



Belmont SWCD

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The District Cooperator

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April 2006

Olney Taber Farm Wins Environmental Dairy Stewardship Award



(Center) Don Guindon and wife, Jan Chambers, accepted the 2006 Environmental Dairy Stewardship Award at the Ohio Livestock Coalition Banquet on behalf of the Olney Taber Farm. Presenting the award to Guindon is Tim Demland, President of the Ohio Dairy Producers (l), and Carol Losey (r).

Olney Taber Farm, in Barnesville, Ohio was awarded the Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC) Environmental Dairy Stewardship Award at the OLC Banquet held in Columbus, Ohio March 29, 2006.

Don Guindon and his wife, Jan Chambers, accepted the award on behalf of the 350-acre Olney Taber Farm, where co-operators Guindon and Mike Britton milk 55 Jersey cows and house 105 animals.

Olney Taber Farm received a commemorative plaque from the Ohio Dairy Producers and the State of Ohio Governor's Office provided a proclamation recognizing the farm's commitment to environmental stewardship.

"Environmental stewardship to me means doing what is necessary to not only preserve but to improve the

resources that we have. This isn't just a trend that was recently started on our farm, but a continuation of some practices that have been ongoing for over 100 years. We want to see that it continues for the next 100 years," said Guindon.

Conservation practices such as contour farming, crop rotation, cover crops, no-till and minimum tillage, managed intensive grazing, fencing out woodlots and streams, spring developments, and nutrient management are all utilized to preserve and improve the farm's natural resources.

"Rotational grazing saves us money in that it keeps our cows healthier. When we graze, we have fewer feet and leg problems; our cows stay cleaner so our somatic cell count is lower," said Guindon. "Stored manure allows us to spread when it will have the greatest benefit to the

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Belmont SWCD Urges People to be Water Wise

Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District wants to show you how to be water wise, during its annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 30 to May 7, 2006 as Stewardship Week, with the theme "Water Wise."

Many of us may take our water supplies for granted. But a large network of private and government agencies help protect, treat, and deliver our water.

In the United States, over 53,000 community water treatment systems deliver drinking water to millions of people. Over 13,000,000 private wells provide water to families and businesses. Agriculture, electric power generation, industry, and transportation all depend on water resources.

Ed Stenger acts as Chairman for Belmont SWCD. "We want to help people in Belmont County learn how important it is to help conserve water but how easy it can be." During Stewardship Week, Belmont SWCD will provide Poster Contest Participants with a tree seedling that they can plant in the name of conservation. This year, 788 Belmont County youth, in grades 4-6 will receive the seedlings.

Belmont SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org), which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

"Water is one of the most pressing resource issues facing our country," said Krysta Harden, Chief Executive Officer of NACD. "Conservation districts across the country help landowners, homeowners, and businesses learn how to conserve water, from simple lifestyle adjustments to large scale projects. People can contact their local district for a wealth of useful information."

"Every person can help conserve water," says Stenger. "It's easy, it helps the environment, and it usually saves money." Join Belmont SWCD during Stewardship Week to find out how.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact Belmont SWCD at 740.425.1100 Ext 3. You can learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week at www.stewardshipweek.com. You don't have to be a wise old owl to find out how to be "water wise." 🦉

Stewardship Week 50 Years Strong

Soil and Water Stewardship Week is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, the NACD has sponsored the national Soil and Water Stewardship Week program.

The concept of stewardship involves personal and social responsibility. We have a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely. By doing this we can achieve material and spiritual growth in our own lives, and leave a rich legacy for future generations.

Everyone wants to help improve the world. But sometimes the scope of the world's problems seems beyond the reach of one person. And sometimes we are tempted to believe that large agencies and organizations will take care of this important work, without our help.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week reminds us of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When people work together with their local conservation district, that power grows and grows. And as these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts, the results can be spectacular! 🦉

Existing EQIP Contracts May be Eligible for 15% Increase


Do you have an existing Natural Resources Conservation Service (EQIP) contract? If so you may be eligible for a 2006 Energy Initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The cost of implementing some EQIP practices has dramatically increased over the last two years as a result of spikes in energy costs. (NRCS) has identified a list of structural practices that have been impacted the most nationwide.

To provide some economic relief to participants, NRCS is offering a one time opportunity to increase the amounts to be paid for identified practices by 15 percent in contracts signed in 2004 and earlier. A 15 percent addition will be made to the final payment amount for eligible

practices. This is not to be confused with a 15 percent increase in the cost share rate. This opportunity will be available from March 1 to June 30, 2006. You must certify practices as complete to NRCS standards and specifications during this time period and provide all required documentation (appropriate bills and receipts) to the field office. You will need to provide your documentation in our office no later than close of business June 30, 2006 to be eligible for the increased payment.

Participants that are interested in participating in this Energy Initiative should contact our office at their earliest convenience. Your contact is needed in order to determine which practices are eligible for the payment increase and to schedule the required

technical assistance to provide practice designs and specifications. All necessary permits and approved designs must be obtained before work can start on practice installation. Waivers will not be authorized if permits or designs can not be obtained in the time needed to allow certification of practice completion within required dates.


For more information on the EQIP Energy Incentive Contact the NRCS office at 740.425.1100 Ext 3. 

Discover Spring

By watching for birds such as Common Grackles and Chimney Swifts, flowering trees such as Eastern Redbuds, and amphibians, such as the aptly named Northern Spring Peeper, Ohioans will be able to track the return of spring.

Discover Spring, the website features learning resources that will enable people to learn how to identify the various species through sight and sound, and how to take action to benefit each species in backyards and neighborhoods.

You have the opportunity to help track these species by entering your observations at www.audubonohio.org. After the data has been entered, a point on a map will appear showing the date and location of the participant's observation relative to others in Ohio.

This project was made possible through collaboration between Audubon Ohio's Audubon At Home program, Miami University's Institute of Environmental Sciences, and the USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 

Olney Taber Farm continued from cover....

crop. Less compaction helps production; crop rotation increases production and helps limit weed problems.”

Olney Taber Farm also had one of the first manure storage facilities in the area and the only covered facility in Belmont County. Having the storage facility allows the farm operators to apply manure when it will be most beneficial to the crops. The farm also has a Certified Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

Not only does Olney Taber Farm follow stringent stewardship practices, the farm provides an opportunity for international as well as local students to become familiar with acceptable agriculture practices. The farm plays host to many events, such as the Belmont County Rubberneck Tour, Tri-county Agronomy Day, FFA Soil Judging Contest, training for Envirothon teams, and many other school groups.

Olney Taber Farm is part of the Olney Friends School, a private Quaker Boarding High School established in 1837. The farm's original mission was to provide meat, milk, fruits and vegetables for use by the student body and community. The farm increased to its current size from monetary and land donations from generous individuals and groups.

Leonard Guindon, Olney Friends Teacher, uses the farm as a resource for environmental science and biology classes. In addition to the physics of flying pumpkins, his biology classes utilize the livestock, forest, wildlife and ponds for learning. “I use Olney Taber Farm as a source to teach kids about sustainable agriculture and soil conservation,” Guindon said.

The Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District nominated Olney Taber Farm for the award.



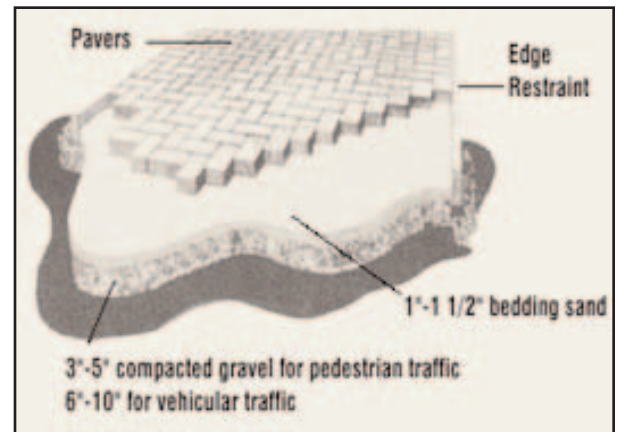
Permeable Pavement an Environmentally Friendly Option

Just as drinking water can be filtered to remove impurities, the soil particles filter rainwater percolating through soil on its way to surface waters and to groundwater aquifers.

This important step in the natural process of water purification is bypassed when rainwater falls on impermeable pavement surfaces or roofs and is carried directly through storm drainage systems into waterways. Since engineered curb and gutter storm drainage systems are costly to design and build, use of permeable pavement systems can also result in a reduction of construction costs for developers or municipalities. Pervious pavements are also denoted as porous or open-graded pavement.

Pollution carried in rainwater runoff is another concern, especially in urban areas. Storm water flowing across streets and sidewalks picks up contaminants associated with air pollution particles, spilled oil, detergents, solvents, de-icing salts during freezing conditions, dead leaves, pesticides, fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste. Natural filtration of water through soil is the simplest way to control these pollutants, and is a direct advantage of permeable pavement.

For more information, please contact Rick Oberdick, Urban Technician at 740.425.1100 Ext. 112. 🏠



Block pavers, shown above, can offer an aesthetic quality to a driveway, while allowing storm water to drain more naturally.

Porous Asphalt

A great advantage to porous asphalt is that the same mixing and application equipment is used as for impermeable asphalt. Only the formula for the paving material changes with porous bituminous pavement. The amount of asphalt binder required is about 6% by weight which is somewhat higher than required for standard impermeable asphalt mixes.

Bituminous permeable paving is appropriate for pedestrian-only areas and for very low-volume, low-speed areas such as overflow parking areas, residential driveways, alleys, and parking stalls. Permeable paving is an excellent technique for dense urban areas, because it does not require any additional land. With proper design, cold climates are not a major limitation.

Permeable paving is not ideal for high traffic/high speed areas because it has lower load-bearing capacity than conventional pavement. Nor should it be used on storm water “hotspots” with high pollutant loads because storm water cannot be pretreated prior to infiltration.

Porous Concrete

Again, the same equipment may be used as for standard concrete. Larger pea gravel and a lower water-to-

cement ratio are used to achieve a pebbled, open surface that is roller compacted. This material can also be used as a way to reduce solar heat-gain from absorption. Project costs can also be reduced because no retention pond or connection to the municipal storm drain system is required.

Plastic Grid Systems

High strength plastic grids (often made from recycled materials) are placed in roadway areas. Some are designed to be filled with gravel on top of an engineered aggregate material, while others are filled with a sand/soil mixture on top of an aggregate/topsoil mix that allow grass to be planted on the surface. The grids provide a support structure for heavy vehicles, and prevent erosion. After heavy rains, the grids act as mini holding-ponds, and allow water to gradually absorb into the soil below.

Block Pavers

This material can be used to create a porous surface with the aesthetic appeal of brick, stone, or other interlocking paving materials. They are most often used for driveways, entryways, walkways, or terraces to achieve a more traditional, formal appearance.



Food Plots Attract Wildlife

For a landowner looking to attract wildlife to their property a food plot could be the answer. A food plot is an annual or perennial planting of grass, legume, or other forb to provide food for wildlife. Food plots may be planned to meet the requirements of one wildlife species or a variety of species.

Wildlife populations are found in areas where their basic needs (*shelter, reproduction, food and water, and movement*) are satisfied. As a landowner you need to evaluate your property and surrounding property to determine if any of the variables are missing. The water component of habitat is not usually a problem in this part of the country, nor is shelter. Food, however, may be a missing component, especially at the end of a hard winter.

Planting a Food Plot

The location of a food plot is very critical. Good food plots are located near existing cover, have good access for site prep, planting, and maintenance. The non-erodible site should also receive at least 6-8 hours of sunlight a day. Once a site is chosen, a soil test is recommended. A soil test will provide you with the exact amount of fertilizer and lime that is needed for the crop that you are planting. Thus saving you money on fertilizer cost. *Soil tests are available at the local Ohio State University Extension office.*

When planting a winter food plot corn and sorghum are the best crops to utilize because the plants are erect and usually above snow fall. Establish the food plot early enough

to provide a mature plant for winter time. Keep in mind that corn matures at 80 to 120 days depending on the variety. As a general rule a 1/2 acre of food plot should have 20 acres of winter cover.

Level of Difficulty

Food plots can be as easy or hard as you make them. The level of difficulty depends on the amount of time, equipment, and desired results. The basic concept is to prepare a seed bed by spraying with herbicide, tilling or plowing, and fertilizing if necessary. Then apply the seed by hand or with a mechanical broadcaster attached to a tractor or ATV. Once the seed is spread out over the seed bed, it needs to be covered. To get good seed to soil contact, the area can be covered by dragging or cultipacking. Another option once the seed bed is prepared is to plant with a traditional drill or no-till drill. Remember that some weeds in a food plot are not bad. The wildlife you attract will eat the forbs and seed heads. Alone or in combination, corn, sorghum, sunflowers, clover, rye, oats, and buckwheat will attract wildlife.

Additional Information

The Belmont SWCD sells limited quantities of seed for wildlife plantings. The district also has a corn planter, no-till drill, and tree planter for rent. For further information on food plots please contact Nathan Taylor, Forestry/Wildlife Specialist at 740.425.1100 Ext. 110, or for additional information on district rental equipment contact Brian Porterfield, District Technician at 740.425.1100 Ext 111. 📍

Brush Management Meeting Announced

Olney Taber Farm in Barnesville, Ohio will host a Brush Management Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Schumacher, OSU Extension Agent, will discuss all aspects of herbicides including availability, application methods, where and when to apply, and safety precautions

Nathan Taylor, Belmont SWCD Wildlife/Forestry Specialist, and Brian Porterfield, Belmont SWCD Technician, will demonstrate mechanical methods of brush control, including Multiflora Rose, Tree of Heaven and grapevine.

Bulletins with additional information will be available that evening for \$3.00.

The program is sponsored by the OSU Extension Service and Belmont SWCD. For more information, please contact Belmont SWCD at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3 or the OSU Extension office at 740.695.1455. 📍

Springtime Requires Increased Safety When Burning Outdoors

Ohioans planning to burn debris outdoors this spring are urged to take extra precautions and follow the state's outdoor burning regulations, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry.

Ohio law states that outdoor debris burning is prohibited between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. during the months of March, April, May, and in October, and November. Burning is limited during these periods because of the abundance of fuel on the ground. In the spring, moisture-rich vegetation has not yet arrived, and in the fall, dried leaves provide fuel for a fire. The weather is generally drier and windier during these months as well.

"People choosing to burn outdoors must take all reasonable precautions to prevent a fire from escaping control," said John Dorka, chief of the Division of Forestry. "The recent rash of wildfires in southern Ohio is a prime example of how critical it is that outdoor burns be attended until

safely extinguished. I urge people to remember the ABC's of fire prevention: Always Be Careful."

Escaped fires may be investigated and responsible persons are subject to prosecution. Each year, about 800 wildfires burn nearly 4,500 acres of forest and grassland in Ohio.

The Division of Forestry offers the following safety tips and guidelines for burning outdoors, where and when such burning is permitted:

- Be informed of state and local burning regulations.
- Know current and future weather conditions, and have suppression tools at hand.
- Consider using a 55-gallon drum with a weighted screen lid to provide an enclosed trash incinerator.
- Consult the local fire department for additional helpful information and safety considerations.
- Check to see if the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency might also have burning regulations that may apply. 🌲

Did You Miss the EQIP Sign-up?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reminds everyone that early involvement in the Conservation Planning Process will allow you to make better decisions for your land and increase your chances of obtaining funding in future EQIP programs.

Early involvement will allow for more time and thought to be given to the application. Rotational grazing, water development, access roads, fence and feeding pads are just a few of the practices that have been cost-shared in the past. Even though the 2006 EQIP application deadline has passed and the 2007 programs have not been released, now is a good time to start planning for the future.

For more information contact Jeff Bettinger, District Conservationist at 740.425.1100 Ext 3. 🌲

Kemps Receive Regional Award

Hollis Kemp was presented the 2006 Good Neighbor Regional Award at the Ohio Livestock Coalition Meeting in Columbus, Ohio March 29, 2006.

Kemp and son, Lowell, received the award for their work building bridges with neighbors in the Ohio countryside. The Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC) and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation created the Good Neighbor awards program in 2005 to recognize livestock producers and rural residents who demonstrate the willingness to go beyond a neighborly wave.

The Kemp's received a plaque and a \$100 donation to their favorite charity. Hollis and Lowell Kemp were nominated for the award by the Belmont SWCD. 🌲



Hollis Kemp, 4th from the left, accepted the Good Neighbor Regional Award on behalf of he and his son at the Ohio Livestock Coalition Meeting held in Columbus, Ohio March 29, 2006. Pictured with Kemp were (1 to r) Tim Demland, OLC President, family members: Matthew Ebbert, Lova Ebbert, and Scott Buckley; and Charles Lausin, OFB State Board Member.

LEAP Equine Program Announced

Belmont & Monroe County Farm Bureaus, OSU Extension Services, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Natural Resource Conservation Service will hold a LEAP Equine Program on Tuesday, June 13th and Tuesday, June 20th beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening. **Location TBA.**

The program's curriculum focuses on key issues that are critically important to the success of an equine operation developing and implementing practices that are economically viable, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable. Specific topics

that will be addressed during the training sessions include protecting water quality, manure and nutrient management, pasture management, facility design, conservation practices, neighbor relations, regulatory compliance and Ohio's equine liability law.

The Equine Environmental & Liability Awareness Program was developed by the Ohio Livestock Coalition and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, United States

Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ohio State University Extension and Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil & Water Conservation and Ohio Horseman's Council.

To make a reservation to attend the training session, or for additional information about the program, contact Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District by June 6, 2006 at 740.425.1100 Ext. 3. 📞

No-Till Equipment Available for Rent

This spring farmers planting agronomic crops will be faced with high production costs. With fertilizer, labor, and diesel fuel costs rising through the roof, producers need to analyze their operation and look for ways to lower costs in order to be profitable.



To ease production costs, minimizing fuel consumption is crucial during the spring planting season. On average, farmers can save approximately 3.5 gallons of fuel per acre by decreasing the number of passes across the field. Unlike conventional tillage, where you typically run larger tractors and numerous pieces of tillage equipment across the field prior to planting, you are consuming less fuel because it takes a smaller tractor running at a lower RPM to perform no-till. With no-till you are making two passes

across the field, the first with a sprayer, followed by the planter. With fewer trips across the field, you are reducing labor, wear and tear on equipment and minimizing soil compaction.

The conservation advantages of no-till reduce the potential for soil erosion by leaving crop residue on the surface. No-till improves water quality of our streams and ponds by reducing the amount of agricultural runoff. Furthermore, no-till builds up organic matter in the soil by leaving carbon in the soil instead of releasing it into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Improved soil tilth, which allows more water and air movement through the soil profile, helps to conserve soil moisture, and increase microorganisms in the soil.

First time no-till users will receive the first four acres free and will not

be charged for set up and delivery. Out of county users in adjacent counties will be charged \$1.00/mile for delivery. Anyone interested in renting equipment should contact Brian Porterfield at the Belmont SWCD office at 740.425.1100 Ext. 111. Equipment is scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. 📞

The Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District offers the following equipment for rent:

No-Till 2-Row Corn Planter
\$8.00 per acre, minimum \$50

No-Till Haybuster Grain Drill
\$8.00 per acre, minimum \$50

2 Lime Spreaders
\$1.00 per ton, minimum \$25

25 gallon ATV spot sprayer
\$25.00 refundable deposit

Upcoming Events

May 3th • 9:00 a.m.
Area III Envirothon Competition
 Hartford Fairgrounds
 Licking County, Ohio

May 8th • 8:00 p.m.
Belmont SWCD Board Meeting
 USDA Service Center
 Barnesville, Ohio

May 23rd • 7:00 p.m.
Brush Management Meeting
 Olney Taber Farm
 Barnesville, Ohio

June 13th & June 20th
6:30 p.m.
LEAP Equine Program
 Location TBA

BARK Volunteers Plant 4,000 Trees



The Barnesville Area Reforestation Committee (BARK) held its' third annual Tree Planting April 1, 2006 on an area just north of Barnesville.

More than 125 volunteers planted 4,000 trees on reclaimed mine land.

The BARK Committee would like to thank the following businesses who made this year's tree planting a success:

Barnesville Fire Department
Barnesville EMTs
ODNR Division of Forestry
Barnesville Riesbeck's
Oxford Coal Company
Barnesville Kiwanis Club

Thank you to the many other individuals who gave their time, money and effort for this project. Without the determination of all those individuals involved, this project would not be possible. 🌲

<p>FARM BUREAU <i>Take advantage of CAUV that Farm Bureau secured for all land owners!</i></p> <p><i>Call Farm Bureau for details!</i> <i>(740) 425-3681</i></p>	<p> Buckeye Tree Co. <small>FORESTRY MANAGEMENT SERVICES OH, WV, PA</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber Sales and Appraisals • Tree Farm Inspection • Residential Arborist Services <p>CRAIG KIDNEY <small>Office & Fax: (740) 633-9590 Hocking College of Forestry Cell: (740) 359-7197 Registered W.V. State Board craigkidney@earthlink.net ISA Certified Arborist</small></p>	<p><i>Evergreen Consulting Service</i></p> <p>FOREST MANAGEMENT MARKING, ESTIMATES, SALES</p> <p>3875 E. Greenwood Road Zanesville, OH 43701 (740) 452-8004</p> 	<p>M. THEAKER & SON  EXCAVATING, INC.</p> <p><small>Backhoe • Trackhoe • Trucking • Dozer Trenching • Sewage Systems • Waterlines 53620 Farmington Road • Bridgeport, OH 43912 (740) 635-3134 • Fax (740) 635-4101</small></p>
<p> DAVID P. LASH, JR.</p> <p>LASH PAVING & EXCAVATING P.O. Box 296 • Colerain, OH 43916 (740) 635-4335 • Fax (740) 633-1047</p>	<p> Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA</p> <p>2146 Southgate Parkway Cambridge, Ohio 43725 Toll Free 1-888-713-4923</p>	<p>SAYRE REAL ESTATE</p> <p>Jeanne V. Sayre, CRS Broker</p> <p>116 East Main Street St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950 Office: (740) 695-1414 Fax: (740) 695-8946 Res: (740) 782-1414 Cell: (304) 639-1414</p>   	<p>Jefferis Foods LLC</p> <p>1105 East Main Street Barnesville, OH 43713 Tel: 740.425.1773 Fax: 740.425.1773 kfc@zippyteck.com</p>  