

# FAIRFIELD FEATURES



August 2021

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The Fairfield Features is published quarterly by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District  
831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (740) 653-8154

## FAIRFIELD SWCD 78TH ANNUAL MEETING

Please join the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District and Fairfield County Farm Bureau for this year's joint 2021 Annual Meeting. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship at the Fairfield County Ag Center in Lancaster on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. No reservation is required.

This year's speakers will be Dale Ferbrache and Fairfield County GIS Department on Zane's Trace research and mapping.

**When:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**Where:** Fairfield County Ag Center  
831 College Avenue, Lancaster, OH 43130

**Cost:** Attendance is Free of Charge—No reservation required

**Meal:** DaQue food truck will be located behind the Ag Center and will be available between 4:30–6:30 p.m. for attendees to purchase a meal during Social Time

**Agenda:** 4:30–6:30 p.m. -- Social Time, DaQue food truck  
Board of Supervisors Election  
Displays (virtual sandbox, giant Jenga, inflatable archery, hides/skulls, large historical plat maps, HyDrone videos, drone demo)  
& giveaways

6:30 - 7 p.m. -- Presentation on Zane's Trace

7 - 8 p.m. -- SWCD & Farm Bureau Awards

Short Intermission

Farm Bureau Program

(to include Soybean Council talk)



Please Note: We will post on our website and Facebook if this event is cancelled due to COVID regulations. You can also call 740-653-8154 to inquire.



The Fairfield County Fair is scheduled for October 10-16. Please check our website for more information regarding the status of this year's AgMazing building.

## SWCD EMPLOYEE MOVES ON

At the end of July we said farewell to Engineering Technician Carrie Brown. Carrie had been with Fairfield SWCD since March of 2019. While at the SWCD, she worked to survey and engineer conservation practices for local producers, as well as launch a weekly blog and a precipitation monitoring citizen science program.

She is very grateful for the many opportunities she had while working for the District and for the chance to be a part of such a great team. She looks forward to working with the agricultural community in a new capacity as Ohio State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for Fairfield County.



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## OLHAP (OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP)

The OLHAP program is funded from the USDA Voluntary Public Access—Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) and offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for allowing public hunting on private lands. The goal is to provide public access to over 20,000 acres of private land across the state of Ohio and habitat practices may also be financially incentivized through the program.

- **Eligible Landowners:** Landowners with a significant amount of wildlife habitat established on their properties, and those enrolled in designated conservation programs, will be given preference. However, all landowners statewide will be eligible to apply for the OLHAP program.
- **Agreement Duration:** Agreements will be for public access until June 1, 2022.
- **Access Payments:** The OLHAP program will issue incentive payments to enrolled landowners on a per-acre basis for providing public access to lands they own. Annual payments will be \$2/acre for agricultural lands and \$30/acre for perennial wildlife cover, such as wetlands, grasslands, brushlands, and forest.
- **Opportunities on Enrolled Properties:** Public access will be granted through an online check-in system from September 1st to June 1st each year between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. All hunting opportunities, except deer gun hunting, are permitted.
- **Landowners are required to:**
  - Post and maintain accurate signage according to the OLHAP agreement.
  - Maintain or increase current wildlife habitat on enrolled lands and throughout the agreement period.
  - Maintain ownership and control throughout the agreement period.
- **OLHAP Users are required to:**
  - Agree to hold landowners harmless for liability while on the property.
  - Have an OLHAP Permit while on the property.
  - Follow all the rules for the OLHAP Program.

For more information, please contact 1-800-Wildlife or Tommy Springer, Fairfield SWCD Wildlife Specialist, at 740-415-3905.

An orange sign with black text and graphics. At the top, it says "OLHAP" in large letters next to a logo of two hands shaking over a map of Ohio. Below that, it says "OHIO LANDOWNER/HUNTER ACCESS PARTNERSHIP". The sign lists several bullet points: "This is private property open to access for the purpose of wildlife-based recreation.", "OLHAP permit is required.", "Please practice leave no trace by packing all trash out.", "Funding for OLHAP is partially funded by grant monies in the VPA section of the Farm Bill.", and "For more information on this program or to obtain your OLHAP permit visit ohio.dnr.gov.". At the bottom, there are logos for the Ohio Department of Wildlife, VPA-HIP (Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program), and a QR code. The text "DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES" is at the bottom.

## 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 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 September 1 until September 30 during normal business hours of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday; or
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Fairfield County Ag Center on September 15 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from September 1 until September 30, 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](mailto:boardelection@fairfieldswcd.org). Absentee ballots (mailed or delivered in-person) must be received by the Fairfield SWCD office by 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 30.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2024. Nominees are: Linda Claypool, Rob Stilwell and Doug Tenney (see bios).

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### DO YOU HAVE GULLY EROSION ON YOUR FARM? New Conservation Reserve Program waterway cost-share:

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Deadline for this sign-up is September 30, 2021. Not quite ready? We can still survey & design the engineering plan after harvest.

To check eligibility, contact Farm Service Agency (740) 415-3917.  
If not eligible, for alternative programs, call Fairfield SWCD (740) 415-3924.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### LINDA CLAYPOOL

Linda is a lifelong resident of Hocking Township in Fairfield County. She graduated from Lancaster High School and Ohio University. Linda and her late husband Dan have a son Jason, his wife Michelle and two granddaughters Ashley and Carley. She started as a legal secretary before spending 15 years in commercial banking as a loan officer and manager. Prior to retiring in November 2017, she spent more than 26 years with USDA, Farm Service Agency assisting farmers with financial needs related to farm operating and real estate purchases.



Linda is currently a Farm Bureau member and a member of the Hocking Township Board of Appeals, having served the township on various boards for several years. In past years she has been a member of the American and Ohio Bankers Association, National and Ohio Realtors Association and National/Ohio Association of Credit Specialists. Linda has served one three-year term and is currently Treasurer of the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors.

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### ROB STILWELL



Rob has been a farmer in Liberty Township, Fairfield County now for 36 years. Before that he worked part-time on a farm owned by a relative that has been in their family for over 200 years. After high school, Rob owned his own automotive business that he sold to purchase the farm where he lives now.

Rob and his wife Connie have two adult children and five grandchildren. They have worked with the SWCD on several projects over the last twenty years. It is his belief that we must protect the land we have for future generations.

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### DOUG TENNEY

Doug grew up on a dairy farm in Knox County, active in 4-H and FFA. He is an Ohio State graduate with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. Doug has continued his connection with the university by serving on the alumni board of ATZ/FarmHouse Fraternity for 33 years, building relationships with generations of students.

A Fairfield County resident for 43 years, Doug has a true heart for the agricultural community as a local grain marketer and commodity broker. Quality and conservation of our soil and water are key concerns of the producers he serves daily.

Doug is a current member and supporter of the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board, past member of the Fairfield County Extension Advisory committee, and Lithopolis Village Council. He is a longtime columnist for Ohio's Country Journal and a 1999 graduate of the OSU LEAD program.

Doug and his wife, Cindy, are involved members of the Lancaster Vineyard Church. He is an avid cyclist, regularly pedaling the back roads of our county, often seeing the devastating effects of soil erosion on farmland.



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## 28TH AG EASEMENT SIGNED



The Board of Fairfield County Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Agriculture closed a Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement with Mike and Nida Berry of Walnut Township. Their 30.58 acres will perpetually be used for agricultural production. This piece builds on the block north of New Salem that three generations of the Berry family have helped protect for future generations.

## CLEAN UP DAY HELD

City leaders, staff, community volunteers and volunteers from Coyote Run and Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District spent a day in April picking up litter around the City of Pickerington. Thanks to everyone involved!



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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.

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Linda Claypool  
Wendy LaRue  
David Ochs  
Gregg Pontius  
Matt Reese

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Nikki Drake  
Jonathan Ferbrache  
Christina Holt  
Chad Lucht  
Tommy Springer

### NRCS PERSONNEL

Dave Libben  
Brice Shaw

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