



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.

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athensswcd.org

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Athens SWCD Celebrates

72 Years of Conservation Accomplishments!

Join the Athens SWCD annual meeting and banquet.

When: Thursday, October 18, 2018
Where: Athens Community Center
701 East State Street, Athens, Ohio 45701
Time: 5:45 - 9:00 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 for adults
\$ 7.00 for children age 10 and under

Agenda: 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. - SWCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION VOTING

**Candidate and voting information on page 2*

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Buffet meal - Pork Chop or Chicken, Au Gratin potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, hot rolls, desserts, coffee and tea
****Please contact our office if you have special dietary needs.**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - Presentation of Awards and Guest Speaker -

Marci Lininger - ODOT, District 6 Environmental Coordinator will provide an evening discussion on Native Pollinator Habitat Restoration and how it benefits a Healthy Food Supply.

Election results and raffle drawing

Contact 740-797-9686 ext. 5 by October 11, 2018 to register!

Athens Soil and Water Conservation District's 72nd Annual Meeting and Banquet

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

#of ADULT Meals - Pork Chop _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

#of ADULT Meals - Chicken _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

#of YOUTH Meals - Pork Chop _____ x \$ 7.00 = \$ _____

#of YOUTH Meals - Chicken _____ x \$ 7.00 = \$ _____

Youth meals are for children age 10 and under

****Please contact our office if you have special dietary needs.**

Complete form, make check payable to Athens SWCD and return to:
Athens SWCD, 69 South Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780

Due in office no later than October 11, 2018

Meet the Candidates....



Kelly Abfall - Kelly is a full time grain and beef farmer, with approximately 650 acres in row crops and about 200 acres of hay and pasture in Athens, Meigs, and Vinton counties. Practicing no-till on the majority of his acreage, he grows corn and soybeans. He also has capacity to feed about 240 head of finished cattle per year on their Alexander Township farm. Kelly grew up in Canaan Township on his family's part-time farm, where he developed a passion for agriculture at a young age. He graduated from Athens High School in 1998 and went on to The Ohio State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2003. He then returned to Athens County to begin his own farm. In 2013, Kelly and his wife Michelle were selected as Athens SWCD's Conservation Cooperators of the Year, and in 2014, they won the Ohio Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer contest. Kelly has served on the Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors for the past 3 years. Kelly and Michelle have a 9 year old son Riley, and 7 year old twins Kyle and Megan.



Glenn K. Lackey - Glenn has been a resident of Rome Twp. in Athens County since 1973. He attended Bluffton College. Glenn is an owner in his family farm, known as Red Bird Ranch, which consists of approximately 1,000 acres of beef cattle, row crops, hay, and pasture. Prior to coming to Athens County, the Lackeys farmed in Franklin County. Red Bird Ranch has been a cooperator with the Athens SWCD office for 45 years. Organizations in which Glenn has or is currently serving include: Athens County Planning Commission, Ohio Farmland Preservation Board, Athens County Farm Bureau serving in various capacities, Ohio Farm Bureau member, and on the American Farm Bureau Natural Resources and Livestock Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Canaanville United Methodist Church. Glenn has served on the Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors for the past 9 years. Glenn and his wife Bonnie have two sons, Brandon and Kavan.



Matt Van Nostran - Matt grew up on a small sheep farm in Alexander Township in Athens County and graduated from Alexander High School. Matt then went on to receive a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. During college, to pay for tuition, Matt worked as a commercial fisherman in Maine. He completed an apprenticeship towards getting a commercial fishing license, but ultimately decided to return home. Matt has been involved with the family farm for the past 18 years, expanding their local presence through direct marketing of both wholesale and retail products. Matt and his family recently moved onto a small piece of land that they are using to expand the family farm. Assisting with the farm and its direction is his wife, Jennifer, and their two wonderful daughters, Maggie and Eme.

Athens SWCD to hold Board Supervisor Election

The Athens SWCD will hold an election for two Board supervisors on Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. at the 72nd Annual Meeting and Banquet being held at the Athens Community Center. The nominees in this year's election are: Kelly Abfall, Glenn K. Lackey and Matt Van Nostran.

Residents, non-resident landowners, non-resident land occupiers, firms, LLC, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Athens County and are 18 years of age and older may vote. A non-resident landowner, firm, LLC, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot. There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: 1) at the annual meeting; 2) at the SWCD office until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2018; or 3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Athens SWCD office, 69 S Plains Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780 or by calling 740-797-9686 ext. 5, or by downloading the forms from our website, www.athensswcd.org. For more information about the election, contact our office at 740-797-9686.

“What’s Good for the Bird is Good for the Herd!”

~Free Workshop Offered~

Native warm-season grasses (NWSG) are those that have grown here prior to human settlement and were not brought in from other parts of the world. Such grasses are naturally well-adapted to the region’s soils, climate, insects, and diseases that also occur naturally in the area. These grasses grow during the summer when cool season grasses are semi-dormant. Some of the more popular species are big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, and eastern Gamagrass. These species are tall, deep-rooted perennials with excellent drought tolerance and high yields.

Utilizing NWSG can benefit a livestock farmer in many ways including offering better summer forage, improved summer weight gains, opportunity to rest cool-season grass pastures, and reduced need for hay production. NWSG are widely adapted, have exceptional drought tolerance, require less fertilizer, are high yielding and high-quality, are non-invasive, have few pests and are wildlife friendly. These species can benefit a wildlife enthusiast as well; eastern cottontail, northern bobwhite, eastern wild turkey, grasshopper sparrow and dickcissel can thrive in these grasses!

Come learn how these grasses can benefit your livestock and your wildlife Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 6-9pm at the Hocking Valley Sportsman Club, 5989 Radford Road, Athens. In addition to these benefits we will discuss establishment and management of warm season grasses as well as conservation program opportunities. We will have wildlife and grazing experts as well as Athens County residents who are successfully using these grasses.

This FREE workshop is limited to 30 participants so we are asking for pre-registration by calling the Athens SWCD at 740-797-9686 ext. 6290.

Forage Growth Patterns



Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Athens SWCD/NRCS.

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Monarch Butterflies Released

Students in Ms. Pfeiffer’s 8th Grade Science class at Federal Hocking participated in a recent monarch butterfly release. To date, the Athens SWCD has released 46 monarchs as part of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI). Students learned about the importance of pollinators and the need for the creation and conservation of pollinator habitat. Federal Hocking FFA is a partner in these efforts by growing nectar rich flowers in their greenhouse production program for distribution to habitats in Athens County. The butterflies were released into the school’s prairie planting managed by the FFA.

Ohio NRCS Announces EQIP Deadline

October 19, 2018 has been set as the deadline to submit applications for the 2019 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in Ohio. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. Financial assistance is available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, and organics. Funding for special projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations, applying best management practices, and many more. A complete list of agricultural categories can be found on the Ohio NRCS website under “EQIP Application Deadlines”. For more information contact Joe Weber, USDA NRCS District Conservationist, at 740-797-9686.

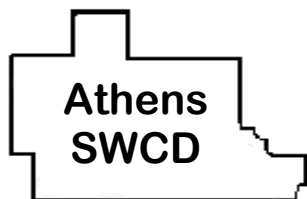
USDA’S Market Facilitation Program

As a producer of corn, soybeans, wheat, dairy, or owner of hogs you may be eligible to sign-up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP). MFP aids producers significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. You may apply to the USDA Farm Service Agency from September 4, 2018 through January 15, 2019. If you have question, call 740-797-4110.

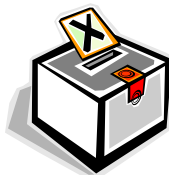
City of Athens Stormwater Program Update

Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Technician, and Jacob Henry, Athens Engineering and Public Works intern, have spent the last year hard at work mapping the city storm sewer system. You may have seen them at the intersection of Shafer and West State Streets this summer helping the city sewer crew decipher the nearly 100 year old storm sewers in this area.





BANQUET EDITION!



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Rich Blazier, District Equipment Manager
Teresa Caldwell, Conservation Education Coordinator
Eric Hayes, Wildlife Specialist / Forestry Technician
Jill Montle, District Technician
Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Technician

NRCS PERSONNEL

Joe Weber, District Conservationist
Kevin Lewis, Civil Engineering Technician
Kylie Seese, Soil Conservationist
Bill Serbonich, Conservation Specialist

Current Resident or



Mark Your Calendars

October 1 - Manure Spreader Calibration Field Day
October 4 - Native Warm Season Grass Workshop
October 8 - Office Closed - Columbus Day
October 11 - Board Meeting
October 13 - Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District Fall
Recycling & Shred It Day
October 18 - Annual Meeting and Banquet
November 12 - Office Closed - Veterans Day
November 15 - Board Meeting
November 22 - Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day
December 20 - Board Meeting
December 25 - Office Closed - Christmas Day
January 1 - Office Closed - New Years Day

* Visit our website www.athensswcd.org for more information on the events listed above.

OPHI Milkweed Pod Collection



The Athens SWCD has partnered with Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative again this year to be a designated Common Milkweed Pod Collection Station. The collection will begin September 1st and end October 31st. Let's make this year's pod collection successful by following these simple tips!

- Collect pods from Common Milkweed plants only.
- Collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Athens SWCD office.

If you have any questions about the milkweed pod collection, contact the Athens SWCD at 740-797-9686 ext. 5.