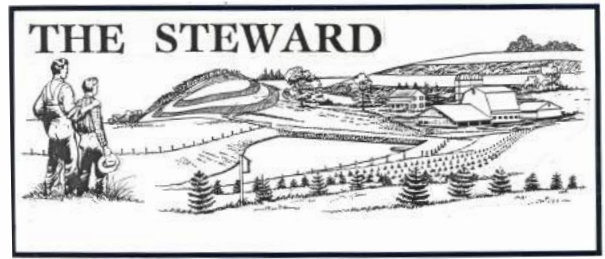


Fall 2021

Ashland



Soil & Water Conservation District

Good for your bottom line, good for water quality

You don't have to drive far to see that livestock play an important role in our agricultural economy. Unfortunately, too often we see severely eroded streambanks cutting through pastures.

One of the most common, most cited sources of water quality impairment in Ashland County is bacteria. Despite our thriving, river-based tourism economy, only 13 percent of the site sampled by Ohio EPA in 2014 met water quality recreational use standards, with bacteria from manure runoff and failing septic systems identified as the main contributors.

One of the simplest practices to help reduce manure runoff from entering our waters is livestock exclusion fencing - and the best news is, we partner with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) to provide 100 percent cost share for up to \$10,000 of fencing to producers within MWCD's jurisdictional boundaries.

You may wonder why you should care about excluding your animals from the streams in your pastures. The answer is simple: to be a better steward of your land and to improve your bottom line.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Ashland SWCD Office Closed:

October 11: Columbus Day, November 11: Veteran's Day
November 25-26: Thanksgiving,
December 24: Christmas, December 31: New Year's

Board Meetings (SWCD office at 9 a.m.)

October 13, November 10, December 8

Conservation Chats: 6 p.m. (unless noted)

October 2: Focus on Forests (1, 1:30 & 2 pm); November 17: Caring for Katotawa; December 15: Keep It Together

Fall Fish Stocking Sale:

Order deadline: October 13; Pickup October 21

Strategic Planning Focus Group: November 11

Every farmer we work with wants to do what's best for the long-term sustainability and viability of their farm. Excluding livestock from streams helps reduce erosion and soil loss, reduces manure runoff and bacteria in our waterways, and improves wildlife habitat.

But in addition to those environmental benefits, livestock exclusion fencing can improve your bottom line through increased weight gain in beef cattle and increased milk production and butterfat in dairy cattle as well as decreased disease presence.

So with all of these benefits, what's holding you back? Contact **Erica White** at 419-281-7645 for more information our cost-share opportunities.

THE FRESHWATER TRUST

5 Reasons to Keep Livestock Out of Rivers

The simple acts of building a fence and providing an alternative way for livestock to receive water can mean big improvements for water quality.

1. Improve herd health and reduce injury risks
2. Promote pasture management
3. Protect fish and wildlife habitat
4. Improve water quality by reducing manure input
5. Maintain streambanks and limit erosion

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Meet the Board:



Roger Amos

Board Member Since: 2021

Roger spent 32 years as an Ohio State University Extension agent, the last 18 of which were spent in Ashland County. After retiring from OSU, Roger sold real estate for 10 years before retiring from his second career.

Why he ran for the SWCD board:

Roger has always had a strong interest in agriculture and feels that farmers sometimes get a bum rap. "Not that agriculture is without sin when it comes to pollution, but I don't think we're the primary source so many people think we are."

Hobbies:

Roger is an avid deer hunter and enjoys spending time with his family, which includes not only his wife, but a daughter and two granddaughters who live in Minnesota.



Calling all scouts! Ashland SWCD will be hosting an opportunity for you to log some community service hours at our Hazel Willis Woods property while learning about geo-cacheing! Contact Katie Eikleberry at 419-281-7645 for more information!



Ashland SWCD Board:

Justin Ringler, Chair
Roger Amos, Vice Chair
Valerie Hall, Secretary
Karen Welch, Fiscal Officer
David Elson, Equipment Mgr.

Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District Strategic Planning Survey

Describe your relationship with Ashland SWCD (check all that apply):

- I have partnered with Ashland SWCD to implement on-the-ground farm conservation practices.
- I have participated in educational programs with Ashland SWCD (field days, Rain Beat on Main Street, other special events, etc.)
- I have purchased items from Ashland SWCD (tree sale, fish sale, filter fabric, rain barrels, etc.)
- I have partnered with Ashland SWCD to implement on-the-ground residential or urban conservation practices (rain barrels, rain gardens, drainage, soil testing, etc.)
- I have used Ashland SWCD's equipment rental program (no-till drills, cover crop interseeder, frost seeder, straw chopper, etc.)
- I am a teacher or youth program leader that has used Ashland SWCD as a resource for my classroom or group.
- I volunteer with Ashland SWCD.
- I enjoy learning about Ashland SWCD programs, but have not participated in a program.
- I follow Ashland SWCD on social media.

Below are some potential conservation issues for Ashland County

- Agricultural pollution
- Water quality (includes pollution from specific/point sources and general/nonpoint sources)
- Agricultural productivity including soil health
- Livestock waste management, including manure from feedlots, field application, etc)
- Forest management
- Urban Agriculture
- Local food connections
- Soil erosion/sediment control from cropland
- Soil erosion/sediment control from development or land use
- Stream management (log jams, streambank erosion, etc)
- Stormwater management
- Student education of conservation issues
- Adult education and awareness of conservation issues
- Wetland destruction
- Equipment rental (no-till drills, cover crop interseeder, straw chopper, frost seeder, etc)
- Pollinator habitat
- Floodplain Management
- County Planning
- Drainage issues
- Fish stocking
- Tree sales
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Other: _____

In my opinion, the most important issues for Ashland SWCD to address are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you selected "Other" above, please provide additional details:

Something I think Ashland SWCD does really well is:

Something I would like to see Ashland SWCD improve is

How effective are the following tools to address these priorities (1 - Not effective, 5- Very effective)

In-person programming/field days.....	1	2	3	4	5
Social media.....	1	2	3	4	5
Online programming.....	1	2	3	4	5
The Steward quarterly newsletter.....	1	2	3	4	5
E-mail campaigns.....	1	2	3	4	5
Direct mail/postcards.....	1	2	3	4	5
SWCD annual meeting.....	1	2	3	4	5

I have received information on Ashland SWCD through (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-person programming/field days such as monthly Conservation Chats | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online programming | <input type="checkbox"/> The Steward quarterly newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail/postcards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual meeting | | |

How important are the following services to Ashland SWCD's mission (1 - Not important, 5- Very important)

Annual tree sale.....	1	2	3	4	5
Spring & fall fish sales.....	1	2	3	4	5
Soil testing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Livestock exclusion fencing cost share.....	1	2	3	4	5
Nutrient management plan development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Equipment rental.....	1	2	3	4	5
Geotextile filter fabric sales.....	1	2	3	4	5
Rain garden/rain barrel workshops.....	1	2	3	4	5
Plat book sales.....	1	2	3	4	5
Waterway/WASCOB design.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cover crop cost share & seeding.....	1	2	3	4	5

Have you utilized any of these services in the past? If so, which ones?

If so, how valuable did you find these services?1.....2.....3.....4.....5

The most exciting opportunity available to Ashland SWCD is:

The biggest challenge facing Ashland SWCD is:

Any additional questions/comments/concerns about Ashland SWCD?

Optional: If you would be interested in participating in an in-person focus group about Ashland SWCD future programs & priorities and/or entering our give-a-way, please provide contact information below:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Return completed survey to Ashland SWCD, 1763 Sr 60, Ashland OH 44805

Each completed survey is an entry to win a free rain barrel!

Conservation Chats are where the action's at!

conservation chats

HURDLE WATERFOWL PARK
297 TWP RD 581, SULLIVAN OH

october 2: focus on forestry

- HURDLE WATERFOWL PARK WILL BE A STOP ON THE 2021 ASHLAND COUNTY FARM TOUR!
- JAKE PEER WITH PEER FAMILY FORESTRY WILL CONDUCT A WALKING TOUR OF BASIC FORESTRY SELECTIONS AT 1 1:30 AND 2 PM



conservation chats

POLK FIRE DEPARTMENT, 6 P.M.
POLK

nov. 17: caring for katotawa

- JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE STATUS AND THE NEEDS OF THE KATOTAWA CREEK WATERSHED.
- HELP MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER QUALITY CONCERNS.
- LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR WATERSHED AND HOW DIFFERENT LAND USES AND PRACTICES CAN IMPACT WATER QUALITY.



conservation chats

OHIO THEATER, 6 P.M.
LOUDONVILLE, OHIO

dec. 15: keep it together

- HEAR THE LATEST RESEARCH ON IN-SEASON DRAGLINE MANURE APPLICATION.
- SEE HOW NITROGEN MOVES SPATIALLY THROUGH THE SOIL DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE (MANURE VS. COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER)
- REVIEW WINTER MANURE APPLICATION GUIDELINES, BMPS AND REGULATIONS
- LEARN ABOUT FUTURE H2OHIO OPPORTUNITIES.



Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District

1763 State Route 60
Ashland OH 44805
419-281-7645

Web: ashlandswcd.com

Facebook: facebook.com/AshlandSWCD

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Ashland OH

We need your help!

Ashland SWCD wants to hear from you! We have two different opportunities for you to share your thoughts with us and help shape the future of Ashland SWCD programs:

- **Strategic Planning:** Check out the survey included in this edition of The Steward. Ashland SWCD's board is working hard to develop a strategic plan for our district to shape the future of our conservation programming for the next 3-5 years. Please take a moment to complete & return the attached survey to share your thoughts.
- **Katotawa Creek Watershed:** Our staff is excited to start to develop a watershed plan for the Katotawa Creek watershed. Visit our website or Facebook page to share your thoughts on the status and needs of this watershed - and be sure to plan to attend our November 17 Conservation Chat on Caring for Katotawa.

Did You Know?

Katotawa Creek is named after a friendly Indian chief who lived in Mohican John's Town near Jeromesville. When the town was evacuated during the War of 1812, Katotawa took up residence along what is now known as Katotawa Creek. He enjoyed fishing the creek & hunting in the neighboring woods.

Ashland SWCD election

Congratulations to our newly reelected Ashland SWCD board members, **David Elson** and **Karen Welch**. We are excited that **Steve Hughes** will continue to serve our district as an associate board member.