

# FAIRFIELD FEATURES



August 2022

Volume 24 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

## Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

### Date & Time

Thursday, September 15, 2022

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 to purchase a meal

### Agenda will be as follows:

- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. -- Social Time, DaQue food truck  
Board of Supervisors Election
- 6:30 - 7 p.m. -- Presentation on the Future of Ag  
by Scott Shearer, OSU Department of  
Food, Ag & Bio Engineering  
Professor & Chair
- 7 - 7:30 p.m. -- SWCD Awards

Please join the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District for this year's Annual Meeting. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship at the Fairfield County Ag Center in Lancaster on Thursday, September 15, 2022. No reservation is required.

This year's speaker will be Scott Shearer, OSU Department of Food, Ag & Bio Engineering Professor & Chair. He will share what technologies are coming for ag & beyond.



The Fairfield County Fair is scheduled for October 9-15. Please check our website for more information regarding the status of this year's AgMazing building.

## 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 August 17 until September 15 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 15 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; or
3. Voting absentee from August 17 until September 15, 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 15.

One supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2025. Nominees are: Erin Harvey and Amber Hoisington (see bios below).

### MEET THE CANDIDATES

#### ERIN HARVEY

Erin was born and raised in Lancaster. She graduated from Earlham College and later studied Ecological Horticulture at the University of California Santa Cruz. She's worked in the food and farming field her whole adult life, with diverse experiences including an urban farm, a fruit orchard, and a hospital garden. She moved back to central Ohio in 2011 to start her own market garden, The Kale Yard. In 2017, she became Market Manager at the Keller Market House in downtown Lancaster where she now runs this year-round, indoor local food marketplace as well as the Lancaster Farmers Market.

Erin lives in an old farmhouse on three acres in Pleasant Township, where she operates a seasonal greenhouse business. She's also experiencing a new kind of land stewardship as her partner Eric has recently inherited a family property near Pleasantville, with 55 acres of mixed woodland and farmland that they are working to put to more sustainable use.



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#### AMBER HOISINGTON



Amber Miller Hoisington is from Baltimore, Ohio in Liberty Township where she has resided most of her life. She is a graduate of Liberty Union-Thurston Local Schools and The Ohio State University.

Amber is married to Ryan Hoisington and has three children: Henry, Brin Leigh and Djouby. Amber and Ryan purchased her grandparents' farm and raise a registered Scottish Highland fold after falling in love with the breed during a trip to Scotland. Her children are active in sports, 4-H and FFA. The children show hogs in addition to the Highlands at the Fairfield County Fair.

Amber is a teacher at Bloom-Carroll Local School District. She has a passion for teaching social studies, which also includes environment content standards. It is through planning these lessons that Amber came to make plans together with the Soil and Water team in Fairfield County. Finding the students very much enjoyed learning about their local environment, Amber makes sure to invite the Soil and Water team to speak in her district annually.

In addition to teaching, Amber serves as a board member for the Bloom-Carroll Athletic Boosters and the Baltimore Sea Lions swim team. She attends Grace Fellowship Church in Pickerington.

## NEW OHIO WILDLIFE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Ohio Wildlife Officer Jade Heizer, of Miamisburg, has a new assignment in Fairfield County, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. A 2020 graduate of the Wildlife Officer Academy, Officer Heizer previously served as an at-large officer in central Ohio and in Washington County.

Officer Heizer, 27, graduated from Miamisburg High School and then The Ohio State University in 2017 with a degree in forestry, fisheries, and wildlife. She replaces Ohio Wildlife Officer Tony Zerkle, who was recently promoted to a wildlife officer supervisor.

As a wildlife officer, Heizer has statewide authority to enforce wildlife regulations and protect state lands, waterways, and property. She also contributes to public safety in central Ohio (Wildlife District One) and in Ohio's vast outdoors. Each year, Ohio's wildlife officers speak to hundreds of clubs and groups about conservation and wildlife programs; perform fish and wildlife surveys; and provide technical advice and instruction about hunting, fishing, and other outdoor-related recreation.

To reach Officer Heizer directly, call (614) 902-4210. To report suspicious activity involving wildlife, call (800) POACHER (762-2437). Reports can remain anonymous.

*The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) to find out more.*

*ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov).*

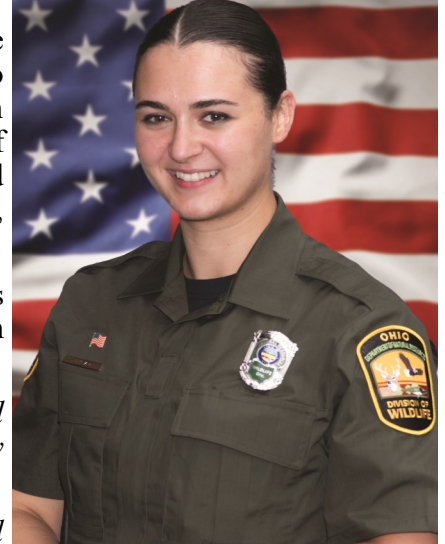


Photo by the Division of Wildlife

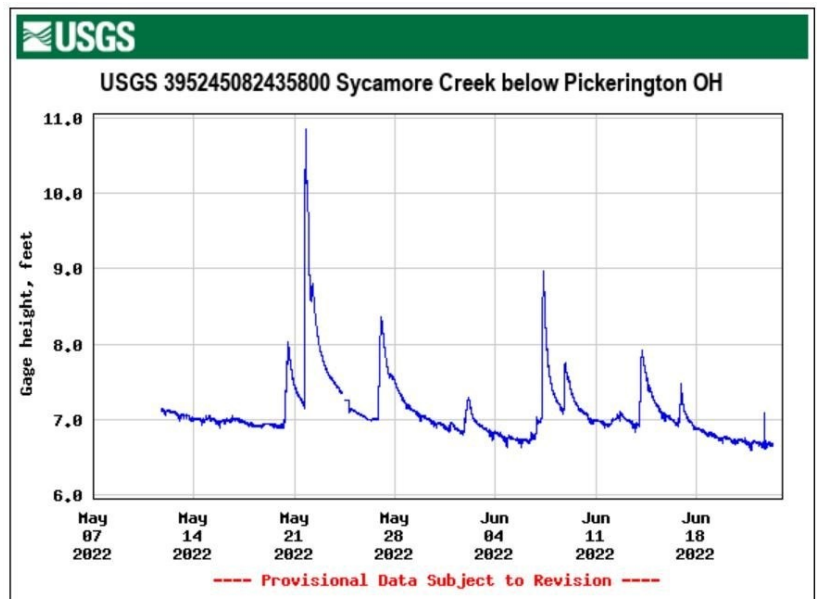
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## USGS LoCAS GAUGE ON SYCAMORE CREEK

You can now follow the United States Geological Service's (USGS) LoCAS (Low Cost Alert System) Gauge on Sycamore Creek in Violet Township. The Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District has coordinated and worked in collaboration with ODOT, City of Pickerington, Violet Township and Fairfield County in hopes that we can gain new knowledge on stream response to storm events in this rapidly developing area. The Fairfield County Park District and Coyote Run State Nature Preserve will also begin looking at stream health with macroinvertebrates in the stream in the years ahead. To follow the gauge, search for "USGS 395245082435800 Sycamore Creek below Pickerington OH". To learn more about the Sycamore Creek search for the "Sycamore Creek Report-Walnut Creek Watershed" on Facebook.

To follow local rainfall in the same areas, we now have multiple volunteer rain gauge monitors in the watershed as in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org).

Search for the "USGS National Water Dashboard" to also monitor the City of Lancaster's new USGS standard gauge on the Hocking River and Fairfield County Utilities' Standard Gauge on Blacklick Creek on their interactive map.





## ODA SEED TESTING PROGRAM

Cover crops are popular to improve soil health and supply other services such as improve water infiltration, reduce phosphorus runoff, leaching, and provide grazing or harvested forage. Demand for cover crop seed is therefore on the rise. Farmers have different options – the most secure method is to buy cover crop seed from a seed company. Companies provide assurance of the variety you use and publish purity and germination on the seed label. However, farmers may choose to use bin-run seed from their own or from another farm.

If you are participating in a USDA or ODA cover crop cost-share program and use bin-run seed, the seed must be tested for purity, germination, weed seed, and Ohio noxious weeds prior to seeding the cover crop to meet program requirements. Bin-run samples with test results showing noxious weed seed is present, must be cleaned and resampled prior to seeding.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will test any cover crop seed for noxious weed seed content **free of charge anytime of the year**. For germination and purity testing ODA provides these tests free of charge between June 1 and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Samples received outside of these dates will be charged accordingly for germination and purity testing. It is important to provide samples early to ODA to allow tests to be completed before planting date. Sample turnaround time can take up to 21 days, tests must be submitted well in advance of planned seeding date and results must be received before planting.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's seed testing program provides farmers with results for germination, purity, weed seed, and noxious weed seeds. To get seed tested contact ODA Plant Health Division (614) 728-6410.

While bin-run seed can be used on your own farm without a problem, you must follow Ohio laws regarding seed sales. If you sell seed to another farmer, you become a seed distributor and you must apply for a seed license, the cost of which is \$10 per calendar year. In addition, you are required to complete a germination/purity test done by a seed lab and you must properly label the seed that you sell. If you have any questions, contact ODA Plant Health (614) 728-6410.

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## 2022 SWCD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Gavin Eastep of Baltimore and Tabitha McCutcheon of Junction City were both chosen to be the recipients of the Fairfield SWCD 2022 annual college scholarship.

Gavin is a graduate of Liberty Union High School and will be attending The Ohio State University-Newark where he will be studying Environmental & Natural Resources.



Tabitha is a graduate of Fairfield Union High School and will be attending Wilmington College where she will be majoring in Agricultural Education.

The Fairfield SWCD offers two college scholarships annually for any graduating high school seniors that plan to study Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, Environmental Education, Geology, and Biology. Any eligible upcoming 2023 Fairfield County high school seniors should apply in the Spring of 2023. Applications can be obtained from the SWCD office and through the Fairfield SWCD website at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org) under Educational Resources.



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**REMINDER.....**The Fairfield SWCD is now required to charge sales tax (6.75%) for items rented and sold. If you or your entity are tax exempt, please provide your tax exempt form when renting or purchasing sale items.

### UPCOMING DATES

- AUG 17 Board of Supervisors Election  
Voting Begins
- SEPT 5 Office closed for Labor Day Holiday
- SEPT 15 SWCD Annual Meeting 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors Election  
Voting Ends
- OCT 6 SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
- OCT 9-15 Fairfield County Fair
- NOV 10 SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
- NOV 11 Office closed for Veterans Day  
Holiday
- NOV 24-25 SWCD office closed for  
Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- DEC 8 SWCD Board Meeting 5 p.m.
- DEC 26 Office closed for the Christmas Day  
Holiday (Observed)

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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  
Doug Tenney

#### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Nikki Drake  
Jonathan Ferbrache  
Molly Gilleland  
Christina Holt  
Chad Lucht  
Tommy Springer  
Josh Troyer

#### NRCS PERSONNEL

Jacob Eldridge  
Dave Libben  
Daphne Onsay  
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