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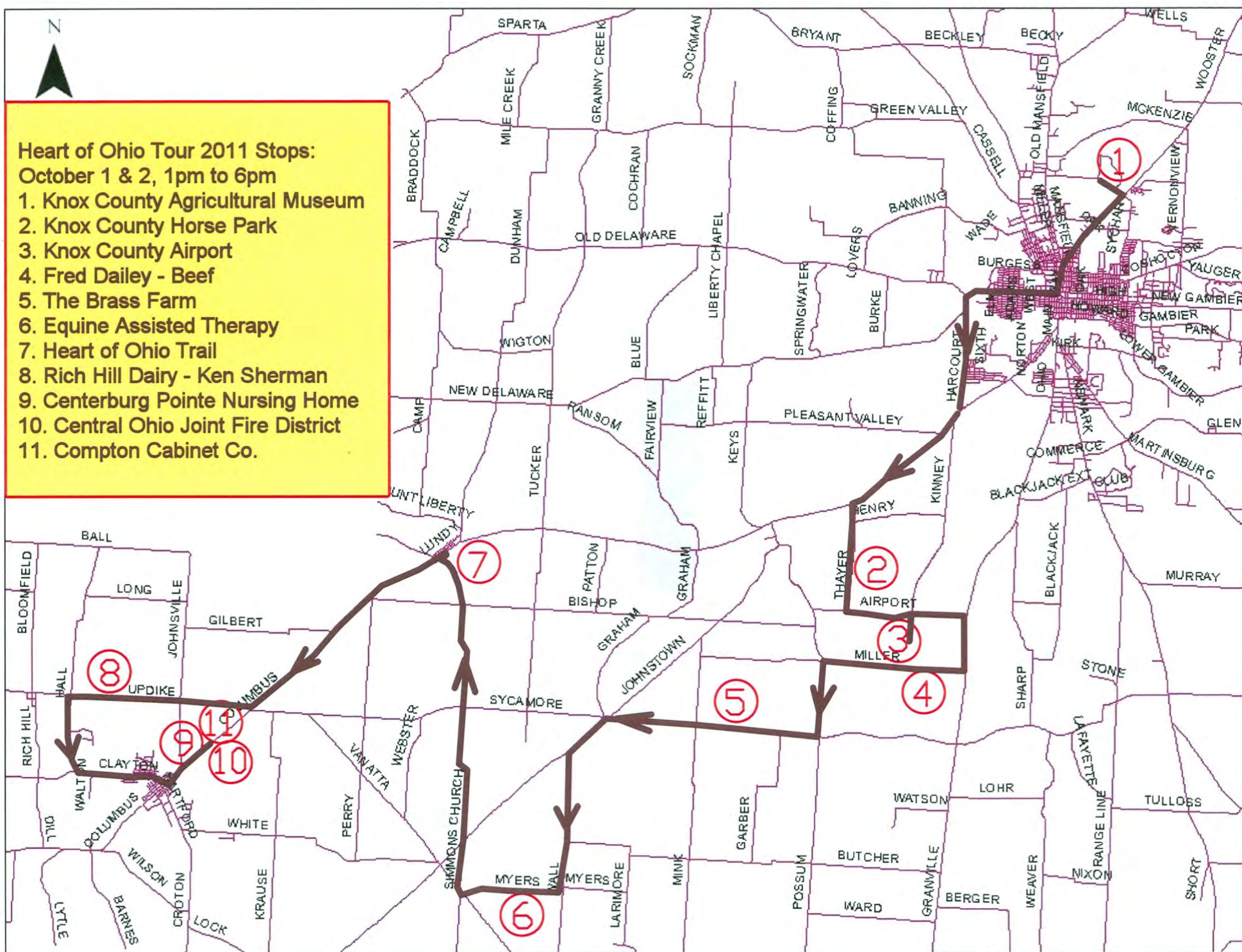
A Fall Spectacular Event Planned, the Heart of Ohio Tour



It is hard to believe it is that time of year again but the Heart of Ohio Tour will be here before you know it. This year on the 2011 Tour you will be traveling from Mount Vernon to the southwest corner of Knox County to the Mount Liberty and Centerburg area. You will see and learn about Agricultural Antiques, Horse Activities, Airplanes, Cattle, Landscaping Materials, Equine Assisted Therapy, The Heart of Ohio Trail through Mount Liberty, Centerburg North Pointe Adult Care, a Dairy Facility, the Central Ohio Joint Fire Department and a Cabinet Shop.

Plan to drive-it-yourself with friends and family at your leisure enjoying some of the back roads of Knox County while you take your time at each stop. There are sure to be some food and treats to your liking.

So mark your calendar for October 1 & 2 to be on the Heart of Ohio Tour from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy not only the stops, but the other people you will see on the tour. It promises to be a spectacular event for you to take part in. A special thank you to the hosts is you being present to take part in the tour, it shows your appreciation for all their hard work, so please plan to attend.



No-Till Drills Available for Wheat Plantings



Local producers interested in planting wheat may want to consider calling and signing up to use one of the Knox SWCDs no-till grain drills. The District has two 10-ft. John Deere model 1590 with grass seed attachments. All drills rent for \$10.00 per acre with no minimum charge. The operator is responsible for picking up and returning the drill at the SWCD office unless previous arrangements have been made. Signing up for a drill does not guarantee a drill will be available on a specified date, it does however, give you preference in scheduling during the rental season. For more information call 393-6724/6725.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2012 NAP coverage on Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz is **Sept. 30, 2011** in Ohio.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Sept. 30, 2011. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your Knox County FSA office. **(submitted by the Farm Service Agency)**

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nominees

Thank- you farmers and producers for nominating eligible candidates to serve on local FSA county committees. "County committees are important to Ohio and Knox County because they assist local farmers and producers," said Mills. "I encourage all farmers to get involved with their Knox County Committee."

A farmer is eligible to be a County FSA Committee member if the producer lives in the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) up for election, participates or cooperates in a program administered by FSA, and is an eligible voter. The Townships in this year's election area are Berlin, Pike, Brown, Jefferson, Monroe, Howard, and Union. Federal Farm Program participants who reside in these townships are eligible to vote in this year's election.

This year we received 2 eligible candidates for the townships listed above. They are Eric Dilts and Scott Harmon. Eric has produced corn, soybeans, and hay for 40 years and serves on the Ohio Maple Producers Association. Scott has produced hay, corn, and soybeans and participated in the conservation reserve program for over 20 years. He is a large animal veterinarian who has served the agricultural community since 1989. Scott is an active member of Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, Knox County Board of Health, and serves as the secretary of the Kokosing Valley Veterinary Medical Association. Additionally, Scott is a recipient of Life Time Conservation award from The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. The Knox County Committee consist of three members who are elected by eligible local producers. Please congratulate both Eric and Scott on their nominations and support your Knox County Committee by participating in the election this year.

Ballots for this year's election will be mailed out to program participants in the townships listed above. The election period ends and ballots MUST be postmarked by December 5, 2011.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit your local FSA office or the FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

How FSA Programs Benefit our Nation and Knox County

FSA's federal farm programs are important to our nation and Knox County. The Mission of the Farm Service Agency is an agency within the Department of Agriculture. The Agency's mission is to: ensure a safe, abundant, and inexpensive food supply, while maintaining a healthy domestic agricultural sector.

The Agency can be touted as a huge success in meeting the first part of our mission. In 2010, the average American spent approximately 8% of their income on food. In 1986, that average was 16.5%. Canada ranks second in the world in this standard of living spending over 16% of their income on food in 2010.

Many in the media question the success of the "maintaining a healthy domestic agricultural sector" noting the continued decline in numbers of "family farms". The American society will need to make some important decisions in the next few months as to what is a healthy agricultural sector—20 million, 2 million or 200,000 farmers?

Without a doubt, farming is an important National Security issue as well as an economic driver. Cheap food policy has made it possible to own cars, tv's, computers, etc... **We all benefit from the Federal Farm Program Policies and Programs.**

Current grain prices have led many to believe that Federal Budget savings can be made in direct farm program payments. Grain prices fluctuate and it would require a large increase in food prices in order for farmers to get the same level of support. For example: pork producers only receive 37 cents of each dollar spent on pork. Therefore, pork would have to increase by \$3.00 to offset each dollar of direct farm payments.

Local Control

FSA's most valuable asset is the local control and oversight provided by the County Committee system. Each office is divided into local administrative areas (LAA's) that represent similar farming practices and total number of farmers. These LAA's hold an election to select a farmer from that area to serve on the County Committee for three years. The Committee hears producer appeals, determines the extent and which programs will be offered, determine producer eligibility, and hire the County Executive Director to handle day-to-day operations. This local oversight and control is the most efficient and effective way to administer farm programs.

FSA Farm Programs

In most Ohio FSA Offices, there are approximately 25 different programs in which producers may be eligible to participate. They can be divided into Emergency Programs, Production Adjustment, Conservation, Price Support, and Loan Programs. Emergency Programs are varied and can cover crop losses, livestock losses, revenue losses, cost sharing for weather related disasters to structures. In 2010, County Offices in the 18th District paid over \$7.2 million in Disaster Payments to farmers.

- **Production adjustment programs** are designed to ensure cheap food for Americans and have often been called "farmer subsidies", however, they could be considered "consumer subsidies". These programs provide direct payments to farmers that share a risk in a crop on eligible acreage. In 2010, County Offices paid more than \$12 million to Ohio's farmers.
- **Conservation Programs** include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). These programs take environmentally sensitive land and place them in a conserving use cover to protect everyone's water quality. Nationally, these payments were in excess of \$6.4 million.
- **Price Support Programs** cover income protection for farmers from price fluctuations that can cripple local farmers many times for reasons due to the global market conditions. More than \$3.6 million were paid under these programs in 2010.
- **Loan Programs** offer various types of low interest loans. These include loans for facilities that help farmers better market their crops, loans using harvested grain which farmers use as operating capital, and direct and guaranteed loans for operating and farm ownership. There are also conservation loans to help farmers install approved conservation practices on their farms. These programs paid out more \$15.9 million to farmers. One huge difference between these programs and others is these funds are repaid and taxpayers actually earn a profit on these loans.

Unfortunately, these dollars are considered as true expenditures when dealing with the Federal budget for USDA. These are considered direct farm payments when Congress addresses the budget, and the media reports that 22% of the USDA budget is in the form of direct payments.

One of FSA's most important roles is record keeping for the United States Department of Agriculture. FSA maintains ownership records of all farmland in the U.S. They also accept acreage reports that traditionally include more than 95% of all cropland in the U.S. These acreage reports provide the Department and other policy makers valuable information as to the health and direction U.S. farmers are taking in terms of planting decisions. The agency also keeps track of the types of entities operating America's farmland. Accurate records of farm boundaries and field boundaries are being maintained in state of the art GIS formats. Foreign ownership of farmland is also recorded at FSA. FSA also maintains records on swampland and grassland acreages converted back into production after 1982.

For more information about Federal Farm Programs offered through FSA, visit your Knox County FSA office or the FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Squirrel Season Offers Hunters Preparation for Fall Hunting

Season begins September 1 and runs through January 31

Ohio's squirrel season will open on September 1, providing hunters with an opportunity to take as many as six squirrels each day, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife.

A long-time tradition for many hunters, Ohio's squirrel season offers ample hunting opportunities for fox and gray squirrels across the state. It is a great time to get out in the woods and scout for the upcoming deer and fall wild turkey hunting seasons or take a youth hunting. Legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Squirrel season will be closed during the one-week statewide deer gun season, beginning November 28 through December 4; deer gun weekend, December 17 and 18; and during early muzzleloader deer season, October 17-22 at the following areas: Salt Fork State Wildlife Area, Shawnee State Forest and Wildcat Hollow. The season officially closes January 31, 2012.



The abundance of nut crops is a good indicator of squirrel numbers the following year. Statewide nut production ratings for fall 2010 were higher in comparison to those from 2009. Therefore, the predicted squirrel hunting outlook for the 2011-12 season is above average. The widespread increase in mast production likely resulted in increased over winter survival and reproduction this spring, especially for gray squirrels. Although fox squirrel harvest is expected to increase somewhat, more substantial increases in gray squirrel harvest are expected.

Primary fox squirrel range occurs predominately in the agricultural landscapes in the northeastern and western regions of Ohio, whereas the primary gray squirrel range is in the extensively forested east-central, southeastern, and south-central regions. Gray squirrels are more dependent on hard mast and their abundance is closely tied to the mast crop the previous fall. Fox squirrels are less dependent upon mast crop resources and likely use supplemental food in agricultural areas.

Hunters who wish to participate in the Squirrel Hunting Diary Program, designed

to track trends in nut crops and squirrel populations across the Buckeye State, should contact the Waterloo Wildlife Research Station 360 East State St., Athens OH 45701, for more information.

The ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR Web site at www.ohiodnr.com.

Reminder for Farms Enrolled in DCP or ACRE

The Knox County FSA office has been receiving complaints regarding weeds on cropland that was not planted. You are encouraged to make field visits to all fields that were not planted and control noxious weeds if applicable, before they become a program compliance issue.


Federal Regulations found in Agency Handbook 1-DCP (Rev. 3) Par. 428A states: "Producers must protect land enrolled in DCP or the ACRE Program from weeds, including noxious weeds, and erosion, including providing sufficient cover if determined necessary by the county committee. The first violation of this provision will result in a reduction in the direct payments for the farm by an amount equal to three times the cost of maintenance of the acreage, but not to exceed 50 percent of the total direct payments for the farm. The second violation of this provision will result in a reduction in the direct payments for the farm by an amount equal to three times the cost of maintenance of the acreage, not to exceed the total direct payments for the farm. For the 2009 and subsequent crop years, a third violation of this provision will result in a complete reduction of all payments under the DCP or ACRE Program contract." (submitted by the Farm Service Agency)

Farm Service Agency Dates to Remember

Sept. 30	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage for Winter Wheat, Rye, Barley and Speltz.
Sept. 30	Deadline to file a notice of loss and an application for payment for livestock disaster programs for 2011.
Oct. 11	Columbus Day FSA Office Closed.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.



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Drainage Field Day Held in Bucyrus

The Knox & Crawford Soil and Water Conservation Districts held a GPS Guidance - Tile Installation Demonstration the evening of Tuesday, July 12 at the Tom Miller farm in Crawford County. The field demonstration was sponsored by Ag. Info Tech and Advanced Drainage Systems.

The demonstration featured tile installation with a drainage plow and a GPS guidance system that tracked the line layout, positioning, and line grade. GPS guidance systems for tile installation are a relatively new innovation for farm drainage systems and can "design" the tile line minimum grade and depth "on the go" as the installation is taking place. They also provide the opportunity to provide the grower with survey grade maps of the tile installation, an important feature when eventual maintenance of the drainage system is required.

The GPS system being used on the tile machine in the demonstration was provided and installed by Ag Info Tech from Gambier, Ohio. This, and similar products are available for tractor mounted tile plows being considered by many farmers for their own personal use.

If you would like assistance developing a drainage improvement project for your farming operation you can contact the SWCD office at 393-6724.



Pictured above is a tile machine which was demonstrated during the field day. Pictured top right, is supervisor, Tim Norris as he discussed tiling installation methods using GPS equipment .



SWCD Supervisor Election to be Held in December

The Knox Soil and Water Conservation District Board will be electing one member to fill the expiring term of Board Member Tyler Brown at the SWCD's Annual Meeting on December 8th. Persons interested in running for a position on the Knox SWCD Board of Supervisors may contact the Knox SWCD office to obtain a petition for candidacy. *Candidate Petitions must be filed with the SWCD office prior to the close of business on November 3, 2011.*

The new guidelines regarding eligibility requirements for voting in SWCD elections continue to stay in place. Residents & Resident Landowners, Non-resident Landowners, Non-resident "Land Occupiers", Corporations or Firms, LLC's and Trusts are all eligible to cast a vote for candidates in the election. "Land Occupiers" are those individuals, Corporations/Firms, LLC's and Trusts that may live or be headquartered in an area other than Knox County but control land here by means of a lease or rental agreement. **Non-resident Landowners, Non-resident Land Occupiers, Corporations/Firms, LLC's and Trusts should contact the SWCD office for specific voting guidelines regarding documentation of their eligibility.** In general, these groups/individuals will have to file an affidavit with the SWCD that verifies the status of land ownership or "occupation" prior to casting a vote in the election.

All eligible voters who can not vote in person the night of the SWCD Annual Meeting may cast their vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots may be made in writing or in person to the SWCD office on or after Wednesday, November 17, 2011. Appropriate documentation for voter groups other than residents and resident landowners must be provided at the time the ballot request is made. For more information regarding the 2011 Knox SWCD Supervisor Election please contact the SWCD office at 393-6724.

49th Annual Farm Science Review, September 20-22

The 49th annual Farm Science Review will be held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio September 20-22.

Farmers can expect to see field demonstrations despite the heaviest rains in the state for more than a century. Chuck Gamble, Farm Science Review Manager stated that the corn and soybeans were planted by June 8th and depending on the weather, crops at the FSR may be ready for harvest.

In addition to the field demonstrations, attendees will also be able to see:

- The latest in agricultural technology
- Livestock and handling equipment
- Grain and machine storage and other outbuilding structures
- Natural resource practices and programs at the Gwynne Conservation Area

The Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association (OLICA) will also be returning to Ohio State University's Farm Science Review. This organization is an affiliate of the Land Improvement Contractors of America and will showcase the latest in cutting edge field drainage technology, combining improved production practices with conservation water management.

The group, which strives to protect land and water resources, will be designing and installing drainage structures on 50 acres of the Molly Caren Agricultural Center. Show participants will have the opportunity to see the installation process of the drainage structures, how they work and the opportunities that exist to improve water quality while potentially making crop production more profitable.

The installation of the drainage structures will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily just north of I-70 in the field demonstration area.

"Our ultimate goal with the drainage is to be able to get a return on our investment. We can measure this through increased yield," said Matt Sullivan, Farm Science Review assistant manager. "Through this system, we also want to be able to reduce soil erosion, as well as improve water quality."

Sullivan said the Molly Caren Agricultural Center serves as a model for drainage technology and its incorporation into the site's comprehensive water management plan.

"As for conservation management, we want to provide an avenue for people to gather the best information possible to assist in making decisions based on sound design and sound science," said Sullivan. "If a raindrop hits the Farm Science Review we want to know what happens to that raindrop. Does it go to the stream, or does it get used by the crop? And is it carrying nutrients with it? This is not just a

time to put in drainage and say, 'Hey, we've done something great.' It's a time for us to look for ways to improve conservation and water quality."

Other partners of the project include Ohio State University Extension, Ohio State Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service, Madison County Engineers, Madison Soil and Water Conservation District, and Trimble Navigation.

More than 600 exhibitors will have their products and services on display to help farmers learn about and adopt the newest technologies to improve their on-farm efficiency and profitability. This year's review theme, "Where Farmers Go to Dream", will put the emphasis on agricultural innovation and an effort to spark new ideas and long term vision for farmers and the agricultural industry.

Tickets are available for sale at local agribusinesses and any OSU Extension office for \$5.00 in advance, or \$8.00 at the gate. Children 5 and under are free. For more information, go to fsr.osu.edu.

The Farm Science Review is sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University Extension, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. It attracts upwards of 140,000 visitors from all over the country and Canada, who come for three days to peruse 4,000 product lines from 600 commercial exhibitors, and learn the latest in agricultural research, conservation, family and nutrition, and gardening and landscape.

