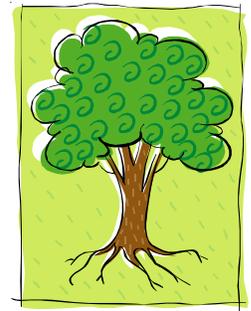


APPLYING FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN 2009

Applicants for the various conservation programs such as EQIP, WHIP, WRP, and others need to be aware of the latest application process. The process has changed since last year and now requires detailed information to be considered for funding. An individual applicant has less documentation to provide than an entity such as a partnership, joint venture, corporation (limited liability or other), estate, trust, or non-profit association or group. The following steps outline what is now needed to make a program application:

- 1) Applicant indicates interest in a conservation program by completing and signing appropriate program application form.
- 2) Applicant established a customer record in the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) if it does not already exist. This will require the applicant to set up an appointment with the Farm Service Agency to complete the record and necessary eligibility information.
- 3) ~~Applicant completes forms to determine eligibility for USDA programs:~~
 - a. AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.
 - b. CCC-502 Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review.
 - c. CCC-526 Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification or CCC-926 (2008 Farm Bill).
 - d. CCC-501A Members Information for entities.
- 4) Applicant sets up an appointment with the local NRCS office to visit the operation and develop a conservation plan. This process can take several visits, both in the field and the office.
- 5) NRCS develops program application package based on the approved conservation plan and discussions with the applicant.
- 6) NRCS reviews program applications and selects eligible applications for funding based on ranking criteria and available funding (due to funding availability this may take months).
- 7) Applicant provides additional information if NRCS determines their application may be considered for funding. This additional information includes:
 - a. A completed SF-1199 Direct Deposit form.
 - b. Notarized Power of Attorney form (CPA-09) if the applicant wants another individual to sign on their behalf.
 - c. An entity would also need to provide evidence the business is currently in good standing, documents outlining the business name, current members of the business, and members who have legal authority to sign.
 - d. Document from the IRS indicating the name and Employee Identification Number (EIN) for the business, or if none is available, form LTR 147C from the IRS may be requested.
- 8) Applicant must document control of the land for the contract period using any of the following: Deed, Lease, or other written authorization from the landowner for the contract period.



For more information, contact Dave Libben or Melissa Horton in the NRCS office at (740) 653-5320.

**2009 Tree & Wildlife
Packet Sale information
and order form inside!**

Failure to provide the required information may cause an application to be considered ineligible for the program year.

ANN CHRISTY TO SPEAK ON BARN AT FARMLAND PRESERVATION FORUM

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, Ann Christy will be the lead presenter at the "Preserving Our Agricultural Heritage" forum. She will talk about barns and barn preservation.

Ann is an associate professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering at The Ohio State University. In addition to her classroom and research duties, she leads the OSU-Extension program "Barn Again in Ohio" dealing specifically with rehabilitation of historic agricultural structures. Ann is an active member of the Friends of Ohio Barns and the National Barn Alliance. She currently resides in an 1870's dairy barn which was converted into her home.

Following Ann's presentation, Jonathan Ferbrache and Jeff Johnson will address the following topics: the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, the Fairfield Land Preservation Association, the Fairfield County Barn Survey, the Century Farm Program, and Conservation Easements.

The forum will be held at the Agriculture Service Center at 831 College Ave, behind OU-L, in Lancaster. It will begin at 3 p.m. and should conclude by 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Please call the Fairfield SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 by Friday, March 6 to register for this free forum. Come learn how to preserve our barns, farms, and family heritage.

APPLICATIONS FOR CLEAN OHIO FUNDING OF AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2009 application for the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program is now available. This statewide program aims to protect Ohio's productive farmland from the pressures of development. Fairfield County has been active in submitting many farms for funding. Over 1,308 acres have been accepted in Fairfield County. The purchase of an agricultural easement means that the landowner sells the right to any future development or use other than agriculture. The deed for the farm can be sold or transferred. For more information, contact Jonathan Ferbrache at the Fairfield SWCD office at (740) 653-8154. Deadline to prepare an application with the SWCD is April 16, 2009.

DISTRICT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Don't forget the District college scholarship of \$500 for any graduating senior that plans to study Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, Environmental Education, Geology, Biology, and the like. Applications are available on our website at www.fairfieldswcd.org, with the Guidance Counselors at each High School, or at the SWCD office. Deadline to apply is March 31. Interviews will be completed in April, with a selection made by May 1.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS!

The Fairfield and Pickaway SWCDs are hosting a contractor's workshop on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at the Fairfield County Agriculture Center. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This will be a technical workshop that should benefit excavation contractors and do-it-yourself landowners involved in constructing conservation practices. Some topics of discussion will include trench safety, stream bank regulations, soils, pond construction and repair, and REX pipeline tile issues. There will be no charge for the workshop; however, contact Fairfield SWCD at (740) 653-8154 or Pickaway SWCD at (740) 477-1693 by February 16 to register.

LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY LAND

A regional education initiative being sponsored by the Ohio Farm Bureau is being held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at Logan High School, 1470 State Route 328 in Logan, Ohio. The event will start at 5:30 p.m.

Speakers will include:

- Kristen Jensen and Mark Forni, The Ohio Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2009
- Howard Smith, Fairfield County Farmer - AEPP Easement Donation
- Louise Warner, Hocking County - Appalachia Ohio Alliance Easement Donation
- Roger Wolfe, Fairfield County Farm Bureau - What Do We Lose When Farmland is Lost?
- Steve Goodwin, Appalachia Ohio Alliance - Land Trusts
- Jim Leonard, Wright Law - Tax Incentives and Estate Planning

Representatives of Licking Land Trust, Fairfield Land Preservation Association, and Appalachia Ohio Alliance will be available to assist attendees with questions and guidance with resources.

Please reserve your seat by calling the Fairfield County Farm Bureau at 1-800-992-3276.

EARTH CAMP

Earth Camp will be held at Blacklick Woods Metro Park, June 9-11, 2009. It is free and open to all Fairfield County students going into third, fourth, and fifth grades in 2009-2010. Students must be attending a Fairfield County school and/or live in the county to be eligible. **Sign up begins on May 1st** and registrations will be accepted until the camp is full (maximum of 60 participants).



Also, we are in need of interested high schoolers to assist as group leaders, so if you know of someone, please call Vicki Kohli at (740) 653-8154.

TREES, A BENEFICIAL RESOURCE

Trees are classified as a renewable resource. A renewable resource is one that can be replaced and trees can easily be replaced by simple planting. People across our country plant trees on a daily basis. Private landowners as well as major paper companies invest both time and money to plant trees. Why?

Trees are beneficial to healthy ecosystems in many ways, with oxygen being the first thing that comes to mind for many people when one mentions trees. In fact, it is estimated that trees are responsible for 20 percent of the atmospheric oxygen that is available to us on planet Earth.

Oxygen is actually given off as a by-product during photosynthesis, the process in which plants produce food, and this oxygen is then released into the atmosphere. Animals then utilize this oxygen when they breathe in. Animals in turn give off carbon dioxide following respiration and plants utilize the carbon dioxide for photosynthesis and the production of food once again. This is part of what is referred to as the oxygen cycle.

Trees also play a part in the global weather system by providing shade and thus having a cooling effect on the overall atmosphere. We all have experienced this during summer weather simply by stepping into the shade of a tree on a hot summer day and physically noticing how much cooler it actually feels in the shade. Multiplying this effect on a global scale helps to moderate the temperature on the planet.

Trees also act as a barrier or windbreak against the force of the wind by effectively slowing down or diverting the wind in a different direction. One conservation practice that people install is a windbreak. This typically involves planting three parallel rows of trees on a farm or homestead in a windward location that will cause the wind to be slowed down, thus buffering the farm or homestead from the full force of the wind.

Another big function that trees provide is the stabilization of soil particles. Tree roots hold soil particles in place which ultimately keeps nutrients available in the soil and topsoil, which is where you want them to be so that they remain available for plant uptake and growth.

Trees provide habitat and homes for a multitude of animal species, anything from insects to mammals. Centipedes, pill bugs, bark beetles, spiders, tree frogs, turtles, raccoons, squirrels, birds of prey and songbirds commonly are seen in wooded habitats. They use trees for shelter as well as for a source of food. Many creatures potentially would be lost if the trees were not there.

Trees provide building materials for all of us and provide an incredible source of fuel for heat. Aesthetically trees offer spectacular color to our landscapes. Forests give us areas to picnic, hike, mountain bike and camp. Forests provide a "sense of place" and a chance to understand some of the dynamics of the natural world. Plant a tree!

2009-10 HUNTING REGULATIONS PROPOSED TO OHIO WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Ohio sportsmen may notice a few changes in next year's hunting and trapping regulations, based on proposals presented January 7 to the Ohio Wildlife Council by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

September 1 is again proposed as the kick-off date for the state's fall hunting seasons—with the opening of squirrel, dove, Canada goose, moorhen and snipe hunting. Other proposed hunting and trapping rules and season dates will be similar to those now in effect, with only slight changes to fall and spring hunting dates.

The statewide muzzleloader season would move to early January and would include two weekend days. If the proposal is adopted, January 9 - 12, 2010, would be next season's dates.

Another proposed change for deer hunters includes those hunting in urban zones and at Division of Wildlife's authorized controlled hunts would have no bag limit. A valid hunting license and proper deer permits will still be required. A hunter may take only one buck in Ohio, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

The remainder of the proposals concerning Ohio's white-tailed deer hunting will be heard during a separate wildlife council meeting on February 4. This will follow state wildlife biologists' assessment of the 2008-09 deer season, which ends on February 1. Those totals may result in modifications to current zone boundaries and some bag limits for next season.

An additional proposal would cut the grouse bag limit from three to two and the season would end on January 31, 2010. Grouse populations continue long-term downward trend with flush rates and harvest rates at record lows.

Open houses will be held on Sunday, March 1 in each of the state's five wildlife districts to provide the public an opportunity to view and discuss proposed hunting and trapping regulations with state wildlife officials. Directions to the open houses can be obtained by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE or visiting www.wildohio.com.

A statewide hearing on all the proposed rules will be held at 9 a.m., Thursday, March 5 at the wildlife division's District One Office, located at 1500 Dublin Road in Columbus. After considering public input, the Ohio Wildlife Council will vote on the proposed rules and season dates during its April 2 meeting.



THANKS, TIM!

The Fairfield SWCD would like to thank Tim White for serving for six years on our Board of Supervisors. In addition to his "paid" position as the editor of the Ohio Farmer magazine, Tim shared many hours of his time and knowledge of conservation to help guide the Fairfield SWCD.

Tim's leadership on the SWCD board was exemplary, he served two terms as board chair and was part of the District's education subcommittee. He frequently shared his insights on Ohio agriculture and conservation practices with fellow board members, staff members and with other county producers. During his time on the FSWCD board, Tim was always front and center on conservation field days, tours and visits with area legislators. Tim rarely missed a monthly board meeting, even though his work and family obligations took him across Ohio and frequently, around the US. If you have the pleasure of knowing Tim, you know that he always has an encouraging word for everyone. He is one of the most positive people that we have had the pleasure of working with!

Some of you may recall Tim from his work directing the awards ceremony each year at the Farm Science Review for the five conservation farm family award winners from each region in Ohio. These awards are sponsored by the Ohio Farmer magazine and the Ohio Farm Bureau. During the annual award presentations, Tim has the rare gift of making each winner feel as if the day was arranged just for them. Fellow board member Joe Young said, "I appreciated his inquisitiveness about many of the issues that we addressed. It was obvious that his editorial and field reporter background was a major asset to the board." Steve Miller said, "Tim White is one of Ohio's best friends and advocates of conservation and natural resource stewardship. As a past member of the Fairfield SWCD Board who served with him, I admire and appreciate his dedication to conservation, his board leadership, and most of all his friendship." We appreciate your time and many talents Tim. Our best to you in all that you do!



Joe Young presenting Tim White (left) with a Certificate of Appreciation.

2009 FAIRFIELD SWCD PHOTO CONTEST

This year's theme is **POLLINATORS!** So get out your camera this spring and summer! The rules for the contest are as follows:

- You must be a **Fairfield County resident** to compete (both adults & children are eligible)
- **Amateurs** only, no professional photographers please!
- **One entry per person**
- Photographs can be from prints, slides, or digital format
- Photographs must be your own original work
- Photographs can be color or black and white
- Photographs must be 8x10 or 11x14
- Photographs need to be framed (matting is optional) and ready to hang
- Please list your name, address and phone number on the back of your entry
- Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (\$100, \$75 & \$50 Cord Camera Gift Certificates)
- All entries will be displayed at the Fairfield SWCD Annual Meeting/Banquet and in the SWCD fair booth at the Fairfield County Fair
- **DEADLINE** to submit photos to the SWCD office is **Friday, August 21, 2009, at 4:30p.m.**

Photographs not picked up by October 31, 2009, will become the property of the Fairfield SWCD. Please call (740) 653-8154 if you have additional questions.



FAIRFIELD SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZE

On January 8, 2009, the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors selected the following officers for 2009:

Dick Kilbarger - Chair
Joe Young - Vice Chair
Bonny Calderwood - Secretary
John Albert - Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Bob Hoffman - Member

The regular monthly board meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Fairfield County Ag Center. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Since the time and date of the meetings can vary, please contact our office for information on any changes to the schedule.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held at Alley Park on Saturday, April 18, 2009. It will be held in conjunction with the "Friends of the Park" pancake breakfast. There will be activities and crafts downstairs in the Nature Center and various displays outside in the tent area. A tree seedling giveaway is also included. Come join us for information regarding our environment and a chance to talk with folks working in that field. Events begin at 8 a.m. and end by noon. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Earth Day is a free family event open to all; however, the pancake breakfast is \$4 per person.

District Supervisors

John Albert
Bonny Calderwood
Bob Hoffman
Dick Kilbarger
Joe Young

District Personnel

Amy Boyer
Nikki Drake
Jonathan Ferbrache
Christina Holt
Rita Kemmerer
Vicki Kohli
Chad Lucht
Perry Orndorff
Curt Stivison

NRCS Personnel

Eliezer Ortiz Barbosa
Bob Hendershot
Melissa Horton
Dave Libben
Mark Scarpitti