

# FAIRFIELD FEATURES



December 2021  
Volume 23 Issue 3

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

## 78TH ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This year marked the 78th anniversary of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. The annual meeting was held on September 15, 2021, at the Fairfield County Ag Center in conjunction with the Fairfield County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. The evening started off with a Board of Supervisors election. Linda Claypool was re-elected and Doug Tenney was elected to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2022. Dale Ferbrache and the Fairfield County Auditor's office spoke on Zane's Trace.

The 2020 Cooperator of the Year Awards were presented to Joe Fox and Joe & Liz Kircher. 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. Award recipients receive a sign to post on their farms.

The Conservation Partner of the Year Award honors partners that have demonstrated outstanding efforts in promoting conservation programs in Fairfield County. The Fairfield County Auditor Jon Slater and staff were chosen to receive the 2020 Conservation Partner of the Year Award.

The Conservation Educator 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 2020 Conservation Educator of the Year Award was given to Amber Hoisington, who is a 4th grade teacher at Bloom Carroll.



2020 Conservation Partner of the Year Award - Fairfield Co. Auditor and staff. Pictured left to right: Greg Forquer, Nick Dilley, Brian Delay, Dave Burgei and Jon Slater.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning in 2022, we will charge sales tax of 6.75%. We will be accepting tax exemption forms, if applicable. They can be found at [tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov).

## 2020 AWARD WINNERS FROM ANNUAL MEETING



Joe Fox was awarded a 2020 Cooperator of the Year Award



Joe & Liz Kircher were awarded a 2020 Cooperator of the Year Award



Amber Hoisington (pictured with son Henry) was awarded the 2020 Conservation Educator of the Year Award

---

### APPLY NOW FOR EQIP

The application deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been announced as **Friday, January 14, 2022**. Applications can be submitted all year long, but this is the deadline for this round of funding.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, pasture operations, and organic. Several special projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements and many more. Some practices include access roads/stream crossings, heavy use pads, livestock watering facilities, waterways, fencing, water and sediment control basins (wascobs), animal waste storage facilities, etc.

Eligible participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made after items in the plan are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years in duration.

Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

NRCS will help eligible producers develop an EQIP plan. EQIP applications are ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal. It is a voluntary, county competitive program. To apply contact Dave Libben, NRCS District Conservationist at 740-415-3921.

### LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

If you are interested in applying for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2022, sponsored locally by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, we ask that you declare your interest by completing a simple form available in our office no later than **Friday, January 14, 2022**. We may not know the results of the applications for 6 months.

The biggest 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 per applicant farm and maximums based on funding distribution capacity in Fairfield County is anticipated to be limited. All applicant properties will be reviewed by the County Engineer for adequate road right-of-way and adjacent 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.



## NRCS ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FY2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing fiscal year 2022 assistance opportunities for agricultural producers and private landowners for key programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program. While USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts applications for these programs year-round, producers and landowners should apply by state-specific, ranking dates to be considered for this year's funding. For Ohio, this includes Jan. 14, 2022 for EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and AMA. ACEP ranking dates are Dec. 3 for Agricultural Land Easement and Dec. 17 for Wetland Reserve Program. CSP FY23 Renewal's ranking date is tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2022.

Through conservation programs, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help producers and landowners make conservation improvements on their land that benefit natural resources, build resiliency and contribute to the nation's broader effort to combat the impacts of climate change.

"NRCS conservation programs are good for Ohio's natural resources and for your operation's bottom line," said Lori Ziehr, NRCS Acting State Conservationist in Ohio. "Whether this is your first time working with NRCS or you want to take conservation to the next level on your land, we encourage you to contact your local NRCS field office to learn more."

### Applying for Assistance

NRCS accepts applications for its conservation programs year-round. These dates account for producer needs, staff workload and ensure potential participants have ample opportunity to apply. Producers should apply by their state's ranking dates to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process. Ranking dates for all programs and states are available at [nrcs.usda.gov/staterankingdates](https://nrcs.usda.gov/staterankingdates). Applications received after ranking dates will be automatically deferred to the next funding period. Producers, landowners and forest managers interested in applying for assistance should contact the NRCS at their local USDA Service Center.

### Program Options

EQIP provides cost share assistance for producers to use 170-plus conservation practices to address a wide variety of resource concerns. Within EQIP, Conservation Incentive Contracts allow producers to further target priority resource concerns. CSP helps producers take their conservation activities to the next level through comprehensive conservation and advanced conservation activities. ACEP helps producers enroll wetlands, grasslands and farmlands into easements for long-term protection. Additionally, through RCPP, producers and landowners can work with partners who are co-investing with NRCS on targeted projects.

### Historically Underserved Producer Benefits

Special provisions are also available for historically underserved producers. For EQIP, historically underserved producers are eligible for advance payments to help offset costs related to purchasing materials or contracting services up front. In addition, historically underserved producers can receive higher EQIP payment rates (up to 90% of average cost). NRCS sets aside EQIP, CSP and ACEP funds for historically underserved producers.

### Conservation Practices and Climate

NRCS conservation programs play a critical role in USDA's commitment to partnering with farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and local communities to deliver climate solutions that strengthen agricultural operations and rural America. States may prioritize a variety of voluntary conservation practices through these NRCS programs, including those that support climate-smart agriculture and forestry (CSAF).

In fiscal year 2022, EQIP and CSP will provide targeted funding for CSAF practices, and Conservation Incentive Contracts – a new EQIP program – will be available nationwide with an emphasis on CSAF practices. Building on these efforts, NRCS will also prioritize climate investments through ACEP, RCPP and Conservation Innovation Grants.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity and natural resources including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including State, local and Tribal governments.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).



## LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING

Livestock Exclusion Fencing is a best management practice that requires livestock to be fenced out of sensitive areas such as streams, woodlands, or other critical areas not intended for grazing. Allowing livestock to have access to these areas can have a detrimental impact on water quality, timber value and wildlife habitat.

By restricting access to these areas, you can reduce the amount of erosion on streambanks and sedimentation in the stream, minimize nutrient runoff and potential pollution contamination, improve the health of our forests, eliminate risked injury to the herd, and increase water quality.

Fun Fact: Cattle do not like soft creek bottoms; they prefer solid footing. When good rock bottom crossings are constructed, they will travel on that and rarely stray off.

Manure contaminated runoff is a violation of Ohio Administrative Code 901:13-1 – *Animal Waste and Agricultural Pollution*. There are penalties for violation of contamination to Waters of the State when pollution complaints are filed. If sediment from soil erosion and/or manure enters Waters of the State, then we investigate under these Ag. Pollution Abatement Rules. They are outlined on the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s website [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov) under Soil and Water Conservation, Agricultural Pollution which explains in detail the laws concerning pollution. We have seen fines in this county reach as high as \$7,000 and can be up to \$10,000 per incident. In addition, if a fish kill event occurs and is caused by pollution, the Ohio Division of Wildlife will investigate, determine the source location, and recoup fines for the resulting loss from the landowner/operator.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding cost-share to install exclusion practices on your property through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) including exclusion fence as well as an additional water source if needed.

EQIP is a competitive program where all applications in the county are ranked and the highest scoring projects receive funding. It is not a guarantee to get approved. Applications are taken throughout the year. NRCS announces the deadlines for them when the next funding round is available. Contact NRCS District Conservationist Dave Libben to inquire how you can apply at 740-415-3921 if interested or to get more information.

### 5 reasons to keep livestock out:

- Promote pasture management
- Improve herd health and reduce injury risks
- Protect aquatic and wildlife habitat
- Improve water quality
- Limit erosion and sedimentation





# 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

# Sunrise COOPERATIVE

Success grows here.

Consider us for all your agronomy needs!  
From seed to fertilizer, chemistry to custom application or precision needs.  
We are here for you!

www.sunriseco-op.com

2045 St. Rt. 22 • Lancaster

740.653.2161 1.888.868.4677

## Young Crop Insurance Agency, LLC

Alisha Hawkins and Joe Young, Agents

5385 Thornville Rd., NE, Rushville, Ohio 43150

Toll Free: 1-866-536-7425 Email: jyoung@youngcropins.com

Agent for all Crop and Livestock Insurance Products

www.youngcropinsurance.com



## 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.

Grass and Pasture Seed, Feed, Fertilizer, Lawn and Garden  
Chemicals, Bulk Garden Seeds

4360 Cedar Hill Road

Lithopolis, Ohio 43136



See us on Facebook at Faler Feed

614-837-4494

We give

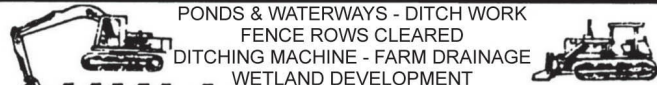
FARMERS CREDIT.

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



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  
GRAVEL HAULING

740-225-2501

TILE WORK

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

# PARK NATIONAL BANK

## 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



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

## 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

## DISTRICT HIRES NEW ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

Josh Troyer became the newest member of the Fairfield SWCD team, joining the staff in September as Engineering Technician. Josh brings over ten years of natural resources conservation and public service experience to his new role. Josh grew up in Wayne County, Ohio before moving west to further his education. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Earth Science and Environmental Studies from Western Oregon University.

After graduation, Josh went on to complete a term of service with AmeriCorps before serving in a variety of roles in conservation, habitat restoration, and ecological monitoring. Recent experiences with Delaware County, City of Gahanna, Dawes Arboretum, and Licking County have prepared Josh for his new role as Engineering Technician. Josh is excited to branch out into a new area of conservation and put his skills to work for landowners in Fairfield County.

Josh currently lives in Heath and enjoys camping, canoeing, fishing, woodworking, and playing the guitar in his free time. As Engineering Technician, Josh is excited to work with agricultural producers to protect land and water resources throughout the county.




---

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  
Wendy LaRue  
David Ochs  
Gregg Pontius  
Matt Reese

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

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

### NRCS PERSONNEL

Dave Libben  
Daphne Onsay  
Brice Shaw

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