



Belmont SWCD

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Barnesville, Ohio 43713
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www.BelmontSWCD.org

2007 Supervisors

Don Guindon
Chairman

Robert Rockwell
Vice Chairman

Stanley Borovich
Secretary/Fiscal Agent

Rich Theaker
Treasurer

Ed Stenger
Public Relations

SWCD Employees

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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

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

October 2007

Zelek, Myers to Perform at Meeting

Ohio Valley native and country music newcomer, Joe Zelek, will headline the Belmont SWCD Annual Meeting & Banquet Thursday, November 8, 2007, at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Entertainment will also include Union Local graduate, Ashley Myers, who will perform between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., concurrent with supervisor elections.

The enjoyment doesn't stop there. Guests will enjoy a rib and chicken meal catered by Country Boy's Ribs & Chicken, complete with baked beans, potato salad and cole slaw. Dinner will also feature a dessert and beverages. Come early, and stay late. Learn about conservation and just what Belmont SWCD does for Belmont County. The Conservation Farm Family & the Big Tree Contest winners will be recognized.



Joe Zelek

The meeting and banquet will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. followed by Zelek's performance. Tickets are limited. Purchase a ticket today by calling Yvonne Ackerman, Administrative Assistant at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3. See you at this year's banquet. It's sure to be entertaining. 🎸

62nd Annual Meeting & Banquet Ticket Request Form

Thursday, November 8, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.
at the James Carnes Center • St. Clairsville, Ohio
Election Polls open 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

	Ticket Qty.	Total Price
Adult Ticket Price: \$ 12.00	_____	_____
Ages 6 - 12: \$ 5.00	_____	_____
Under 6: Free	_____	_____
Total Due		_____

For the convenience of the caterer, please reserve your dinner on or before October 25, 2007.


Please mail check to:
Belmont SWCD
1119 E. Main Street
Barnesville, Ohio 43713
740-425-1100 Ext. 3

Cast Your Ballot... *2 Supervisors to Be Elected*

The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District will hold a special election for District Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the District's 62nd Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Two members will be elected to three year terms of office.

County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot. **1.** Call or visit the SWCD office or return the request form on the back of this newsletter for an absentee ballot. **2.** Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007. **3.** Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 6 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007 at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

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 the 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 contact 740-425-1100 Ext. 3. 



Edward Stenger

Belmont, Ohio

Ed and his wife, Nancy, own and operate Highland Dairy's 200 acres and rent an additional 169 acres where they milk 70 Holsteins and raise 50 acres of corn and 150 acres of hay. He has installed an animal waste facility, a roof over his feedlot, contour strips, spring developments, pressurized water system to use with his expanded rotational grazing system. He has hosted the Rubberneck Tour, Legislator's Tour, and 4th Grade Dairy Safety Day.

Stenger is completing his 9th year as a Belmont SWCD Supervisor and serves on the Union Local Board of Education, Treasurer of the Belmont Dairy Service Unit, 4-H Advisor to Udder Kids, 4-H Dairy Product Sale Committee, and is a member of the Assumption Church of Barnesville. He served 12 years on the Belmont County Fair Board. Stenger has four children, Nikki, Jennifer, Marc and Megan.



Richard Theaker

Bridgeport, Ohio

Theaker and his mother, Sara, own and operate the 125-acre Piney Brick Stock Farm where they rotationally graze 50 registered Angus cows. They have installed spring developments, contour strips, a pond, and completed a forest management plan and harvest. Rich, in partnership with his son, Rich, and daughter, Terry, owns and operate Mansel Theaker Excavation Company and is a partner in Everly Concrete Products, Inc. He has hosted the Rubberneck Tour.

Rich is completing his 1st term as a Belmont SWCD Supervisor and serves as the Board's representative on the Belmont County Stormwater Committee. He is a member of the Flood Plain Appeal Board, Farm Bureau, Colerain Ruritan, Bridgeport Masonic Lodge, and the Colerain Presbyterian Church. He has served on the Landmark Board for 21 years and Farm Home Administration Board. He has three children, Laura, Rich and Terry.



Bill Watkins

Belmont, Ohio

Watkins and his wife, Ruth, operate the 520 acre Fox Trail Farm where they milk 90 registered Brown Swiss cows and raise 80 head of young stock and 45 acres of no-till corn followed by a cover crop of rye and 230 acres of hay. Watkins follows a managed intensive grazing program on 120 acres year round. Bill has also installed grass waterways, a dry dam, spring developments, and contour strips. He hosted the Belmont SWCD Legislators' Tour where he showcased a timber harvest on their 135 acre woodland using the District's logging bridge.

Bill graduated from the Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Dairy Science. He is a member of the Farm Bureau, Dairy Farmers of America, and past President of the Ohio Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders, Ohio Grassland Council, and Belmont Dairy Service Unit. The Watkins have a son, David, and daughter, Katy.

Farmers Should Apply Now for EQIP Funding

Ohio farmers interested in addressing natural resource concerns on their farm with assistance from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) must apply now for 2008 funding. EQIP provides farmers with incentive payments, as well as technical assistance for conservation activities that help limit soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and protect wildlife habitat.

“We are on a fast track for getting applications processed this year,” explains NRCS State Conservationist, Terry Cosby.

“While the next Farm Bill is currently making its way through the legislative process, we don’t know when it will be passed or what the final legislation will entail. We have authorization to offer EQIP right now and want to provide Ohio farmers with the assistance to meet their conservation needs.”

The timeline for application, ranking, and funding begins immediately. Now through November 2, 2007, applications will be accepted from interested producers for this ranking period. From November 2007 through the end of December 2007 the applications will be ranked. At the end of December, producers will be notified if their contract received funding.

Mike Laughrey, EQIP program manager for NRCS in Ohio, states, “This year we are using the same ranking criteria we used last year to rank applications. In addition to the general EQIP program we will provide three special EQIP projects; the Appalachia EQIP project (for southern Ohio counties), the Upper Big Walnut EQIP project (Delaware, Morrow, and Knox counties) and the Forestry EQIP project (offered statewide).”

Over 1,500 applications for the last EQIP ranking period did not receive funding. Those applicants who did not receive funding during the last

ranking period will need to contact their local NRCS office if they are still interested in funding through EQIP. These deferred applications will be re-entered into the ranking pool if the producer directs NRCS to do so.

A range of incentive payments for structural and management practices will be offered depending on the practice. Limited resource farmers may be eligible to receive incentive payments of 90 percent.

Farmers interested in submitting an application for EQIP should contact their local NRCS office to set up an appointment and begin the application process.

Applications for this ranking period will be collected until November 2, 2007. 🏠

Request for Absentee Ballot

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

I hereby apply for an absentee voter ballot and registration envelope from the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District. The Official Election will be held November 8, 2007. I am an eligible voter of the Belmont SWCD, because I am:

- 1) _____ 18 years of age or older and reside in the District.
- 2) _____ 18 years of age or older and own land within the District.

Written Signature _____

Requests for absentee ballots: People who are unable to attend the annual meeting may request an absentee form from the district office:

- In writing, no more than 21 days prior to the election, no later than 3 days (date of office receipt, not postmarked) prior to the election.
- In person, no more than 21 days prior to the election nor later than 4:30 p.m., November 8, 2007.
- Shall limit requests to their own personal ballot and registration form, except that written requests signed by other qualified electors in the same household may be mailed in one envelope.

Stocking Stuffer

Are you looking for a unique idea for Christmas? Give the landowner(s) on your list a Belmont County Soil Survey Book.

Soil Survey books are FREE, and can help landowners determine the usability of their property. Some areas are too unstable to build structures or roads. Some are poorly suited for septic tank absorption and some are best suited for specific trees. Each soil description contains useful information and specific land uses.

Soil Survey book can be picked up at the Belmont SWCD office or can be mailed for the shipping cost of \$5.00. Please make checks payable to Belmont SWCD, 1119 East Main Street, Barnesville, Ohio 43713. For additional information contact 740-425-1100 Ext. 3. 🏠

Epizootic Attacks Ohio Deer Population

State wildlife officials have confirmed outbreaks of a common white-tailed deer virus in south-eastern parts of Ohio.



State wildlife officials stress to those planning to hunt in the Belmont County area this fall that although this disease does not affect humans nor impact the safety of consumed deer, hunters should report deer that appear to be sick

or diseased to their local wildlife officer. Deer that appear unhealthy should never be taken for human food.

White-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep and prong-horn antelope are susceptible to the disease. 🐾

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is closely related to the bluetongue virus (BT), which causes a very similar disease in deer, and blood feeding gnats, or midges, of the *Culicoides* genus spread both viruses in nature. These viruses are not contagious from animal-to-animal, and humans are not affected by them.

State animal health officials stress EHD occurs annually in deer herds across North America and is not related to Chronic Wasting Disease.

White-tailed deer contract EHD from the bite of gnats, which live near water. The onset of cold weather suppresses the disease as frosts drive the gnats into winter inactivity.

The disease is not spread from deer to deer or from deer to humans. Once infected deer show symptoms within five to 10 days. Infected deer initially lose their appetite and fear of man, grow progressively weaker, often salivate excessively, and become unconscious. Many deer die within 36 hours of the onset of symptoms.

*Information provided by the
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife.*

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

EHD General Information

- EHD does not affect humans, nor impact the safety of consumed deer.
- EHD is caused by the bite of an infected midge and once there has been a hard freeze, the insects die off for the winter, eliminating new cases of EHD.
- Most significant disease of white-tailed deer in the United States
- Virus identified and described in 1955 in NJ.
- Enzootic to Southeastern United States.
- Outbreaks often associated with drought.
- Can result in high deer mortality in some areas.

EHD Symptoms

- Symptoms vary depending on virulence of the virus and resistance of the deer.
- Animals may appear feverish
- Have pronounced swelling of head, neck, tongue, and eyelids
- May have respiratory distress
- Internal hemorrhaging
- Highly virulent strains may cause death in 1-3 days.
- Carcasses often recovered near water.

EHD Transmission

- The EHD virus does not appear to be transmissible to humans.
- The virus deteriorates in <24 hours after death and cannot be spread from dead deer carcasses
- The virus does not appear to be a threat to livestock.
- There appears to be no risk associated with direct exposure to the virus or in consuming a deer that has been infected with the virus.
- However, never kill or eat a sick deer.
- Use rubber gloves to field dress deer.

EHD Management

- Mapping distribution of EHD outbreak.
- Estimating infection and mortality rates.
- Collecting blood samples of hunter harvested deer.
- Monitoring changes in deer populations.
- Examining fall bow hunter surveys and harvest statistics
- Conducting aerial deer surveys

Harvest up to 7 Deer

The antlerless deer permit, new for the 2007-08 hunting season, allows hunters the opportunity to harvest up to seven deer in Ohio, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

The antlerless deer permit is valid statewide during archery season from September 29 through November 25. The permit can also be used in urban units and Division of Wildlife controlled hunts as they occur from September 29 through February 3. Antlerless permits may not be used by muzzleloader hunters during the early muzzleloader gun season, October 22-27.

The antlerless permit is valid during the youth deer-gun season, November 17-18, for youth using archery equipment only.

Hunters are reminded that an either-sex deer permit (\$24) must be purchased before purchasing (up to four) antlerless permits (\$15). Hunters may purchase a total of three deer permits and four antlerless permits, to be used in accordance with zone and season regulations. Hunters with questions about the new permitting system are encouraged to consult the 2007-2008 Ohio Hunting Regulations or contact the Division of Wildlife office in their area with questions.

Ohio's deer hunting zones apply to all types of permits. Antlerless deer permits can be used to take one additional deer in Zone A, two additional deer in Zone B and three additional deer in Zone C, and can be used in any combination between the three zones, similar to deer permits. Hunters that only hunt Zone A can fill up to one deer permit and one antlerless permit. Hunters in Zone B can fill up to two deer permits and two antlerless permits. Hunters in Zone C, which includes Belmont County, can fill up to three deer permits and three antlerless permits.

Landowners can also take advantage of the new antlerless deer permit. Landowners are not required to purchase a permit, but must check their harvested deer. Location of the landowner's property will determine how many antlerless deer permits he or she can use.

Hunters are reminded that only one antlered deer may be harvested in Ohio, regardless of season, method or zone.

Antlerless permits are available to both resident and non-resident hunters, youths and adults, for a cost of \$15 each.

For comprehensive listing of deer zones as well as hunting regulations, refer to the 2007-2008 Ohio Hunting Regulations available online at wildohio.com or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is also available on the web. 📄

Portable Logging Bridge Available



The Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District has a portable logging bridge available for rent.

The bridge can be used to cross critical streams during logging operations. The purpose of the bridge is to help minimize soil erosion and stream sedimentation during a timber harvest.

Dimensions of the bridge are 13 ft wide by 25 ft long. The bridge can be folded in half to fit on a trailer for transport. Once onsite, the bridge can be pulled into place using a logging skidder. The bridge has a weight capacity of 50 tons, so logs can either be skidded across or loaded on a log truck and driven across.

A \$ 250.00 deposit is required to rent the bridge for a period of one month. \$150.00 will be refunded once the bridge has been returned to the Lloydsville Garage in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Thus, the fee for a period of 30 days is \$100.00.

For more information, or to setup rental of the bridge contact Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist for the Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 110. 📞

Wildfire Risk Increased

Weeks of hot and dry weather, followed by recent “hit-and-miss” storms and rain showers, have created potentially dangerous conditions for wildfires throughout southern Ohio, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry warned today.

“The Southern portion of the state has been experiencing rainfall deficits each month since May. These low precipitation levels, along with recent hot weather in August and early September, have created a condition of very high risk for wildfires,” said David Lytle, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. “Many local fire departments in southern Ohio have been working hard to safely suppress wildfires in their communities.”

“We ask all Ohioans to use extreme caution under these volatile conditions. Improper or careless burning of debris and yard waste can lead to wildfires, threatening not only forests and grasslands, but also people, property, and wildlife,” Lytle said.

Barrels used for burning debris should be covered with a mesh screen and be monitored during burning. Tools such as rakes and shovels, as well as an ample water supply, should always be available nearby. Monitor the weather, and do not burn debris on days that are exceedingly windy or warm. Be especially wary of areas, such as steep, grassy or leaf-covered slopes, where fire can get out of control in seconds. Call 911 or notify your local fire department if you see an escaped fire.

Each year, about 800 wildfires consume nearly 4,500 acres of forest and grassland in Ohio. 🌲

Timber Harvest & Soil Responsibilities



It takes about one hundred years to form an inch of topsoil and around fifty years to grow a saw-sized tree for timber production on good soil. With those two statements being said, there are several reasons to follow Best Management Practices for erosion control.

In 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.”

According to Ohio law, both landowner and operator are to do their part to prevent soil entering into Ohio waters. That is why it is so important to choose a logger carefully. Ask for references from past jobs. Insist on a written contract that requires that the logger to use Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion.

Loggers and/or landowners can file a Timber Harvest Management plan (THP) with their local Soil and Water Conservation District office before a harvest begins. A THP is basically a pre-harvest plan detailing what erosion measures are going to be used to prevent soil erosion.

THPs are not mandatory for timber harvests. However, filing a THP signals that a logger and/or landowner take erosion control seriously. It also lets the local 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 Timber Harvest plans contact Nathan Taylor Wildlife/Forestry Specialist at 740-425-1100 Ext. 110. 🌲

Spotlight on Soil & Water District

Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District, Program Administrator, Beverly Riddle will, again be seen on Comcast Newsmakers. This time, Riddle will highlight the programs and services offered by the District.

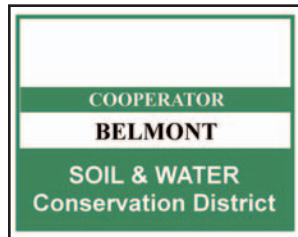
Comcast Newsmakers provides a free forum for non-profit organizations and community leaders as well as your local, State and Federal officials to present events and issues important to the Ohio Valley.

Watch for Riddle between October 1 - 31, 2007 on Comcast Newsmakers at :25 and :55 minutes past the hour on CNN Headline News, Channel 33 on Comcast Cable. 📺

*Purchase your
Annual Meeting
Banquet Tickets today.
Contact
740-425-1100 Ext. 3.*

Give the Gift of Recognition

Recognize the conservation efforts of friends, families or coworkers by purchasing a Belmont SWCD Cooperator Sign in their name or farm name.



Signs are now available to purchase for Belmont SWCD Cooperators at the low price of \$25.00 each. All signs include an imprint which can be an individual's name or farm name.

Sign please fill out the form enclosed and return to the Belmont SWCD office.

Not a cooperator? Stop by the Belmont SWCD office and make yourself an official District Cooperator. If you own or manage land in Belmont County and have a concern for our natural resources you qualify to become a Cooperator. 📺

Cooperator signs hang throughout the great state of Ohio showcasing some of the states best land stewardship.

Signs will take approximately two weeks to complete once the order is received at the SWCD office.

To order your very own Cooperator

Cooperator Sign Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name(s) (as you want it to appear) _____

Amount Enclosed (\$25.00 ea.) _____

The outline of the sign is green with white imprinted lettering on metal. The cooperator name(s) and county are in black letters. The signs are predrilled in the corners for easy hanging and measure 2' wide by 17 1/2" tall.

Please make check payable to:
Belmont SWCD, 1119 E. Main St., Barnesville, OH 43713

16th Annual Belmont County Fair Field Day

This year 674 Second graders and 87 teachers and chaperones from 8 schools experienced a hands-on learning day at the Belmont County Fair Field Day where they had an opportunity to pet and/or touch a variety of animals, including an albino rat snake. The students learned about their differences and similarities, nutritional



requirements, environment and basic needs as well as information about their life cycle and the products that we get from each animal. The Barnesville librarians read stories to the children during lunch time, and Belmont Litter Prevention & Recycling taught the students how to recycle paper and about the paper

making process. The students practiced bicycle hand signals with the Bethesda Fire Department. During their tour, they viewed home grown produce and the 4-H and scout displays. Barkcamp Naturalist, Susan Schwartz, provided a live demonstration of snakes, fish and turtles. Buffo, the clown, entertained the students with magic tricks. The program is sponsored by the Belmont County Agricultural Society, the OSU Extension Service, and Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District. 🇺🇸

<p>FARM BUREAU Take advantage of CAUV that Farm Bureau secured for all land owners! Call Farm Bureau for details! (740) 425-3681</p>	<p>Pre-order the NEW Belmont County Plat Book Available this Fall • Price \$12.00 Belmont SWCD 740-425-1100 Ext. 3</p>	<p> JOHN DEERE 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. 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. 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 2146 Southgate Parkway Cambridge, Ohio 43725 Toll Free 1-888-713-4293</p>	<p>SAYRE REAL ESTATE Jeanne V. Sayre, CRS 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 www.sayrerealestate.com</p>	<p>Jefferis Foods LLC   1105 East Main Street Barnesville, OH 43713 Tel: 740-425-1773 Fax: 740-425-1773 kfc@zippyteck.com</p>
<p>www.BelmontSWCD.org</p>	<p> Buckeye Tree Co. Forestry Management Services OH, WV, PA • Timber Sales • Custom Sawmilling • Green and Kiln Dried Lumber Office & Fax: (740) 633-9590 Cell: (740) 359-7197 Buckeyetree@comcast.net www.buckeyetreeco.com Hocking College of Forestry Registered WV State Board Member OFA / WVFA</p>	<p> <i>Custom Spraying, Lime and Fertilizer application.</i> BELMONT MILLS INC. 400 S. Jefferson St. 740-484-4633 Belmont, Ohio 43718</p>	<p>STONE \$ 5.00 Ton Ideal for Driveways-Farmlanes-Etc. Gunite Construction 740 - 676 - 2172</p>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District
1119 East Main Street
Barnesville, Ohio 43713