

Your  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
Specialists!

# Conservation In Action

**Special Edition**  
**Summer / Fall 2010**



## Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

### SWCD Supervisors

Greg Waters—Chairman  
Knox Porteus—Vice Chairman  
Adrian Garber—Secretary  
Garry Derr—Fiscal Agent  
David Lapp—Treasurer

### NRCS Staff

Tim Halt—District Conservationist

### SWCD Staff

Deb Bigelow—District Administrator  
Barbara Mainwaring—GIS Specialist  
Mary Thomas—Administrative Assistant  
Ryan Medley—District Technician

*Mission: Providing leadership to educate and assist landowners in the wise management of our natural resources.*

### Coshocton SWCD's 68th Annual Meeting and Banquet

Coshocton County Career Center—Canal Lewisville

Baked Ham Dinner Served by Fresno Methodist Church

Thursday, October 21, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Tickets—Adults \$ 10 Kids 10 and under \$ 5

Guest Speaker—Bill Huston

Voting begins at 6:00 p.m. Election—2 Supervisors

Ticket Deadline—October 15, 2010

For tickets, contact the SWCD office at 622-8087, Extension 4, stop by the office located in the County Services Building, 724 South Seventh Street, or contact an SWCD supervisor or past supervisor selling tickets.

**SWCD Supervisors:** Greg Waters, Knox Porteus, Adrian Garber, Garry Derr, David Lapp

**Past SWCD Supervisors Selling Tickets:** Gerald Finlay, Vernon Mizer, Fred Zimmerman, Lister Endsley, George Braniger, Donald Duncan, Wendell Waters, Fred Anderson, Clyde Young and John Powell

### Speaker to Share First-Hand Efforts on the Revitalization of Iraqi Agriculture

This year's banquet speaker will be Bill Huston, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director for Muskingum and Morgan Counties. Huston will share his experiences of a 13 month-long tour as an Agricultural Advisor in Diyala Province, Iraq explaining the challenges and opportunities that confront the Iraqi farmer, farm organizations and Agricultural Ministry. Huston's presentation will share farming practices observed during his tour and will highlight the cultural differences and similarities that the Iraqi farmer faces compared to their U.S. counterparts.

The USDA Agricultural Advisors that served in 2007 and 2008 were part of the civilian surge that coincided with the military surge. Agricultural Advisors were part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team that addressed building capacity and sustainability for areas such as infrastructure, economic development, and rule of law, governance, public diplomacy, and health. The Ag Advisors spent half their time working with the Ministry of Agriculture Officials at the Provincial level and the remainder of their time working with farmers and farm organizations.

Make plans to attend Coshocton SWCD's banquet on October 21st to hear a perspective that is rarely covered by the national media. Bill Huston has been employed with the USDA Farm Service Agency for 23 years and farms a 200 acre fruit and vegetable farm with his family near Dresden, Ohio.

## Group Learns About Coshocton SWCD Programs By Mary Thomas, Administrative Assistant

Thirty-eight local elected officials, business partners, landowners and media were given the opportunity to learn more about the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District's services through the County Officials' Tour on August 20. The SWCD's goal for this tour was to educate community members and leaders about the resources available to them through an agency that has been part of this county since 1942.

The tour began with a demonstration by District Administrator Deb Bigelow using a watershed model. A watershed is an area of land consisting of different land uses that all drains to one location, usually a stream, river or lake. A watershed contains many land uses, such as urban, agriculture, forestry, or other, which all contribute to the level of pollution. Tour participants learned that any pollution that happens in Coshocton County can drain to the river and eventually make its way to the Gulf of Mexico. This watershed model was used to demonstrate on a small scale what attendees would see throughout the day: how the SWCD works with landowners to install conservation practices on their land to reduce runoff and protect water quality.

The first stop on the tour was Gerald and Judy Finlay's soybean field near Roscoe Village Visitor's Center. The Finlay's discussed how important it is for them to no-till plant their crops. By not plowing fields before planting, crops have a soil cover that helps maintain soil moisture and soil loss in case of temporary flooding. This has been an issue with the Finlay's fields because they lay in the Walhonding River flood plain. Gerald shared many other benefits of no-till planting including an increased activity of earthworm movement, which is very beneficial for any plant.

Attendees then visited Kyle Hamilton's forestry site. ODNR Division of Forestry representative Peter Eales spoke about controlling invasive species of trees and plants in the stand of trees. Hamilton worked with a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) vendor to manually cut and apply herbicides to kill the invasive species, which if left alone would have negatively affected the growth of trees that will be harvested in the future. Eales discussed how the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can be used to help develop a Forestry Management Plan or to complete work detailed in the plan such as treat invasive species, thinning or clearing cull trees, crop tree release or tree planting.

Next on the tour was a grain farm where attendees heard from David and Alana Lapp on crop rotation, nutrient application, and the importance of investing in technology. Auto Steer and GPS are used to ensure overlapping does not occur when planting, spraying or harvesting, which cuts unnecessary operating costs. Lapp's utilize a filter strip along their field bordering the Walhonding River to filter any runoff and to act as a

buffer if flood waters come out of the river banks. The group also had the opportunity to learn about a crop not typically grown in this part of Ohio. For the past 3 years, Lapp Farms has been growing tobacco. Farm employee and family member Jason Massie outlined the labor intensive tasks required to raise tobacco from planting, clipping tops to ensure fuller growth, spraying, and harvesting, which includes cutting, hanging to dry, then sorting and baling. Every process from placing transplants in the ground through harvest is done by hand.

In the afternoon, the group visited farms in the western part of Coshocton County. Tim Rogers shared his experiences with establishing a beef grazing operation. An existing spring was redeveloped for a water source. The water has been piped to several watering trough locations across the hillside. Cattle are rotated from field to field every few weeks to best utilize forage. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist for Coshocton County, Tim Halt shared how livestock producers can use the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to develop a grazing plan and install conservation practices such as fencing livestock out of woodlots, fencing off paddocks, and water development and distribution.

The group's final stop on the tour was the Alan and Susan Brinker Farm. Brinker has been following a grazing plan for his beef cattle operation and struggled with further sectioning off fields due to water distribution challenges. A few years ago, he decided to invest in solar energy. He shared what he's learned with choosing, using and maintaining a solar panel. Brinker's use of solar energy has allowed him to pump water from a plentiful spring to several troughs on the opposite side of the hill. Cattle are able to be rotated through paddocks for better pasture management.

The tour concluded back in Coshocton with guests more aware of the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District's services and what landowners in this county are doing to protect water quality.



Alan Brinker (L) speaks about his solar powered water pump (in background) during the County Officials' Tour on August 20th.

# 2010 Affiliate Members

## Diamond

Farm Credit Services

## Platinum

Coshocton County Beacon  
 Coshocton Foundation  
 Coshocton Grain Company  
 Gerber & Sons, Inc.

## Gold

Jim Aslanides  
 Bruce Horn Excavating  
 Century National Bank  
 Clow Water Systems Company  
 Coshocton Co. Chamber of Commerce  
 Coshocton County Sheriff, Tim Rogers  
 Endsley Insurance Agency  
 Finton Equipment—John Deere  
 Larry A. Frye Farms  
 Jim McKinney - TSI Vendor-EQIP  
 Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout & Family  
 Tumblin Farms, David Tumblin

## Silver

Baird Concrete  
 Coshocton Co. Engineer, Fred Wachtel  
 Coshocton County Farm Bureau  
 Home Loan Savings Bank  
 Bob Nelson—Dale Gress Real Estate  
 Ohio Heritage Bank  
 Larry Stahl, Retired Co. Commissioner  
 William Albert Inc.

## Bronze

Addy's Mower Sales  
 Alan Donaker Surveying  
 Bluck & Sons, Inc.  
 Cosh. Co. Auditor, Sandra Corder  
 Cosh. Co. Clerk of Courts, Janet Mosier  
 Coshocton Sportsmen Club  
 Fender's Fish Hatchery  
 Frontier Power Company  
 Ohio Power AEP  
 Owens & Manning Attorneys

## Election of Supervisors

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of 2 supervisors on the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District Board to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515.01-14 of the Ohio Revised Code. The election will be held at the **Coshocton County Career Center on October 21, 2010** in conjunction with the 68th Annual Meeting and Banquet. The nominees pictured have been selected by the nominating committee for the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Voting will take place as participants arrive at the SWCD Annual Meeting with **voting to start at 6:00 p.m.** Any eligible voter shall be allowed to vote without expectation of purchasing a ticket or meal for the meeting. Absentee voting is available 30 days prior to the election.

Eligibility rules for the election changed last year. All voters must be at least 18 years of age. Any person who resides in Coshocton County may vote for board supervisor. Absentee landowners / occupiers will also be allowed to vote but must have a notarized affidavit on file with the SWCD prior to voting. Please contact the SWCD with questions regarding absentee landowners/occupiers or to obtain the required forms. Two supervisors will be selected each for a 3 year term to begin January 1, 2011.

## And the Nominees Are...

### Jim McKinney

Jim and his wife, Jeanne, live in Keene Township on a tree farm and have 3 adult children. Jim is an affiliate member of the Coshocton SWCD and a recipient of the Coshocton County 2006 Forestry Stewardship Award.

Forest land covers approximately 1/2 of Coshocton County, and Jim feels this segment of the agricultural industry holds great potential for income growth through increased stewardship of our forest land.

Jim and Jeanne are members of the Licking Valley Church of Christ.



### Knox Porteus

Knox and his wife, Beccy, have 3 children and live on Otsego Avenue in Coshocton. Knox farms in partnership with his father, Blair, and brother, Brent, in Franklin and Linton Townships. The farming operation consists of corn, soybeans and beef cattle.

In December of 1981, Knox became a cooperator with the Coshocton SWCD. In May of 1988, a conservation plan was developed. In 1967, the Porteus Farm was awarded the Coshocton County Outstanding Farm Award.

Conservation practices on the farm include crop rotation, conservation tillage, contour strip cropping, tile drainage, spring developments, heavy use feeding pads and pasture management. Knox has been an SWCD Supervisor since 1987.



### Greg Waters

Greg and his wife, Jenny, have 2 children and live in West Lafayette. He farms with his parents, Wendell and Marcia, in Oxford and Lafayette Townships. They raise corn, soybeans and swine.

Conservation practices used at WenMar Farms include surface drainage, tile, manure storage facility and buffer strips. Greg became a cooperator with the Coshocton SWCD in 2009, and WenMar Farms has been following a conservation plan since 1970.

Greg graduated from The Ohio State University in December of 2001 with a degree in Animal Sciences. He is a former President of the Ridgewood FFA and received State and American FFA degrees. Greg is a member of the Isleta United Methodist Church and has been a Coshocton SWCD Supervisor since 2005.



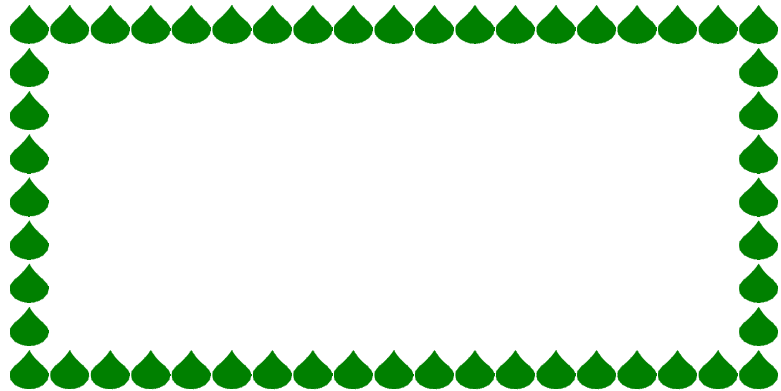
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www.coshoctonswcd.org**

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**Help us save \$\$\$ - Receive your newsletter via e-mail - contact [marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:marythomas@coshoctoncounty.net)**



**Come See Our Display October 1st - 7th**

Don't forget to come see the SWCD's Booth at the Coshocton County Fair! We are located in the Commercial Building next to Smokey the Bear. The Fifth Grade Poster Contest needs your vote to help decide the best posters in Coshocton County!

**2010 Coshocton County Fall Foliage and Farm Tour**

OSU Extension-Coshocton County and the Coshocton SWCD will again sponsor a Drive-It-Yourself Fall Foliage and Farm Tour. The tour will be held Saturday, October 16 10am-5pm and Sunday, October 17 12 noon-5pm in northwest Coshocton County. Brochures with maps may be picked up at Walhonding Valley Fire Department on US 36, 9 miles west of Coshocton until 3pm each day.

This will be an excellent chance to view the incredible autumn flora of Coshocton County. For more information visit <http://coshocton.osu.edu> or [www.coshoctonswcd.org](http://www.coshoctonswcd.org).

**Calendar of Events**

- September 6th**  
Office Closed - Labor Day
- September 7th**  
Supervisor Petitions Due
- September 8th**  
SWCD Board Mtg 8:00 pm
- September 9th**  
Ag Awareness Day
- October 1st-7th**  
Coshocton County Fair
- October 13th**  
SWCD Board Mtg 8:00 pm
- October 16th-17th**  
Fall Foliage and Farm Tour
- October 21st**  
68th Annual Meeting and Banquet 7:00 pm
- November 10th**  
SWCD Board Mtg 8:00 pm
- November 11th**  
Office Closed - Veteran's Day
- November 25th-26th**  
Office Closed - Thanksgiving

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