

CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume XXIII, Issue 3

www.meigsswcd.com

Summer 2022

Come Join Us for Our Annual Banquet

Ever wonder what the difference is between the Farm Bureau and the Farm Service Agency? Or what programs the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Meigs Soil and Water Conservation have that assist landowners? Did you know that the Ohio State University Extension is more than just 4-H?

Each agency will be set up at this year's annual Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting and banquet between 6pm and 7pm to answer all your questions. With so many different agencies and programs, each with their own acronyms, it is easy for landowners and producers to get confused. By having all the agencies in the same location, it is a great opportunity for landowners to talk with and learn about what each has to offer.

This year's banquet will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Blakeslee Center in Middleport.

Annual Banquet/Meeting registration costs are \$15 per person and must be reserved by Sept 15.

The evening will also see the election of one person to the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors. Candidates include Roy Vaughan, Langsville and Olivia Yost, Racine.

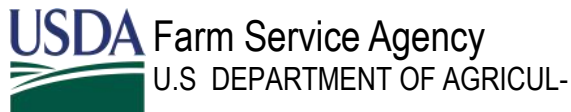
Roy is a native of Meigs County and lives in Salem Township with his wife Linda. They have two adult children and four grand children. Roy grew up helping on his Grandfather's farm in Long Bottom, Ohio. A graduate of Meigs Local High School and attended Ohio Northern University and Hocking College. Roy's professional career was spent in the Commercial Truck Industry representing Dealers with Ford Commercial Trucks, Sterling Truck Corporation, Peterbilt Truck and Kenworth Truck Companies. Roy and his brother-in-law Carl Shenefield continue operation of the family farm in Meigs and Vinton counties using minimum tillage and no-till practices maintaining waterways and cover crops reducing runoff and soil erosion. The farm operation averages 500 acres of corn, 500 acres of soybeans, 50 acres of wheat, and 100 acres of hay on an annual basis, along with feedlot beef cattle. Linda and Roy enjoy spending time with family and friends, community volunteering, church, gardening and raising pumpkins for some family fall fun.

Olivia is a lifelong Meigs county resident. She is the daughter of Charles and Nita Yost. She grew up and still lives on her family farm. She is the youngest of four children. She is a former member of the Meigs County Better Livestock 4-H Dairy club, which her Nieces and Nephew are a part of today. She is an active member of Racine Grange #2606 and is currently serving as deputy for The OHIO State Grange. She is currently employed at Pomeroy Wendys. Olivia's past accomplishments include Meigs County Dairy Princess, Grange Youth Female Ambassador, Meigs County Junior Fair Board member, and Ohio State Junior Fair Board member.

Voting will take place that evening before the annual meeting from 6-7 p.m. Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own or occupy land in Meigs County and are 18 years of age or older may vote for supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: at the annual meeting from 6-7 p.m., at the SWCD office until 3:00 p.m. on Oct. 4, or via absentee ballot by requesting an absentee ballot from the SWCD office at 113 E. Memorial Dr. Suite D, Pomeroy, OH 45769.

Supervisors serve staggered three-year terms. The winner will be announced the evening of the annual meeting and banquet.



Annual Banquet/Meeting registration costs are \$15 per person and must be reserved by Sept 15. You do not need a ticket to vote before the banquet. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Meigs SWCD office at 740-992-4282.



The mission of the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance for the wise use of our natural resources for present and future generations.

Support our affiliate members!



Peoples Bank
Pomeroy-Pomeroy Motor Bank
740-992-2133
www.peoplesbancorp.com



OHIO FARM BUREAU
113 E. Memorial Dr.
Suite C
Pomeroy OH 45769
740-201-2739



Farmers Bank
www.fbnc.com
Pomeroy 740-992-2136
Tuppers Plains 740-667-3161
Gallipolis 740-446-BANK (2265)
Mason 304-773-6400
Point Pleasant 304-674-8200

Millersport Agri Service
The Hoover Family
10221 Lancaster-Newark Road
Millersport OH 43046
(740) 467-2424

DMI Tillage Equipment
Sunflower Tillage Equipment
Vicon Hay Making Equipment

Farm Fans and Dryers
Westfield Augers
Kongslide Grain Vaccs
Great Plains Drills and Sprayers
Kinze Corn Planters
Grain Systems Inc. Bins

Birchfield Funeral Home
212 Main St.
P.O. Box 188
Rutland, OH 45775
740-742-2333



BILL QUICKEL'S
INSURANCE
PLUS AGENCIES INC.
BETTER COVERAGE - BETTER PRICE



BILL QUICKEL
INSPLUS@INSURANCE-PLUS.COM
INSURANCE-PLUS.COM
OFFICE TEXTING ONLY
740-367-1022 | 740-238-7520
114 COURT STREET POMEROY, OH 45769

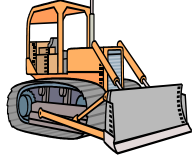


VINTON COUNTY NATIONAL BANK
A member of the VCNB financial family
VCNBFAMILYBANK.BANK
800.542.5004

PDK CONSTRUCTION
34070 CREW ROAD
POMEROY OH 45769
740-992-6451



Two Guys Farmin' LLC
27938 Tower Rd.
Langsville OH 45741
740-669-7017




SHADE RIVER AG SERVICE
"Ahead in Service"
35537 St. Rt. 7 North Pomeroy, Oh.
740-985-3831

Douglas D. Hunter MD
207 5th Street
Racine OH 45771
740-949-2683




Karr Farms
Pomeroy, Ohio
740-985-3444

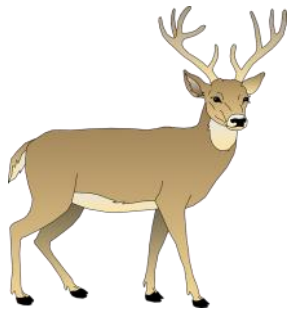



HOME NATIONAL BANK
Racine - Middleport - Syracuse
www.homenatbank.com
740-949-2210 Racine
740-992-6333 Syracuse
7409-691-5131 Middleport

Caudill Chipping Inc.
(740) 978-8157
35788 State Route 324
Hamden, OH 45634




OHIO VALLEY BANK
156 Mallard Lane, Mason
www.ovbc.com Member FDIC 992-2357



Hunter Education Class

Saturday September 24 9 a.m.. To 4:30 p.m.

Sunday September 25 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Classes will be held at the Meigs County Public Library in Pomeroy, Ohio.

Participants must attend both days of class.

Register online at wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/

The course materials and test are written at a national 6th grade reading level.

If you have any questions call the Meigs SWCD office at 740-992-4282.



Milkweed Seed Collection– Yes, It’s that Time of Year Again

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts is organizing a **Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection** again this year starting **September 1st and ending October 30th**. Milkweed is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies in Ohio and Ohio is a priority area for monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. During September- October everyone is encouraged to collect common milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection station. The majority of Ohio counties have a milkweed pod collection station, most of them being located at the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.



- To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant it is best to pick them when they are dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Please mark on the sack: the county in which the milkweed came from, date/time and if other than common milkweed; which species of milkweed was collected.
- Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area.
- Harvesting pods from milkweed plants does not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.
- All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch Butterfly throughout Ohio.



When collecting milkweed pods wear appropriate clothing for the outdoors. It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Questions or for more information on pollinators contact OPHI or the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 740-992-4282.



- When someone mentions a butterfly the first one to come to mind is usually the Monarch butterfly; and the reason why is because Monarchs are one of the most recognizable butterflies around the U.S..
- Milkweed is the only plant Monarch caterpillars eat and have been

known to devour a whole milkweed leave in under 5 minutes. They eat 200 times their body weight in milkweed. mon



- Monarchs are the only butterfly that is believed to make a two way migration, just as birds do. It takes 4 generations to make the complete migration.

- When monarch butterflies begin their migration Monarch butterflies fly at a pace of around 5.5 miles per hour (9 kilometers per hour). The average person jogs at 6–8 miles per hour. Some travel up to 3,000 miles to central Mexico.

- It takes 4-5 weeks for a monarch to go from egg to butterfly.

NRCS Funding Available for Turkey Habitat

Landowners can access funding for state-wide habitat improvement benefitting wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, songbirds and more!

Attract wild turkeys to your private lands with funding and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for practices including wildlife habitat plantings, edge feathering, invasive species removal, and wildlife habitat monitoring and management. Incorporate one or more practices to receive priority consideration for funding.

Contact Kevin Lewis at the Meigs NRCS office, 740-992-6646 for information.



Working Lands for Wildlife

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NRCS is helping private landowners manage existing cropland, forestland and pasture to best meet wildlife habitat needs, or establish new wildlife habitat areas. Wildlife habitat management on Ohio's private lands can help improve important existing habitats in addition to establishing new habitats to address wildlife needs.

America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are continuing to show how wildlife and working lands can prosper together. Let NRCS develop a comprehensive resource conservation plan for your grazing operation and the northern bobwhite. The northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), a type of quail, is often referred to as an "edge" species, seeking habitat where crop fields intersect with woodlands, pastures, and old fields. Before World War II, the way people managed lands favored this quail species, especially in the Midwest where producers grazed cattle on pastures of native grasses with scattered wildflowers and brush. The rise of non-native forage for cattle and advanced agricultural equipment that leaves behind fewer weeds and brush have both decreased available habitat. In particular, a rise in grazing cattle over non-native forage like fescue reduced habitat by 30 million acres and has caused the quail's numbers to dip by more than 80 percent during the past 60 years.



To help reconnect cattle and quail, NRCS is working with producers to manage for native warm-season grasses that create productive and palatable grazing options for livestock while benefitting quail and other wildlife species. Common native warm-season grasses include switchgrass, big bluestem, eastern gamagrass, and indiagrass. These bunchgrasses provide the habitat that bobwhite need for escape and cover.

By replacing a percentage of non-native pastures with native ones, producers can benefit from diversified forage that is more resilient to drought and resistant to fungal endophytes found in fescue that impact herd health. Operations that rely exclusively on common cool-season forages, such as fescue and orchardgrass, may find it increasingly difficult to stay above the bottom line. To help both producers and quail, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its partners are recommending producers go "old school" by grazing native forages once again.

NRCS conservationists and wildlife biologists provide producers with technical assistance to develop a conservation plan as well as select which conservation practices are the best fit for their land. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program can provide financial assistance to help cover the cost of implementing those practices.

Current habitat conditions on your land will be evaluated by NRCS to determine a plan that best suits your property. Plans with the largest impact on wildlife habitat will be prioritized for funding. Increased wildlife funding: The 2018 Farm Bill increases the funds dedicated to wildlife habitat practices from a minimum of 5 percent to a minimum of 10 percent of total EQIP funds. This has dramatically increased the amount of funding available for Ohio farmers and landowners to create wildlife habitat for a diverse mix of species. Habitat improvement efforts can focus on uplands, wetlands, associated agricultural lands, nonindustrial forestlands, stream habitat improvements among others. Practices include brush management, wildlife habitat planting, and structures for wildlife.

The variety of conservation practices available help producers improve productivity and address natural resource concerns on their land.

In addition to improving soil and water quality, grazing native warm-season grasses can boost livestock productivity during the hot summer months when cool-season non-native forages go dormant (commonly known as the "summer slump"). Recent research from the University of Tennessee's Center for Native Grassland Management shows that native warm-season grasses provided more and timely forage during the summer, and equal if not better weight gains. Natives also decrease feed and fertilizer costs, alleviate effects of fescue toxicosis, and their use allows rest periods for other types of pastures.

Other conservation practices like planting wildflowers and native shrubs can further enhance a property's value to pollinators and other wildlife. Greater plant and wildlife diversity on agricultural lands can reduce issues with common agricultural pests, improve pollination of crops and increase hunting opportunities.

If you're interested in maximizing cattle productivity while helping wildlife in need on your land, contact Kevin Lewis at the Meigs NRCS office at 740-992-6646 to get started. NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs on a continuous basis. For more information on managing native forages for cattle, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wildlife.



Some equipment rental rates increase

The cost of renting the John Deere and Haybuster drills and the Brillion seeder just went up with drill rentals going from \$9 per acre to \$11 per acre, and the Brillion seeder from \$8 per acre to \$10 per acre, with a minimum of 10 acres each.

Drill and seeder rental rates have not changed since 2011 while the cost of operating the rental program has continued to increase. In addition, the new prices put us a similar level to neighboring counties. It is also important to note that unlike our neighboring counties the Meigs SWCD continues to deliver rental equipment to producers. Lime spreader and tree planter rates are unchanged.

Equipment may be rented in neighboring counties in Ohio at the discretion of the district administrator and technician (based on travel distance and availability) provided the prospective renter is not barred from renting in their own county. Priority will be given to those renting equipment for use in Meigs County. A \$100 surcharge will be assessed for any equipment rentals out of the county in addition to the regular equipment rental fees. Equipment may not be rented for use out-of-state.

In addition, renters may be barred from future rentals for reasons including failure to pay bills and late fees, damaging, or abusing rental equipment, use of fertilizer in seed boxes or lime spreaders, renting equipment on the behalf of barred renters, or other reasons as deemed appropriate. Renters with outstanding balances over 60 days may not rent additional equipment until the previous balance, including late fees, is paid in full. Also, renters may not rent after Jan. 1 if the previous year's balance is not paid in full.

Seeders, drills and planters must be used prior to December 1 and will not be rented from December 1 to March 1. For more information see below.

SWCD equipment for sale, rent

The following items are available for sale (not including applicable sales tax):

Marking Flags — \$.10 each
 Topographical Maps — \$8 each
 Ohio Pond Management Handbooks — Free
 Digital Soil Survey CD—\$10 each
 'Leading from the Past—Stories of Leading Creek' Book—\$15



The following equipment is available for rent (subject to scheduling and availability):

John Deere Drill (10-foot)	\$110 min. plus \$11/acre over 10 acres	85 HP < 6,900 lbs min
Haybuster Drill (7 foot)	\$110 min. plus \$11/acre over 10 acres	45 HP < 3,600 lbs min
Brillion Seeder (8-foot)	\$100 min. plus \$10/acre over 10 acres	40 HP tractor min.
Lime Spreader	\$50 min. plus \$2/ton over 25 tons	60 HP tractor min.
Forester Tree Planter	\$50 per day	25 HP tractor min.
Planter Bars	Free with \$50 returnable deposit	
Box Trap	Free with \$30 returnable deposit	

A \$100 delivery/pickup fee will be assessed for equipment rentals outside of the county. No out-of-state rentals.

All equipment rentals must be scheduled through the Meigs SWCD office at (740)992-4282 during regular business hours for delivery Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. A rental equipment agreement and tax-exempt form (if applicable) must be on file. Prices listed do not include sales tax. Prices subject to change.

The minimum fee will be assessed if equipment is delivered and not used. A \$10 charge per month will be added to all unpaid bills after 60 days.

CLARK'S

JEWELRY

Pomeroy, OH
 740-992-2054

The Appliance Man

219 E. Second St.
 Pomeroy, OH
 45769
 740-992-1550



Montgomery Trailer Sales
 Langsville

OVEC/Kyger Creek Station
 Cheshire

Leading Creek Conservancy District
 Langsville

Detwiller Lumber
 Pomeroy

Carl's Auto Sales



SR 124, Middleport
740-992-3198

Joe & Janet
Bolin and Family


Michael Swiger—State Farm Insurance
 Middleport

Little, Sheets, Barr LLP
 Pomeroy

King Builders Supply
 Middleport



Meigs SWCD
113 E Memorial Drive
Suite D
Pomeroy OH 45769

Return Service Requested

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Pomeroy OH 45769
 Permit #101
 Non-Profit

www.meigsswcd.com

**Meigs Soil and Water
 Conservation District**
113 E Memorial Dr., Suite D
Pomeroy OH 45769
Est. 1943
www.meigsswcd.com

Board of Supervisors
 Tony Carnahan, Chairman
 Bill Baer, Vice Chairman/Fiscal Agent
 Keith Bentz, Secretary/Treasurer
 Travis Murgage, Member
 Tonja Hunter, Fiscal Agent, Member

District Staff
 Jenny Ridenour, Program
 Administrator/Wildlife Specialist
 Cindy Diehl, Administrative
 Assistant
 Jim Freeman, District Technician/
 Watershed Coordinator
 Jessie Donohue, Education Coordinator
 Kevin Young, Administrative Assistant

NRCS
 Joe Weber, Acting District
 Conservationist

**County
 Commissioners**
 Zack Manuel
 Shannon Miller
 Jimmy Will

USDA's nondiscrimination statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Conservation Commentary is a publication
 of the Meigs Soil and Water
 Conservation District.**

**To subscribe or unsubscribe from Conservation
 Commentary, contact the Meigs Soil and Water
 Conservation District at 740-992-4282.**

Meigs SWCD Calendar of Events

Regular meetings of the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors are generally held at 11:30 a.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at the SWCD office, 113 E Memorial Drive, Suite D, Pomeroy. Dates and times are subject to change.

- Sept. 5—Labor Day (office closed)
- Sept. 15— Final day to register for banquet
- Sept. 22—Regular Board Meeting
- Sept 24-25 Hunter Education Class
- Oct. 4— Annual Meeting and Banquet
- Oct 10—Columbus Day (office closed)
- Oct. 27—Regular Board Meeting

**Keep up with what's new
 at the Meigs SWCD!**
Like us
 on Facebook at "Meigs
 SCWD Conservation Area"
 and "Meigs Soil and Water
 Conservation District" or
visit us at
www.meigsswcd.com