



CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

65th Annual Meeting

We hope everyone enjoyed the Wayne County Fair and got a chance to visit our fair building. It is now time to look forward to our 65th Annual Meeting.

This year the meeting will be held at Des Dutch Essenhaus, 176 N. Market St., Shreve. The banquet will begin at 7:15 p.m. on **Thursday, November 15th**. The meal will be family style and consist of Chicken and roast pork, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls, beverage and pie for \$12.00. Children age 7-11 will be \$8.00 and age 3-6, \$6.00.

There will be an election of two supervisors for the Wayne SWCD Board. Voting will take place before the banquet from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Paul Locher from Wayne County and the Daily Record will be the speaker. His topic will be “Once Upon a Time in Wayne County, Ohio.”

Several awards will be presented, including the Conservation Farm Award and Education Award. If you plan on attending the Wayne SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet, you may purchase your tickets from any member of the Wayne SWCD staff or from any of the salesmen listed.

You can also make a reservation by sending in the form on page 4 with a check before November 5th.

Be sure to join us to celebrate 65 years of Conservation in Wayne County.

The following are salesmen who have tickets for the banquet:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jonathan Berger | Nelson Ramsier |
| Terry Ewing | John Redick |
| Steve Grimes | David Rohrer |
| David Maurer | Scott Stoller |
| Bill Moore | Randy Tegtmeier |
| Fred Myers | Larry Wood |
| Matt Peart | Tom Zimmerman |

SWCD Election

Again this year, county residents attending our annual meeting will find the voting process for SWCD board members to be very similar to voting in the general election.

Upon arrival at our annual meeting, attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the election registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify your eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth, where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

This year’s banquet begins at 7:15 PM but registration and voting will begin at 6:30 pm. County residents and landowners have two other options for voting for SWCD board members. They may call or

stop by the district office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the district office on the day of the annual meeting between 8 AM and 4 PM.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions about the proceedings, please contact our office at 330-262-2836.

Calendar

- October 4 - **District Land Judging Contest**
- October 9 - **Wayne SWCD Board Meeting**
- October 13-14 - **Wayne County Farm Tour**
- November 15 - **Annual SWCD Banquet & Meeting**

Reminder

No-Till Drills available for rent - Call the office for details.

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State Poster Contest Winners
Wayne County Fair 2012 Corn Guessing Contest Winner
Livestock Exclusion & Wetland Determinations by John Knapp

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Rainwater Harvesting by Rob Kastner
Keep an Eye on Your Water Supply by Duane Wood

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Annual Meeting Ticket Order Form



State Poster Contest Winners

Wayne County had three students who took honors at the State Conservation Poster Contest. They were awarded at the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual



Elle Hanshaw



Liam Taylor

Summer Supervisors School. The SS School was held July 22nd-24th in Dayton, Ohio. Ellie Hanshaw, placed 1st in the K-1st grade category. She is a student at Northwestern Elementary in West Salem. Liam Taylor, 3rd grader from Hazel Harvey Elementary, received 1st place in the 2-3rd grade category, Sarah Kline won 1st place in the 7th - 9th grade category. She is in the 8th grade at Central Christian School.



Sarah Kline

All first place posters will go on to the National Association of Conservation District's contest which will take place the end of January 2013. Congratulations to the Wayne County winners!

Livestock Exclusion

by John Knapp

I see a lot of farms in the county where livestock have unlimited access to the stream channel. Not only does this do a lot of damage to the stream banks, it also allows a direct source of manure to enter the stream. I would encourage farmers with this situation to consider installing a livestock exclusion practice. Typically a single strand fence will keep the livestock out or a more permanent fence can be built. You may have to put in a stream crossing at one or two designated locations if there is pasture on the other side. This will allow access to the other side but greatly reduce problems. You may also have to install a watering system depending on the distance to the nearest water source. Technical assistance is available from this office to

help you plan these conservation practices for your farm.

Wetland Determinations

Farmers who participate in the USDA programs are reminded to check with the Farm Service Agency prior to any clearing or drainage activities. Don't assume an area is not considered a wetland because there is no standing water or cattails present. Many wetland areas dry up during the summer but they are still considered to be wetlands. We currently have a backlog of requests so it is important to request a determination far in advance of when you plan to do any clearing or drainage work. Just because you have not received a determination from our office does not mean it is ok to perform the work. It simply means we have not completed your request yet.

2012 Corn Guessing Contest Winner – at WCF

Once again, we were blessed with another great week during the Wayne County Fair. Of course, if you were lucky enough to get out and enjoy the fair, you might have been one of the many visitors we had go through our fair building. For the past eight years, we have held a "guessing contest" for anyone that wants to try their luck. Well, this year the contest was to guess how many kernels of corn were in the jar. The kernels came off of 5 ears of corn (smaller than normal, I must say). The contest tied in well with the "4R" theme of farming and stewardship. The guessing contest always has a tie-breaker question...just in case we have to use it to determine the actual winner. The tie-



breaker question was: "Wayne County leads the State in ranking for total number of cows. What ranking does Wayne County have for 2011 Corn Production?" The correct answer is Wayne County was ranked 36th in corn production in 2011. Winning the \$30 gift card to Bob Evans Restaurant this year was **Loren Rufener** of Rittman, Ohio. **Loren had the closest guess to the**

correct number of corn kernels, which were 2,281 kernels. He guessed 2,291 – just 10 shy of the real amount. We had over 600 guesses this year, and appreciate everyone that tried the contest and stopped by to visit. If there was something you wanted to ask about, or forgot, please don't hesitate to give us a call or e-mail. If you missed out this year, be sure to try your luck and stop by next

year during the wonderful Wayne County Fair! It truly is one of the best in the State!

Rainwater Harvesting

by Rob Kastner

Collecting and reusing rainwater is not a new concept. It was not uncommon through the mid-20th Century for a household, city or rural, to have a cistern. From the early settlements through the post-depression era, nothing was wasted, certainly not rainwater. Collected rainwater was used for non-potable uses inside and outside the house such as water for showers, toilets and plants/gardening. Today as budgets tighten, our environmental conscience broadens and we experience prolonged periods of dry weather we turn again to the idea of collecting and using rainwater or rainwater harvesting. Rainwater collected from roof tops can be used to water plants and trees and wash cars and pets, providing a chlorine- and hardness-free source of water.

Rainwater is collected from roofs by connecting rain barrels or cisterns/tanks to the roof downspouts. Rain barrels typically have a volume of 55 gallons. Assuming two rain barrels are utilized for a 2,000 square foot house, the rain barrels will hold about the first 1/8" of rain from a storm event. Although a modest amount, the barrels will have collected the pollutant-filled first flush and provided 110 gallons of free

water. When the rain barrels' volume is exceeded, the rain barrel can overflow to the ground a safe distance away from the structure or back into the downspout from which it came.

If your desire is to collect a greater amount of rainwater, there are larger structures available that closer mimic the classic cistern. These plastic or fiberglass structures vary in size, depending on the manufacturer and are typically installed below ground. The upfront costs of purchasing and installing the structures, which include excavation, installation of stone bedding and backfill and liners and a water delivery system, is more than the cost associated with rain barrels. However, these structures have the advantage of being below ground and out of sight, have a larger holding capacity and don't require cold weather maintenance.

Benefits of rainwater harvesting include saving money on your city water bill or well pump electric bill, as well as, reduced energy usage thanks to shade from well-watered trees. Another benefit is collecting the first portion of rain or "first flush," which contains the residual pollutants on the roof, reduces or eliminates the discharge of these pollutants to a nearby ditch or waterway. No matter the volume collected, rainwater harvesting allows you to do your part in protecting the streams and creeks in your neighborhood.

Keep an Eye on your Water Supply

by Duane Wood

This year has been abnormally dry. According to the Monthly Water Inventory for Ohio (August) in the central hills the Palmer Drought Index is -3.4 or Severe Drought. According the NOAA "The Palmer Index is most effective in determining long term drought—a matter of several months—and is not as good with short-term forecasts (a matter of weeks). It uses a 0 as normal, and drought is shown in terms of minus numbers; for example, minus 2 is moderate drought, minus 3 is severe drought, and minus 4 is extreme drought." The Monthly Water Inventory for Ohio also states "Ground water storage is at below normal seasonal levels in most areas of Ohio. However, even though ground water levels are below normal and lower than last year, ground water storage appears to be adequate throughout the state. Ground water levels are expected to continue to decline during the next two or three months. With near-normal precipitation and other climatic conditions during this period, ground water supplies should remain adequate throughout the state. However, the next few months are typically the driest time of the year and the time when ground water storage is at its lowest level; hence, water supply managers with ground water sources should monitor their respective situations closely. The Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service reports that at the end of August, soil moisture was rated as being short or very short in 77 percent of the state and adequate in 23 percent of the state."

The majority of Wayne County drinking water comes from

ground water. Recently you probably read about the Geysers Chapel Road spring drying up. The article in the Daily Record by Paul Locher indicated Joe Ivin, founder of the Smithville Historical Society can't remember a time when the spring dried up.

If you are concerned about the water level in your well you can have the static water level measured and compare it to



what was reported in the well log for your well. A driller or pump installer can usually measure your well's current static water level (that's the water level with no pumping). To find your well report on-line go to the Division of Soil and Water Resources at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/maptechs/wellogs/app/>. You can also call for a copy of the report (614) 265-6740.

By comparing the depth of water to your well's total depth, you can calculate approximately how much water is stored in the well. Data on the yield of your well and the amount of water stored there will give you some idea about the need to conserve water or take corrective action.

It's a good idea to be as efficient as possible with water usage at home and on the farm. Make it a priority to find and fix leaks to you water system. Avoid unnecessary water usage to prolong your water supply.

Water Efficiency for Private Well Owners <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/7/pubs/pdfs/fctst03.pdf>

Water Inventory Report (Monthly) <http://www.ohiodnr.gov/tabid/4191/Default.aspx>

OSU 2012 Drought Information <http://wayne.osu.edu/topics/agriculture-and-natural-resources/2012-drought-information>

Natural Resources Conservation Service
John Knapp, District Conservationist
Jeff Lefever, Civil Engineering Technician
Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist

Wayne SWCD Staff
Sarah Beck, Administrative Assistant
Mark Duncan, Nutrient Management Specialist
Steve Grimes, No-Till Specialist
Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
Adam Liston, Conservation Technician
Debbie Pettijohn, Secretary
Kelly Riley, Education Specialist
Duane Wood, District Program Administrator

Annual Meeting & Banquet Registration Form

Please fill out the form below and send it to Wayne SWCD, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster along with your check made out to **Wayne SWCD** by **November 5th**.

Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

Des Dutch Essenhaus, Shreve, Ohio, November 15, 2012 7:15 PM

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

No. of Reservations _____ @ \$12.00 Age 7-11 _____ @ \$8.00 Age 3-6 _____ @ \$6.00

Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Wayne SWCD and **return before November 5th**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital and family 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 USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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