

68TH ANNUAL MEETING/BANQUET

- When:** Thursday, September 8, 2011
- Where:** Alley Park/Goslin Nature Education Center
2805 Old Logan Road SE, Lancaster
- Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Cost:** \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under
- Agenda:** 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. -- Board of Supervisor's Election
6 - 7 p.m. -- Buffet meal of roast beef/baked ham, red skin
potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, fresh fruit, rolls with butter,
drinks and desserts
7 - 7:45 p.m. -- Jeff Johnson, ODNR, Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
"Zane's Trace in Fairfield County"
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. -- Conservation awards, election results and door prizes

Speaker: Jeff Johnson

Jeff will present a program on Zane's Trace and its history here in Fairfield County. He is currently a park manager with the ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves/Parks and Recreation. He has been with ODNR since 1994 and manages sites in both Fairfield and Hocking Counties. Jeff received both a BS and MS in biology from Ohio University. He has been nearly a lifelong resident of Fairfield County. Jeff had an early love of history fostered by a curiosity surrounding what he learned about the historic home that he grew up in, and now currently resides in, near Amanda. According to Charles Goslin, the home was a "stage stop" for people traveling along Zane's Trace. Jeff will offer us a program of what and where the Trace is and what and where it isn't! He will use stories, maps, pictures and aerial photos to show hidden sections and possible locations of lost sections of Zane's Trace as it travels through Fairfield County. Come join us for an interesting presentation.



Forest Yocum



Forest and his wife, Lynda, have lived in Fairfield County for the past fourteen years. They have a daughter, Marynda, who lives in Gahanna. Forest and Lynda will be celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary this year. They are 5th and 6th generations of "Buckeyes". They both own farmland in Mercer County, Ohio. Lynda's farm has been in her family since before Ohio became a state. Forest and his younger brother own the farm on which they were raised as children.

Forest has been the Superintendent of the Southwest Licking School Local District for the past nine years. Prior to that he served as Superintendent of the Pickerington Local Schools for five years. He has also served in administrative positions in the following school districts throughout Ohio: Superintendent of Tiffin City Schools and Ft. Recovery Local Schools; Assistant Superintendent of the Chillicothe City Schools. He has also served as a High School Principal, Elementary School Principal, Director of School Transportation, Jr. High math and science teacher, football/track coach and school bus driver. He also worked on the family farm until he moved from Mercer County.

Forest has attended the Peace United Methodist Church in Pickerington for the past 14 years. He is also a member of the Fairfield County Fish and Game Association. He is an active member in Rotary, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and various other educational organizations. Forest was an active member of the Republican Committee while in Mercer County. He has been awarded various honors including the "Exemplary Educational Leadership" award for Central Ohio Administrators, "Athletic Booster of the Year" award and most recently "Outstanding Leadership Award" from the Education Service Centers of Ohio.

Forest is currently serving on the COTC Pataskala Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors of the First Ohio Credit Union, Inc. while at Tiffin. He also served on various boards at Tiffin and Ft. Recovery involved with industrial growth. Forest is currently serving on various educational committees in Licking County.

Having been raised on a farm and still owning (in partnership with his brother) that farm, Forest is keenly aware of conservation projects and how they affect the natural environment. He is currently involved in land set-aside for wildlife on his farm as well as utilizing other conservation farming practices. He plans on retiring in the near future and if elected will have more time to devote to the SWCD. His hobbies include motorcycling/traveling, hunting/target shooting, fishing, water sports, classic cars and flying.

SWCD ELECTION

Cast Your Vote

The Fairfield SWCD will hold an election for two Board supervisors from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at the 68th Annual Meeting/Banquet being held at Alley Park. The nominees for this year's election are Mark Boving of Canal Winchester, Robert "Bob" Hoffman of Stoutsville, Jim Krile of Lancaster and Forest Yocum of Baltimore.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Fairfield County and are 18 years of age and older may vote. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. Fairfield County residents and landowners have three ways to cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011; or 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Fairfield SWCD office at 831 College Ave., Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130 or by calling (740) 653-8154.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions, please contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154.

Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District's 68th Annual Meeting/Banquet Thursday, September 8, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Number of reservations:

_____ Adults @ \$12 ea. = \$ _____

_____ Children @ \$6 ea. = \$ _____
(10 years and under)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please mail and make checks payable to: *Fairfield SWCD*
831 College Ave., Suite B
Lancaster, OH 43130

Reservation deadline is **Friday, September 2, 2011.**

Sorry, tickets cannot be refunded.

Please note: You will not receive a confirmation notice.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVED

Two dedicated farm families from Fairfield County recently finalized their agricultural easements. Roger Wolfe, a farmland preservation advocate and soil conservationist, signed papers to permanently protect 207 acres inside of an Agricultural Security Area in Walnut Township. "I think programs like this give the next generation the encouragement they need to invest in the business of agriculture," said Wolfe.

Part of that next generation of conservationists and farmers include Joe and Azure Koehler of Richland Township who signed over the development rights on their 131 acres along Little Rushcreek gorge. "I can't imagine not farming and this is one way to ensure that this farm always stays in agricultural production," said Joe.

Preserved farmland protects prime soils and woodlands, improves water quality, and enhances wildlife habitat. Protecting these resources benefits us all.

The Fairfield County Commissioners, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District all share a role in the future monitoring and protection of these resources sponsored by the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.



Azure & Joe Koehler and Roger Wolfe displaying their Ohio Preserved Farmland signs after being accepted into the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ODNR POLLUTION ABATEMENT RULES

This past December changes were enacted that will make over 20 changes to the current Ohio's Pollution Abatement Rules. Many of these changes are a result of increased scrutiny over impaired waters which have seen spikes in algal blooms, toxins and dissolved reactive phosphorus over the past year. The worst example has been Grand Lake St. Mary's near Celina Ohio. There are many causes and sources of these problems, but the Division of Soil and Water Resources (DSWR) has recognized the need for runoff from agriculture to be reduced further.

What are the changes?

If a watershed is designated to be in "distress", there will be more stringent requirements for storage, handling and land application of manure and/or the control of erosion. Nutrient management plans will also be required for all livestock operations. Operations will be visited and records reviewed a minimum of once every 3 years by the DSWR chief's designee, which would be Fairfield SWCD in this county. Reports of violations will be provided to the local soil and water conservation district board of supervisors and the division. (Fairfield County does not have any watersheds classified as distressed.)

"Our hope is that people across Ohio realize that we must do more to protect and manage our abundant water resources and that the proposed rules will help in watersheds like Grand Lake. But that before conditions worsen elsewhere, and we experience more economic and social impacts, we all step back, and step up our mutual, cooperative, voluntary, personal, and community/watershed efforts. If we fail to do so we invite intervention by the federal government and even state and local government will be compelled to do more. This can be avoided if business sectors and citizens become more committed and engaged. To cite just two of what needs to be many examples for consideration: How can farmers reverse the trend of applying fertilizers in the winter, and how can homeowners avoid using phosphorus lawn fertilizers unless truly necessary? Ohio has abundant water resources that are a great advantage for our economy, for recreation, and for our environment. But protecting and managing them is not easy, and demands much of all of us." *Dave Hanselmann, Former Chief of ODNR-DSWR*

There is only a pollution violation through the Pollution Abatement Laws if manure or sediment is entering the waters of the state. Complaints should not be filed for nuisance or odor. According to Ohio law, all potential violations will be investigated within 3 days after receiving a written complaint by the local Soil and Water Office or ODNR-Division of Water Resources.

For more information on Ohio's Pollution Abatement rules/process contact our office or visit www.dnr.state.oh.us.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Mark Boving



Mark is a lifelong resident of Fairfield County and currently lives near Canal Winchester with his wife and best friend Sandy. They have a son, Joel. Mark attended Bloom Carroll Schools and ATI in Wooster. He is a fourth generation farmer.

Mark has a grain operation and farms with his brother Matthew. He also drives a bus for Fairfield Christian Academy field trips. Mark is a member of Farm Bureau, Ohio Corn Growers and National Rifle Association. His board experience includes being a member of OSU Extension's Ohio LEAD and church boards.

Mark has participated in the EQIP program (waterways, fencing, filter strips and heavy use pads). He is currently participating in the USDA's Conservation Security Program (CSP). Mark enjoys reading, WWII history and flying. He also teaches men's bible study at his church. He would someday like to visit Normandy, France, Iwo Jima and Israel.

Robert "Bob" Hoffman



Bob and his wife, Val, live in Clearcreek Township. They have a daughter, Olivia, and twin sons, Alexander and Christian. Their son Christian farms with Bob.

Bob and his family are members of David Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester where Bob is a member of the Preschool Advisory Committee. He has served as President of the congregation in the past. He is a member of the Fairfield Cattlemen's Association, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, and the Farm Bureau. He served as a committee member of Boy Scout Troop 170 in Circleville.

Bob attended OSU-ATI, received the American Farmer Degree from the FFA Foundation, and began farming at the age of 19 when he bought his farm in Stoutsville with his parents. He has spent many years incorporating conservation practices into the farm, ranging from building a manure storage facility, developing waterways, practicing no-till, installing buffer strips, building a stream crossing for cattle, and installing exclusion fence to keep cattle out of Salt Creek.

Bob raises corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. In addition, he runs a 200-head feedlot operation. Bob received the Cooperator of the Year Award from the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District in 2004 for the conservation practices implemented at Hoffman Farms. Bob currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Jim Krile



Jim was born and raised in Berne Township in Fairfield County. He has lived here for 65 years, except during a three-year assignment in Ft. Mead, Maryland, when he was a member of the First U.S. Army Band. Jim and his wife, Joyce, have lived on their farm on Blue Valley Road near Sugar Grove for 42 years. They have two daughters (Jennifer Pike and Mary VerDow), one son and eight grandchildren (four boys, four girls).

Jim and his son, Greg, manage their farm together, raising beef cattle, corn, soybeans, hay and occasionally other grain crops. Jim retired in 2007 after more than 42 years in manufacturing. He was a press operator/supervisor at Anchor Hocking for 25 years, spent three years working in Logan at GE and then another 14 years as a Mix & Melt supervisor at RCA in Circleville. As the majority of his career was spent in the glass industry, Jim has a deep appreciation for the art and process of glass making.

Jim has been a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sugar Grove, lending his woodworking skills to the church on a regular basis. He participates in numerous service projects for the church as well. Additionally, Jim is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Over the years, Jim has volunteered time to help with various community organizations including many years as a volunteer with Berne Union Local Schools.

As an active community resident, Jim has participated in board meetings at various levels of government, including zoning, township trustees, school, etc. Because Jim has worked with the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District for several years on various projects such as grass waterways, fence, field tile and wildlife preservation, he knows firsthand the value the District provides to our community. He definitely has the initiative and willingness to "sell" conservation and can provide valuable input, ideas and suggestions to help with the District's programs based on his own experiences. Having spent his entire life farming, he has a passion for the history and stewardship of the land.

A PRIMER ON AERATION SYSTEMS

By PERRY ORNDORFF, WILDLIFE SPECIALIST

I get many questions on adding an aeration system to private ponds to improve water quality. I hope that this brief description will help you, the pond owner or manager, to evaluate some options.

- The older the pond, the more that an aeration system will improve the pond and water quality.
- Aeration systems are not efficient for ponds greater than two acres or so.
- The desired rate of air movement is at least 1.3 cu. ft. per minute per acre. This rate would turn most ponds over at least once/day. A rule of thumb is that a ¼ hp pump will yield 2 cu. ft./minute/acre and a ½ hp pump will yield 4.3 cu. ft./minute/acre.
- All aeration systems are not created equal! Surface fountains look great but have no effect on the bottom oxygen levels. Windmill-driven systems are cheaper in some cases than bottom diffusers, but offer no aeration during the calm, hot periods in mid to late summer when aeration is most beneficial. The smaller the bubbles produced, the more air that is lifted toward the surface, and the more effective the system will be.
- There is a lot of “mark-up” on these systems. Ask lots of questions and be sure of what a system price includes.

Pros

- Using aeration systems virtually eliminates summer and winter fish kills in most ponds.
- Having oxygen on the pond bottom increases the rate of decomposition of organic materials on the bottom. Many years of leaf litter, aquatic plants and “muck” can be eliminated in one to two years of constant use of a bottom diffuser.
- This results in more benthic food items on the pond bottom to serve as fish food.
- With less daily fluctuations in oxygen levels in the pond, there is no dead zone on the bottom. This results in more fish movement and often, better fish growth after aeration. Many university studies have also documented less fish stress and disease.
- Ponds often have fewer plankton blooms and less filamentous algae, as the pond water being circulated prevents growth of these nuisance species.
- With less phosphorus in the water column (phosphorus is driven to the pond bottom), the food chain is often shifted from blue-green algae to other, more beneficial forms of plankton.
- Water movement decreases the transparency of the pond, which often allows fewer rooted aquatic plants to grow up from the pond bottom.

Cons

- Need electricity close to the pond. Many systems require two outlets, one for the pump and one for a fan to help keep the pump cool inside a locked box.
- Most systems will cost between \$8 and \$20 to run each month.
- There is some noise with most pumps. Many dealers include a lockable box to house the pump that greatly reduces the pump noise.
- If you purchase an aeration system, note that all systems require a break-in period in which the pump will be run an hour longer each day. In this way, all of the organic material and dissolved gasses like carbon dioxide, methane and hydrogen are not forced to the surface very quickly. This break-in period is important for preventing an initial fish kill.
- Leaving the pump on all winter will keep an area of open water. This can allow Canada geese to use the pond and their droppings are very high in phosphorus, which can cause algae and plant growth. It is recommended that the pump be turned off and stored in a dry environment between December and March. In early spring, the pump is simply reconnected to the air lines, diffusers are cleaned and the pump is turned back on.

Components

Each aeration system will have an air compressor on shore, weighted or unweighted air lines and a ceramic or rubber diffuser base. A float is added on the diffuser bases to enable future maintenance, which consists of scrubbing them off each spring and fall. There are three types of pumps commonly used in aeration systems: diaphragm, rocking piston and rotary vane, listed in order of cost and complexity. Most pumps have a one-year warranty. Because the pumps are used continuously (without a lot of stopping and restarting), they should last at least two to three years with only minor maintenance needed.

Please stop by the SWCD office or call me at (740) 653-8154 if you have questions on aeration systems.



DON'T IGNORE THOSE GRASSED WATERWAYS

Grassed waterways are a very valuable conservation practice in Fairfield County. As we continue to implement new waterways and farm around existing ones, it is important to take a little extra time to perform some basic maintenance steps to preserve the life of these waterways. The following are some tips on waterway maintenance:

- When tilling and planting, make sure you lift the implements out of the ground before crossing the waterway.
- When spraying, make one round along the outside edges of the waterway to allow for a section to shut off the sprayer when you begin to cross it. If this is not possible due to crops, make sure the sprayer is shut off in time to prevent drifting into the waterway vegetation.
- Avoid crossing the waterway if the waterway is wet in that particular place.
- If your waterway is getting narrower than the original design, extend and reseed the waterway to its appropriate design width.
- If water is running along the outside edge of the waterway and causing erosion, try to divert the water back into the waterway. Throughout the life of a waterway, it will continue to filter sediment that is deposited in the waterway. If this is the case and the waterway center becomes higher than the gully present along the outside edge, reconstruction of the waterway may be needed.
- Repair any tile breaks and blow holes that may appear around the waterway.
- Mow the grass periodically, no lower than 3-5 inches.
- Inspect the outlet of the waterway periodically to make sure it is stable and is not in danger of causing erosion back into the waterway. If erosion is present, stabilize the outlet by placing rock, riprap, etc.

If there is a riser at the beginning of your waterway (possibly near a road), keep clear of leaves/debris.

If your waterway needs reconstructed, cost share assistance may be provided through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). If you have any questions or would like guidance on problems you have with existing waterways, please contact the SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 .

The NRCS/SWCD office has the current soil survey series available in both hard copy and CDs. Please stop by the office to obtain your free copy.

FUEL CONTAINMENT FOLLOW UP

For producers that store fuel on their farms, here is the breakdown of what your operation needs to do to get in compliance with Ohio EPA fuel containment regulations.

SPCC Plans (Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasures)

- Store *less than 1,320* gallons – None required.
- Store between *1,320-5,000* gallons – Fill out downloadable Tier I SPCC template
- Store between *5,000-10,000* gallons – Create your own SPCC plan using downloadable example as a reference. (No template available)
- Store *over 10,000* gallons – A registered professional engineer must create a site specific plan for your operation.

These plans do not need to be submitted to OEPA but must be on site and available for review in case of a spill.

Secondary Containment is required if there is 1,320 gallons or more of oil products at one site. That quantity includes 50-gallon drums of oil in addition to any fuels, regardless if the barrels are inside a barn. As long as the barn has a high enough lip so oil can't flow through a door opening or seep between the floor and wall joints, existing containment may already be adequate if your floor is concrete.

For outside fuel tanks, secondary containment is very similar to the agrichemical containment where storage for 110% of largest tank plus displacement of all tanks is required. Any liners must be able to be exposed to fuel products. Cement blocks must be filled with concrete and covered with roll-on sealant. All concrete structures would need the same sealant. An all-earthen structure is acceptable if the soil can be compacted to a point that fuel will not infiltrate beyond an acceptable depth.

These also do not need to be inspected to receive a permit, but will be inspected in case of a spill.

There is no cost share assistance available at this time for fuel containment. The Fairfield SWCD staff is available if sizing assistance is needed. Templates can be downloaded at www.epa.ohio.gov/cdo/SPCC.aspx. Any questions regarding the regulations should be directed to Chris Bonner with Ohio EPA. He can be reached at (614) 395-6936 or chris.bonner@epa.state.oh.us.

TILE PLAN FEES

As of March 1, 2011, the Fairfield SWCD charges a fee for the survey, design and as-built (GPS mapping) of tile plans. This non refundable fee must be paid prior to any activities by SWCD personnel.

Individuals already on our tile work list for future tiling projects will not be assessed the new fees, but will be charged a \$3 per page copy fee. These plans can be sent electronically as a pdf file at no charge. Tile as part of a USDA cost-share program will not be subject to these fees.

Tile Plan (survey, design, GPS as-built)	\$100
GPS as-built only	\$ 50
Survey only	\$ 50

FORESTRY WORKSHOP PLANNED

A Forestry Workshop will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2011, from 9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at REMA Training Center (Raccoon Ecological Management Area) in Vinton County.

This is a day long workshop that will cover timber stand improvement practices including: chainsaw operation and maintenance, invasive species ID & control, farm bill (cost-share) programs, tree identification, crop tree release, timber harvest plots, harvesting techniques, cultural resources, and burning.

This workshop is sponsored by Hocking, Vinton, Fairfield, and Jackson SWCD's, ODNR Division of Forestry, OSU Extension, USFS, and NRCS. This qualifies for 4 hours of elective credits for Ohio Forest Tax Law. Lunch will be provided by Glatfelter. Please call the Fairfield SWCD office at (740) 653-8154 to register.

COME SEE US AT THE FAIR

The Fairfield County Fair will run October 9 through 15, 2011. Don't miss this year's display and your chance to win some great giveaways!



District Supervisors

John Albert
Bonny Calderwood
Bob Hoffman
Mike Wolfe
Joe Young

District Personnel

Amy Boyer
Nikki Drake
Jonathan Ferbrache
Christina Holt
Rita Kemmerer
Vicki Kohli
Chad Lucht
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