



## Belmont SWCD

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Barnesville, Ohio 43713  
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www.BelmontSWCD.org

## 2008 Supervisors

Robert Rockwell  
**Chairman**

Stanley Borovich  
**Vice Chairman/Fiscal Agent**

Rich Theaker  
**Secretary**

Ed Stenger  
**Treasurer**

Don Guindon  
**Public Relations**

## SWCD Employees

Beverly Riddle  
**Program Administrator**

Yvonne Ackerman  
**Administrative Assistant**

Brian Porterfield  
**Technician**

Nathan Taylor  
**Forestry/Wildlife Specialist**

Chad Turner  
**Urban-GIS Technician**

## NRCS Employees

Jeff Bettinger  
**District Conservationist**

Laura Winkler  
**Civil Engineering Technician**

All services of the Belmont SWCD & NRCS are provided regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Equal Opportunity Employer.

# The District Cooperator

A Publication of the Belmont SWCD

April 2008

## Learn Your Rights Fence Law, Oil & Gas Leases

**L**earn your rights as they relate to **Ohio's Line Fence Law** and **Oil and Gas Leases** on Thursday, April 24, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at the Union Local Middle School in Morristown, Ohio.

### Line Fence Law

Today's Ohio Line Fence Law addresses many fence issues that have arisen over the past few years. Larry Gerhardt, Ohio Farm Bureau Attorney, will address how line fences are to be constructed, paid for, and maintained. Gerhardt will speak about Chapter 971 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), which provides a process for assigning and enforcing the rights of landowners sharing a fence. Learn more about your rights and obligations.

### Oil & Gas Leases

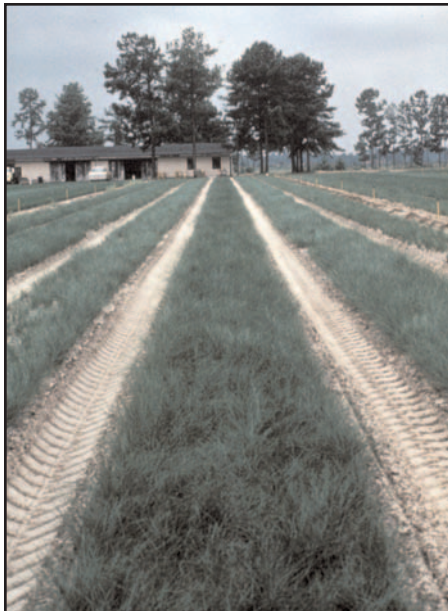
Landowners have an opportunity to earn extra income from their land through oil & gas leases. It's important to realize that once a lease is signed, a partnership is formed that may last for many years. Most leases are standard in form and, at face value, tend to be weighted in favor of the lessee; however, many items in the agreement can be negotiated to the satisfaction of the lesser. Any issue not specifically addressed in writing may not be legally enforceable if a problem arises and/or may require litigation to resolve. Gerhardt will review some of the main components of a lease, including – construction, inspection/maintenance/replacement, payments for easements, assignments, and liability.

The meeting is sponsored by Belmont County Farm Bureau, Belmont SWCD and OSU Extension Service. For reservations, please call the Belmont Farm Bureau at 740-425-3681. 🏠

## Strip Mine Soils Presented

New Strip Mine Soils Maps will be presented to the Belmont County Commissioners and the Belmont County Auditor's Office on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 11:15 a.m. at the Belmont County Commissioner's Meeting, at the County Court House in St. Clairsville, OH. Check out the maps on the GIS Web site located at [www.BelmontCountyGIS.com](http://www.BelmontCountyGIS.com).

# ODNR Division of Forestry Conifer Match Program



Landowners who order a minimum of 500 conifer seedlings in any of four varieties from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for planting this spring, can receive an equal number of free conifer seedlings.

The ODNR Division of Forestry Conifer Match Program represents significant savings for landowners who want a total of at least 1,000 seedlings for conservation and reforestation purposes.

“As a special incentive to encourage larger plantings and to stimulate reforestation efforts, we are renewing last year’s popular Conifer Match Program,” said David Lytle, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. “These Ohio Conservation Seedlings are grown specifically for planting in natural resource protection and habitat improvement projects.”

Conifer species available through the match program include arborvitae, Austrian pine, pitch-loblolly cross pine, and shortleaf pine. Under program guidelines, landowners are required to protect all plantings from grazing and fire and pay all normal shipping costs.

Conifer orders will be priced at the “1,000 and over” discount rate. Both the ordered conifers and the free white pine seedlings will be shipped together, with delivery in time for planting this spring. All seedlings are shipped via UPS.

For availability of tree species and prices, contact the Division of Forestry toll free at 1-877-691-8733 or online at [ohiodnr.com](http://ohiodnr.com). The Conifer Match Program is available while supplies last.

ODNR sells more than 2 million seedlings for reforestation each year from its Marietta State Tree Nursery. In the past 80 years, more than a half billion trees were sold to reforest Ohio. 🌲

## Brush Meeting

Learn how to identify and control invasive species through chemical, mechanical, and biological methods Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Ed Stenger’s Highland Dairy Farm, Belmont, OH.

Paul Seidewitz, Belmont Mills Spray Specialist, has set up a demonstration area where different sprays have been applied to multiflora rose. He will discuss the pros and cons of different sprays and how to use them.

Steve Schumacher, OSU Extension Agent, and Nathan Taylor, Belmont SWCD Forestry/Wildlife Specialist, will discuss woody brush, such as, grapevines, tree of heaven, autumn olive and multiflora rose. Control methods such as girdling, grazing, grubbing, cut stump treatment and basal bark treatment will also be discussed. Schumacher will cover the safe use of pesticides from reading labels to protecting the environment and dressing appropriately.

The program is sponsored by Belmont SWCD, Belmont OSU Extension Service, and Belmont County Farm Bureau. Contact Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3 for reservations. 🌲

# SWCD Employees Complete Training



Above: Brian Porterfield (right) received his TDP Certificate from David Hanselmann, Chief of the Ohio Department on Natural Resources Division of Soil & Water Conservation. Below: Yvonne Ackerman (right) also received her AADP Certificate from Hanselmann.



Yvonne Ackerman, Administrative Assistant, completed Level 2 of the Administrative Assistant Development Program (AADP). The program focused on developing communication and presentation skills, increasing knowledge of budgeting and finances, sales and marketing, as well as leadership and decision making. 🏡

Two Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District Employees received certificates for training completion at the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation District's All Employees Meeting held March 5, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio.

Brian Porterfield, District Technician, completed Level 3 of the Technical Development Program (TDP). Chad Turner, Urban-GIS Technician completed Level 1 training, but was unable to attend the awards ceremony. District Technicians are strongly encouraged to participate in TDP training, which consists of attending a series of training sessions. In addition to learning general design and construction procedures, Porterfield had the opportunity to find out how other districts handle similar types of work. TDP strengthens the county's technical assistance program and networking through hands-on education.

## Wetlands & Streams Seminar Rescheduled

The Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a Wetlands and Streams Seminar Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Union Local High School.

Landowners are encouraged to attend this seminar which will focus on the do's and don'ts associated with wetlands and streams. Special guests Nancy Mullen, Army Corps of Engineers, and Dan Osterfeld, Ohio EPA, will speak about permits, fees and the different kinds of wetlands and streams.

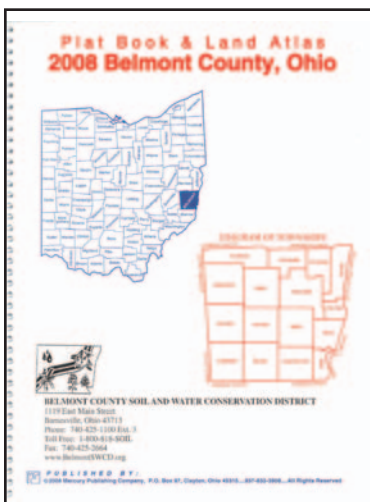
There is no cost for the seminar, however, reservations are required. For more information contact Chad Turner, Urban Technician, at 740-425-1100 Ext.112. 🏡

## 2008 Belmont County Plat Books Available

The 2008 edition of the Belmont County Plat Book is now available. The plat book has been updated to reflect property configuration and ownership information effective February 2007. Please note that information provided in this year's plat book does not include parcels under 10 acres in size.

The new Belmont County Plat Book is available at a cost of \$12.00. Purchase the plat book from the Belmont SWCD office located at 1119 E. Main Street, Barnesville, Ohio 43713.

Interested parties should contact the Belmont SWCD Office at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3 or email [yvonne.ackerman@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:yvonne.ackerman@oh.nacdnet.net). 🏡



# Tree Planting & Pruning Clinic

Learn tips to successfully plant seedlings and container grown shrubs as well as how to properly maintain trees and shrubs through pruning Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at Fruits of Life Greenhouse in Barnesville.

## Proper Planting Equals Successful Establishment

Belmont SWCD Supervisor and orchard owner, Robert Rockwell, will demonstrate how to properly plant and prune tree seedlings. Proper care and handling of bare-root seedlings during the planting process is critical to seeding survival. Learn how deep to plant a seedling and other tips for successful tree seedling planting.

In addition, Jonathan Rockwell, owner and operator of Fruits of Life

Greenhouse, will talk about planting shrubs and potted plants.

## Proper Pruning Equals a Longer Life

The first guide to pruning a tree is to have a clear understanding about what pruning can do for the tree – and for you! A tree that is pruned when young will resist damage from wind and ice, be much easier to maintain, and live longer. Additionally, a well shaped tree is aesthetically pleasing, whether in a landscaped yard, garden, or orchard.

Fruit trees need more than water and soil to produce healthy fruit. Light penetration is essential for flower bud development and optimal fruit set, flavor, and quality. Opening the tree canopy also permits adequate air movement through the tree, which promotes

rapid drying to minimize disease infection and allows thorough pesticide penetration.

When pruning neglected fruit trees, it is not necessary or possible to correct all errors in tree structure due to the lack of pruning in the past. Complete rejuvenation may take several years of heavy pruning. The main objectives in pruning neglected fruit trees are to reduce tree size, thin out branches and most importantly increase fruit production and quality. Learn about the keys to good pruning.

This program is sponsored by the Belmont SWCD and OSU Extension Service. For more information, directions, or reservations, contact the Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3. 📞

# The Hunt for Ohio's Century Farms



Belmont SWCD has teamed up with the Ohio Department of Agriculture in its' search for

Century Farms that have contributed to the history of Ohio's counties. If you, or someone you know, own a farm that has remained in the family for at least 100 years, you might qualify to be recognized as an Ohio Century Farm owner.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Ohio Century Farm Program recognizes the social, economic, and historic contributions of Ohio's family farms. The

program was developed to honor farms that have remained in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, with an emphasis on well-preserved, working farms.

Qualifying farms receive a certificate signed by the Governor of Ohio and the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and will be recognized at this year's Belmont SWCD annual banquet. Recognized farms may also display the Century Farm yard sign.

Families who wish to have their farm recognized must submit a Century Farm Registration Form. Forms are

Belmont County farms already listed with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Ohio Century Farm Program

Farm Name	Year Established
Martin Farm	1805
Robert F. Keefer Farm	1827
Mehlman Family Farm	1840
Russell Ball Farm	1887
Melvin Bailey Farm	1901

available at the Belmont SWCD office or at [www.ohioagriculture.gov/century-farm](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/century-farm). For additional information, please contact Beverly Riddle, Program Administrator at 740-425-1100 Ext. 105. 📞

# Chain Saw Training at Camp Muskingum

The East Central Ohio Forestry

Association Inc. is hosting a Chain Saw Safety & Application Training Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Camp Muskingum, Leesville Lake. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.



Cost to participate is \$25.00 per person. The cost includes lunch and a chance to win a Husqvarna 350 chain saw and other great prizes.

The training will be conducted

by Cary Shepherd who is a National Training Specialist in Chain Saw Applications with Husqvarna Forest & Garden.

This training is suitable for all skill levels with no hands on chain saw operation by participants. Participants should bring a hard hat and dress appropriate for the day, rain or shine.

**Topics will include:** Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Chain Saw Maintenance, Chain Sharpening, Starting Procedures,

Reactive Forces, Directional Felling, Limbing & Bucking, Spring Poles, Use of Wedges, and Storm Damage Removal Techniques.

Register by May 16, 2008, by sending your name, address, phone number and \$25.00 per person to ECOFA, PO Box 486, Carrollton, OH 44615. Contact 614-212-3309 for more information.

*The class is limited to the first 100 registrants. All participants will receive a training certificate from Husqvarna Forest & Garden.* 🌲

# Shred to Save - An Arbor Day Event

Shred to Save. The first event of its kind in Belmont County, will take place Saturday, April 26, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Riesbeck's Food Market parking lot in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

In conjunction with Arbor Day, the Belco Work's Mobile Shredding Unit will be set up to shred old files, records, and documents. The public is invited to bring up to 75 lbs. of old documents to be shredded free of charge. (A discount coupon will be offered to those who have larger amounts.)

Each person presenting documents that day will receive a free tree seedling, compliments of the Belmont SWCD. In addition, the first 50 people will receive a special Belco Works/Arbor Day t-shirt and have a chance throughout the day to

win prizes provided by JACK-FM and Belco-Works. A live action radio broadcast will be presented by JACK-FM. Information on the benefits of shredding and recycling will also be provided.

Belco Works shredded and recycled 210,000 pounds of old documents in 2007. According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, more than 1,300 trees were saved because of Belco Works' shredding and recycling efforts.

Through its Document Destruction Department, Belco Works provides confidential shredding of old files, records, and other documents. Demand for this service has steadily increased and in 2007, Belco Works

added on-site, mobile shredding. This service now goes to the

Belmont SWCD will provide one tree seedling to each Shred to Save participant.

customer to shred material at their place of business. This new service, coupled with the powerful, high-per-

formance document shredding performed in-house, has positioned Belco Works as the leader in document destruction services in the Ohio Valley.

Belco Works Inc., founded in 1966, is a non-profit organization that provides jobs and other vocational services to adults with developmental disabilities in Belmont County.

For more information, contact Rick Helms at 740-312-3054 or Peg Stipetich at 740-695-0500. 🌲

# BARK Planting April 19th

The Barnesville Area Reforestation Kommittee (BARK) is seeking volunteers for the 5th Annual BARK Tree Planting, scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. west of Barnesville on Oxford Coal Co. strip-mined ground.

Working with Oxford Coal, the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management, the Federal Office of Surface Mining, Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District, and the ODNR Division of Forestry, BARK will plant 4,000 tree seedlings and reclaim approximately 5 acres of ground using the Forestry Reclamation Approach promoted by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

This approach end dumps piles of topsoil and under burden in six-foot deep piles without grading them smooth. The result is an area of very loose soil that is perfect for tree growth. Efforts are made to use topsoil, including the stumps, so that much of the native seed that is already in the soil remains to help revegetate the ground naturally. Because of this and the looseness of the soil, no soil leaves the site through erosion – it simply all soaks in.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring boots and gloves. Tree planting bars will be provided. No tree planting experience is needed, however, we ask that children have adequate supervision. Signs will be posted to the planting site from Barnesville.

*Free t-shirts will be given out to volunteers, while supplies last. Refreshments will also be served.*

BARK, with the help of numerous community groups and volunteers, has planted over 20,000 trees, to date.

## Support Needed

Donations are needed to help defray the cost of the trees purchased for the BARK Tree Planting. If you or someone you know would like to make a monetary donation or would like more information please contact Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist, at 740-425-1100 Ext. 110. 📞

## ARRI Meeting

An informational meeting discussing the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) will be presented on April 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office, located at 1103 East Main Street, Barnesville, Ohio.

The goals of the ARRI are to plant more high-valued hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands in Appalachia and to increase survival rates and growth rates of planted trees.

Presenters will be Jeff Emmons, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Mineral Resources, and Mike Hiscar, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Surface Mining. The Barnesville Area Reforestation Kommittee (BARK) will also be on hand to answer question about there planting west of Barnesville on Saturday, April 19th.

Please RSVP by April 9th. For additional information contact Nathan Taylor, Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District at 740-425-1100 Ext. 110. 📞

## Grazing Meeting

Kyle Forni of Brownsville, Ohio will host a grazing meeting Wednesday, April 16, 2008, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at his farm in Brownsville, Ohio. The meeting will feature Forni's New Zealand style dairy operation.

Please contact the OSU Extension Service in Monroe County at 740-472-0810 for more information and directions.

Please Note: Lunch will NOT be served at this event.

**Tree Sale Pick Up**  
**April 17 & 18, 2008 • Belmont SWCD Office**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Dibble Bars still available**



**B**elmont SWCD encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 27 to May 4, 2008, as Stewardship Week with the theme Water is Life.

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.

What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and environmental health.

Belmont SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nations 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

"Each of us needs to take steps to invest in understanding the importance of water in our everyday life," said NACD CEO Krysta Harden. "Water is not a renewable resource. Education in your community and schools will benefit all citizens, for years to come as they gain a better appreciation of the importance of water resources. Conservation districts are working with local communities to address water quantity and quality issues in every county in America."

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact the Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3. Visit [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week. 

## EVENTS

Wetlands & Streams Seminar  
April 15, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Union Local High School  
Morristown, OH

Grazing Meeting  
April 16, 2008 • Noon  
Kyle Forni Farm  
Brownsville, OH

ARRI Informational Meeting  
April 16, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Office  
Barnesville, OH

Tree Planting and Pruning  
Workshop  
April 17, 2008 • 6:30 p.m.  
Fruits of Life Greenhouse  
Barnesville, OH

BARK Tree Planting  
April 19, 2008 • 10:00 a.m.  
Barnesville, OH

Fence Line Law &  
Oil and Gas Leases  
April 24, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Union Local Middle School  
Morristown, OH

Shred to Save  
April 26, 2008 • 10:00 a.m.  
Riesbeck's Food Market  
St. Clairsville, OH

Brush Meeting  
May 14, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.  
Highland Dairy Farm  
Belmont, OH

Chain Saw Training  
June 7, 2008  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Camp Muskingum  
Leesville Lake, OH

Some meetings require reservations. Please contact Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3 or visit [www.BelmontSWCD.org](http://www.BelmontSWCD.org) for more information.

# Rental Equipment Available

Belmont SWCD offers a wide-variety of rental equipment. Contact the office at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3 for more information about the items listed to the right.

- No-till 2 Row Corn Planter
- No-till Grain Drill
- Lime Spreader
- Tree Planter
- Live Traps
- 25 Gallon Spot Sprayer
- Dibble Bars
- Propane Cannons
- Timber Bridge

<p><b>FARM BUREAU</b>  <i>Take advantage of CAUV that Farm Bureau secured for all land owners!</i>  <i>Call Farm Bureau for details!</i>  <i>(740) 425-3681</i></p>	<p>Belmont County  <b>Plat Books</b>  <b>Now Available</b>          Price \$12.00          Belmont SWCD          740-425-1100 Ext. 3</p>	<p> <b>JOHN DEERE</b>  <b>Kuester Implement Company Inc.</b>          47690 Reservoir Road          St. Clairsville, OH 43950          Business Phone: 740-695-8920          Toll Free: 866-367-2408  <a href="http://www.KuesterImplement.com">www.KuesterImplement.com</a></p>	<p><b>M. THEAKER &amp; SON</b>    <b>EXCAVATING, INC.</b>          Backhoe • Trackhoe • Trucking • Dozer          Trenching • Sewage Systems • Waterlines          53620 Farmington Road • Bridgeport, OH 43912          (740) 635-3134 • Fax (740) 635-4101</p>
<p> <b>DAVID P. LASH, JR.</b>  <b>LASH PAVING &amp; EXCAVATING</b>          P.O. Box 296 • Colerain, OH 43916          (740) 635-4335 • Fax (740) 635-1047</p>	<p> <b>Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA</b>          2146 Southgate Parkway          Cambridge, Ohio 43725          Toll Free 1-888-713-4293</p>	<p><b>SAYRE</b> REAL ESTATE          Broker             116 East Main Street • St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950          Office: (740) 695-1414 • Fax: (740) 695-8946          Res: (740) 782-1414 • Cell: (304) 639-1414  <a href="http://www.sayrerealestate.com">www.sayrerealestate.com</a></p>	<p><b>Jefferis Foods LLC</b>             1105 East Main Street          Barnesville, OH 43713          Tel: 740-425-1773          Fax: 740-425-1773  <a href="mailto:kfc@zippyteck.com">kfc@zippyteck.com</a></p>
<p><b>Bugay's Welding Fabrication Service</b>  <hr/> <b>David A. Bugay</b>          (740) 782-1259          Skid Loader Buckets Built or Repaired          General Welding • Call for Quote</p>	<p> <b>Buckeye Tree Co.</b>          Forestry Management Services OH, WV, PA          • Timber Sales          • Custom Sawmilling          • Green and Kiln Dried Lumber          Office &amp; Fax: (740) 633-9590          Cell: (740) 359-7197  <a href="mailto:Buckeyetree@comcast.net">Buckeyetree@comcast.net</a>  <a href="http://www.buckeyetreeco.com">www.buckeyetreeco.com</a>          Hocking College of Forestry          Registered WV State Board          Member OFA / WVFA</p>	<p> <i>Custom Spraying, Lime and Fertilizer application.</i>  <b>BELMONT MILLS INC.</b>          400 S. Jefferson St. 740-484-4633          Belmont, Ohio 43718</p>	<p><b>STONE</b>          \$ 5.00 Ton          Ideal for Driveways-Farmlanes-Etc.          Gunite Construction          740 - 676 - 2172</p>