

## FUEL CONTAINMENT/SPILL PREVENTION MEETING

In 2010 regulations went into effect that placed farms under the Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program under the authority of the Ohio EPA. Obligations depend on the amount of oil or oil products and how it is stored on a farm. In general, if more than 1,320 gallons in aboveground or more than 42,000 gallons buried oil product is stored, you will fall under the SPCC.

Some individuals will be able to self-certify compliance, with less than 10,000 gallons stored aboveground. Others with a larger storage capacity will need to prepare a plan certified by a professional engineer.

There will be an informational meeting at the Fairfield County Agricultural Center on Thursday, February 24, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. to assist landowners on what they need to do to meet current requirements. Speakers will be Chris Bonner and Ken Schultz with the Ohio EPA. Michael R. Ely with the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation will also speak about fuel handling and safety requirements.

Items covered will include what requirements you as a landowner fall under, how to fill out a self-certifying plan, what type of secondary containment is adequate, penalties and enforcement through the OEPA, and answering any questions you may have.

There is no cost to attend this meeting; however, we do ask that you RSVP to the Fairfield SWCD at (740) 653-8154 so that we have enough materials for the meeting.



**2011 Tree & Wildlife  
Packet Sale  
information and  
order form inside!**

## SUPERVISOR SWORN IN DURING REGULAR MEETING



Bonny Calderwood, re-elected Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor, was sworn into office by Senator Tim Schaffer prior to the January 13, 2011, regular board meeting.

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### 2011 FAIRFIELD SWCD PHOTO CONTEST

This year's theme is "Fairfield Features"! 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
- We are looking for natural and man-made features that are in Fairfield County
- Photographs must be your own original work
- Photographs can be color or black and white
- Photographs must be 8x10 format and **unframed and unmatted**
- 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 at the SWCD fair booth at the Fairfield County Fair
- **DEADLINE** to submit photos to the SWCD office is **Friday, August 19, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.**

All photographs 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 13, 2011, the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors selected the following officers for 2011:

John Albert - Chair  
Bob Hoffman - Vice Chair  
Bonny Calderwood - Secretary  
Joe Young - Treasurer/Fiscal Agent  
Mike Wolfe - 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.

### Join us on facebook

The Fairfield SWCD can now be found on facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Fairfield-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-District/154587917899420](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fairfield-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-District/154587917899420). You can also visit us on the web at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org).

### DRUG & ELECTRONICS COLLECTION DAY SET

Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District in cooperation with Violet Township, Fairfield County Sheriff's Department, and Lancaster-Fairfield County Recycling & Litter Prevention will be conducting another prescription drug and electronics collection event on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to noon. This year we are planning to expand our collection to include television disposal, for a minimal fee (\$1 per diagonal inch). To follow more about this event and many others, please become a fan of us on facebook.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Fairfield SWCD Annual Meeting/Banquet will be held on September 8, 2011, at Alley Park. Look for more information in the next upcoming newsletter and on our website at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org).

## **DON'T FEED DEER THIS WINTER, DOING SO CAUSES HARM**

*(by Scott Shalaway, columnist with [www.farmanddairy.com](http://www.farmanddairy.com)  
Reprinted with permission from *Farm and Dairy*, Salem, Ohio)*

Although many landowners may mean well, feeding deer in winter is a bad idea. Recently experts from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and a veterinarian from the National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin were contacted on this topic. All agreed that supplemental feeding is bad deer management.

That column generated a lot of mail. About 75 percent of the letters and emails I received expressed shock that winter feeding could actually harm deer. Most pledged to stop feeding deer. The rest of the mail came from inveterate deer feeders who treat deer more as domestic livestock than wildlife. They clearly considered deer to be "theirs." Several believed that feeding deer would produce better deer during hunting season.

But wildlife is owned by the state, by all the citizens of the state. Feeding them doesn't change this principle. With severe winter weather already upon us, the "don't feed deer" mantra is worth repeating. Among wildlife professionals, it's a message that cannot be overemphasized.

The Wildlife Management Institute ([www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org](http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org)), an independent conservation organization that works to improve the professional foundation of wildlife management, explains the consequences of supplemental feeding of deer and other wildlife in a booklet entitled, *Feeding Wildlife... Just Say No!* The booklet's salient points include:

- Supplemental feeding changes movements patterns and concentrates deer at feeding stations
- Concentrations of deer increase their susceptibility to contagious diseases and leads to over browsing of nearby native forage plants
- "Deer corn" is often corn considered unfit for human or livestock consumption. It can be tainted by toxins produced by mold
- Short-term effects of supplemental feeding can lead to population spikes that result in crop damage, ornamental plant damage, more deer-vehicle collisions, and habitat damage that hurts many other species of wildlife.

The digestive tract of deer is a complicated physiological system. Just the right combination of microorganisms, enzymes, and pH enable deer to digest a normal winter diet of woody vegetation. When offered a sudden diet of corn, a deer's digestive system doesn't have time to adjust to the high carbohydrate load.

As the seasons change, deer diet changes, and it takes deer weeks to slowly adapt to new foods. For example, in the summer months they may feed on forbs and other herbaceous vegetation. Come fall they gorge on acorns. And in winter they switch to woody browse. As their diet changes, so does the physiology of the digestive system.

But when a big storm blows in, people suddenly want to help the deer by feeding them corn. It's cheap and widely available. But when it's offered suddenly, corn wreaks havoc on a deer's digestive system. It takes deer two to four weeks of feeding on a new food source to establish populations of microbes necessary to digest the new food. It doesn't happen in just a few days during a snowstorm. Healthy individuals that might survive in the short term can succumb to complications weeks later.

This also explains the "corn belt conundrum." Why, many readers asked, do deer thrive in places where corn is a primary crop, places like Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois? It's because corn is almost always available. From young plants in the spring to stubble into the winter, there's usually a supply of corn. So it's not suddenly introduced into the diet. Deer in corn country have digestive systems adapted to corn as a primary food.

Notice how often I've used the words "sudden" and "suddenly." That is the key to the deer feeding problem. Deer cannot physiologically adapt to the sudden availability of corn.

So please don't feed deer this winter. Some may starve, and some may fall to disease and predators, but that's how healthy populations stay healthy. Deer may spend time in your backyard or back forty, but they are not your responsibility. Feeding them causes them to stay in one area, which may not make you popular with your neighbors. To help the local deer population, concentrate on habitat improvement.

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## **STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER DEER HUNTING SEASON CONCLUDES**

Hunters took 17,108 deer during Ohio's four-day muzzleloader season, January 8-11, with Tuscarawas County again leading the state with 914 deer checked (Fairfield 232, Hocking 286, Licking 671, Perry 281 and Pickaway 47). In 2010, a preliminary total of 24,078 deer was taken during muzzleloader season, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife.

A total of 227,469 deer have been harvested so far this season when combining the gun seasons, early and statewide muzzleloader seasons, and the first nine weeks of the archery season. Hunters took a total of 261,314 deer during all of last year's hunting seasons.

Hunters can still donate extra venison to organizations assisting Ohioans in need. The division is collaborating with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry to help pay for the processing of donated venison. Hunters who give their deer to a food bank are not required to pay the processing cost as long as the deer are taken to a participating processor and funding for the effort lasts. Counties being served by this program can be found on-line at [www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org).

## EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held at Alley Park on Saturday, April 16, 2011. 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, there will be a \$4 charge for the pancake breakfast.



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## 2011 WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Making connections between wildlife and people will be the subject of discussion at the 2011 Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. The conference, "Connecting Wildlife, Habitat and People," is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife. It is open to the public.

The keynote speaker this year, Mark Damian Duda, executive director of Responsive Management, will speak on "The Identification, Life History and Habitat Requirements of the Wildlife Viewer."

Other conference topics include discussions of sandhill cranes, softshell turtles, riparian corridor protection, how to attract people to birding, conservation genetics, and freshwater mussel and hellbender health assessments.

The second Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, which features the amber-winged dragonfly, will be available to conference attendees. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp will be used to support: endangered and threatened native species; habitat restoration, land purchases and conservation easements; and educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts.

Anyone who preregisters on-line for the conference may purchase this collectable stamp at a discounted price of \$12 – a 20 percent savings. Details about the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp can be found at [wildohiostamp.com](http://wildohiostamp.com).

Representatives from a range of conservation and natural resource organizations, such as the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Columbus Audubon and Ohio Biological Survey, will present displays and be available to answer questions.

For more information or to register for the conference on-line, go to [www.bit.ly/WildlifeDiversityConference](http://www.bit.ly/WildlifeDiversityConference) or call 1-800-WILDLIFE. The registration fee prior to February 26 is \$25. After that date, the fee is \$35.

## 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](http://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.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS OFFERED

The Fairfield SWCD is sponsoring five \$500 grants for the enhancement of environmental education. These grants are being offered on a competitive basis and are open to all schools within Fairfield County. Proposals are due by March 31, 2011. More information and forms can be found on our website at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org). Please call Vicki Kohli, Education Specialist, at (74) 653-8154 with any additional questions.

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## SWAMPBUSTER AND THE FARM BILL

Farmers who participate in the USDA programs are reminded to check with the Farm Service Agency prior to any clearing or drainage activities. The current Farm Bill has specific provisions pertaining to wetland conservation on agricultural land. These provisions are not new, but build upon the provisions in the original 1985 Farm Bill, so they have been around for some time. Don't assume an area is not considered a wetland because there is no standing water or cattails present. Many wetland areas dry up during the summer but they are still considered to be wetlands. Farmers who intend to do any of the following need to have the area checked before doing the work:

- clearing fencerows, woodland, or other land for new fields
- installing tile in existing or proposed cropland
- tiling wet spots or low lying areas
- bringing old fields into production that have not been farmed at least 5 years or more

If you plan to do any clearing or drainage work this needs to be checked prior to doing the work. A request needs to be made at the Farm Service Agency at least 30 days in advance



of any work being done so we have time to complete the determination. You may lose all USDA program benefits if you do any clearing or drainage without getting a determination prior to beginning the work.

## **OHIO BARN CONFERENCE COMING TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

The Friends of Ohio Barns 2011 Conference will take place on April 29 and 30, 2011, in Fairfield County. This program has been brought to Fairfield County by the Fairfield Land Preservation Association and the Fairfield County Visitors and Convention Bureau. Presentations and education sessions will be on April 29 at 8 a.m. and the barn tour will be on April 30 at 5 p.m. Please visit [www.ohiobarns.osu.edu](http://www.ohiobarns.osu.edu) for more information.

## **EARTH CAMP**

Earth Camp will be held at Chestnut Ridge Metro Park, June 14-16, 2011. It is free and open to all Fairfield County students going into third, fourth, and fifth grades in 2011-2012. Students must be attending a Fairfield County school and/or live in the county to be eligible. Sign up begins on May 2nd 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.

