

MEET THE CANDIDATES

JON GERKEN

Jon grew up on a farm in Northwest Ohio where he participated in 4-H and FFA, with dairy and sheep projects. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a B. S. in Agriculture, majoring in Agronomy. Jon worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for 42 years, working in the Soil Survey program.

Jon and his wife, Diane, have been Fairfield County residents for 41 years. They have two grown sons, Mark and Matthew. They live on 13 acres in Greenfield Township where Jon spends time planting trees, gardening and tending to their pond.

Jon's activities have included being active in their church, numerous professional conservation and soil science organizations, OSU College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and School of Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Societies, serving on Bloom Carroll Board of Education, and Board of Directors of the Columbus Federal Employees Credit Union. Jon is a member of Farm Bureau and the American Legion.



DAVID OCHS



David is a graduate of Ohio University with a B.S. in Business Administration. He worked for a large landscape company and managed a greenhouse. He currently owns Orchard Gardens landscaping company and runs that in addition to Ochs Fruit Farm. David is a 5th generation orchardist. He has been involved in operating the family farm for most of his life and took over all operations in 2017.

David has been a Fairfield County resident for 45 years. He and his wife have two children and two grandchildren. Together they share their passion for food, flavor and plants with friends and customers.

GREGG PONTIUS

Gregg has been a lifelong resident of Fairfield County in Amanda Township where he still resides with fiancé Marilyn Evans. He is a graduate of Amanda-Clearcreek High School and The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree from the Ag School. Gregg is a military vet having served during 1971-1977. He has been a 4-H advisory and a supporter of FFA and Young Farmers, and has been involved with and participated in many programs directed by the SWCD.

Working in the ag industry and farming for over 50 years, Gregg has strong beliefs in no-till cropping. Having done custom work for other farmers, he is open to ideas in different ways to accomplish conservation.

Gregg is currently leasing his land to a first generation farmer.



SUPERVISOR ELECTION INFO....CAST YOUR VOTE

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Fairfield SWCD; own a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity registered with the Ohio Secretary of State in Fairfield County; and are 18 years of age or older may vote for supervisor.

There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the Fairfield SWCD office from August 28 until September 10 during normal business hours; or
2. At the "Drive-Thru" event, which will take place at the Fairfield County Ag Center on September 10 from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from July 29 until September 10, by requesting the Ballot Application and Election Ballot from the Fairfield SWCD office at 831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130, by calling (740) 653-8154, or by emailing boardelection@fairfieldswcd.org. When submitting the Ballot Application and the Election Ballot, submit both together in the official **SWCD Election Ballot** envelope provided. Absentee ballots (mailed or delivered in-person) must be received by the Fairfield SWCD office by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10.
 - Eligible voters must complete a Ballot Application in its entirety for validation. Information provided will be used for the sole purpose of validating ballots.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2023. Nominees are: Jon Gerken, David Ochs and Gregg Pontius (see bios above).