

June / July / August 2017
A quarterly publication / Issue 23

69 S. Plains Road
The Plains, Ohio 45780
(740) 797-9686 or (800) 582-8890

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Mark Your Calendars

August 4th - 12th - Athens County Fair
(see page 2 for a schedule of events)
August 17th - Athens SWCD Board Meeting
August 22nd - ODA Farm Pesticide Disposal
August 29th - Ohio Pollinator Habitat Workshop
August 31st - SOACDF Grant Application Deadline
September 4th - Labor Day - Office Closed
September 6th - 10th - Albany Independent Fair
September 17th - 23rd - Pollution Prevention Week
September 21st - Athens SWCD Board Meeting
October 9th - Columbus Day - Office Closed
October 12th - Athens SWCD Board Meeting
October 19th - Athens SWCD Annual Meeting and Banquet



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our e-newsletter in color!

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Current Resident or

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Reminds Farmers and Landowners of Available Emergency Conservation Program

The USDA FSA office in The Plains, Ohio is reminding area producers impacted by high winds and flooding that USDA administers the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to provide emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.

Cost share assistance is made available for debris cleanup, fence repair, and land rehabilitation such as reshaping flooded lands or wind impacted fields. Producers should contact the FSA office at 800-582-8890 as soon as possible to report damage and receive information about the program. Cost share typically covers 75 percent of the cost of cleanup.



Conservation News



Athens Soil and Water Conservation District

69 S. Plains Road The Plains, Ohio 45780

740-797-9686 or 800-582-8890

athensswcd.org

Mission: Provide leadership by promoting the wise use and enhancement of Athens County's natural resources for current and future generations.

Inside this issue:

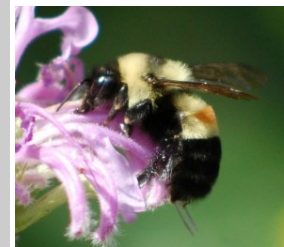
Save the Date Annual Banquet	2
Grant Opportunity	2
Athens County Fair	2
Farm Pesticide Disposal	3
Earth Team Volunteer	3
Grazing Council	3
Small Business Grant Opportunity	3
New Employee	3
Emergency Conservation Program	4



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Doing All We Can, Where We Can for Pollinators



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

our pollinating insects, is the monarch butterfly. It was recently announced that it is on the way to being placed on the endangered species list unless we step-up to assist in its recovery.

There is no question that we all need pollinators as they provide more than 80% of all the food we eat by pollinating the plants that produce that food. The Athens SWCD, numerous state, national and private agencies, and citizens have joined in a state and nationwide effort to provide and protect native habitats for these very beneficial creatures. Currently, Athens SWCD has planted 1000 square feet of habitat in The Plains Preserve along Johnson Road in The Plains, Ohio. While other Athens County citizens have planted nearly 5 acres of pollinator habitat through out the county in 2017.

These efforts began in 2016 with a statewide collection of milkweed seed pods. The milkweed is the exclusive host for the nesting of monarch butterflies. By collecting and planting the milkweed seed and preserving established plots of milkweed, we already have given the monarch a fighting chance to survive. To take it one step further, we need to provide nectar rich wildflowers for these pollinators to feed on. Here in Athens County, the Athens SWCD has partnered with local FFA chapters to propagate native Ohio wildflowers to be planted in way station habitats for a consistent food source for these insects. The seeding soil and native Ohio wildflower seed were generously donated by Scott's Miracle Gro and the Ohio Prairie Nursery. We are hoping to continue this effort in 2018, and it will begin with a milkweed seed pod collection September 1 to October 30, this fall. You can be a part of this growing effort to save our pollinators! We will be offering a **workshop on August 29** to provide instruction on proper seed pod collection, wildflower selection, habitat establishment and maintenance. Visit our website athensswcd.org for details.



Monarch Butterfly



The Plains Preserve Pollinator Way
Station on Johnson Road



Milkweed and Nectar Rich Plants
were distributed to landowners
through out Athens County.

Thank you Scott's Miracle Gro and Ohio Prairie Nursery for your generous donations!

Save the Date!

Athens SWCD to Celebrate 71 Years of Conservation Accomplishments at their Annual Meeting and Banquet!

When: October 19, 2017
Time: 5:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Where: The Plains United Methodist Church
We Hope to see you there!



Grants Available for Athens County Agricultural Producers



Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation

The Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation (SOACDF) is an organization created by the 123rd Ohio General Assembly and charged by the Ohio Legislature with providing agricultural and economic assistance to southern Ohio's tobacco counties. The purpose of the SOACDF is to replace the production of tobacco in southern Ohio with production of other agricultural products and to mitigate the adverse economic impact of reduced tobacco production in the region by preparing, implementing, and keeping a current plan to develop means for tobacco growers to grow other agricultural products voluntarily.

The SOACDF has the following grant categories available to agricultural producers who reside in one of the 22 counties that are served by the Foundation.

- Agricultural Development
- Economical Development
- Environmental/ Water Quality
- Young Farmer
- Educational Grants

For more information on SOACDF or their grant opportunities visit their website at www.soacdf.net.

2017 Athens County Fair

Come out and join us at the 2017 Athens County Fair Friday, August 4th through Saturday August 12th! For a full description of the Ag and Natural Resources programs visit our website at www.athensswcd.org.

Monday, August 7th:

- **"There are Coyotes on My Farm!"** at 11:30am in the AG/Natural Resources Tent. Presented by Eric Hayes, Athens SWCD and Allen Patton, ODNR, DOW
- **"Athens County Open Class Hay Show"** at 1:30pm in the AG/Natural Resources Tent

Tuesday, August 8th:

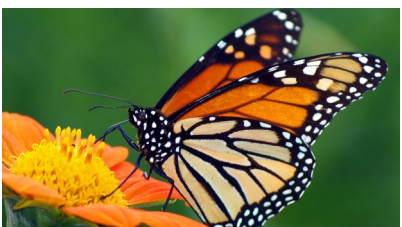
- **"Reptiles: Facts and Fiction"** at 11:30am and will be repeated at 12:30pm on the Hillside Stage. Presented by Dave Sagan, Hocking College Nature Center
- **"Athens County Has Bears!"** at 2:00pm in the AG/Natural Resources Tent. Presented by Dave Swanson, Hocking College

Wednesday, August 9th:

- **Kid's Day at the Athens County Fair!**
- **"Owls: Not Just a Bird of Prey"** at 10:30am in the AG/Natural Resources Tent. Presented by ODNR, Hocking Hills State Park Staff
- **"The Mighty Monarch and Other Pollinators"** at 12:30pm in the AG/Natural Resources Tent. Presented by Teresa Caldwell, Athens SWCD

Thursday, August 10th:

- **"The Real Dirt about Soils and the Critters That Live There"** at 1:00pm in the AG/Natural Resources Tent. Presented by Athens SWCD staff



Ohio Department of Agriculture Announces a Farm Pesticide Disposal Collection in Athens County



The Athens SWCD is partnering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to bring a Farm Pesticide Disposal Collection to Athens County. Farmers wishing to dispose of unwanted pesticides can do so on **Tuesday, August 22, 2017 from 9:00am - 3:00pm** at the Albany Independent Fairgrounds, 5201 Washington Rd, Albany, Ohio 45710.

The pesticide collection and disposal service is open to individuals in Athens and surrounding counties and is free of charge, but only farm chemicals will be accepted. Paint, antifreeze, solvents and household or non-farm pesticides will not be accepted.

Pesticide collections are sponsored by ODA in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information contact the Athens SWCD office at 740-797-9686 or ODA at 614-728-6987.



Earth Team Volunteer

The Athens SWCD supervisors and staff welcome Jacob Henry, Earth Team Volunteer, to our office. Jacob is currently a senior in the Civil Engineering department at Ohio University. He has been assisting Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Technician, with Stormwater Surveying in the City Of Athens.

Grazing Council

The Athens SWCD and Athens County OSU Extension have partnered to re-establish the Athens County Grazing Council. This is a group for individuals that are interested in improving their grazing skills. They meet on the first Monday of every month, with the exception of the August meeting being held on **July 31st**. The summer meetings of the Grazing Council are held on various farms throughout Southeastern Ohio. For more information contact Ed Brown, OSU Extension, at 740-593-8555 or Athens SWCD District Technician, Jill Montle, at 740-797-9686. ext. 114.

Buckeye Hills RC&D Funds Available for Small Businesses

The Buckeye Hills RC&D Council has funds available for small businesses in the nine-county region of the RC&D. Counties eligible for participation include Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington. Buckeye Hills RC&D is a regional non-profit organization focused on rural community development, natural resources protection, and enhancing the quality of life in southeast Ohio.

Funding is available to existing and start-up businesses as long as they have a tie to job retention, job creation, or expanded job duties for existing employees. The funding can be used to purchase equipment or other items that will help the business grow and expand employment.

For more information or to apply contact Buckeye Hills RC&D at 740-374-6655.

New Employee in the Office



The Athens SWCD Supervisors and Staff are excited to announce that Kylie Seese has joined our team as a USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Conservationist for Athens and Vinton Counties. Kylie has worked for NRCS since 2015 as a Pathway Student Trainee. In the summer of

2015, she worked in Licking, Knox and Washington Counties, then came to work in Athens and Vinton Counties in the summer of 2016. Kylie graduated from The Ohio State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences with a specialization in Soil Sciences. Kylie is a resident of Washington County.

Kylie can be reached at 740-797-9686 ext. 103 or Kylie.Seese@oh.usda.gov.

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