



Belmont SWCD
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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

Chad Turner
Urban-GIS Technician

NRCS Employees

Jeff Bettinger
District Conservationist

Harry Kenney
Grassland Conservationist

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The District Cooperator

A Publication of the Belmont SWCD

October 2006

Benefits of Ag Districts and Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)

Did you know there is a difference between an Agricultural District and the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program? On Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Barnesville High School Auditorium, Nan Still, Ohio Farm Bureau Attorney; Pandora Neuhart, Monroe County Auditor, and Larry Craig and Howard Thornton from the Belmont County Auditor's office will explain the differences.

Agricultural Districts

Some view Agricultural Districts as a right to farm law because it provides protection against nuisance suits over farm operations, relaxes the air pollution standards for agricultural production activities, defers 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 law also protects farm market operators from certain zoning regulations and requires the power siting commission to consider the impact of new power facilities on agricultural districts.

Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)


The Current Agriculture Use Value (CAUV) program allows farmland to be assessed at an agricultural value for real-estate tax purposes rather than a "highest and best value" valuation. This program can provide a significant tax saving to agricultural producers who meet the qualifications.

Program Participation

The criterion for either program is the same, but a separate application is needed for each program. This often causes confusion for some landowners as they may believe that are in both programs when they have only enrolled in one.

Landowners must apply with the county auditor between the first Monday in January and the first Monday in March for either program. The land must be devoted exclusively to agricultural production. In addition, the land must be composed of tracts, lots, or parcels that are at least 10 acres in size, or have generated an average gross income of at least \$2,500 during the past three years.

There is no enrollment cost for an agricultural district. It is in effect for five years from the date of application and can be renewed. CAUV applications have a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00 and are renewed each year. Questions about withdrawal from either program will be covered at the meeting.

The program is sponsored by the Belmont and Monroe Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Farm Bureaus. For more information, call the Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District at 740.425.1100 Ext 105. 

Annual Meeting & Banquet Scheduled

The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District's 61st Annual Meeting and Banquet is slated for Saturday, November 4, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at Undo's West in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

The District will hold an election prior to the meeting to fill the expiring term of one Supervisor. Election Polls will be open from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. In conjunction with voting, Belmont SWCD has invited general election candidates for local, state and federal offices. Visit with the candidates prior to the November 7th election. Voice your opinion on an issue or find out what stance a candidate has on a particular issue. Either way, join the Election Meet-and-Greet and make sure to vote on Election Day.

The Annual Meeting Banquet dinner will be provided by Undo's West and will include: Rigatoni, Roasted Chicken Breast, a Vegetable, Salad and Bread. Drinks and dessert will also be provided. Tickets are \$12.00 each.

Banquet tickets are available from any of the current Supervisors, Supervisor Candidates or at the Belmont SWCD office. Reservations can be made by contacting the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. For the convenience of the caterer, it is necessary to make reservations by Friday, October 27, 2006.

Please Note: *If any person makes a reservation, and does not attend the banquet, that person will be invoiced for the number of allotted meals.*

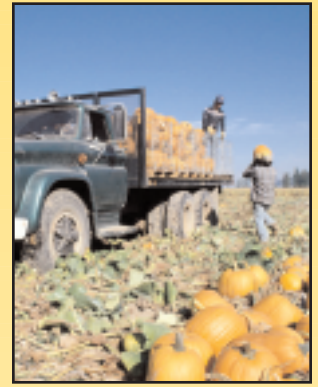
The Annual Meeting will highlight the District's accomplishments. Keynote speaker, Kyle Sharp, Editor of Ohio's Country Journal will also address the impact the media plays in conservation efforts. As OCJ Editor, he travels the state covering agricultural events and getting to know the agricultural producers of Ohio. Sharp is a 1995 agricultural communications graduate of Ohio State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in Agriculture.

For more information or to reserve your banquet ticket(s) contact Yvonne Ackerman, Administrative Assistant at the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 101. 🏠

Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

All times are subject to change.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Election Polls Open/Meet & Greet/Hors d'oeuvres
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Followed by recognition of the supervisors and candidates Invocation
7:30 p.m.	Buffet Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Keynote Speaker Kyle Sharp, Editor of Ohio's Country Journal
8:30 p.m.	Presentation of Awards <i>Conservation Farm Family</i> <i>Big Tree Contest Winner</i>
8:45 p.m.	Election Results & Acknowledgements
9:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks/Benediction



Election of Supervisors


The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District will hold a special election for District Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the District's 61st Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at Undo's West in St. Clairsville, Ohio. One board member will be elected to a three-year term of office.

Three Ways to Vote

County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot:

- Call or visit the SWCD office or return the enclosed form to request an absentee ballot.
- Cast a ballot at the District Office by Friday, November 3, 2006.
- Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, November 4, 2006 at Undo's West 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.

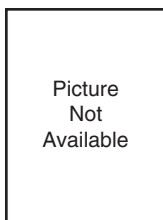
For more election information contact Yvonne Ackerman, at 740.425.1100 Ext. 101. 

Meet the Candidates



Don Guindon, Barnesville, Ohio

Guindon operates the Olney Taber Farm for the Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. The 350 acre farm is home to more than fifty Jersey cows and houses 105 animals. In September of 2003, Guindon was honored as one of Ohio's top five Conservation Farm Families. Because of Guindon's conservation views, the Olney Taber Farm follows stringent stewardship practices. Guindon is a member of the Stillwater Friends, Dairy Service, Dairy Farmers of America and a trustee on the Belmont County Farm Bureau Board. In 2006, Guindon received the prestigious Environmental Dairy Stewardship Award from the Ohio Livestock Coalition. Guindon, and wife Jan Chambers, have 2 daughters, Caroline and Allison.



Dave Lash Jr., Bridgeport, Ohio

Lash and his wife, Cindy, own 400 acres in Colerain Township where he raises 120 head of Hereford and crossbred beef cattle, hay and small grains to maintain his crop rotation. Lash has installed several springs, heavy use pads, access roads, and fenced the cattle out of the woods, as well as making additional paddocks for rotational grazing. He hosted the Rubberneck Tour in 2003. Lash owns and operates Lash Excavating and Paving along with his two sons, Dave and Daniel. He has 2 grandsons and a granddaughter. Lash just completed 20 years as a Township Trustee and his term as an elder with the Colerain Presbyterian Church. He is on the Concord Cemetery Board and a member of the Bridgeport Masonic Lodge #181 and the Valley of Steubenville Scottish Right.

Request for Absentee Ballot

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Please mail request to:

Belmont SWCD
1119 E. Main Street
Barnesville, Ohio
43713
740.425.1100 Ext. 3

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 4, 2006. 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 3, 2006.
- 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.

Ash Tree Seed Collection



Due to the devastating invasion of the introduced pest **Emerald Ash Borer**, ash trees in the Great Lakes Region are disappearing in record numbers and potentially from the landscape as we know it. Because of this potential disaster, a non-funded Cooperative Agreement has been entered into between the United States Department of

Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center.

Through this agreement, Ash seed collected from across the Great Lakes Region will be stored at the National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation Center in Fort Collins, Colorado for future use. The goal is to secure seed over the next several years through voluntary seed collections that will afford future generations the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Ash Trees.

NRCS is seeking your help with collecting Ash seed. People across the Great Lakes Region are asked to collect Ash trees that are in jeopardy throughout the region. Ash species in jeopardy include: black ash, blue ash, green ash, and white ash.

Additional information on the initiative along with identifying and collecting ash seed is available by logging on to www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc.html. For more information please contact the NRCS office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

2006 Sanitarian Soils Training

Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting a Sanitarian Workshops on Thursday, October 12, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center in Barnesville, Ohio. There are five regional workshops being offered by the Soil Inventory Board for sanitarians working in household sewage programs at local health departments.

The workshop will accommodate a maximum of 12 participants to allow for hands-on training “in the pits” with soil scientists. The course will cover understanding basic soil characteristics and terminology, reading a soil map, comparing landscapes and soils in the area, considering implications of differences, identifying horizons in soil profiles and identifying characteristics that limit suitability for soil absorption systems.

For more information, please call Chad Turner, Urban Technician, at 740.425.1100 Ext. 112. 📞

Seedling Sale

Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District will soon be taking orders for the 2007 Tree Seedling Sale.

The spring seedling sale will have a variety of conifer, hardwood, and fruit tree seedlings available at reasonable prices.

Stop by the Belmont SWCD office or look for more information and the sale flyer in future issues of the *District Cooperator*.

For more information contact Nathan Taylor, Wildlife/Forestry Specialist or Yvonne Ackerman, Administrative Assistant at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

Employee Spotlight

Chad Turner, Urban-GIS Technician



Turner, a lifetime resident of Barnesville, Ohio, attended Hocking College in Geographics (GIS & GPS). He has been a member of the Ohio Operating of Engineers, where he has been surveying and building roads and bridges.

Turner will spear-head the Storm Drain Marking Program, Global Information System, and the Urban Storm Water Programs. Turner

can be reached by contacting the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 112. 📞

CALL BEFORE YOU CUT

Private forest owners urged to call 877.4B4.UCUT (877.424.8288) for help

A new resource and consumer protection campaign encourages private woodland property owners to seek advice from a professional forester and to hire a master logger before harvesting trees on their land.

The "Call Before You Cut" campaign is coordinated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry, Rural Action, and The Ohio State University Extension. Other primary sponsors of the program include the Ohio Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, the ODNR Division of Soil & Water Conservation, the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy and the Better Business Bureau.

The campaign features a toll-free number (877-424-8288) with a live operator on duty weekdays, providing quick answers to caller questions about how to find an accredited forester to help them with management options and in sustaining the long-term health of their woodlots. Additional information, such as a list of certified Ohio Master Loggers and

suggested timber sale contracts items are available on the "Call Before You Cut" web site at callb4ucut.com.


"Woodland property owners can yield greater financial and long term health benefits from their woods by seeking expert advice," said John Dorka, Chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. "This project brings together resource and consumer protection experts to help landowners make informed decisions about their woods."

Surveys show a full 40 percent of woodlot owners have authorized harvesting on their lands in the last five years. Yet only 18 percent have sought the advice of a professional forester.

"We are proud that the Division of Forestry and our partners have found value in a program that was developed by our Forest Advisory Board and implemented by our staff with funding from many foundations. The original goal of Call Before You Cut was to give tools to citizens of Appalachian Ohio to know how valuable their woodlands are and to make

good decisions about their land," said Jane Forrest Redfern, Executive Director of Rural Action. "We are proud that this 'Appalachian Grown' Campaign and our message of sustainable forestry will be able to reach more people throughout the state."

Ohio's nearly 8 million acres of privately owned forested land makes up a third of the state's landscape. In the past 10 years, the number of forest landowners has grown from 320,000 to nearly 400,000.

"Woodland owners often don't have critical information before they contract someone to harvest their trees. Many don't know how much their timber is worth, how many trees will be cut, or even what their woods will look like after the job is done," said Dave Apsley, Ohio State University Extension Forestry Specialist. "Call Before You Cut directs them to professional foresters, trained loggers and other specialists who can provide them with information and technical assistance. This helps to protect their financial interests while conserving trees, wildlife, soil, water and other forest resources." 


You Are Invited to the Fox-Shannon Park Dedication

The Belmont County Commissioners and Fox-Shannon Park Committee will be dedicating the Fox Shannon Park Walking Trail on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Main Shelter House off of Hammond Road (T-99), St. Clairsville, Ohio. The event is open to the public.

To date, 2,700 feet of handicap

accessible walking trails have been installed through funds from the Nature Works Grant, Buckeye Hills RC & D, Belmont County Commissioners, Belmont County Technical College, Belmont-Harrison Career Center, and Fox Shannon Park Development Committee. In-kind service was provided by Belmont County Commissioners, Belmont Correctional Institute, Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural

Resource Conservation Service, Ohio State University Extension and private citizens.

The park, open to the public, is handicap accessible for walking, fishing, picnics, recreation, and bird watching. The two parking lots behind the Belmont Health Department on SR 331 or off of Hammond Road (T-99) are also handicap accessible. 

15th Annual Fair Field Day

This year 579 students and 93 teachers and chaperones from Belmont County Schools participated in the 15th Annual 2nd Grade Fair Field Day on Thursday, September 7, 2006.

The field day is a self-guided tour of the fair grounds to promote conservation education and agricultural awareness.

New attractions for this year included Barnesville Librarians, Donna Skinner and Brandi Allen, reading to students while surrounded by scenery that was made by the Belmont Correctional Institute. The gentleman on stilts who greeted each student and shared a few magic tricks with them. The Belmont Emergency Management Agency explained the importance of a Family Disaster Plan. Belmont Recycling and Litter showed the students how to recycle paper.

The Belmont SWCD and OSU Extension Service purchased yellow shirts with blue lettering, so the presenters could be more recognizable.

Admission to the fair was provided by the Belmont County Agricultural Society. The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District and OSU Extension Service arranged the program and provided the maps, schedules, and presenters.

Ohio is Home to National Champion Buckeyes Both the Tree and Football Variety!

Nation's Largest Ohio Buckeye Tree Stands in Huron County

In a year when the Ohio State Buckeyes are aiming for a national championship in college football, it's important to note the state is also home to the national champion Ohio buckeye tree, according to American Forests, a conservation organization based in Washington D.C. American Forests catalogs the nation's "Big Trees," the largest examples of 826 tree species in the country.

Standing a full 77-feet high, with a crown spread of 64 feet and a trunk circumference of 140 inches, the largest Ohio buckeye tree in the United States is located on private property in Huron County, about a mile south of Fitchville on State Route 13.

"The tree is easily glimpsed from the highway, but it is on private property and we caution anyone anxious to snap a photo or otherwise get up close to keep that fact in mind," said Dan Balsler, a forester with ODNR's Big Tree Program.

National champion trees are "crowned," based on a formula that awards points for height, circumference and crown spread. Trees within five points are considered co-champions.

Ten other national champion "Big Trees" grow in Ohio, including an Oriental arborvitae and common persimmon, both near Portsmouth in Scioto County; Kentucky coffeetree near Madison in Lake County; Siberian elm near Londonderry in Ross County; cucumbertree magnolia near North Canton in Stark County; Norway maple near Gambier in Knox County; chinkapin oak near Marietta in Washington County; shingle oak, two-wing silverbell, and yellowwood all near Cincinnati in Hamilton County.

For additional information on Ohio's Big Trees, visit ohiodnr.com or american-forests.org. 🌲

Participating schools included Barnesville Independent, Bellaire Elementary and Middle Schools, Jefferson Elementary, New Covenant, St. Clairsville Elementary, St. John Central Grade School, St. Mary Central and St. Mary's Elementary. 🌲



Forage Focus: Pastures Require Fall Management

Rory Lewandowski
Extension Educator
Athens County

Often the focus of pasture management in the fall of the year shifts to preparation for winter grazing. We talk about things like stockpiling fescue, or planting annuals such as brassicas, cereal rye or oats.

However, what about the rest of our pasture paddocks, those that will not be stockpiled, or that have not or will not be planted to an annual forage? Fall is a time to pay some attention to these paddocks, and proper fall management sets the stage for next years grazing.

A review of grass growth and physiology will serve to guide the grazer in fall pasture management. During the growing season pasture management focuses around two principles; residual leaf area and rest periods, to ensure pasture paddocks remain productive. The grass plant can produce a large amount of leaf growth and tolerate repeated defoliation under the favorable conditions (cooler temperatures and adequate soil moisture) generally found in the spring and early summer. Graziers that follow the take half, leave half rule of residual leaf area, combined with providing the plant with adequate rest periods to re-grow to a good grazing height produce plants



Belmont and Monroe County Landowners discussed grazing and watering options as they looked at a pond with gravity fed tanks installed. The Grazing Meeting, held September 26, 2006 at Koehler Dairy Farm, focused on providing more water sources to improve grazing distribution and obtain better forage utilization.

that are vigorous with the capacity to replenish carbohydrate reserves.

Now, as we enter the fall period, it is important to recognize that grass growth and production will slow as the plant prepares for dormancy. The fall period is a critical time to continue good pasture management and the grazer must avoid over-grazing during this period of slower grass growth. Severe defoliation in the fall of the year before dormancy can be more harmful to the grass plant than early season defoliation that is followed by an adequate rest period because the fall period may not provide the conditions needed for an overgrazed plant to recover.

Carbohydrate reserves in the grass plant must be stored late in the fall period, not depleted. The reproductive tiller buds that lead to seed head formation in the spring are actually formed under the short day/long-night

and low temperatures conditions of the late fall period. Energy reserves in the crown of the plant are needed for this development. Carbohydrate accumulation and bud development in the late fall period determine the winter survival of the plant, as well as how quick and vigorous spring growth will be. Once the grass plant enters dormancy during the winter period, it can once again be heavily grazed

since the leaf material is now of little value to the plant and grazing it off will have little direct impact upon plant health.

One other management task that can be done in the fall of the year is to pull soil tests on pasture paddocks. Fall can often provide some good conditions to spread lime and fertilizer on paddocks. For most grass pastures, set a goal to maintain soil pH above 6.0, with 6.5 an optimal level. The OSU Extension Agronomy Guide recommends optimum soil P levels in the 15 to 40 ppm range (30 to 80 lbs/acre) and soil K in the 100-200 ppm range (200 to 400 lbs/acre).

Graziers should remain diligent in their pasture management practices throughout the fall period. Don't let a seasons worth of good management come undone by overgrazing in the critical fall period. 🐄

Upcoming Agricultural and Conservation Events

October 18th • 1:00 p.m.

Fox Shannon Dedication

Fox Shannon Park
St. Clairsville, OH

November 4th • 6:00 p.m.

Election Candidate Meet & Greet

Undo's Restaurant
St. Clairsville, OH

November 4th • 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting & Banquet

Undo's Restaurant
St. Clairsville, OH

November 9th • 7:00 p.m.

The Right to Farm

Barnesville High School
Barnesville, OH

November 13th • 8:00 p.m.

Belmont SWCD Board Meeting

USDA Service Center
Barnesville, OH

December 11th • 8:00 p.m.

Belmont SWCD Board Meeting

TBA

OMP Conference

Belmont SWCD Supervisor Stanley Borovich and Program Administrator Beverly Riddle attended the Ohio Mineland Partnership Annual Fall Conference, October 3 – 4, 2006 at Jackson, Ohio, to learn more about different methods of restoration of mine lands. They toured watershed projects to improve water quality at Raccoon Creek Watershed, Lake Milton, Flint Run, and Mulga Run. Other highlights of the program included the watershed coordinators program, orphan well program, and cost-share from the USDA Farm Bill.

For more information about Ohio mine lands, contact Beverly Riddle, Program Administrator, at 740.425.1100 Ext. 105. 🌲

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>

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