

# FAIRFIELD FEATURES



August 2023  
Volume 25 Issue 2

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

## Please join us for the Fairfield SWCD 80th Annual Meeting

### Date & Time

Thursday, September 7, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### Location

Fairfield County Ag Center  
831 College Avenue, Lancaster, OH

**Attendance is Free of Charge**

### Meal

DaQue food truck will be located behind the Ag Center and will be available between  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. for attendees who would like to purchase a meal

### Agenda will be as follows:

**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** -- Social Time, DaQue food truck  
Board of Supervisors Election

**6:00 p.m.** -- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting  
Celebrating 80 years

**6:30 - 7 p.m.** -- Presentation on effects of climate change on Ohio  
Weather by Dr. Aaron Wilson, an Assistant  
Professor, Ag Weather and Climate Field Specialist  
with OSU Extension in the College of Food,  
Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The  
Ohio State University. He is the State Climatologist  
of Ohio and a Research Scientist at the Byrd Polar &  
Climate Research Center. Aaron's research focuses  
on observed and projected  
changes in climate and  
impacts from global to  
local scales.

**7 - 7:30 p.m.** -- SWCD Awards



The Fairfield County Fair is  
scheduled for October 8-14.  
Please check our website for more  
information regarding the status  
of our booth location.

## 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 7 until October 6 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 Thursday, September 7 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from September 7 until October 6, 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 Friday, October 6.

Two supervisors will be elected to three-year terms commencing January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2026. Nominees are: Cheyenne Erb and Gregg Pontius (see bios below).

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### CHEYENNE ERB



Cheyenne was born and raised in Amanda, Ohio where she attended Amanda-Clearcreek local schools. She then went on to study Beef Production and Management at The Ohio State University ATI. Being raised on a farm with commercial beef cattle and row crops, she grew a strong passion for the agricultural industry.

Throughout college, Cheyenne was able to work for a cattle ranch in Texas and Select Sire in South Dakota. Following these opportunities, she returned to the family farm where she has now been working alongside her father, Jim Jepsen. Cheyenne was able to expand her knowledge in conservation while working for Pickaway County Soil and Water as a district technician for nearly two years before going to the farm full-time.

Cheyenne married Brandon Erb in February 2022 and has since settled into Clearcreek Township. In addition to farming alongside her father, Cheyenne also serves on the board of directors for the Fairfield County Cattlemen's Association and is a 4-H advisor for the Blue Ribbon Showmen.

### GREGG PONTIUS



Gregg has been a lifelong resident of Fairfield County in Amanda Township. 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 advisor 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.

## FAIRFIELD SWCD/NRCS WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

**LAUREN VIRES** joined the Fairfield SWCD team in June as our new Wildlife/Education Specialist. Lauren grew up here in Fairfield County where she learned to love agriculture and natural resources as an avid 4-H member. She then earned a bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a minor in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife from Ohio State University. While in Columbus she worked three summers at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium as a keeper/educator and one summer at Highbanks Metro Park as a seasonal naturalist.

Much of her experience comes from working at Brukner Nature Center in Troy, Ohio for just over three years as a Wildlife Educator. There, she taught programs about wildlife and conservation to all ages. She also worked in their wildlife rehabilitation unit caring for native sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife species. From there she transitioned to ODNR Division of Wildlife to work in their call center answering questions from the public for a little over a year.

In this position, Lauren is excited to be back in her hometown working with local residents. She will be providing programming related to wildlife, conservation, and natural resources. She will also be working alongside the Division of Wildlife to aid with local wildlife-related projects and conflicts. In her free time, Lauren enjoys hiking, line dancing, and traveling.

**REBEKAH FOLEY** is joining the NRCS staff full-time as the new Soil Conservationist after being a summer intern here during 2021 and 2022. She grew up in central Ohio and graduated in May from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Sustainable Plant Systems with an Agroecology specialization. Some of her favorite classes included Plant Pathology, Biology of Weeds and Invasive Plants, and a study abroad class in Trinidad and Tobago, where she learned about the agriculture and natural resources of the country.

Much of Rebekah's experience the past two summers included working with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). She enjoys the site visits and plant identification that accompany this program. In her full-time position, she is excited to learn more about the contracting side of NRCS programs. She is also looking forward to learning more about the county, meeting farmers and landowners, and learning how to identify a variety of plants. In her free time, Rebekah enjoys cooking, playing board games, and taking long walks at Columbus Metro Parks.



## MEET OUR SUMMER INTERN

**MARGARET ROBERTS** is the 2023 ODA summer intern being hosted at Fairfield SWCD. She is from Lancaster, Ohio and she has loved working in the best of Ohio's 88 counties this summer. During the school year, Margaret attends Ohio University in Athens, where she studies environmental sciences and geography. Outside of work, she enjoys playing darts, baking sweets, and walking her dog, Moose.



Throughout the summer, Margaret has gained countless new experiences with the FSWCD staff and state employees. Out in the field, she has helped with as-built surveys, tabling for the Pick-up-Poop campaign, subdivision inspections, dam inspections, water sampling, and storm water mapping. In the office, she has sat in on numerous meetings and helped with projects relating to Farmland Preservation and Hunter's Run Conservancy District. Margaret has also participated in multiple special events such as Earth Camp, Lily Fest, and the Ohio State Fair.

Once her internship is finished, Margaret plans on spending time with friends and family before moving into her first college apartment this fall. She is excited to share all that she has learned with anyone who will listen. As summer winds down, Margaret would like to extend a hearty thank-you to all Fairfield SWCD staff and affiliates for giving her such a positive experience.

## 2023 SWCD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Delaney Moore of Lancaster, Hannah Saum of Lancaster, and Sophia Haughn of Canal Winchester were all chosen to be recipients of the Fairfield SWCD 2023 annual college scholarship.

Delaney is a graduate of Bloom-Carroll High School and will be attending The Ohio State University this fall. She will be majoring in Agricultural Communications. She hopes to gain the skills needed to become an effective advocate for the agricultural industries she has grown to love.



Hannah is a graduate of Amanda-Clearcreek High School and will be attending Texas A&M University this fall. She will be majoring in Animal Science and minoring in genetics, setting her up for a successful career conducting research to benefit producers everywhere.

Sophia is a graduate of Bloom-Carroll High School and will be attending Utah Tech University this fall. She will be majoring in Biology with an emphasis on Integrated Science Secondary Education. She is excited to become the kind of educator that can ignite a passion for science in her future students and have a positive impact on their lives.



The Fairfield SWCD offers three college scholarships annually for any graduating high school seniors that plan to pursue a degree in the fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, or Environmental Education. Any eligible upcoming 2024 Fairfield County high school seniors should apply in the Spring of 2024. Applications can be obtained from the SWCD office and [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org) under Educational Resources.

## MANAGING YOUR SWIMMING POOL AND HOT TUB WATER PROPERLY

Chlorinated water is among the many concerns that we have about our stormwater systems impacting local streams in the Walnut Creek and Blacklick Creek Watersheds. While we can easily see the stormwater impacts of pollutants like oil, paint, antifreeze, etc., chlorine is invisible. Chlorine can impact the highly sensitive gills of fish and can ultimately suffocate them along with other macroinvertebrates in our streams and creeks.

The preferred ways to address chlorinated water in pools and hot tubs include a couple of approaches:

1. Stop adding chlorine and allow the water to set for around 10 days. Before discharging your water, use your pool water test kits to identify that they are at “no detectable levels”. It is also encouraged to check the pH and make sure it’s between 6.5 and 9.0 before releasing it slowly to a storm sewer. If a storm sewer is not available, a slow release of the dechlorinated water across a well stabilized (grassed) area that does not impact the area negatively (flooding the neighbor or a public roadway) can be performed.

If you have a saltwater pool, the salt activator that converts the salt to chlorine needs shut off.

If you use a Chlorine Eliminator (sodium thiosulfate), your testing should indicate “no detectable levels” before discharging the water slowly. Remember the “label is the law” when using chemical products.

2. If it is absolutely necessary, the use of a sanitary sewer system to discharge the chlorinated water may be considered. Please contact the local sanitary sewer service provider before doing so for any rules or fees associated with it.

Fairfield County Utilities	614-322-5200
City of Pickerington	614-837-6470
City of Canal Winchester	614-834-5111

A licensed septic hauler may be another option if needed. Speaking of septic, if you are on a lot with a septic system or leach field, don’t discharge into your tank or across your field. Doing so may cause the system to be overwhelmed with water, leading to other unintended environmental concerns.

# Hugus Fruit Farm



Old Rushville Road  
Rushville, OH 43150  
740-536-9590  
HugusFruitFarm.com

Fresh from Our Orchard to Your Hands

In Season: Peaches - Plums - Pears - Apples - Cider



## Agricultural Drainage

Tile Installation (Trenching & Plowing)

Waterway Construction (Grading/Dirt Blowing)

## Seeding Services

CRP ♦ Commercial

Residential ♦ Erosion Control

**RUFF**  
AGRI-SERVICES, LLC

Circleville, Ohio  
1-800-372-2438

www.rufffarms.com mruff@rufffarms.com



FARM AND CROP INSURANCE  
www.bickleinsurance.com | 740-536-7425

Michael Sweeney  
VP of Bickle Farm Solutions

Jenny Cox  
Communications Director

Alisha Hawkins  
Crop Account Manager



## MILLER DITCHING

5265 Richland Road, N.E.  
740-468-3587  
Cell 740-808-4860  
Pleasantville, Ohio 43148



It Pays to Plant Ruff's Seeds  
SEED CORN - GRASS SEED  
SOYBEANS - OATS - WHEAT

## RUFF'S SEED FARMS

Amanda, Ohio 43102 Phone 740-969-2600

## FALER FEED STORE, INC.

Sweet Peet, Grass Seed and Fertilizer, Bird Seed, Lawn and Garden Supplies, Bulk Garden Seeds

4360 Cedar Hill Road  
Lithopolis, Ohio 43136 See us on Facebook at Faler Feed 614-837-4494

We give

We help rural residents build,  
farms grow and businesses expand.

## FARMERS CREDIT.



Call (855) 838-9965 or  
go to e-farmcredit.com

7835 Lancaster Newark Rd.,  
P.O. Box 68, Baltimore, OH 43105



PONDS & WATERWAYS - DITCH WORK  
FENCE ROWS CLEARED  
DITCHING MACHINE - FARM DRAINAGE  
WETLAND DEVELOPMENT



## KULL EXCAVATING

LOGJAM REMOVAL 740-225-2501 TILE WORK  
GRAVEL HAULING LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED LIME DELIVERY



Walnut Creek Seeds, LLC.  
SIMPLE. SUSTAINABLE.

Carroll, OH 330-475-6352 www.WalnutCreekSeeds.com

Cover Crop Seeds for Soil Health and Profitability

Agriculture - Forages - Gardens - Custom Mixing - Seed Cleaning

This ad space  
is available

## Millersport Agri Service

The Hoover Family

Agricultural Equipment • Grain Storage • Handling & Drying Systems  
10221 Lancaster-Newark Road • Millersport, OH 43046  
Phone/Fax 740-467-2424 www.millersportagriservice.com



## SEALS CONSTRUCTION INC.

"WE CRUSH IT...WE SELL IT"



• Trucking • Recycled Aggregates 614-836-7200 • Topsoil • Custom Crushing

www.SealsCoInc.com  
www.SealsCoInc.net 10283 Busey Rd. Canal Winchester, OH 43110 info@sealscoinc.com



GRADING PONDS WATERWAYS DITCH WORK FARM DRAINAGE

FREE ESTIMATES

2225 Old Logan Road  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Cell: 740-503-4079

## C & C Farms and Excavating, Inc.

32091 Beechcamp Road ~ Logan, Ohio 43138  
740-385-8395 ~ ccfarms1@juno.com

SITE WORK - FARM DRAINAGE - WATERWAYS  
PONDS and SPECIALIZED MOWING



LAW OFFICE OF  
CARRIE LOTT  
LLC

2130 W. FAIR AVENUE, LANCASTER  
740.652.1701



Carrie Snoke Lott, Title Agent

## CEDAR HILL BLANKETS

Distributor of Erosion Control Blankets  
G-Pins - Installation Tools

Greg Waidelich 740-969-4295  
1915 Cedar Hill Road Amanda, OH 43102

## K&K Lime & Fertilizer Spreading & Hauling



Aaron Kull 740-225-2501  
Seth Kull 740-225-3298



Follow us on Facebook @  
Fairfield County Antique Tractor Club  
www.fairfieldcountytractorclub.com

Annual show August 18, 19 & 20, 2023  
Fairfield County Fairgrounds

Antique Tractor Club

Beveridge  
Trailers  
& Trucks



4510 Westfall Road  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
740-969-2814  
email: beveridgetrailers@gmail.com

## Pappy's Feed Store

Livestock and domestic animal feed and supplies

Kalmbach, Tribute Feeds. LG Seed Dealer

701 N. Walnut St., Baltimore OH 740-400-4268

## SAVE THE DATE

The Fairfield SWCD will once again be partnering with the Fairfield County Sheriff's office to hold a Collection Event on **Saturday, October 28, 2023**. This event will be held at the Violet Township Service Center in Pickerington from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Check our Facebook page and website for more information.

The event that was held this past April in Walnut Township resulted in the collection of 5,900 pounds of electronics and 43 pounds of medication from 84 vehicles in attendance.

## UPCOMING DATES

SEPT 4	Office closed for Labor Day Holiday
SEPT 7	SWCD Annual Meeting 5:30-7:30 p.m. Board of Supervisors Election Voting Period Begins
SEPT 19-21	Farm Science Review
OCT 8-14	Fairfield County Fair
OCT 12	SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
OCT 28	Collection Event
NOV 9	SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
NOV 10	Office closed for Veterans Day Holiday
NOV 23-24	SWCD office closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday
DEC 14	SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
DEC 25	Office closed for the Christmas Day Holiday

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.

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Linda Claypool  
Amber Hoisington  
David Ochs  
Gregg Pontius  
Doug Tenney

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Nikki Drake  
Jonathan Ferbrache  
Molly Gilleland  
Christina Holt  
Chad Lucht  
Josh Troyer  
Lauren Vires

### NRCS PERSONNEL

Jacob Eldridge  
Rebekah Foley  
Dave Libben

Please Don't Trash Me — Pass Me!  
I'm recycled and recyclable!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

831 COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE B, LANCASTER, OH 43130



FAIRFIELD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Lancaster, Ohio  
Permit No. 235