWCD fair booth at the 2009 Fairfield County Fair.