



Belmont Soil & Water
Conservation District

1119 E. Main St.
Barnesville, OH 43713
Phone: 740-425-1100 Ext. 3
Fax: 740-425-2664

Visit www.BelmontSWCD.org

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.

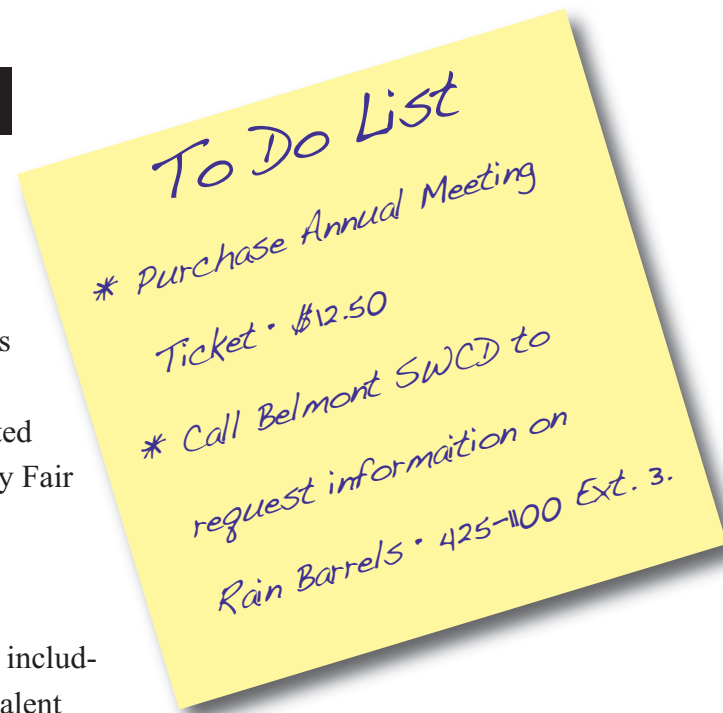
Fair Field Day Successful



Six Belmont County Schools, including 627 students and 75 teachers and chaperones, participated in the Belmont County Fair Field Day, Thursday, September 4, 2008.

Students had the opportunity to interact with a variety of animals, including rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs and reptiles. The event utilizes the talent and expertise of local agencies and organizations to teach the students more about livestock, recycling & litter prevention, wildlife & wildlife safety, agriculture, 4-H and even includes entertainment.

Fair Field Day is sponsored by the Belmont County Agricultural Society, OSU Extension Service and Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District.



To Do List

- * Purchase Annual Meeting Ticket - \$12.50
- * Call Belmont SWCD to request information on Rain Barrels - 425-1100 Ext. 3.

Belmont SWCD District Cooperator

October 2008



Supervisor Candidates on Page 3

Raffle Winner Announced

Low-tech Rain Barrels Help Conserve Water

Belmont Soil & Water Conservation (SWCD) rolled out the first of a series of Backyard Conservation Promotions during the Belmont County Fair held September 3-7, 2008. A 55-gallon barrel was converted into a rain barrel and raffled off to fair participants.

Don and Nan Ferren of St. Clairsville, Ohio (left) were the lucky winners of this year's free rain barrel raffle.



The rain barrel, a rainwater collection device commonly used in early twentieth-century America for household uses, is making a comeback throughout the country as a way for property owners to reduce their water bills, store rain water for their lawns and gardens, and manage storm water runoff.

Twenty percent of rain is lost as runoff from impervious surfaces such as rooftops and driveways. That 20 percent becomes loaded with contaminating sediments as it rushes to the storm drain and into local lakes and streams, causing damage to the aquatic ecosystem.

One solution to the problem is to collect that water—attaching the downspout to a rain barrel. The stored water eliminates the need to use tap water for yard use, resulting in lower water bills and conserved groundwater. Rainwater is better than tap water for plants and lawns because of its slight acidity, which helps plants absorb the soil's minerals, and because it contains no added chemicals. Rain barrels are a practical water conservation tool.

This simple and inexpensive water collection tool has multiple benefits to the homeowner and helps improve our lakes and streams. Like the garden hose, it should become standard yard equipment.

In this Issue

- Annual Meeting Information
- Lime Application
- Fair Field Day Success
- Absentee Ballot Request
- Meet the Candidates
- Hunting Regulations
- Keeping Sewage in its Place

Belmont SWCD

1119 E. Main St.
Barnesville, OH 43713
Phone: 740-425-1100 Ext. 3
Toll Free: 1-800-818-SOIL
Fax: 740-425-2664

SWCD Supervisors

Robert Rockwell
Chairman

Stanley Borovich
Vice Chairman/Fiscal Agent

Rich Theaker
Secretary

Ed Stenger
Treasurer

Don Guindon
Public Relations

SWCD Employees

Beverly Riddle
Program Administrator

Yvonne Ackerman
Administrative Assistant

Brian Porterfield
Technician

Nathan Taylor
Forestry/Wildlife Specialist

Chad Turner
Urban-GIS Technician

NRCS Employees

Jeff Bettinger
District Conservationist

Laura Winkler
Management Analyst

Keeping Sewage in its Place



Compared to sewage discharges from some of Ohio's municipal treatment plants, a faulty septic system here or there might seem like a minor problem. But consider that more than a million Ohio households process wastewater through individual sewage treatment systems. Of those, the Ohio Department of Health estimates 25 percent are failing. Not only do those failing systems contribute to water quality problems, they can be serious public health threats.

To avoid being part of the problem, watch for signs of failure in your existing system and make sure any new systems are properly designed for the site and conditions.

System failures aren't always easy to see. For instance, a faulty system on extremely permeable soils might let nutrients and pathogens leach into groundwater, contaminating wells. On shallow soils and soils with low permeability, faulty systems are more likely to pollute surface water. Watch for sewage pooling on the soil surface or running into ditches or creeks. Besides being a smelly nuisance, this discharge can spread disease and provide breeding sites for mosquitoes.

Some systems fail because the site is inappropriate for the type of system installed. Others fail because they aren't properly maintained. For instance, if a septic tank is not pumped often enough, sediment will flow into the leach bed or absorption area, clogging the system. Systems also fail if they are overloaded with water from household use or surface drainage.

Eventually, all systems wear out when tanks or pipes break down. Even a well-maintained system will need to be upgraded or replaced after 20 or 30 years. Modern systems are also more effective than many of the systems installed years ago.

If you're not sure how your system operates or how it should be maintained, check with the contractor who installed it or refer to Ohio State University Extension fact sheets on wastewater treatment, available at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~setll (click on "publications"). Information is also available on the Ohio Department of Health website, www.odh.state.oh.us. For help evaluating sites or selecting appropriate systems, check with your local health department or Soil and Water Conservation District.

Hunting Regulations

Again this year, hunters who purchase an Ohio hunting license and \$24 deer permit will be eligible to buy the \$15 antlerless deer permit, and is valid September 27 through November 30. New this year, the \$15 antlerless deer permit will be valid through December 7 in Zone C only. However, the \$15 antlerless permit may only be purchased until November 30, 2008.

"In spite of a record antlerless harvest - due largely to the \$15 antlerless permit - more work is needed, particularly in eastern counties if Ohio is to continue to be a model for the rest of the country. Hunters are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the antlerless permit," said Mike Tonkovich, deer biologist for the Division of Wildlife.

Ohio hunters are encouraged to kill more does this season using the reduced-priced Antlerless Deer Permit and donate any extra venison to the needy. The Division is collaborating with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) to help pay for the processing of donated venison. Hunters who donate their deer to a food bank are not required to pay the processing cost as long as funding for the effort lasts. More information about this program can be found online at www.fhfh.org

After November 30, archery hunters must use a deer permit for antlerless deer. Using the \$15 antlerless deer permit, hunters can take one additional antlerless deer in Zone A, up to two additional in Zone B, and up to three additional in Zone C. The antlerless deer permits will also be valid for Division of Wildlife controlled deer hunts and for hunting deer in an urban unit.

This year's statewide archery season remains open from September 27 through February 1, including the week of deer-gun season December 1 through December 7. Deer-gun hunters will also be able to enjoy an additional weekend of hunting December 20 and 21. Archers may hunt one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except during the statewide gun, youth and muzzleloader seasons when they are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Archers hunting during the statewide gun, youth or muzzleloader seasons must meet the hunter orange requirements of those seasons.

To hunt deer in Ohio, hunters must possess a deer permit in addition to a valid hunting license. State law allows hunters to take only one antlered buck per year, regardless the type of deer season, deer permit or weapon used for deer hunting.

A detailed listing of deer hunting rules is contained in the 2008-2009 Ohio Hunting Regulations that is available where licenses are sold, or may be viewed online at <http://wildohio.com/>.

Planning Ahead Key to Success

Each year may landowners ask about receiving cost-share for installation of conservation practices. Every year I tell them the same thing, "Plan Ahead." Planning ahead will help out with making some tough decisions for your farm! Planning ahead will allow you time to make solid decisions. Planning ahead will allow you time to gather all the facts. Planning ahead will save you from wasting time trying to figure it out later. Planning ahead will allow us time to develop good information for you.

Even though the 2009 EQIP allocations are not available yet, they will be announced soon. Planning ahead starts now, and will save you time later.

For more information on how to plan ahead for your farm contact NRCS at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.

 DAVID P. LASH, JR.
LASH PAVING & EXCAVATING
P.O. Box 296 • Colerain, OH 43916
(740) 635-4335 • Fax (740) 635-1047

 Farm Credit Services
OF MID-AMERICA
2146 Southgate Parkway
Cambridge, Ohio 43725
Toll Free 1-888-713-4293
740-439-7971
Fax 740-439-0576
www.e-farmcredit.com

 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

 Jefferis Foods LLC
1105 East Main Street
Barnesville, OH 43713
Tel: 740-425-1773
Fax: 740-425-1773
kfc@zippyteck.com

 Farm Bureau
Building a Partnership
Between
Farmers and Consumers
www.4countyfb.com
740-425-3681

**Bugay's Welding
Fabrication Service**
David A. Bugay
(740) 782-1259
Skid Loader Buckets Built or Repaired
General Welding • Call for Quote

 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

 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

Elections & Entertainment

63rd Annual Meeting & Banquet

County residents are invited to attend the Belmont SWCD 63rd Annual Meeting & Banquet on Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the James Carnes Center in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

K&D Catering of Malaga, Ohio will provide a meal complete with Roast Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu, homemade noodles, mashed potatoes with gravy, succotash, tossed salad, homemade rolls, and a variety of

desserts. Following the meal, the Belmont SWCD staff and supervisors will take the stage to present the District awards. The Wheeling Park Bluegrass Band will entertain the crowd following the awards ceremony.

Voting will take place prior to the meeting and banquet from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. However, county residents and landowners do not have to attend the annual meeting

to vote. Voters have the opportunity to call or stop by the District office to request an absentee ballot or cast their vote at the district office on or before November 13, 2008 by 4:30 p.m. Absentee ballots may also be obtained by mailing in the enclosed request form.

Tickets are available from any current supervisor or staff member. For more information contact the Belmont SWCD office at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.

Meet the Candidates for Supervisor



Dave P. Lash, Jr. has been a life long resident of Colerain, Ohio, where he has been a beef cattle farmer for 40 years. He has implemented

many conservation practices on the farm, including springs, heavy use pads, access roads and rotational grazing. He is also a member of the Colerain Presbyterian Church and is a Farm Bureau member. Lash has also owned and operated Lash Paving & Excavaing for the past 35 years. He has served 20 years as a Colerain Township Trustee. Lash has two sons, Daniel and David, who work with him at Lash Paving. He also has three grandchildren.

Only 2 candidates will be elected to serve 3-year terms. Vote at the annual meeting or send in the enclosed absentee ballot request form. For more information contact Belmont SWCD at 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.



Tim Wojchowski was raised and has resided in St. Clairsville, Ohio, for the past 46 years. He attended

St. Clairsville High School. Wojchowski and wife, Margie, have been married for 26 years and have two daughters. After working for his dad's laminate countertop business since he was twelve, Wojchowski decided to start his own business of selling Corian and Granite countertops. Tim's Custom Installation was started in his garage and is now located in the Industrial Park in Belmont County. The business has been going strong for 16 years and also sells windows and doors. Wojchowski recently ventured into the Bull Bucking business with the Thorsell Family from Burbank, Ohio. Wojchowski owns property in Bethesda, Ohio, where the family intends to bring the cattle, fish in the ponds, and build a new home.



Since moving from Moundsville, WV to Belmont, Ohio, in May of 1995, Rick Young and wife, Jayne, have built a house and three barns on

the farm that maintains a 400 cow-calf herd and backgrounds approximately 5,000 feeder calves annually. To date, more than 16,000 fence posts and 550,000 feet of high tensile fence have been installed on the farm. Along with 16,000 feet of pressurized water-line. The fields are divided into 50 paddocks for rotational grazing. 3,000 acres of grassland are grazed and most of the wooded areas are fenced out so cattle are excluded from the woods. We have installed heavy use pads, access roads to pads and stream crossings. Young has hosted many public tours, educational groups, and local organizations. He retired from AEP after 37 years of service. Young has two sons and 3 grandchildren.

Marietta Nursery Proposed Closure

In an effort to provide more focused support to private woodland owners and the state forest system, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources proposed closing the Marietta State Nursery effective November 8, 2008.

"Over the past decade, annual tree seedling sales have steadily dropped from 6 million trees in 1997, to nearly 4 million in 2003, to this year's low of less than 1.5 million seedlings," said David Lytle, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. "As sales have declined through the years, the Green Springs State Nursery was closed in 1984, and the Zanesville State Nursery was closed in 2003."

The Marietta State Nursery began operations in 1925 as a provider of seedlings for reforesting land purchased as part of the state forest

system. Over time, the nurseries at Marietta, Green Springs and Zanesville supported tree planting on both state forests and private lands. The Marietta State Nursery has been operating at a deficit over the past several years. The closing of the nursery will help the division operate more efficiently.

"We honor the hard work of nursery staff over the past 80-some years, which has led to the planting of tens of millions of trees in Ohio," said Lytle. "However, as our state forests have successfully been reforested, and other public and private sources are available to provide tree seedlings, we must focus our available resources on those priorities that return the greatest possible services to the people of Ohio."

Lytle said he understands the difficult impact that closing the Marietta State Nursery will have on both state workers and seedling customers. "Please know that we will make every effort to support impacted employees through this tough transition period. We will also be working to assist customers of the Marietta State Nursery in finding available sources of tree seedlings."

The Marietta State Nursery employs eight permanent and approximately 20 seasonal employees. This closure is pending review and approval from the Director of the Department of Administrative Services as required by the Ohio Revised Code. Employees and the public will be notified of this decision as it becomes available.

63rd Annual Meeting & Banquet Ticket Request

Thursday, November 13, 2008 • 7:00 p.m.
at the James E. Carnes Center • St. Clairsville, Ohio
Election Polls open 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

	Qty.	Price
Adult Ticket	\$ 12.50	_____
Ages 5 - 12	\$ 6.00	_____
Under 5	FREE	_____

For the convenience of the caterer, please reserve your dinner on or before November 5, 2008. Please make check payable to Belmont SWCD and mail to 1119 East Main Street, Barnesville, Ohio 43713.
For more information contact 740-425-1100 Ext. 3.

Absentee Ballot Request

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

Please mail request to:
Belmont SWCD
1119 E. Main St.
Barnesville, Ohio 43713

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 13, 2008. 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 13, 2008.
• 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.