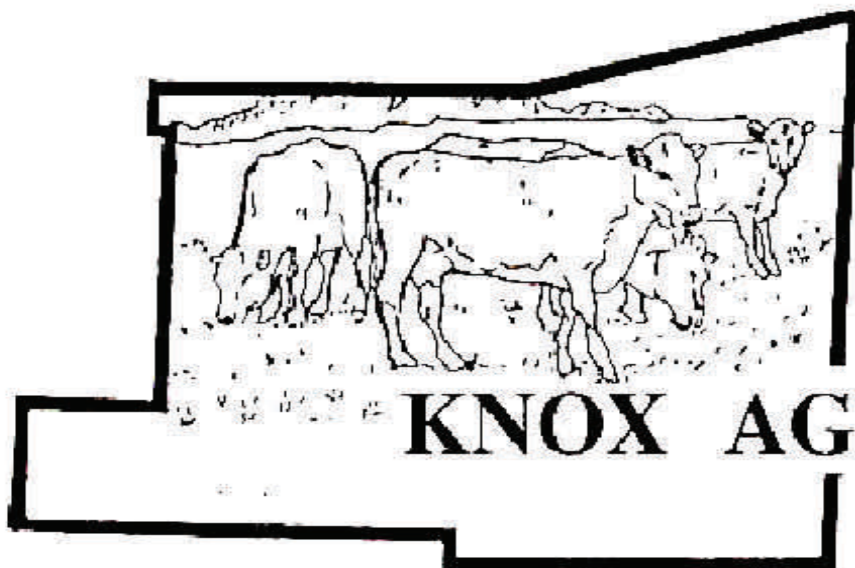


Knox SWCD
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Mount Vernon, OH 43050

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Volunteers Needed for Tree Inventory and Survey

Preparations for this summer's Tree Inventory and Survey of Mt. Vernon's City Parks continue to move forward and the Knox County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are still looking for volunteer teams of 5-10 people per team to assist in collecting the data.

The MGVs are working with the Mt. Vernon Parks Dept. and the Mt. Vernon Shade Tree Commission to collect information on each tree that is located with the city's parks.

Data collected from this survey will be used to create a picture of what trees are in the parks, their health status and become the foundation for future management plans.

No experience is needed to participate. A tree identification workshop is being scheduled for Saturday May 8th. The workshop will instruct volunteers on how to identify a wide variety of trees and how to operate the GPS units that will help pinpoint where trees are located within a site. Attendance at the workshop is NOT mandatory but would be a help in developing tree identification techniques. We could use all the help we can get in organizing and executing this workshop. Contact Carolyn Waggoner, Kris Hunter, Ann Laudeman or Pat Barnes if you'd like to help.



Teams can collect the data anytime between May 8th and June 30, 2010. We anticipate that it will take a team of 3-5 to conduct the survey within a given area. To participate or for further details contact Carolyn Waggoner at 397-2883, Pat Barnes at 625-6525, Kris Hunter at 397-1384 or Troy Cooper at 397-0401.

DCP Sign-up Deadline of June 1, 2010 nears!

Sign-up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2010. FSA will not accept late-filed applications. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign-up, or producers can visit their local FSA office to complete the 2010 DCP contract.

Initially, sign up in the Knox County FSA Office for the 2010 DCP Program was fairly brisk but more recently the flow of newly signed contracts has slowed. This is a concern as producers would be better off taking care of this activity before they become totally immersed in spring field activities. County Executive Director, Stephen Lovejoy encourages producers to take care of this required element of the DCP program as soon as possible. June 1, is an earlier date than in previous year. All persons on the contract with a share in the program benefits will need sign by June 1, 2010.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Who Do I Call for Wildlife Crop Damage?

Spring time has always been a great time on a farm: new animals are born, a new crop is put out, and working outside becomes less of a chore. But we are not the only ones that look forward to spring time as well. Those animals that have survived winter finally have a smorgasbord of new growth to choose from. Often, but not always; animals will find their way into a local crop field.

The wildlife specialist position at the SWCD was created to help producers address wildlife crop damage issues and come up with solutions. For those of you that may be experiencing crop damage you should contact our office once you discover "active" damage. Once your call has been received we will schedule a site visit to determine the culprit and discuss your options to alleviate the problem. The most common program that is associated with crop damage is the deer damage control permits (DDCP). Based on past numbers we will be very busy this summer with permits so if it is your intention to apply for a DDCP there are a few things you should have ready for a site visit:

1. List of shooters
 - The permit allows a maximum of 5 shooters; they must reside in Knox or an adjacent county; and you will need their **name, address, phone #, date of birth, and hunting license #**; shooters will not be approved until all information is provided.
2. Written Permission
 - Those producers who are leasing or renting ground need to provide a copy of written permission from the landowner to go along with the permit.

Again, if you are experiencing "active" wildlife crop damage please contact Jarrod Hittle at the Knox SWCD office to schedule a site visit at 393-6724 or jhittle@knoxswcd.org

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