



Preble Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving our Natural Resources

AUGUST 2016

1651 North Barron Street
Eaton, Ohio 45320-1021
(937) 456-5159
www.prebleswcd.org

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Broermann
Kip Denlinger
Donn Kolb
James Leedy
Keith Schmidt

DISTRICT STAFF

BJ Price - District Administrator & Technician
Jason Chappel - Technician
Anna Smith - Admin. Assistant & Outreach Coordinator

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeff Barnes - District Conservationist
Karen McCalister - Resource Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST

Renee Buck

IN THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting
Manure Concerns
2017 Supervisor Candidates
Election Legal Notice
Milkweed Pod Collection
Fish Sale
Upcoming Events
Conservation Camp
CRP Reminders

Stop by and see our new website:
www.prebleswcd.org

Annual Meeting

Date: September 8
Location: Today's Harvest Farm
Address: 5859 State Route 320, New Paris
Time: Corn maze opens at 4:00, Supervisor election 5:30-6:30, Meal served at 6:00

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held September 8 at Today's Harvest Farm in New Paris. Beginning at 4:00, you are welcome to bring your families and explore the corn maze, play putt-putt golf, solve the Farm Scene Investigation mystery, and try your hand at duck races. The Supervisor election will start at 5:30, followed by a meal and program. Shelby County Sheriff and SWCD Board Member John Lenhart will be our speaker for the evening. FFA members will provide entertainment for children during the program. We hope you will join us for this free evening of fun, food, and friendship. RSVP by September 2 by calling the SWCD office at 456-5159.



Manure Concerns

Our office has received a number of questions recently regarding odor coming from livestock farms and manure application on fields. The issue of handling manure isn't new and it won't be going away soon, so we wanted to take the opportunity to address the matter.

First, it is a fact that animals produce manure, and manure stinks. We're sure you already know this. As long as we have livestock living in Preble County, we're going to have manure (and the odor coming from it) to deal with. Another fact is that you may not always love what happens on your neighbors' properties. This may relate to noisy parties, junk on display, or manure produced or spread nearby. You may not appreciate the smell of manure coming from your neighbor's barn, but if you choose to live in a rural area, this is something you will likely experience, and there are no penalties for odor drifting from your neighbor's property to your own.

In case it's starting to sound like manure is all bad, we want to remind you that it's actually a valuable resource, especially as an excellent source of fertilizer. Nutrients in manure adhere better to soil than those in commercial fertilizer, manure adds organic matter that commercial fertilizer does not, and it contains micronutrients in the correct amounts for plant growth. Manure can be good after all.

Some of the questions our office has received recently have come from people wondering about the rules regarding manure application. If we're talking about rules that come with penalties, the main regulation is that manure may not be discharged onto another person's property or into the waters of the State. For violations of this type, Ohio Department of Agriculture can now implement fines to producers who do not voluntarily take corrective actions. In addition, EPA may issue fines for violating the Clean Water Act, and ODNR may fine a person for stream littering and for killing fish.

In the Western Lake Erie Basin, which we are not a part of, producers are not allowed to apply manure on frozen or snow-covered soil, when the top two inches of soil are saturated, or when 1/2 inch or more of rain is predicted within the next 24 hours. However, in our area, these are best management practices that producers *should* follow in order to help prevent manure from running off.

If you are a farmer and you have a manure concern on your farm that needs to be addressed, please contact our office. We'll work with you to come up with possible solutions, and funding may be available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program. We want to help you be proactive to prevent problems, rather than reactive to a real problem at a later date. This way, you can make changes at your discretion and not according to ODA's timeline.

If you have questions about what is happening at your neighbor's farm, we suggest that you talk to them. A short discussion may clear up some questions and confusion. If you have still have questions, please contact our office.

2017 Supervisor Candidates



Donn Kolb and his wife, JoAnn, live on Paint Creek Road in Gasper Township. Donn owns and operates a 310-acre corn, soybean and wheat farm. He began no-tilling in 1976 and has exclusively no-tilled corn since 1980 and soybeans since 1986. Donn received a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati and he worked as an engineer with Ohio Department of Transportation prior to retiring. Donn has served on the Board of Supervisors since 1990, and he is currently the District's Fiscal Agent. He was recognized as the Preble SWCD Outstanding Cooperator in 1979 and has installed several grassed waterways to improve his property.

Donald Hays and his wife, Sarah, live in Jackson Township and have two sons, Caleb and Jackson. Donald manages the farming operations of Geeding Farms and operates a small seed sales and treatment business. Donald attended The Ohio State University and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Crop Science, with a minor in Animal Science and Agriculture Education. He is an active member of Eaton First Church of God where he is the Trustee chairman. He has a heart for conservation improvements and has aided in numerous conservation projects, including several large grassed waterway installations.



ELECTION LEGAL NOTICE

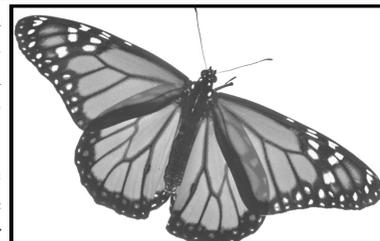
The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause the election of Supervisors for the Preble Soil & Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Preble County and are at least 18 years of age may vote for Supervisor. 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.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the Annual Meeting; (2) at the SWCD office until 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2016; or (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office. Absentee ballots must be received (not postmarked) in the Preble SWCD Office no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Milkweed Pod Collection

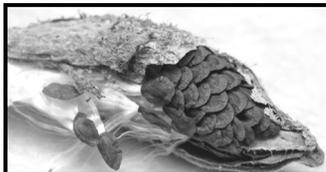
Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. One such example is the Monarch butterfly. Ohio, along with Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, has been identified as a priority state for Monarch conservation due to the importance of our area in their life cycle. Monarchs hatch here in the summer and then migrate to Mexico for the winter.



In response to the decline of pollinators, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat for pollinators. OPHI formed after it was petitioned in 2014 to list the Monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find opportunities and partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat for pollinators.

This fall, OPHI is partnering with Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Ohio to organize a statewide Milkweed Pod Collection. Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch butterflies. The presence of milkweed in Ohio has declined greatly in recent years, and the seeds collected through this effort will be used to establish new plantings across the state.

Local residents are encouraged to collect milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at our office this fall. A collection bin will be located in our front lobby at 1651 N. Barron St., Eaton, from September 1 through October 30. We are located in the Eaton Center between Tractor Supply and China Wok. The lobby is open from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



To collect seed pods from a milkweed plant, it is best to pick them when they are dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to our office. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods.

Fish Sale Going On Now

If you're interested in ordering any fish fingerlings for your pond, please take a look at the fish sale flyer included in this newsletter. Orders are due September 23.

Upcoming Events

Visit prebleswcd.org/events for details.

August 31 - Ohio No Till Council Summer Field Day, Kenton
August 31 - Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative Symposium, Columbus
September 8 - Preble SWCD Annual Meeting, New Paris
September 20-22 - Farm Science Review, London

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
1651 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45320-1021

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #342
Eaton, OH 45320

Return Service Requested

To be removed from our mailing list or add someone new, call (937)456-5159 or email annasmith@prebleswcd.org.

Dates to Remember:

September 5 - Labor Day - Office Closed

September 28 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.

October 10 - Columbus Day - Office Closed

October 19 - Board Meeting 7:00 a.m.

November 11 - Veterans Day - Office Closed

All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

Conservation Camp

Our first Conservation Day Camp was a success, with over 70 area youth attending. Elementary students from around the county gathered at the Preble County Historical Society June 21-23 to experience interactive outdoor activities related to forestry, water quality, soils, wildlife, and agriculture. Campers seemed to greatly enjoy the experience, and many said they hope that we hold camp again next year because they want to come back. Sponsors for the program included Preble County Farm Bureau, Cargill, and the Preble County Pork Festival. Thanks to the many presenters, counselors and other volunteers who made camp possible, as well as the Preble County Historical Society for hosting the event.



Conservation Reserve Program Reminder

To CRP participants, this is a reminder that the primary wildlife nesting season has ended. According to the maintenance requirement of CRP contracts, you can perform maintenance activities to control trees and weeds annually from July 16th through February 28th. Spot mowing (up to a third at a time, at a minimum of 8 inches) can be done to control unwanted trees, shrubs, noxious weeds and goldenrod. Spot herbicide treatment is most effective in the fall (late September through October) especially on Honeysuckle, Canada Thistle, and rosettes of many biennial and annual weeds. If you have questions please contact:

Renee K. Buck, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist at (937)-578-8264 or rbuck@pheasantsforever.org