



Conservation In Action

**Banquet
2023**

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

SWCD Supervisors

Beth Mullen - Chairperson
Greg Waters - Vice Chair
David Lapp - Secretary
Kristy Leindecker - Fiscal Agent
Adrian Garber - Treasurer

NRCS Staff

Josh Britton - District Conservationist
Mathew Hursey - Resource Conservationist
Jacob Lotz - Soil Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Deb Bigelow - District Administrator
Samantha Daugherty - Admin. Assistant
Ryan Medley - District Technician
Zach Wallace - District Technician

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

Plan to Attend SWCD 81st Annual Meeting and Banquet



We hope you will join us for Coshocton SWCD's 81st Annual Meeting & Banquet on October 19 at the Lake Park Pavilion. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for supervisor election voting and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. Theo's Restaurant of Cambridge will serve a delicious buffet dinner featuring carved pork loin, parmesan encrusted chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, and assorted homemade pies. Tickets are \$15 per person with children 10 & under \$6. Reservation deadline is October 5.

Dale Arnold, Director of Energy, Utility and Local Government Policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) will be our featured speaker for the evening. Over the past three decades he has managed technical assistance projects addressing energy generation, transmission and distribution issues. Dale will share his knowledge about solar power land leases. Coshocton SWCD will present a short program with awards for the Outstanding Conservation Farmer, Big Tree Contest, and Jr. Fair Hay Show winners.

If you or a family member has mobility issues, there will be a golf cart in the parking lot to assist you to the Pavilion. We appreciate the Steve Finton family graciously volunteering to help with this. Tickets can be ordered with the form below or at the SWCD office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

81st Anniversary Annual Meeting & Banquet Ticket Order Form

To have your tickets mailed, please remove this portion and send with payment to the SWCD Office.

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Number of Adult Tickets at \$15 each _____

Number of Children's Tickets (age 10 & under) at \$6 each _____ Total Cost of Tickets: \$ _____

Return to **Coshocton SWCD, 724 S. 7th Street Room 120, Coshocton OH 43812** by October 5, 2023

Thank You to the Endsley Agency and Home Loan Savings Bank for helping sponsor this year's Annual Meeting and Banquet!

Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors

Five county residents serve as supervisors for the Coshocton SWCD. Supervisors serve a three-year term and may run for re-election at the end of their term. Current board members are: Beth Mullen, chair; Greg Waters, vice chair; David Lapp, secretary; Adrian Garber, treasurer; and Kristy Leindecker, fiscal agent.

SWCD Board members are the foundation of the SWCD program. These 5 local leaders are the governing body that formulates policy, prepares workload, develops the information and education programs, and manages the business affairs of the District. Our board members serve our community and give generously of their time and talents to make the SWCD program successful. You do not have to attend the Annual Meeting and Banquet to participate in the Supervisor Election. Voting options are listed in the Election article.

Meet the Supervisor Candidates



TRAVIS GREGORICH and his wife Jenna purchased their farm in Washington Township in 2018. It is located near Cooperdale, where they raise hay on the flatter ground and pasture the hillsides. Travis and Jenna enjoy raising cattle and strive to be good stewards of the land. Conservation practices used on the farm include rotational grazing, spring developments, and a heavy use pad to maximize the use of their hillside pastures.

Travis studied Natural Resources while at OSU, where he met Jenna and they moved to Coshocton County in 2010. Travis and Jenna have a daughter Vera who is 8 years old and are expecting their second child in September. Travis is actively involved in Farm Bureau and assists with Vera's various sporting events.



DAVID LAPP and his wife, Alana live on the family farm in Bethlehem Township. They have 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren. Their operation consists of corn and soybeans. The Lapps have been cooperators with the Coshocton SWCD since 1958 and conservation practices on their farms include tile drainage, waterways, minimum and no-till, irrigation water management, filter strips, and cover crops.

David is a member of the River View School Board, Farm Bureau Association, and Keene United Methodist Church. He has served as a Coshocton SWCD Supervisor since 1994.



JORDAN OLINGER is a 4th generation farmer who raises corn, soybeans, hay, and cattle with his parents, Tim and Kay Olinger. Jordan has a master's degree in Plant Health Management from OSU and is also a Certified Crop Advisor. Jordan has started a crop consulting business called CropGuard, assisting local farmers with their soil fertility programs. The Olinger farm uses no-till on all soybeans and some corn ground. They use cover crops to manage erosion and as feed for livestock. Jordan would like to use more cover crops on their fields because he believes cover crops have the ability to increase soil structure and organic matter, giving their sandy soils a greater water holding capacity.

Jordan is a member of New Pointe Church and recently purchased a home close to the family farm. Jordan would like to have a more active role in the community and assist the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors in the management of important natural resources.

Porteus Hill Farm enrolls land in agricultural easement

Porteus Hill Farm, owned by sisters Barbara Porteus, Ann (Porteus) Herman, and Susan (Porteus) Fleck recently added 93 acres in Coshocton County to the Farmland Preservation program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). Porteus Hill Farm has been in the family for approximately 175 years, being passed down from their parents John I. and Margaret “Peggy” Porteus. This program allows the



(l to r) Sisters Susan Fleck, Ann Herman, and Barbara Porteus entered 93 acres in Coshocton County in the Farmland Preservation Program.

Porteus sisters to honor their parents’ legacy of keeping the farm for agricultural use.

Agricultural land is a key part of Ohio’s landscape. Conserving this land is essential to continue feeding an ever increasing population. An agricultural easement in Farmland Preservation is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and ODA, where the landowner agrees to perpetually maintain the land in agricultural use.

In partnership with ODA, Coshocton SWCD played a significant role in securing this agreement. Program applications can only be completed by local SWCDs or land trusts who apply to ODA to become local sponsors. This is the second Farmland Preservation easement in Coshocton County.

The office of Farmland Preservation began in 1998 with 701 farms totaling 104,896 acres being entered into easement agreements to date. This enables Ohio to continually be a top agricultural producer, aiding not just Ohioans, but all Americans.

Officials Tour highlights conservation practices

Coshocton SWCD hosted an Officials Tour on July 25, touring several conservation practices to highlight the work of the Soil and Water Conservation District. Coshocton County Coordinated Transportation provided busing to the various sites for the 30 participants.

The first stop of the tour was the Mike and Janet Rettos farm to view their heavy use feeding pads and manure storage structures. These keep the cows and tractor out of the mud during sensitive times, and allow the Rettos family to better manage their pasture. The next stop on the tour was WenMar Farms. The technology behind their irrigation water management system was explained and demonstrated. Schumaker Farms provided a delicious dinner for the tour at their picnic pavilion. The final stop of the evening was the LB Porteus farm to view their newly constructed beef barn, manure storage, and silage leachate collection and treatment area. This substantial investment by the Porteus family moves their cattle finishing operation to a new, cutting edge facility featuring automatic feeding systems and under floor manure storage.



Thank you to all of our tour hosts for allowing us to showcase the importance of conservation in our community. This includes Mike and Janet Rettos, Greg Waters, and Brent, Knox, Beth, and Amy Porteus. Thanks also to all those that took time from their schedules to attend, Schumaker Farms for a delicious dinner, SWCD Technicians Ryan Medley and Zach Wallace for their explanations of the work done, and the CCCT drivers for transportation. Affiliate funds are used for costs associated with the tour and we appreciate these generous donations for our educational program.

Conservation in Coshocton County

Our Beginning: The Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a legally organized subdivision of State Government given the responsibility of protecting soil and water resources. The SWCD has been a part of our community for 81 years; formed under a referendum vote in 1942. This was the beginning of the one-on-one technical assistance that continues to this day.

Our Funding: Funding begins at the local level with funds matched by the State of Ohio. We also work with other federal and state partners to address **local** resource concerns. In 2022, 113 Conservation Practices and 4,276 acres of cover crops provided **\$461,965** in Federal and State cost share funds paid to Coshocton County landowners. Cost share and state funding provided a **\$3.13 return** on every local dollar invested.

Our Leadership: We are directed by a Board of Supervisors which consists of 5 local people who are elected by members of the community. These public officials serve 3 year terms and serve without pay to govern the local program. Four full time employees carry out the day to day work priorities established by the Board of Supervisors.

We **thank you** for your interest and support of our program and ask that you continue to work with us to wisely use our natural resources.



Concrete animal waste storage tank



Installing soil moisture probe for irrigation



Concrete and wood waste storage structure



GPS equipment is used to mark the location of a soil moisture sensor



Under-floor manure storage



Cover Crop Walks educate landowners on cover crop management



Board members l to r: David Lapp, Beth Mullen, Kristy Leindecker, Greg Waters, Adrian Garber



Recently installed watering facility for livestock



Staff members l to r: Samantha Daugherty, Deb Bigelow, Ryan Medley, Zach Wallace

Election of Supervisor

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Anyone that owns land or lives in the City of Coshocton or Coshocton County and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor. Two candidates will be elected to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

There are 3 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the SWCD office (724 S. Seventh Street Room 120, Coshocton, OH 43812) during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) starting September 20 and ending at noon on October 19.
2. At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Lake Park Pavilion on October 19, with voting from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. You do not have to purchase an Annual Meeting ticket to come and vote for Supervisor.
3. Voting absentee from September 20 until October 19 by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office by calling 740-622-8087 ext. 4 or email debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by noon on October 19, 2023.



2023 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year Tour

The Schmuki Family of Post Boy Tree Farm are the recipients of the 2023 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year. The tour is Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be south of house at 17395 Starkey Hollow Road SW, Newcomerstown, OH 43832.

The property has had many hours of timber stand improvements, including culling less desirable tree species such as ailanthus/tree of heaven, cutting grapevines, and planting trees. Come visit the Schmuki's Tree Farm and enjoy a day outside learning about forest management and going on walking tours with foresters. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Food will be available for purchase. Contact Jeremy Scherf (614-212-3309) or Luke Walters (216-215-6564) for additional information.

2023 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Coshocton County Beacon
Coshocton Grain Company
Eastern Ohio Ag
Farm Credit Mid-America
Judge Tim & Daphne France

Platinum

Heritage Cooperative
McWane Ductile - Ohio
Millwood Lumber
Pony Field Farm LLC

Gold

Cosh. Co. Chamber of Commerce
Coshocton County Farm Bureau
Coshocton Foundation

Darr Farms LLC

Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout and Family
Endsley Insurance Agency
Harold's Equipment, Inc.
Hidden Spring Farm - Tim Rogers
Home Loan Savings Bank
Jim & Gail Piper
Larry A. Frye Farms
Lynn Wells - In Memory
of Ray Griffith

Owens & Manning, Attorneys
Peoples Bank

Seed Consultants - Lance Weaver
Sturtz Farm - Larry & Maureen Sturtz
The Garden Patch Greenhouse
Thousand Oaks Farms
TMK Bakersville
Tumblin Farms -
David Tumblin Family
William Albert, Inc.
Wills Transport & Excavating

Silver

Baird Concrete
Charlie & Ruby Helmick
Cosh. Clerk of Courts Camila Graham
Cosh. Co. Engineer Fred Wachtel
Cosh. Co. Recorder Susan Turner
Coshocton Co. Sportsmen Association
Dane & Amy Shryock
Garber Brothers Farms LLC
Gary & Michelle Fischer
Gottlieb, Johnston, Beam & Dal Ponte
Jacobs Vanaman Agency, Inc.
Knotty Nuff Acres
Scheetz Marketing
Sheriff James A. & Lisa Crawford
Steven Oster

Bronze

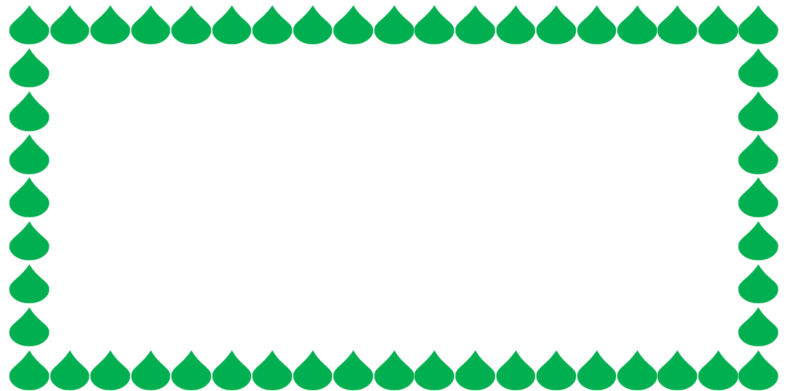
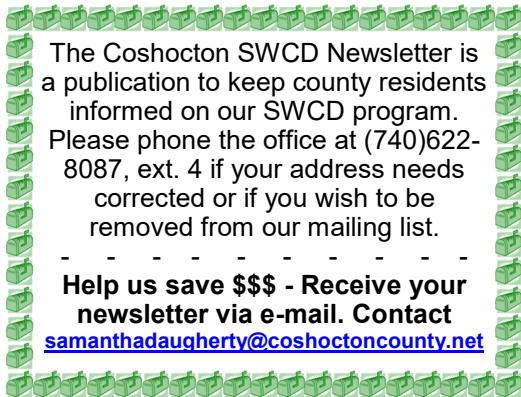
Alan Donaker Surveying
Cosh. Co. Treasurer Janette Donaker
Frontier Power Company
Saylor Wealth Strategies

**Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District**
724 South Seventh Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
(740) 622-8087, ext. 4

 www.coshoctonswcd.org
facebook.com/CoshoctonSWCD



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coshocton SWCD and USDA-NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers.

Coshocton County Fall Foliage and Farm Tour



The 52nd Fall Foliage and Farm Tour will be held on the weekend of **October 21 and 22, 2023**. This year's tour will focus on the northwest corner of Coshocton County. This drive-it-yourself tour is a great way to enjoy Coshocton's scenery and fall colors; the tour also showcases Coshocton's agricultural industry and local attractions.

Last year's tour had over 1,600 attendees that represented 34 counties in Ohio and 7 other states. It was held in the southwest townships of the county, featuring Virginia, Washington, Pike, Perry, Bedford, and Jackson.

Stops will be open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 12:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. To pick up a tour map, stop at the River View Community Park in Warsaw on Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00-3:00 p.m. We ask all participants to stop there first so we can track the number of tour participants. The tour is free but donations are appreciated.

The Fall Foliage and Farm Tour is sponsored by OSU Extension, Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Farm Service Agency. These agencies would like to thank all the tour hosts and volunteers who make the tour possible.

Calendar of Events

September 13
SWCD Board Mtg, 8:00 p.m.

September 19-21
Farm Science Review

Sept. 29-Oct. 5
Coshocton County Fair

October 5
Annual Meeting
Reservation Deadline

October 11
SWCD Board Mtg, 8:00 p.m.

October 19
Coshocton SWCD's 81st
Annual Meeting & Banquet,
7:00 p.m.

October 21-22
Coshocton County
Fall Foliage Tour

November 8
SWCD Board Mtg, 8:00 p.m.