

FAIRFIELD FEATURES



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The Fairfield Features is published quarterly by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District
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73rd ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked the 73rd anniversary of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. The annual meeting/banquet was held on September 8, 2016, at the Goslin Nature Education Center on the grounds of Alley Park. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. This year's candidates were Wendy LaRue of Amanda and Kris Thrush of Lancaster. Mike Tharp Sr. was the featured speaker this year. Mike was an employee of the Boys Industrial School for 15 years and had many stories to share.

The 2015 Cooperator of the Year Awards were presented to the following: Rod Bowers (Rod Bowers Farms) and Jim & Greg Krile (Krile Farms). Cooperators are selected annually based on their consistent work to improve their land by reducing soil loss due to erosion, installing conservation practices and participating in educational outreach to the community. Each cooperator received a sign to post on their farm.

The Conservation Partner Award honors partners that have demonstrated outstanding efforts in promoting conservation programs here in Fairfield County. Don Maloney (Don's Prawns & More) was awarded the 2015 Conservation Partner of the Year Award.

The Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually 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 2015 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to Cindy Montoney, Ag Teacher at Amanda-Clearcreek High School.

Our 2016 Photo Contest featured "Fairfield SWCD (past, present or future)". The winners were: Emily Bartlett—1st place, Terry Thompson—2nd place and Haley Flowers—3rd place.

Mike Wolfe was recognized for his time served on the Board of Supervisors. Wendy LaRue was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Supervisors beginning January 1, 2017.

*Happy
Holidays*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 73RD ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET



Rod Bowers was presented with a 2015 Cooperator of the Year Award.



Krile Farms was awarded a 2015 Cooperator of the Year Award. Pictured are Greg and Jim Krile.



Don Maloney (Don's Prawns & More) was presented the 2015 Conservation Partner of the Year Award.



Cindy Montoney, Ag Teacher at Amanda-Clearcreek High School, was awarded the 2015 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award by Tommy Springer, Fairfield SWCD Education/Wildlife Specialist.



Tommy Springer, Fairfield SWCD Education/Wildlife Specialist, presented Emily Bartlett with an award for being the 1st place winner in our 2016 photo contest entitled Fairfield SWCD (past, present or future).



Jarrod Hittle (left), Program Specialist with the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture Division of Soil and Water Conservation, presented Mike Wolfe, SWCD Supervisor, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years on the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED! The Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is kicking off a year long process to update the county's Comprehensive Plan and is seeking input from residents and business owners to help prioritize goals, objectives, and policies for the plan. The survey may be accessed at <https://s.zoomerang.com/r/PlanFairfield>

2017 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

If you are interested in applying for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2017, sponsored locally by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, we ask that you declare your interest by completing a simple form no later than **Friday, January 13, 2017**. We may not know the results of the applications for 6 months.

We will run the competition without the essay questions used in the first few years of the program. All other questions are generally the same and will be scored as they have been in the past. The one decision you need to make prior to application is how much money you require to have an agricultural easement purchased on your property.

To avoid any conflict, you must tell us in writing the lowest price per acre you are willing to accept to have the easement placed on the property. The program will never pay more than \$2,000 an acre with a cap of \$500,000 per applicant farm. Funding distribution capacity in Fairfield County is limited to \$455,055 for 2017.

We encourage you to make a business decision as to the lowest price you can accept. Please contact Jonathan Ferbrache at (740) 653-8154, ext. 133 if you have interest in applying or questions about the program.

ANOTHER FARM PROTECTED

The Fairfield County Commissioners closed on their 17th Agriculture Easement, made possible through the Clean Ohio Fund in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Mike Kiger has now signed 13 easements on behalf of the Commissioners, and this 98.83 acres of prime farmland is the third easement by the Thomas Family. We thank all involved in the protection of our very best soils for the future of the agriculture industry in Fairfield County.



Pictured are Commissioner Dave Levacy, Commissioner Mike Kiger, Mike & Wanda Thomas.

COLUMBIA PIPELINE PROJECTS

The staff of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District strongly encourage those of you that are approached for the acquisition of permanent and temporary rights-of-way for new Columbia pipelines proposed in our area to require the use of the Ohio Pipeline Standard and Construction Specification to protect and guide in the restoration of your property.

Company representatives may offer a different document for you and your legal council to review, but we strongly encourage you to have a copy of this guidance document with you while negotiating and be familiar with its recommendations before sitting down at the kitchen table.

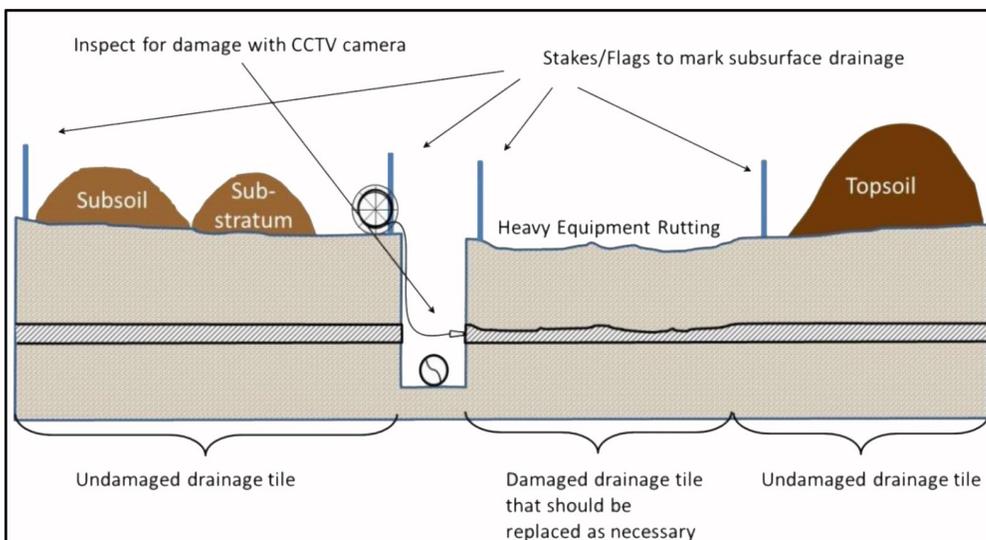


Figure 4 Subsurface drainage damaged during pipeline work must be inspected and repaired.

Soil horizon separation, rock removal, trench crown, tile repair, adequate depth to pass new tile over the gas lines, seeding and fence repair are all critical things to consider. You can locate a web version to review and print at home at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/SWC/SWC.aspx>.

HOW CLOSE CAN YOU GO? MANURE APPLICATION REMINDERS

Minimum Setback Distances for the Application of Manure and Other Organic By Products ^{5/, 6/}

Type of Sensitive - Setback Area	Setbacks Based on Methods of Manure Application		
	Surface Application	Winter Application Frozen or Snow Covered Soils ^{7/}	Surface Incorporation W/I 24 Hours OR Direct Injection
Residences / Private Wells down slope from the application area.	100 ft.	200 ft.	100 ft.
- Sinkholes	300 ft.		100 ft.
- Pond or Lake	- 35ft. Vegetative Barrier ^{1/} , with the remaining 100 ft. setback in non-vegetative Setback ^{2/}	- 35ft. Vegetative Barrier ^{1/} , with the remaining 200 ft. setback in non-vegetative Setback ^{2/}	- 35ft. Vegetative Barrier ^{1/}
- Streams - Ditches - Surface Inlets	- 35ft. Vegetative Barrier ^{1/} , OR - 100 ft. setback in non-vegetative Setback, OR - 35 ft. in non-vegetative setback ^{3/}	200 ft.	None
Grassed Waterway	35 ft.	200 ft.	None
Field Surface Drains	35 ft. ^{4/}	200 ft.	None
Public Wells	300 ft.	300 ft.	100 ft.
Developed Springs	300 ft. upslope	300 ft. upslope	300 ft. upslope
Public Surface Drinking Water Intake	300 ft.	300 ft.	300 ft.

1/ Permanent vegetation consisting of grass, grass/legume mix, trees/shrubs, or trees/shrubs and grass/legumes. Measured from top of bank.

2/ Includes 100 ft. total setback. The setback must include a minimum of 35 ft. of vegetative cover from top of bank with the remainder of the 100 feet with no vegetative requirement. The setback is measured from the top of bank.

3/ Applies if the manure application area has at least 50% vegetation/residue cover at the time of application.

4/ No setback required for field surface drains if the Additional Criteria to Protect Water Quality, Item 5 is applied from this standard.

5/ CAFO's must follow the setbacks defined in the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) rules regarding manure application. See **Table 5 – ODA Setbacks - Appendix A Table 1 of rule 901:10-1-14: Land Application Restrictions and Setbacks**

6/ Excludes sludge that is regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and septage regulated by the Ohio Department of Health.

7/ See Additional Criteria to Protect Water Quality, Item 7, for the special manure application criteria on frozen and snow covered fields.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MILKWEED COLLECTION

The Fairfield SWCD collected an estimated 250 gallons of milkweed seed pods as part of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative. Thank you to those residents who took part in this collection! The pods were delivered to Southeastern Correctional Institution where they will be processed to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch Butterfly.

SAVE THE DATE.....The Fairfield SWCD will be offering a Contractor's Workshop on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at the Fairfield County Agriculture Center from 8 a.m. to noon. Contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 for more information.

2012 PLAT BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

The Fairfield SWCD still has a limited quantity of the 2012 Fairfield County Plat Book available at a cost of \$5. We also have the 2015 Plat Book available for \$20 each.

STATE SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

The State Soil Judging Contest for the urban and agricultural soils FFA Career Development Event (CDE) was held on Saturday, October 8 at the Bader farm in Fairfield County. There were around 400 students from 50 schools at the event. Congratulations to the winning teams and individuals. Thank you to Walter Bader and family for hosting this event.



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DID YOU VISIT THE AGMAZING AGRI-CENTER AT THE FAIR?

Did you find us at this year's Fairfield County Fair? It was a very busy week in the AGmazing Agri-Center located in the Ed Sands Farm Bureau Building. This was our first year for this successful collaborative effort between many different groups and it offered plenty of activities for the kids and adults alike! Smokey the Bear, archery trailer, fish species, augmented reality sandbox, FFA projects, tractor simulator, and corn pit just to name a few.

If you didn't make it in to see us this year, we hope that you visit us at next year's Fairfield County Fair, scheduled for October 8-14, 2017. See you at the Fair!

PLEASE BE AWARE.....There is a telephone and email scam regarding the renewal of System for Award Management (SAM) registration that is working its way to participants in farm bill programs. Those contacted are being asked to follow up with a phone call to complete their SAM registration and to sign up for another ID number by paying \$3,500 for a one-year or \$5,000 for a two-year renewal. If they do not, they are told they will be fined.

There is no required financial cost to obtain either a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) or SAM registration. Please ignore any emails or phone calls of this nature and report such activity to your local NRCS/SWCD office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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