



**Belmont SWCD**  
1119 E. Main Street  
Barnesville, Ohio 43713  
Phone: 740.425.1100 Ext. 3  
Fax: 740.425.2664

## 2005 Supervisors

Rich Theaker  
**Chairman**

Ed Stenger  
**Vice Chairman**

Don Guindon  
**Secretary**

Robert Rockwell  
**Treasurer**

Stanley Borovich  
**Fiscal Agent**

## SWCD Employees

Beverly Riddle  
**Program Administrator**

Yvonne Ackerman  
**Administrative Assistant**

Brian Porterfield  
**Technician**

Nathan Taylor  
**Forestry/Wildlife Specialist**

Rick Oberdick  
**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

December 2005

## Borovich, Rockwell Re-elected

Stanley Borovich of St. Clairsville, Ohio and Robert Rockwell of Barnesville, Ohio were re-elected as Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors at the 60th Annual Meeting and Banquet held November 12, 2005 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, OH.



*Borovich*



*Rockwell*

Borovich, who will be continuing his tenure, has been a Belmont SWCD Supervisor for the past 11 years. He and wife, Lorena, own a 245-acre farm in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Borovich, a retired coal miner, has been an Area III Director for 8 years with the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and SWCD Representative to the Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council. Borovich is actively involved with the Abandoned Mine Land Executive Committee, Farm Bureau, Belmont-Monroe Grazing Council, the Ohio Valley Cattlemen's Association and his church.

Rockwell and wife, Lois Anne, operate Rockwell Orchards, a 75-acre fruit and vegetable farm in Barnesville, Ohio. Rockwell received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture from the Ohio State University. He has been a Belmont SWCD Supervisor for 34 years and past president of the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. He holds membership with the Ohio Fruit Growers Society, Belmont Grange #889, Stillwater Friends Meeting, Farm Bureau and is a participant in the Captina Produce Auction.

Belmont SWCD is a legal subdivision of state government that provides natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is funded by Belmont County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member board of county residents. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

For more information please contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. ♿

## 2006 Tree Sale Flyer Enclosed

# Annual Meeting and Banquet Highlights



*Above: Stanley Borovich (left), of St. Clairsville, Ohio received the Conservation Farm Family Award from Brian Porterfield, Belmont SWCD District Technician at the 60th Belmont SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet held November 12, 2005 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.*

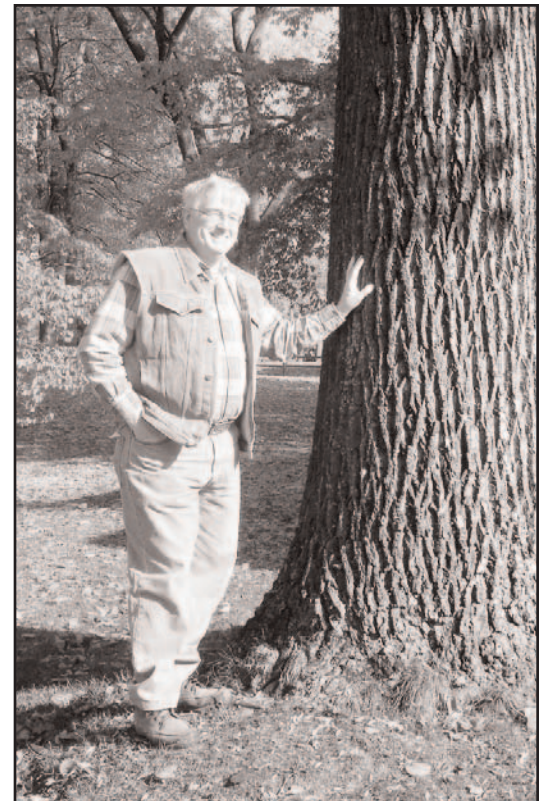
*The Conservation Farm Family competition recognizes farm families who are doing an outstanding job of managing natural and human resources in such a way as to meet the twin goals of production and conservation. The competition is coordinated by ODNR Division of Soil & Water Conservation and co-sponsored by the Ohio Farmer magazine and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.*



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*Below: A Yellow Poplar owned by Jim Forshey, of St. Clairsville, Ohio has won the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation Big Tree Contest. The Big Tree, measured by Nathan Taylor, Belmont SWCD Wildlife/Forestry Specialist and Jeremy Scherf, ODNR Service Forester, received a total score of 223.4.*

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*Left: Brian Porterfield, Belmont SWCD District Technician, received the Technical Development Program Level 1 Completion certificate from Chad Amos, Area III Program Specialist (left) and David Hanselmann, Chief of ODNR Division of Soil & Water (right), at the 60th Belmont SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet held November 12, 2005 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.*

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## Thank You Door Prize Donors

The following individuals and companies donated door prize items for the 60th Belmont SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet held Saturday, November 12, 2005 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

### Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

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Hissom's Service Center, Barnesville  
KFC/A&W Rootbeer, Barnesville  
J-Mo Meats, Barnesville  
Belmont SWCD, Barnesville  
Doan Ford, Belmont  
HENN Independent Consultant Yvonne Ackerman, Beallsville  
Napa Auto Parts, St. Clairsville  
St. Clair Lumber Company, St. Clairsville  
Borovich Farms, St. Clairsville  
GIS Department, St. Clairsville  
Stewart's R.V., St. Clairsville  
Ponzani Florist and Garden Center, St. Clairsville  
Holubs Green House, St. Clairsville  
Crosby Oil & Carryout, St. Clairsville  
Oberdick Family, St. Clairsville  
Convenient Food Mart, Barnesville  
Rockwell Orchards, Barnesville  
Sayre Real Estate, St. Clairsville  
Ebbert's Farm Market, St. Clairsville

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If you or your business donated a door prize and were not recognized above, please contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

## Ponds Need Winter Care

Even in the worst Ohio winters, fish aren't likely to freeze in a well-built pond because they can retreat to deep water when the surface freezes. Still, each year many pond owners find dead fish when their ponds thaw. The problem isn't the cold; it's a lack of dissolved oxygen.

Most of the oxygen in pond water is produced through photosynthesis by aquatic plants. When the surface freezes, photosynthesis continues if the

ice is clear enough to let light through. But when snow covers the ice and blocks the sunlight, photosynthesis stops. If light is blocked long enough, aquatic plants die and, instead of producing oxygen, they use it as they decompose. Gradually, the oxygen in the water is depleted and fish, bacteria, and other aquatic creatures suffocate. In some ponds, especially shallow ponds with high nutrient levels, this can happen in just a few days, but kills occur even in large, deep ponds when

## Hay Testing Beneficial to Herd & Available from OSU

Now that winter is here, most beef producers are feeding hay.

But does the hay you are feeding meet your cow's nutrient requirements?

Nutrition is crucial in a cow's last trimester and the first 60 days of lactation, because it effects birth weight, conception rate, calf death loss, intervals between calving and rebreeding and can cause decreased weaning weights.

Hay testing is the only affordable way to know if a protein supplement is needed. Once the hay is tested, there are many commercial protein supplements or cottonseed and soybean meals available.

When deciding what type of protein to supplement, look at the cost per unit and compare sources. A tub or a block usually has a higher cost associated with it, but it contains additional minerals and vitamins that may be beneficial to the overall herd.

Labor should also be taken into consideration. Protein tubs or blocks stay with the cows, where as meal or pellet supplements require feed bunks, increased labor, and must be fed on a daily basis.

Hay test packets are available at the Belmont County Extension Office. Contact Steve Schumacher at 740.695.1455 for more information. 📞

*continued on page 5...*

# Timber Harvest and Soil Responsibility

It is said it takes a hundred years to form an inch of topsoil and around fifty years to grow a saw-sized tree for timber production.

With those two statements being said, there are several reasons to get advice on a timber harvest. If a timber harvest is not well planned and not executed properly the land could be severely eroded. Once soil is eroded from a hill side it is hard to replace.

However, by utilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs) soil erosion can be prevented.

The handbook *BMPs for Erosion Control for Logging Practices in Ohio* states, "Failure to plan for and correctly implement silvicultural Best Management Practices during forest operations will result in unacceptable Non-point source pollution and can result in regulatory action(s) initiated against the landowner and

operator in order to achieve pollution abatement."

Landowners and loggers both need to work together to prevent soil erosion. According to Ohio law both landowner and operator are to do their part to prevent soil entering Ohio waters.

It is also important to choose a logger carefully, and it is recommended to ask for references from past jobs. Insist on a written contract that requires the logger to use Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion.

Loggers and/or landowners can file an Operation and Management plan, *soon to be called Timber Harvest plans*, with their local Soil and Water Conservation District office before a harvest begins.

An O&M plan is basically a pre-harvest plan detailing what

measures are going to be used to prevent soil erosion. O&M plans are not mandatory for timber harvests, but can help landowners and loggers head off problems.

Filing an O&M plan signals that a logger and/or landowner takes erosion control seriously and lets the SWCD know that a timber harvest is planned in the county. If the SWCD sees a problem, changes and recommendations can be made before the harvest begins. A plan approved by the SWCD can also protect a landowner from nuisance lawsuits as long as the BMPs are being followed according to the plan.

Timber is a renewable resource and with a little bit of planning, knowledge, and respect we will have quality timber for generations to come. For more information on O&M plans contact Nathan Taylor Wildlife/Forestry Specialist at 760.425.1100 Ext. 110. 🌲

## Christmas Tree Recycling Options

The Christmas tree has brightened up living rooms for centuries and has also plagued many families as to how to dispose of the dried out, needle-bare remains. It will soon be time to put the ornaments, lights and the angel away. But, what happens to the tree?



aquatic life. Winter time is exceptionally hard on aquatic life, killing vegetation many small fish call home in warmer weather.

To dispose of a live tree, attach concrete blocks with heavy wire or chain and place the tree in 6 to 10 feet of water. The concrete blocks will act as an anchor and hold the tree under the surface of the water.

Get even more use out of a Christmas tree by placing it in a farm pond. The submerged tree makes an excellent habitat by providing shelter and feeding areas for fish and other

For those individuals who do not have a farm pond, there are other recycling options. Add the tree to a brush pile near a bird feeder or along

a field edge to create habitat for upland wildlife.

Although artificial trees last for several years, there comes a time when the trees are tattered and ready for the landfill. Because these trees are not biodegradable, they will be taking up space in landfills.

Provide habitat for aquatic life or wildlife and save precious space in landfills by purchasing and recycling a live Christmas tree.

Questions about wildlife habitat can be directed to Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist at 760.425.1100 Ext. 110. 🌲

# What is the Difference?

## Agricultural Districts & CAUV

An Agricultural District provides protection against nuisance suits over farm operations, deferment of tax assessments on land to build sewer and water lines and allows for additional review if land is taken by eminent domain for a public purpose.

The Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program allows farmland to be assessed at an agricultural value for real-estate tax purposes rather than full market value, the price any willing buyer would pay a willing seller.

Ag Districts are also known as “a right to farm” law. There is an additional review process if land is taken by appropriation (eminent domain). Also, the owners of land in an Ag District are granted protection from any civil action regarding nuisances involving agricultural activities. The statute provides a complete defense if:

1. The activity is conducted within an Ag District.
2. Such activity was established within the district prior to the plaintiff’s activities or interest on which the action is based.
3. The plaintiff is not involved in agricultural production.
4. The agricultural activities were not in conflict with any federal, state, and local laws and rules relating to the alleged nuisance, or were conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices.

The purpose of the CAUV program is to correct inherent “unfairness” to farmland owners in the real estate tax system. It shifts the local property tax burden to residential, commercial, and industrial users of lands who use more local services. Reduced lands taxes help prevent many farmers from being “pushed” out of business due to the increasingly higher operating costs.


Under both programs, the land must be used exclusively for agricultural production or devoted to and qualified for payments or other compensation under a land retirement or conservation program under an agreement with a federal agency for the three consecutive calendar years prior to the year in which application is made.

If the total amount of land for which application is made is less than 10 acres, there is an additional requirement that the applicant must submit evidence that the activities conducted on the land have produced an average yearly gross income of at least twenty-five hundred dollars over the three years immediately preceding the year in which the application is made or that the land will produce an anticipated annual gross income of that amount.

Woodland acreage on which no commercial timber is being grown may qualify for the program under certain circumstances.

There is no cost to applying for an Ag District, but there is a one time application fee of \$25.00 for CAUV. Sign up is from the first Monday in

January until the first Monday in March. Applications can be obtained at the Auditor’s Office.


There are consequences for withdrawing from the program and should be examined. For more information, contact your local Auditor’s office for applications, instructions and information or your local Farm Bureau office or the Ohio State University Fact Sheets – <http://ohioline.osu.edu/cd-fact/1267> and [1268](http://ohioline.osu.edu/cd-fact/1268). 

### *Winter Ponds Continued...*

nutrient levels are too high.

Even if only some of the fish die, a winterkill can permanently upset the balance of fish species in a pond. For instance, if too many largemouth bass are killed, less desirable species might become over-populated because the bass aren’t eating them. Sometimes the only way to return a pond to a balance of species that will provide good fishing is to kill off all the fish and re-stock the pond.

A better option is to prevent winterkill in the first place. Aerating the water through the winter can help. So can controlling excessive aquatic vegetation during the growing season and removing heavy layers of snow from at least a third of a pond’s surface. If you try to remove snow, be especially cautious of thin ice.

If a pond seems especially prone to winterkill, it might need to be drained and deepened. If excessive nutrients are causing too much vegetative growth, try to find and eliminate the nutrient source. Another alternative for very shallow ponds is to let the fish die off and manage the pond as wetland habitat for wildlife other than fish. 

# USDA Funds to Improve Environmental Quality Now Available

Funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will soon be allocated to Belmont and Monroe Counties to assist farmers interested in implementing environmental protection measures on their land. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers EQIP.

To receive assistance from the NRCS, farmers must apply for EQIP at the USDA Service Center in Barnesville. Application selections are scheduled for late February and mid-May. Prior year EQIP applications must be resubmitted with updated signatures to be considered for funding in 2006.

Early sign-up is encouraged to allow time to review the applications, rank the applications, and prepare the conservation plans.


A plan to implement conservation practices addressing the statewide natural resource concerns of water, soil and air quality, and wildlife habitat recovery, in addition to addressing the locally established natural resource concerns, will increase an applicant's chance of receiving EQIP funding.

NRCS District Conservationist Jeff Bettinger explains, "In Belmont and Monroe Counties, priority will be given to applicants that implement conservation practices that address soil and water quality that is impaired or potentially impaired by livestock activities." This year grazing operations are being targeted for funding.

While the focus of EQIP is on working agricultural lands, some funding will be available for forestry conser-

vation practices on private land. An incentive payment is available to livestock producers for developing a CNMP or a grazing plan.

"EQIP has proven to be an effective method of obtaining environmental improvements on agricultural land in Ohio," states EQIP Manager Jon Warner. "We have designed this program to allow for local natural resource priorities to be addressed, while maintaining a focus on water, air and soil quality, and restoring wildlife habitat."

Those interested in applying for EQIP or learning more about the program should visit the USDA Service Center at Barnesville or call 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 

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## Free Pine Seedlings Available in Belmont County

Landowners in Belmont County, who agree to plant at least five acres of white pine, can obtain the seedlings at no charge, thanks to the cooperative effort of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry and the Ohio operations of NewPage Corporation, formerly, MeadWestvaco.

"A 5-acre planting represents more than \$500 worth of trees," said John Dorka, Chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry.

"NewPage Corp. purchases up to 600,000 seedlings each year for this program and is directly responsible


for reforesting more than 18,000 acres of the state since it started in 1987." Only land that has never been strip-mined is eligible.

Landowners interested in planting more than 35 acres can qualify for financial assistance for planting through NewPage Corp. There are no restrictions on how the seedlings may be used or harvested once they are mature.

NewPage Corp. is a leading producer of packaging, coated and specialty papers, and consumer and office products. Using sustainable forestry practices, NewPage Corporation

owns and manages more than 3,000,000 acres of forests.

ODNR is the largest producer of tree seedlings in the state, selling more than 3,000,000 trees each year at the Marietta State Nursery for reforestation efforts. ODNR foresters have planted more than a half-billion trees in the past 80 years.

State service foresters can assist landowners in qualifying for the free seedlings as well as providing technical advice about how and where to plant the pine trees. In Belmont Co., contact Jeremy Scherf, Service Forester at 740.425.1100 Ext. 114. 

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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# Why is Storm Drain Marking Important?

**S**torm drains connect property directly to nearby waterways. Living on a city street is like living right on the waterfront. Everything that washes down a storm drain from a yard or street winds up in local lakes, rivers or streams – not the sewage treatment plant.

Many people think that water pollution is mostly caused by big business or large government facilities – places with pipes leading into the river. These are known as "point source" polluters. However, in recent years these sources have greatly reduced their negative impact on water quality. As a result, storm water run-off is now one of the leading causes of surface water pollution.

In comparison to big facilities with identifiable pipes ("point-source" polluters), run-off is a "non-point" source of pollution. That is, the ultimate source of the pollution cannot be identified. These pollutants are used on lawns, left on driveways and

roads, and allowed to go down gutters into storm drains.

Pollutants that come from "non-point" sources include:

- Street litter
- Pet wastes and other debris
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, yard waste and other lawn care residues
- Motor oil, gasoline, transmission fluid, anti-freeze and other substances that leak from cars onto driveways and parking lots.

Storm water pollution is also caused by illegal dumping, like pouring paint or oil into a storm drain. In fact, just one quart of motor oil can

pollute 250,000 gallons of water!

As part of Phase II of the Clean Water Act, cities, townships and municipalities are asked to monitor and control the pollution that is released to waterways and ground water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends marking storm drains under the new Phase II Storm Water Rule requirements for Public Education and Outreach, Public Participation/Involvement and Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination.

For more information, please contact Rick Oberdick, Urban Technician at 740.425.1100 Ext. 112. 📞

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*“...storm water run-off is now one of the leading causes of surface water pollution.”*

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## Volunteers Needed to Mark Storm Drains

**Help protect our local streams, lakes, and wetlands.**



Belmont County needs volunteers to mark storm drains with a marker that says "No Polluting–Drains to Local Waterways." Storm drain marking is a great community action project that raises public awareness about the importance of keeping surface water clean and helps to significantly reduce surface water pollution.



Materials are provided free of charge. Volunteer groups can mark storm drains in their own neighborhood or ask for maps and a chosen location. For more storm drain marking information contact Rick Oberdick, Urban Technician at 740.425.1100 Ext. 112 or by e-mail at [rick.oberdick@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:rick.oberdick@oh.nacdnet.net).

# Advertising Space Still Available

Advertising space is still available in the *District Cooperator*.

Each ad measures 1 X 1 7/8 inches. The advertising rate is \$50.00 per year, which includes 6 issues.

Advertisements can mirror a business card or can be completely redesigned to fit an individual advertising need.

Interested in a larger advertisement, an ad that appears inside the newsletter or an ad that is accompanied by a feature article?

For more information please contact Yvonne Ackerman, Administrative Assistant at 740.425.1100 Ext. 101. 📞

## Meeting Change

The Belmont SWCD December Monthly Board Meeting will be held Monday, December 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lone Pine Catering Hall in Bethesda, Ohio. For more information please contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

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| <p><b>FARM BUREAU</b><br/>Take advantage of CAUV that Farm Bureau secured for all land owners!<br/><br/>Call Farm Bureau for details!<br/>(740) 425-3681</p>   | <p> <b>Buckeye Tree Co.</b><br/>FORESTRY MANAGEMENT SERVICES OH, WV, PA<br/>• Timber Sales and Appraisals<br/>• Tree Farm Inspection<br/>• Residential Arborist Services<br/><br/>CRAIG KIDNEY<br/>Office &amp; Fax: (740) 633-9590 Hocking College of Forestry<br/>Cell: (740) 359-7197 Registered W.V. State Board<br/>craigkidney@earthlink.net ISA Certified Arborist</p> | <p><i>Evergreen Consulting Service</i><br/><br/><b>FOREST MANAGEMENT MARKING, ESTIMATES, SALES</b> <br/><br/>3875 E. Greenwood Road<br/>Zanesville, OH 43701<br/>(740) 452-8004</p>   | <p><b>M. THEAKER &amp; SON</b><br/><br/><b>EXCAVATING, INC.</b><br/>Backhoe • Trackhoe • Trucking • Dozer<br/>Trenching • Sewage Systems • Waterlines<br/>53620 Farmington Road • Bridgeport, OH 43912<br/>(740) 635-3134 • Fax (740) 635-4101</p> |
| <p> DAVID P. LASH, JR.<br/><br/><b>LASH PAVING &amp; EXCAVATING</b><br/>P.O. Box 296 • Colerain, OH 43916<br/>(740) 635-4335 • Fax (740) 633-1047</p> | <p> <b>Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA</b><br/><br/>2146 Southgate Parkway<br/>Cambridge, Ohio 43725<br/>Toll Free 1-888-713-4923</p>   | <p><b>SAYRE</b> REAL ESTATE<br/>Jeanne V. Sayre, CRS Broker<br/> <br/>116 East Main Street<br/>St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950<br/>Office: (740) 695-1414<br/>Fax: (740) 695-8946<br/>Res: (740) 782-1414<br/>Cell: (304) 639-1414<br/></p> | <p><b>Jefferis Foods LLC</b><br/> <br/>1105 East Main Street<br/>Barnesville, OH 43713<br/>Tel: 740.425.1773<br/>Fax: 740.425.1773<br/>kfc@zippyteck.com</p>   |