

FAIRFIELD FEATURES



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The Fairfield Features is published quarterly by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District
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Celebration of 75 Years of Conservation!

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. The annual meeting/banquet was held on September 13, 2018, at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Fairfield County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. This year's candidates were Linda Claypool and Paul Kemmer, both of Lancaster, and Matt Reese of Baltimore. Matt was re-elected to serve another three-year term beginning January 1, 2019 and Linda Claypool was elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

The Fairfield SWCD has challenged itself to be a leader in conservation planning, no-till planting, flood control, urban development, farmland preservation and habitat development and protection. Instead of a guest speaker, this year the District showed a video entitled "Conservation in Action for Our Future....Celebrating 75 Years", which can be viewed by visiting the SWCD website at fairfieldswcd.org.

The 2017 Cooperator of the Year Awards were awarded to the following: Mike and Maria Wolfe (Wolfe Family Farms) and Roxanne Macioci (Albert Family Tree Farm). 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 in Fairfield County. The Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce received the 2017 Conservation Partner of the Year Award for recognition of 10 years of partnership. In 2009, they partnered with the FSWCD, Fairfield County Farm Bureau and OSU Extension to better engage the agriculture business community. They also appointed a representative to the Chamber Board specifically for agriculture interest.

The Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually to a Fairfield County educator who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to teaching conservation, environmental awareness, and natural resource education to students in Fairfield County. This year the 2017 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to a group of 4th grade teachers at Liberty Union. Recognized were Bev Weaver, Tabitha McCarthy, Julia Hayes, Jennifer Lauvray and Maria Wolfe.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

Happy Holidays!

75TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS



2017 Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award presented to Liberty Union 4th grade teachers. Pictured L-R: Jennifer Lauvray, Tabitha McCarthy, Bev Weaver & Maria Wolfe.



The Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce was presented the 2017 Conservation Partner of the Year Award. Pictured are Jonathan Ferbrache (SWCD), Travis Markwood (Chamber President) and Rick Szabrak (Director of Fairfield Co. Economic Development).



Mike & Maria Wolfe (Wolfe Family Farms) were presented with a 2017 Cooperator of the Year Award.



SWCD Board Members were recognized by both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives for celebrating our 75th anniversary. Pictured L-R: M. Boving, W. LaRue, M. Reese, D. Rector, T. White, Representatives Tim Schaffer and Ron Hood.



The Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors was presented a commemorative sign from ODA/Div. of Soil & Water Conservation to celebrate 75 years of locally led conservation in Fairfield County.



2017 Cooperator of the Year Award recipient Albert Family Tree Farm. Pictured are Dominic & Roxanne Macioci.

2019 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

If you are interested in applying for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2019, 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 18, 2019**. 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 \$376,273 for 2019. All applicant properties will be reviewed by the County Engineer for adequate road right-of-way and intersection alignment.

We encourage you to make a business decision as to the lowest price you can accept. Please contact Jonathan Ferbrache at (740) 415-3925 if you have interest in applying or questions about the program.

BUCKEYE LAKE WATERSHED COORDINATOR HIRED

Perry SWCD is pleased to announce that they have hired Claire Donley of Lancaster as the new Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator. Claire earned a BS in Environmental Science from Muskingum College and has worked extensively in a variety of related fields and for federal, state and local governments. Her work experience has included stints with the National Park Service, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Franklin SWCD, Ohio EPA and The Nature Conservancy.

The Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator position is funded by grants from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Fairfield, Licking and Perry County Boards of Commissioners, the Fairfield, Licking and Perry SWCDs, Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow, Buckeye Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the Buckeye Lake Foundation. The principal priorities of the Coordinator will be to improve water quality in the streams feeding the lake through implementing best management and conservation practices on public and



private lands. Technical partners will include, but are not limited to NRCS, SWCDs, Ohio EPA, OSU Extension, Ohio Department of Agriculture and the County Boards of Health.



Sebastian Teas is an AmeriCorps member serving with the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District. He is a graduate of Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, where he majored in Environmental Studies. As part of his program, he researched low-cost techniques for monitoring nutrient runoff. Prior to starting service with the Perry SWCD, Sebastian served with the Middle Tuscarawas River Watershed Office, focusing on impairment from acid mine drainage. This is his second year with the AmeriCorps program. He is from Muskingum County. Sebastian will also be working on the Buckeye Lake Watershed priorities.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandy McCandlish of Bremen for being chosen as the winner in a drawing for a sunflower bird feeder at our booth at the 2018 Fairfield County Fair. Thanks to everyone who visited us in the AGmazing Agri-Center!

CONSERVATION TAX REDUCTION IN CAUV UPDATE BY JON A. SLATER, JR.—FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR

With the legislative changes made in 2017, land devoted to conservation practices or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program under an agreement with an agency of the federal government, will be valued at the lowest value of all soil types beginning with the tax year the county completes a scheduled countywide revaluation for 2017 or thereafter. Fairfield County is scheduled to complete our next revaluation in 2019. We offer the following to help you begin the process this year as it may take some time to prepare:

1). If you are in the CAUV program and enrolled in a **conservation program**, the new legislation requires that you **MUST** include a copy of the **signed contract, map, and an explanation of the program** (you would have received a copy of these when you signed up for the program) which can be obtained from whomever you contract with for the conservation, i.e. FSA, USDA, NRCS, etc. (*Please black out any personal information like SSN's before including said paperwork with application.*) Applicants who have already submitted a copy of their contract and map with the County are not required to re-submit with their Renewal Application unless changes have occurred.

2). Additionally, land that is **NOT** in a **conservation program**, but that is being used for conservation practices (restricted to those practices that are necessary to abate soil erosion in the management of the farm) is eligible if it comprises 25% or less of the landowner's total CAUV land. For this you **MUST include a map showing boundaries and acreage by parcel for those conservation practices and an explanation of why this practice is necessary to abate wind or soil erosion.** (*Please see next page for our CAUV APPLICATION EXAMPLE sheet for types of qualifying practices.*) If you would like to schedule a meeting to review these practices, please contact a Real Estate staff member at 740-652-7030. These appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis. (*Please bring all information necessary to show why your conservation practice is necessary to abate soil erosion.*)

In addition, you will notice the Renewal Application has been revised, requiring more detailed information than previous years. If your renewal application is not filled out completely and/or you do not provide all required additional information, the Auditor's office will return your application to complete prior to our review. For assistance see page two for examples and definitions to help complete the Renewal Application.

In addition to 2017 legislative changes, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a couple additional items. First, regarding all applications with **less than 10 qualifying acres** of commercial agriculture, you **MUST** provide receipts for at least \$2,500 with your renewal application. Secondly, CAUV soil values only change during a revaluation or triennial revaluation year, which for Fairfield County is 2019 revaluation (payable 2020) and eventually a 2022 triennial revaluation (payable 2023).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Real Estate Department at 740-652-7030.

RECOGNITION OF 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners proclaimed September to be "Soil and Water Conservation District Month" in recognition of 75 years of service to the people of Fairfield County and adjacent shared watersheds in Franklin, Perry, Hocking and Pickaway Counties.

They recognize the work of the District to protect health, safety and welfare of our citizens through natural resource management. Specifically, they recognize sponsorship of the Hunters Run and Rush Creek Conservancy Districts to reduce flooding, county subdivision regulations, county compliance with the US EPA's phase two requirements and farmland preservation initiatives.

Also, the Ohio Senate provided commendation on this anniversary for 75 years in support of forestry, farmland preservation, erosion and urban planning issues and educating school children about the importance of conserving water and soil. We thank the Senate President and former Senator Troy Balderson for recognizing the District's work and our strategies for protecting the environment.



Pictured L-R are Jonathan Ferbrache, SWCD Resource Specialist; Nikki Drake, SWCD Engineering Tech./District Manager; and Steve Davis, Fairfield County Commissioner

CAUV APPLICATION EXAMPLE

This sheet is provided to help landowners gain access to as much information that we can provide for them to stay educated and help assist the process of filling out CAUV applications (Initial and Renewal). It is focused on sections 5 and 6 of both applications (below). For assistance and instruction on filling out previous sections (see back of application). Please be sure to include your phone number and if available an email address.

The highlighted sections below usually cause the most confusion for applicants. We will attempt to help clarify most FAQ.

List the acreage in each crop or land use for the current year. The entire acreage above must be accounted for below.

Anticipated land use for the current year:	Acres
Commodity crops – corn/soybeans/wheat/oats	
Hay – baled at least twice a year	
Permanent pasture – used for commercial animal husbandry	
Noncommercial woodland – contiguous to 10 (ten) acres of farmed land	
Commercial timber	
Other crops – nursery stock/vegetables/flowers	
Homesite(s) – minimum 1 (one) acre per house	
Roads/waste/pond	
Conservation program – CRP/CREP/etc. (provide the contract and map)	
Conservation practices limited to 25% or less of the total acreage (provide map)	
Other use, e.g. agritourism, biofuel production	
Total acres – must match acres above	

Permanent Pasture: Must be used for a *commercial* purpose and **actively** used. Like cropland it will not qualify if the land has remained vacant for more than a year without cause.

Noncommercial Woodland: Must be contiguous to the 10 acres of farmed land, meaning it should be alongside cropped land.

Commercial Timber: Wood being harvested or grown for a commercial purpose. Usually prepared and maintained with the help of a professional forester under a woodland management program prepared by a Certified Forester or ODNR Staff Forester. (Please provide the cover sheet, 10-year plan, and the map for woodland management plan.)

Other Crops: Nursery stock/vegetables/flowers, etc. grown for commercial purpose must meet average yearly gross of \$2,500 immediately prior to year of application.

Roads/Waste/Ponds: An estimate of the amount of road right of way, undeveloped land/waste, and pond acreage on your parcel.

***Residual Land (farm buildings, lawn, acreage around Homesite that is not within 1 acre Homesite Designation does not qualify for CAUV)**

Conservation Program (Contract): If you are in a Conservation Program simply provide proof of contract and map of qualifying acreage. CRP/CREP/etc. – many others through FSA, USDA, NRCS, etc.

Conservation Practice (Voluntary): are practices used to abate soil erosion as required in the management of the farming operation, and include, but are not limited to, the installation, construction, development, planting, or use of grass waterways, terraces, diversions, filter strips, field borders, windbreaks, riparian buffers, wetlands, ponds, and cover crops for that purpose (such as whole field CRP/CREP).



RICHLAND TWP. FARM PROTECTED

The Fairfield County Commissioners have completed another deed of agricultural easement. Jim and Teresa Bope of Richland Township joined their neighbors in bringing the total of protected farmland in Richland Township to 1,462 acres. This cooperative effort with the County Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Agriculture through the Clean Ohio Fund was witnessed by representatives of the Fairfield Land Preservation Association and the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. This farm has been in the Bope Family since 1891.

MANURE MANAGEMENT AND SETBACK DISTANCES

With the rainy year we have had, livestock producers with storage facilities nearing capacity will be looking for the ideal time to apply manure and are reminded to follow the NRCS Nutrient Management Standard when making field applications throughout the year. It is important to follow setback distances from water sources as outlined to avoid potential pollution with runoff. Those hiring custom applicators should remind the operators of the setbacks as well.

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.

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HAVE YOUR FIELDS SUFFERED FROM TOO MUCH RAIN?

The 2018 growing season was a challenge to say the least. Excessive rains throughout the year hurt some crops but benefited others. All crop fields tilled or no-tilled probably are showing some signs of stress either in erosion, crusting, or compaction. The situation may have worsened during harvest as rutting or compaction by harvest equipment. As the rains continue into winter, producers need to start thinking about how they will correct the situation before the next planting season. Spot treatments of the eroded or rutted area would be the preferred method. Filling in and leveling the area to make planting possible is the goal. Whole field ruts or deep tracks may require tillage. Utilizing a shovel style tillage tool will compact less than a disk. If the field is labeled Highly Erodible Land (HEL), please notify the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office of your plans to get the field back into shape.

Take time to observe the grass waterways. Is the water getting to the grass or running along the side? Grassed waterways are designed to protect the concentrated flow and trap the moving soil. If the grassed area is flat and not conveying water, it is time for maintenance.

Pay attention this winter to the field where you see cover crops. Notice how the vegetation is helping the soil be more “sponge” like, absorbing more water, and cutting off erosion. Producers who use cover crops and reduced tillage methods tend to have soils that are more resilient to weather extremes (too wet or too dry). Ask local farmers about their methods to improve soil health. The fields that have cover (crop residue and/or cover crops) and are disturbed less from tillage have the quickest bounce back from a wet year due to the active soil biology. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov to help unlock the secrets to soil health or stop by the office for help.

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