



KNOX SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Forestry Camp Scholarships Presented

Since 1950 the Ohio Forestry Camp has provided many young people an education on the importance of trees and the forestry industry. Over ten thousand high school students from all parts of Ohio have gained an understanding of Ohio forests during the camp. Many of the students have furthered their interest by obtaining a post-secondary education in natural resources.

The Knox Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce Jonathan Dudo and Hadleigh Rundell as those individuals who have been selected to receive camp scholarships. Hadleigh is a 9th grader at Mount Vernon High School and has participated in many ag classes and activities relating to Forestry. She would eventually like to attend Hocking College and study Forestry. Jonathan is also a 9th grader of the Broadway Home School Academy. He is very excited to attend the camp as he has a genuine interest in forestry and hopes to start a Nature Club.



The 2010 camp is June 13-18 at FFA Camp Muskingum located in Carroll County. We would like to congratulate these individuals on being selected to attend the camp.

Knox Soil & Water Conservation District
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Phone 740-393-6724 or 393-6725
Fax 740-392-5519
Office hours: 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday
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Rob Clendening-Program Administrator
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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Equipment Rental Available for Producers this Spring

The Knox Soil & Water Conservation District is gearing up for the 2010 equipment rental season. Our equipment rentals include two John Deere No-Till 10' Grain Drills. Despite the rising cost in our economy, the drill rental rate will remain at \$10.00 per acre. One of the grain drills includes markers, while the other one does not. They both are equipped with grass seed attachment for forage seeding and pasture renovation. Set-up assistance for depth, down-pressure, and seeding rate will be provided by the SWCD staff by appointment.

During 2010, Knox SWCD continues the cooperative agreement for use of the Truax warm season grain drill through the local Pheasants Forever chapter and Knox County Fish and Game Association. The Truax drill is configured specifically for the seeding of warm season (prairie) grasses, and is especially well suited to seeding very light and fluffy seed types. Priority for the Truax Drill will be given to landowners interested in seeding warm season grasses in the Knox County area and those participating in the Conservation Reserve or other wildlife habitat enhancement programs.

Two tree planters are also available through Knox SWCD. These tree planters rent for \$25.00 per day. Please call ahead to reserve the tree planter as it is usually busy during the tree planting season. Scheduling is on a first come first served basis.



To schedule any Knox SWCD equipment, please call 393-6724. A rental agreement must be signed before equipment can be used. For your convenience we will mail the agreement in advance with a self addressed paid envelope to allow for future use. **Upon signing the agreement please note that payment is due within 30 days of use unless otherwise arranged.**

Groundhog Nuisance

With many local farmers back in the field I felt it would be a good time to write about ground hog control. Anyone who has spent any time at all in a field can tell you just how annoying and potentially destructive ground hogs can be to equipment as well as crops. Ground hogs can also cause damage in a residential setting as well burrowing under foundations, weakening dams, or damaging flower beds and gardens. There are a few different options available when you want to get rid of nuisance ground hogs.

Option 1 - Exclusion/Modification

Where feasible, fencing is by far the best method to totally eliminate ground hogs from a given area. This is best accomplished around gardens and foundations. Fences should be at least 3 ft. high and made of heavy poultry wire or 2 in. mesh woven wire. Bury the lower edge 10 to 12 inches in the ground to prevent burrowing under. By bending the top portion outward at a 45° angle which will prevent them from climbing over. Adding an electric wire will also prevent both burrowing and climbing. Habitat modification can help reduce or exclude ground hogs from wanting to move to or stay in an area. This is as simple as keeping grass height low, reducing debris such as woodpiles and brush piles will make a property less attractive to ground hogs.

Option 2 - Shooting

In Ohio, groundhogs are considered a game quadruped and hunting/shooting is permitted with a valid hunting license. Landowners are exempt from needing a hunting license when hunting on their own property. Hunting/shooting for ground hogs is closed only during deer gun season, there is no daily bag limit, and there are no restrictions on hours. If considering shooting as an option you must first check all state and local ordinances before the use of firearms. If legal shooting

can be accomplished safely, landowner/hunters can reduce or maintain a low population of ground hogs.

Option 3 - Trapping

Cage traps and body gripping traps are both effective and legal means used to trap nuisance ground hogs. All traps must have an attached durable waterproof tag with the users name and mailing address. Ohio state law requires that all traps and snares must be checked once every 24 hours. The use of foot hold traps and snares is prohibited by the Ohio Division of Wildlife for the removal of ground hogs. Cage trapping can be difficult, but is effective. Place traps at main entrances or travel lanes, guide logs can be used to funnel the animal into the trap. The best baits for cage traps are fruits and vegetables such as apples, lettuce, broccoli, and cabbage. Any person who live-traps a ground hog shall release the animal outside the limits of any incorporated village or city. Animals cannot be released on public or private property without first receiving the permission of the landowner.

Body gripping traps kill the animal quickly and humanely. Body gripping traps can only be used from March 1st through September 30th each year. They cannot have a jaw spread greater than 7 inches by 7 inches. Size 220 body gripping traps are recommended. All body gripping traps MUST have an enclosure or structure around the trap which prohibits other animals from getting into the trap from the outside.

At times a property owner may not want or be able to conduct control work on their own. If that is the case you can contact the Knox SWCD office at 393-6724 and we can put you in contact with local hunters or provide a list of nuisance wildlife trappers here in the county that will help you manage ground hog damage/nuisance on your property.

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