



Belmont SWCD
 1119 E. Main Street
 Barnesville, Ohio 43713
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2006 Supervisors

Ed Stenger
Chairman

Don Guindon
Vice Chairman

Robert Rockwell
Secretary

Stanley Borovich
Treasurer/Fiscal Agent

Rich Theaker
Public Relations

SWCD Employees

Beverly Riddle
Program Administrator

Yvonne Ackerman
Administrative Assistant

Brian Porterfield
Technician

Nathan Taylor
Forestry/Wildlife Specialist

Vacancy
Urban Technician

NRCS Employees

Jeff Bettinger
District Conservationist

Harry Kenney
Grassland Conservationist

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

August 2006

Fox Shannon Park Improvements

The 23 acre Fox-Shannon Park, located in St. Clairsville, Ohio, has been rapidly changing from the once sparse area that adjoins the buildings within the Fox Shannon Complex.



In May alone, almost 2,700 feet of handicap accessible walking trails were installed. This thanks in part to two grants including the Nature Works grant and the Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) grant.

Fox Shannon Park also received assistance, including in-kind service, monetary donations, and staffing, from a variety of individuals, companies, and agencies.

Visit Fox Shannon Park today and you will have the opportunity to utilize the three picnic shelters, picnic tables and restrooms that were installed. There is even a handicap accessible fishing pier overlooking the 2.25 acre pond. A waterfall and bird watch have also been installed.

The Fox Shannon Park committee is looking for additional donations to complete the trail around the lake and add other recreational facilities. For more information contact Jeff Bettinger or Beverly Riddle at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. ♿



Development Project Partners

Belmont County Commissioners & staff
 Belmont Technical College
 Belmont-Harrison Career Center
 Belmont Correctional Institute
 Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District
 Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Buckeye Hills RC&D
 Ohio State University Extension
 Fox Shannon Park Development Committee
 Private Citizens

Farm Safety, Dairy Education Tour Slated



Each year the Belmont County Commissioners and local congressmen are invited to participate in the 4th Grade Farm Safety and Dairy Education Tour so that students get to know their locally elected officials. Local officials have participated in the milk mustache contest and a calf feeding contest. Commissioner Mark A. Thomas, shown above, won the calf feeding contest at the event.

The 4th Grade Farm Safety & Dairy Education Tour will be held at Highland Dairy Farm in Belmont, Ohio on Friday, October 6, 2006.

The one-day tour features safety education appropriate for youth, as well as information on the production of dairy products. Students participating in the event receive a Farm Safety 4-Kids t-shirt and a bag filled with informational brochures and other goodies.

South Central Power starts the morning off with an electricity demonstration. Life-sized power lines show the effects a squirrel has when it completes a circuit and what happens when a kite becomes tangled in electric lines.

Students are then divided into groups and rotate to seven other stops, where they learn everything from the proper diet of a cow to how fast a farm accident can occur.

The Ohio State University Extension Service, Belmont Farm Bureau and Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District sponsor the annual event, with assistance from South Central Power, Green Valley Co-op and the Belmont Dairy Council.

Highland Dairy Farm is owned and operated by Ed & Nancy Stenger. For more information or to become involved with the farm safety and dairy education tour contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 🏠

Educational Presentations Available in Belmont Co.

The Belmont SWCD recently purchased a Rain Simulator to demonstrate ways that soil erosion happen and how it can be prevented.

The Rain Simulator trailer has three boxes. One covered with grass, one with bare soil at the top and a grass filter strip at the bottom and a third box with just bare soil. The Rain Simulator rains the same amount of water onto each box. As each person observes what happens they become aware of how they can affect soil erosion and the water that flows across the ground.

Erosion is a natural process. However, human actions often speed up this process. When

human activities, such as construction projects and poor logging, mining and farming practices remove plant cover, the soil tends to erode at a faster rate than with natural erosion.

Erosion is not only devastating for the area where the soil originates, but it is also a problem for the area where the eroded soil is deposited.

Belmont SWCD offers free Rain



Simulator presentations for Belmont County groups and classes. The Rain Simulator is also available for rent at \$25.00 for adjoining counties and \$50.00 for those further away. For more information contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 🏠

Winter Feeding Alternatives

You probably are not thinking about winter yet, but by planning ahead, you could save time and money.

When it comes to the additional labor and cost associated with feeding livestock hay over the winter, it may be beneficial to consider winter feeding alternatives.


One option to extend the grazing season is to stockpile tall fescue. Unfortunately, tall fescue is infected with a fungus called an endophyte that can cause reduced weight gain, reproduction problems and poor performance. However, after a frost fescue makes excellent feed, containing higher protein content than some hay. Cattle prefer not to eat the tall fescue in the summer months, especially the Kentucky 31 variety.

If you have a pasture that you can keep livestock off of for a while, let it grow. Instead of making a second cutting of hay on a field, think about stockpiling it and grazing it in the fall or early winter. By spreading 50 units of nitrogen fertilizer per acre yields can significantly increase. Cows that are out grazing in the winter instead of being confined around a bale ring are much healthier and it benefits the environment as well.

Another option to extend the grazing season is to plant annual crops such as oats, rye, or turnips in August. This provides high quality forage to graze in the fall and early winter. These annuals grow rapidly and produce a substantial amount of tonnage per acre. These crops can also be interseeded into an existing pasture with a no-till drill and strip-grazed this fall with temporary electric fence.

When considering winter feeding alternatives, take into consideration the specifics of an operation and make changes that will be beneficial to both the livestock and the wallet.

Belmont SWCD is committed to providing reasonably-priced and conservation-friendly rental equipment for today's farmer. A Haybuster 10' No-till drill is available for rent at \$8.00 per acre with a minimum charge of \$50.00. The drill requires a 75-horsepower tractor to operate over the rolling terrain of Belmont County.

The District also has two lime spreaders available to rent at a cost of \$1.00 per ton with a \$25.00 minimum. For more information contact Brian Porterfield at 740.425.1100 Ext. 111. 

Rubberneck Tour Announced




The 35th Annual Belmont County Drive-It-Yourself Rubberneck Tour

will be held Sunday, October 8, 2006 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.


This year's tour will feature the Bethesda/Belmont area. Although the tour stops are not finalized, the tour committee is planning to showcase Art Monahan's Beef Farm, Ed Stenger's Highland Dairy Farm, Hollis & Lowell Kemp's Sheep Farm, and several other locations including the Bethesda Fire Department, and Epworth Park, where a dry hydrant will be demonstrated.

Concessions and restroom facilities will be available throughout the tour.

The Rubberneck Tour is a cooperative effort between OSU Extension, Belmont County Tourism Council and Belmont SWCD.

Please pick up a Rubberneck Tour Flyer at the Belmont County Fair or the Belmont SWCD office. For more information contact the Belmont SWCD at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3 

Visit SWCD at the Fair

Belmont SWCD invites fairgoers to visit its' employees in the Commercial Building at the 2006 Belmont County Fair. Staff will be on-hand to discuss conservation management issues. 

Paul Bunyan Show Moves to Guernsey County

The Ohio Forestry Association (OFA) Paul Bunyan Show (I moved their annual show, w will be Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, October 6, 7 & 8 to the Guernsey County Fairgrounds in Cambridge, Ohio.

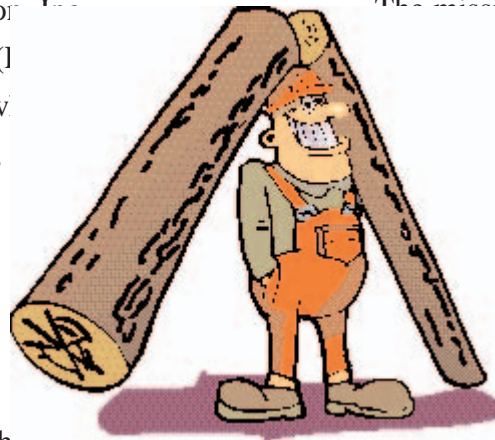
Traditionally held in Nelsonville, the Cambridge location will bring the show to a new audience of people with the full support of the forest industry.

OFA is excited about the opportunity to reach new audiences in the Tri-State area. There are over 1.5 million urban residents within 100 miles of Cambridge. One exhibitor/sponsor said when contacted about the move, "I'm all about change! If I see 50% new faces, I'll be a happy camper."

The Guernsey County Fairgrounds are conveniently located between Interstates 70 and 77 making this nationally known forest trade show more accessible to the forest products industry in Ohio, which contributes over \$26 billion dollars to the state's economy.

The show features the Ohio State Lumberjack Championship and other forest related competitions, chainsaw carving competitions, educational seminars, portable sawmills, forest product equipment displays and demonstrations.

The Paul Bunyan Show originated in 1957 and is believed to be the oldest forestry industry show in the eastern United States, annually attracting thousands of people from Ohio and surrounding states.



The mission of the Official Paul Bunyan to provide access to current knowledge and technology, which will enhance quality of life and market competitiveness of individuals, families, industries, and communities. This mission is accomplished by showcasing research, products and services through educational exhibits, presentations and demonstrations on the forest industries and natural resources.

For more information, visit OFA's website at www.ohioforest.org, or call 1.888.38.TREE. 🌲

Paul Bunyan Show Activities

- Ohio State Lumberjack Championships
- International Lumberjack Competition
- Log Loader Competition
- Log Skidder Competition
- Ohio State Game of Logging Regional Finals
- Heavy Equipment Demonstrations
- Arborist Skills Clinics and Demonstrations
- Chainsaw Carvers
- Chainsaw Clinics and Demonstrations
- Grinders and Chippers Demonstrations
- Sawmill Demonstrations
- Wood Stoves
- Secondary Wood Products
- Antique Machinery
- Lumberjack and Log Burling Entertainment
- Horse Log Skidding Competition
- Forest Industry Education and Seminars
- Full Hook-up Camping by Reservation or Walk-In
- All of the latest and greatest Forest Industry equipment supplies and services.

Search for Big Tree Continues

Belmont SWCD invites Belmont County residents to search for a Big Tree in their back yards, community parks and cemeteries, as part of the 2006 Big Tree Contest.

Big Trees are generally found in yards, parks, arboretums and cemeteries where their size stands out. However, they are less frequent in dense forests where trees have much more competition for growth.

The winning tree's landowner(s) and/or nominator(s) will be recognized at the


Belmont SWCD's 61st Annual Meeting & Banquet held Saturday, November 4, 2006 at Undo's in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Nominations

Belmont SWCD will accept all nominations. The nomination deadline is October 1, 2006. After October 1, nominations will be accepted and evaluated as part of the 2007 contest.

Please fill out the Big Tree Nomination Form below and return it to Belmont SWCD or enter a Big Tree nomination

on the Belmont SWCD website at www.BelmontSWCD.org. *It is the responsibility of the person nominating the tree to take preliminary measurements. Measurement information is available on the website located at www.BelmontSWCD.org.*

Once all contest entries have been received, Belmont SWCD staff will measure entries and announce a winner. For more information contact Nathan Taylor, Forestry/Wildlife Specialist at 740.425.1100 Ext. 110. 

Big Tree Nomination Form



Tree Information

Tree Common Name _____
Tree Latin Name _____
Tree Location (Please provide directions) _____
Describe Tree Condition (Healthy, broken top, dead top, etc.) _____
Type of land (Park, private, cemetery, etc.) _____

Tree Measurements

Date of Measurement _____
Circumference (inches at 4 1/2 ft) _____
Height (in feet) _____
Crown Spread (in feet) _____
 widest point _____
 narrowest point _____
Photographs (Please attach) _____

To be completed by Belmont SWCD

Date Verified _____
Circumference _____
Height _____
Crownsread widest _____
Crownsread narrowest _____
Total Points _____
Verified by _____

Landowner's Information

Landowner's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Nominator's Information (if different than landowner)

Nominator's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Date Nominated _____

Mail to: Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District • Belmont County Big Tree Contest
1119 E. Main Street • Barnesville, Ohio 43713

Annual Meeting Changes Venue

The 61st Annual Meeting & Banquet will be held Saturday, November 4, 2006 at Undo's Restaurant in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Event goers will have the opportunity to meet with local legislator's and the candidates for the Belmont SWCD Board of Supervisors.

A meet and greet will be held prior to the event in conjunction with vot-

ing. Voting will last only one hour, so please come early.

Visit the Belmont SWCD Board of Supervisors and staff at this annual event.

Look for more information in the October newsletter, or contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

Two Ways to Get Your Name

On the Ballot for the Board of Supervisors

If you are interested in being a candidate for the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, there are two ways to get your name on the ballot.

- Candidates can be nominated by the SWCD Nominating Committee.
- Interested individuals may also stop in at the SWCD office and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates must secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on Monday, October 2, 2006.

Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for election. The election will take place Saturday, November 4, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Undo's Restaurant in St. Clairsville, Ohio. For more information contact Belmont SWCD at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

Grazing Pasture Walk/Field Day

The Belmont/Monroe County Grazing Council will hold a pasture walk/field day at Ed Stenger's Highland Dairy Farm August 15, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Stenger is currently milking approximately 90 cows and moves his livestock to a new paddock each day. A large percentage of his acreage is pasturing on reclaimed ground.

The event is free and open to the public.

Attend this meeting and join in the discussion about summer slumps in forage production and the economics of stockpiling forage.

For more information contact the Belmont County Extension Office at 740.695.1455 or Monroe County Extension Office at 740.695.0810. 📞

Election Nears

County residents attending the November 4, 2006 Annual Meeting will have the chance to elect 1 person to the Belmont SWCD Board of Supervisors.

This year's banquet begins at 7:00 p.m., but registration and voting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to meet with local legislators, supervisor candidates and current supervisors.

County residents and landowners do not have to attend the annual meeting and banquet to vote. Voters have two options. They may call or stop by the district office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the district office on or before November 3, 2006 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday.

If you would like more information about the election or have questions about the election proceedings, please contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

Directions

The road to get to Stenger's farm is just a few hundred yards south of the entrance into Barkcamp State Park on State Route. 149 near Morristown, Ohio. Take Stenger Rd. (T-262) west off of State Rt. 149. Signs will be posted.

Deter Nuisance Wildlife with a BANG!

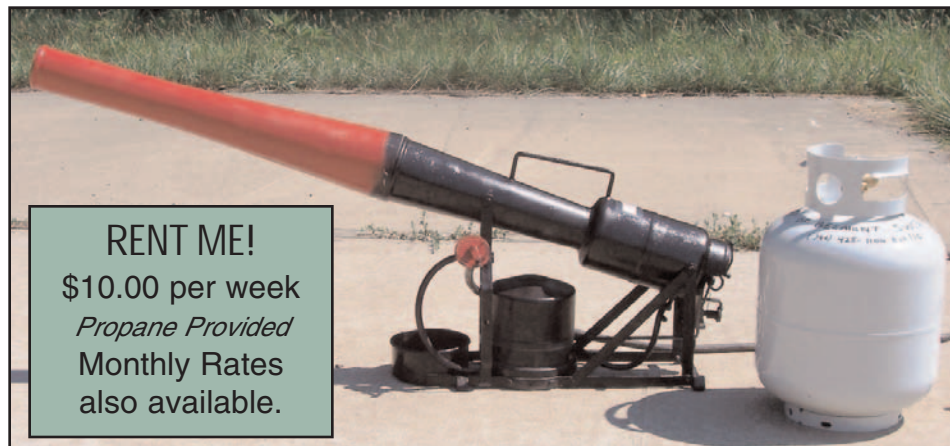
Pest birds and nuisance wildlife can be detrimental to agricultural crops. Stop the nuisance and deter wildlife with a BANG!

Two propane cannons are now available for rent from the Belmont SWCD office.

A propane cannon produces a loud bang similar to a shot gun blast. The cannons can be adjusted to fire every few seconds up to a few minutes.

The cannons are frequently used to deter pest birds and other wildlife from orchards, newly planted corn fields and other agricultural crops.

Used in conjunction with other control methods, the propane cannon can be a very effective deterrent for nuisance animals. However, propane cannons create a sound disturbance that may irritate the neighbors. It is



RENT ME!
\$10.00 per week
Propane Provided
Monthly Rates
also available.

Propane cannons are an effective way to deter pest birds and nuisance wildlife from agricultural crops. However, the loud bang may cause neighbors to dispute against the use of the cannon.

recommended that you consult your neighbors or at least take into consideration the noise pollution that the cannon may cause in your community.

The rental rate for each propane cannon is \$10 per week, which includes

setup, propane, and instructions on how to adjust the firing intervals.

For more information, or to find out if the propane cannon will work to deter wildlife in your situation, contact Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist at 740.425.1100 Ext. 110. 🌲

State Envirothon Results

A team of Chardon High School students from Geauga County placed first in the 2006 Ohio Envirothon, held at the University of Findlay June 11–13, 2006.

The Chardon team will represent Ohio at the Canon Envirothon July 23–29, 2006 at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Each student on the winning team received a \$1000 scholarship to the OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources.

A team from Fort Jennings High School in Putnam County received second place in the competition and a team from Carrollton High School in Carroll County finished in third place.

The Ohio Envirothon is funded by OFSWCD and SWCDs, local businesses and organizations.

2006 Donors included American Electric Power, the OEPA's Environmental Education Fund, ODNR Divisions of Wildlife and Forestry, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Pheasants Forever, USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service, LaFarge Corporation, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Canon Envirothon.

For more information about the Envirothon or to learn how to get your high school registered for next year's competition, contact Beverly Riddle at 740.425.1100 Ext. 105. 🌲

Upcoming Agricultural and Conservation Events

August 14th

Board Meeting • 8:00 p.m.
Belmont SWCD Office
Barnesville, OH

August 15th

Grazing Meeting • 1:00 p.m.
Highland Dairy Farm
Belmont, OH

August 28th

2006 Manure Science Review
OARDC/OSU Office
Wooster, OH

September 6th – 10th

Belmont County Fair
Belmont County Fairgrounds
St. Clairsville, OH

September 7th

Fair Field Day
Belmont County Fairgrounds
St. Clairsville, OH

September 19th – 21st

Farm Science Review
Molly Caren Agricultural Center
London, OH

October 6th

4th Grade Dairy Tour
Highland Dairy Farm
Belmont, OH

October 8th

Rubberneck Tour
Various Tour Stops
Belmont/Bethesda, OH

November 4th

Annual Meeting & Banquet
Undo's Restaurant
St. Clairsville, OH

Visit www.BelmontSWCD.org

<p>FARM BUREAU <i>Take advantage of CAUV that Farm Bureau secured for all land owners!</i></p> <p><i>Call Farm Bureau for details!</i> <i>(740) 425•3681</i></p>	<p> Buckeye Tree Co. Forestry Management Services OH, WV, PA "Private or Commercial It pays to consult!" Timber Sales • Appraisal • Trespass</p> <p>Craig Kidney Office & Fax: (740) 633•9590 Hocking College of Forestry Cell: (740) 359•7197 Registered W.V. State Board Buckeyetree@comcast.net Member • OFA / WVFA</p>	<p> JOHN DEERE</p> <p>Kuester Implement Company Inc. 47690 Reservoir Road St. Clairsville, OH 43950 Business Phone: 740.695.8920 Toll Free: 866.367.2408 www.KuesterImplement.com</p>	<p>M. THEAKER & SON  EXCAVATING, INC.</p> <p>Backhoe • Trackhoe • Trucking • Dozer Trenching • Sewage Systems • Waterlines 53620 Farmington Road • Bridgeport, OH 43912 (740) 635•3134 • Fax (740) 635•4101</p>
<p> DAVID P. LASH, JR.</p> <p>LASH PAVING & EXCAVATING P.O. Box 296 • Colerain, OH 43916 (740) 635•4335 • Fax (740) 635•1047</p>	<p> Farm Credit Services OF MID•AMERICA</p> <p>2146 Southgate Parkway Cambridge, Ohio 43725 Toll Free 1•888•713•4923</p>	<p>SAYRE REAL ESTATE</p> <p>Jeanne V. Sayre, CRS Broker</p> <p>116 East Main Street St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950 Office: (740) 695•1414 Fax: (740) 695•9946 Res: (740) 782•1414 Cell: (304) 639•1414</p> <p>  </p>	<p>Jefferis Foods LLC</p> <p>1105 East Main Street Barnesville, OH 43713 Tel: 740.425.1773 Fax: 740.425.1773 kfc@zippyteck.com</p> <p> </p>