

Knox County Farms Selected for the Agricultural Easement Program

The Ohio Department of Agriculture announced on September 28th that nearly 6,200 acres from 37 farms were preserved through its Agricultural Easement Purchase Program using Clean Ohio Funds this year.

The Clean Ohio Fund bond initiative won support from Ohio's voters in 2008 to preserve farmland and green space, improve outdoor recreation and to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities by cleaning up brown fields.

This year, the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board reviewed 203 applications from 37 counties competing for the limited money available through the Clean Ohio Fund. Applicants had the opportunity to earn up to 150 points based on a two-tiered scoring system. Section one of the application focused on development pressure, soils, proximity to other agricultural land, use of best management practices and local comprehensive land-use plans. Section two included narrative questions regarding the farm and its unique appeal to the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

The following four landowners in Knox County were selected into the program; Eric Helt of Harrison Township; David and Lisa Seitz of Harrison Township; John and Rebecca Simpson of Harrison Township and Donald and Alesia Thomas of Harrison Township. The total acreage enrolled from these farms is 343.31 acres.

An agricultural easement is a voluntary and legally-binding restriction placed on a farm. The easement limits the use of the land to predominantly agricultural activity. The land remains under private ownership and management and stays on the tax rolls under Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV). The farmland can be sold or passed along as a gift to others at any time, but the restriction prohibiting non-agricultural development stays with the land.

For more about farmland preservation, visit www.agri.ohio.gov

Seeking Farms for a Warm Season Grass Establishment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordinator for Ohio, Kraig McPeck has contacted our agency seeking interested producers in warm season grass establishments for grazing. The agency would prefer the livestock operation to be a cattle farm but will consider all types. Producers can be in surrounding counties in order to qualify. The stands can be either grazed or hayed and will also be utilized for bird nesting surveys. The seed and installation of the practice will be funded through the Fish and Wildlife Service. If you would like more information on how you can become

involved, please contact Kraig McPeck at 740-670-5312. Kraig's office is located in Newark, Ohio.



Mark Your Calendars and Meet Our Candidates for the Supervisor Election

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Knox Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Banquet on Wednesday, December 1st. The meeting will be held at the Dining Hall of the Knox County Career Center located at 306 Martinsburg Road. Our menu will consist of Chicken Cor don Blue, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Rolls and Assorted Fruit Pies at a cost of \$10.00 per person. **Reservations accepted only until November 23rd due to seating arrangements, please see form on page 1.** The Annual Meeting is a time to reflect on the conservation accomplishments in the county. Prior to the dinner, the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will conduct an election of two supervisors to serve of the Knox SWCD Board. Candidates are Rick Shamblen of Hilliar Township, Jim Braddock of Wayne Township and Tom Purdy of Brown Twp.

Jim Braddock of Wayne Township farms with his wife Susie on a cash grain (corn/soybeans) operation. Jim has worked with the SWCD on the installation of including tile and grassed waterways to improve the fields for productivity of his crops. He is a participant in the Wetlands Reserve Program and makes extensive use of no-till and cover crops in his farming operation. Jim is a member of Farm Bureau, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Soybeans Association and a life member of the FFA Alumni. Jim also serves as a Wayne Township Trustee. He feels that one of the strongest concerns of the county is the control of erosion and urban development. Jim is currently serving as a SWCD Associate Supervisor.



Tom Purdy of Brown Township owns and operates a 165 acre cow/calf farm. He has been involved with the Knox SWCD for about 12 years. He has worked with the USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program to install fencing and a water well as well as a spring improvement and pasture renovation. Tom is a member of the Fredericktown Seventh Day Adventist Church and Farm Bureau. His interests include fishing, hunting and horses. He and his wife Marjorie have 4 children and 8 grandchildren and his concern for the county is the preservation of family farms.



Rick Shamblen and his wife Georgia reside in Hilliar Township and own a small farm in Mt. Liberty where they grow organic pumpkins and vegetables. Rick is president of Shamblen Environmental Service, an engineering consulting firm. Rick has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the Ohio State University and is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Soil Science. Rick has worked with several agencies dealing with environmental concerns such as the City of Columbus Water Quality Assurance Lab to Malcom Pirnie, an Environmental Engineering Firm. Rick is a member of the Soil Science Society, Soil and Water Conservation Society and American Water Works Association where he is a past president. Rick says he is an advocate of soil management due to its affects on the community's economic, human and environmental health.



IMPORTANT - Upcoming NAP Deadline

The Knox County Farm Service Agency wants to remind producers about the importance of the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The NAP program offers financial assistance to producers who raise crops that are not covered under regular crop insurance coverage. It provides protection at the catastrophic coverage level when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to a natural disaster.

For the 2011 crop year, it is also imperative to purchase NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops (including hay). This is not only for production coverage, but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill, such as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and the Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock (ELAP). To participate in the disaster program and to receive benefits, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all insurable crops and NAP on all non-insurable crops.

The fee for NAP is \$250 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.

Producers must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of November 20, 2010 for apples, asparagus, blue

berries, caneberries, cherries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap and forage for hay and pasture.

Please contact the FSA office to ensure your production coverage and your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by November 20, 2010.

Dates to Remember to Remember	
Nov 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov 11	Veterans Day- FSA Office Closed
Nov 20	Last day to apply for NAP coverage for asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey and maple syrup.
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Day FSA Office Closed
Dec 6	Last Day to return voted ballots for county committee election
Dec 25	Christmas Holiday FSA Office Closed

Farm Service Agency at Home

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Financial Services website allows producers to generate reports from home that show both current and historical financial information.

Registered producers may view summary and detail information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and CCC-1099-G. Registered producers may enter their own information to assign a payment to a third party, request that a payment be made jointly to the producer and a third party, or route their program payments to their account at a financial institution.

Currently, individual producers who have Internet access and have registered for e-authentication Level 2 may use the FSA Financial Inquiries website. Producers may sign-up for an e-authentication Level 2 Account on the www.eauth.egov.usda.gov website. Below are the steps needed to obtain an e-authentication Level 2 Account

- To obtain a Level 2 Account you must complete a customer profile and submit it online.
- After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account.
- Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and present a photo ID, such as your Driver's License.

The Financial Management Information webpage is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.