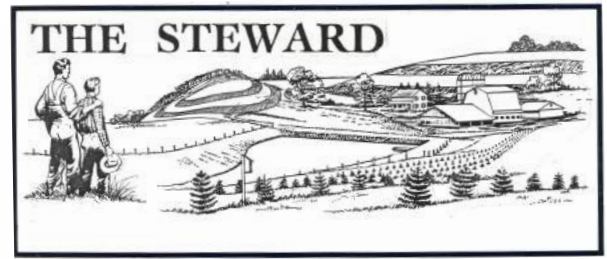


Summer 2021

# Ashland



## Soil & Water Conservation District

### Oh, Crap! Ashland SWCD can help get it together

No one wants to talk about it, but we all have to deal with it: poop. Whether you're a large-farm operator with an extensive manure management plan or a simple homeowner with your own septic, poop or animal manure is something we all have to deal with and manage.

That's why Ashland SWCD is joining together with other area soil and water conservation districts to host our July Conservation Chat: Oh, Crap! Yes, the poop is getting real at Valley Vista Farms on July 28 at 6 p.m.

"Oh, Crap! is going to be a really fun, hands-on event focused on helping small and hobby farmers start to think about manure management," said Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator Erica White. "No matter if you have 600 sows or two pigs you're raising for the fair, it's important to have the conversation about how to properly manage your manure."

In fact, Ohio EPA cites livestock manure runoff as the biggest detriment to water quality in the Mohican River Watershed, particularly runoff from poor field application practices and livestock in streams.



WITH ASHLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### WHAT'S COMING UP

#### Ashland SWCD Office Closed:

July 5: Independence Day; July 26-27: Summer Supervisor School; September 6: Labor Day

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

July 14, August 18 (after annual meeting), September 8

#### Conservation Chats: 6 p.m.

July 28: Oh, Crap!, August 25: Precise Solutions, September 29: Don't Fence Me In; October 2: Focus on Forests

#### Rain Beat on Main Street

August 2-9: Loudonville; August 10-16: Ashland

#### Ashland SWCD Election: July 22 - Aug. 20

Loudonville Central Park: August 7, 10 am - Noon


Ashland Corner Park: August 14, 10 am - Noon

Farm Bureau/SWCD Annual Meeting: August 18, 6 p.m.

#### Annual Meeting: August 18, Ashland U

### Get the scoop on poop:

- **Soil testing:** To know where to apply manure, you have to know your soil. Free soil testing will be available!
- **Manure analysis:** Not all poop is created the same! Learn how to determine what's in your manure. Free tests available!
- **Proper planning:** It's time to manage what you've measured! Use manure & soil tests to make an application plan.
- **Calibrate:** Double check to make sure your plan is working!
- **POOP OLYMPICS:** Get your team together to test your poop management skills for great prizes!
- **FREE T-SHIRTS:** FFA & 4-H members will get a fun, FREE shirt (see design above) for participating in our crap show!

Contact Erica White at 419-281-7645 for more information or to RSVP; dinner will be provided. 

# Meet your SWCD board of supervisor candidates

Ashland SWCD will be holding its supervisor election July 22 - August 20 with in-person voting available in our office throughout the election period, August 18 at our Annual Meeting, August 7 at Rain Beat on Main Street in Loudonville & August 14 at Rain Beat on Main Street in Ashland. Here's a chance to meet your candidates:



## David Elson

An Ashland-County native and Mapleton alumni, David lives between Nankin and Polk where he farms and owns a small welding business: Hilltop Custom Fabrication LLC. As a farmer, David understands that his livelihood comes from the soil and water, so he wants to do as much as he can to protect those resources.

“I also want to leave it for the next generation better than I received it,” David said.

David and his wife Jessica are parents to the true boss of the Elson family: Tucker. The last thing David binge watched on TV is probably a toss up between Yellowstone and The Blacklist.

David currently serves as equipment manager for the Ashland SWCD board and is completing his first three-year term as an Ashland SWCD supervisor.

## Steve Hughes

Steve is the co-host of WZLP FM's weekly ag radio show “Kickin’ Klods,” which features guests from a variety of agricultural careers and backgrounds. The show broadcasts news for the farming community while educating non-farm listeners on how much work is involved in putting food on the table.

“Water and soil are our two most important agriculture natural resources,” Hughes said. “In an ever-changing farm environment that includes many new and innovative practices, I feel it is very important that we include water and soil conservation into our everyday farming practices.”

As OSU agriculture alum, Steve and his wife Robin live in Loudonville and have three adult children and two grandsons. Steve has served as an Ashland SWCD associate board member since 2020.

## Karen Welch

A lifelong dairy farmer and industry supporter, Karen lives near Polk on her family farm: U-Dean Farms. She is a retired English teacher and graduate of Miami University, where she majored in English with a minor in botany before earning her master's degree in supervision from Ashland University. Karen says her idea of fun has changed as her life changes, but good friends, good family, and good food are hard to beat.

“I see the conservation of our soil and water as critical to our immediate and future needs. Clean, potable water and healthy soils are a form of wealth,” Karen said.

“Serving on the board is a way to be a part of contributing to the future and conserving these resources.

Karen currently serves as fiscal agent for the board and has served as a supervisor in 1985 and since 2013.





**Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District  
2021 Fall Fish Stocking Program**



**Order Deadline: Wednesday, October 13; Order Pickup: Thursday, October from 21, 11 a.m. until noon**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

FISH	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE/FISH	TOTAL
Bluegill	2-4"	X	\$1	
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	X	\$1	
Channel Catfish	4-5"	X	\$1	
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	X	\$1	
Perch	2-4"	X	\$1	
Crappie	2-4"	X	\$1	
Redear Shellcracker	2-4"	X	\$1	
Fathead Minnows		X	10¢	
White Amur	8-13"	X	\$15	
Multi-Colored Koi	6-8"	X	\$15	
Pond Management Book		X	\$20	
Nature Pond	1 gal per	X	\$90/gal	
<i>(Bacteria to clean the bottom of old ponds)</i>	1/4 acre of	X	\$375 /5 gal	
			<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

Return order to: Ashland SWCD, 1763 State Route 60, Ashland OH 44805. **Money must accompany all orders!**

Make check payable to **Ashland SWCD**. If you have any questions, call the Ashland SWCD office at 419-281-7645.



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PLEASE CUT HERE; KEEP BOTTOM AND RETURN TOP WITH PAYMENT.

## Fish Stocking Rates

Stocking the recommended sizes and numbers of fish is very important for good fishing. Fingerlings 1-3 inches long are recommended for new and renovated ponds. Stocking larger fish is tempting but can lead to an unbalanced pond population. Stocking larger fish can also be very expensive. The table to the right suggests how many fish of each species to stock depending on the desired combination. Occasional stocking of larger fishes, or periodic restocking of channel catfish, may be necessary in ponds with established fish populations. The recommended stocking rate for Amurs is 10-12 per acre, and the stocking rate for Koi is 15-20 per acre.

**For pick up:** Bring a container (ex: bucket) with plastic liner (ex: trash bag) filled 1/4 full with pond water. 50-100 small fish will fit in a bucket; 2-3 kois or amurs will fit in a bucket.

**Pick up is October 21 from 11 am until noon.**

STOCKING COMBINATION	NUMBER OF FISH TO STOCK PER ACRE			
	BASS	BLUEGILL	REDEAR	CATFISH
Bass - Bluegill	100	500	0	0
Bass - Bluegill - Catfish	100	500	0	100
Bass - Redear	100	0	500	0
Bass - Bluegill - Redear	100	350	150	0
Bass - Bluegill - Redear - Catfish	100	350	150	100



## Meet the Board:



*Justin Ringler*

**Board Member Since: 2018**

Justin lives just north of Loudonville where he operates a dairy farm with his wife's family. He also farms with his family where he grew up near Mansfield. He is a 2001 graduate of Ohio State University where he majored in crop science.

### Why he ran for the SWCD board:

Justin says he ran for the Ashland SWCD board because it is a respected organization in Ashland County for doing real-world conservation and environmentalism.

### Hobbies:

Justin says there's no time for fun or hobbies when you operate a dairy farm, but he does enjoy spending time with his wife Molly and their four children—who obviously keep them very busy!

### Last show he binge watched:

Even though he doesn't really binge watch television, he does enjoy Cobra Kai.

## Houin Wins Caring for Our Watersheds Contest

Ohio's Caring for Our Watersheds student competition started in the Cincinnati area, but this year, for the first time, the state winner of the contest did not call the Cincinnati area home. Garrett Houin, a sophomore at West Holmes High School, submitted a proposal on Precision Conservation in the Mohican River Watershed, and not only was it the first time a West Holmes student made it to the top ten finals, but Houin walked away with the big prize: \$1,000.

Houin worked with Ashland SWCD's Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator Erica White to develop his proposal to implement precision conservation modeling tools on 300 acres in the Mohican River Watershed. As a finalist, Houin and Ashland SWCD received \$1,000 to implement the program. Houin participated in five community meetings to promote his project, including our April **Cover Your Assets Conservation Chat** before giving an oral presentation to the judges.

As the state winner, Houin received another \$1,000 check as a cash award in addition to the project implementation funds, and his high school science department received a matching \$1,000 award.

Learn more about Houin's project at our **August 25 Conservation Chat: A Precise Solution**. And be sure to be on the look out for field signs throughout the Mohican River Watershed identifying fields that have received 100% cost share to implement Winfield United's R7 Field Forecasting Tool and Adapt-N nitrogen modeling. 





# Rain Beat on Main Street Returns for Summer '21

## 2021 Rain Beat on Main Street Schedule

August 2-9: Loudonville's Central Park

August 10-16: Ashland's Corner Park

August 7, 10 a.m. - noon:

Mill Street Grill Food Truck

Activities & Info from: Ashland County Parks, Ashland SWCD, DARE Program, Loudonville Public Library, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Ohio Clean Marinas, Ohio Scenic Rivers & more!



August 14 10 a.m. - noon:

Mill Street Grill Food Truck

Activities & Info from: Ashland Bookmobile, Ashland County Parks, DARE Program, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Ohio Clean Marinas & more!

Last summer stormwater education and art collided for the first annual Rain Beat on Main Street events in Loudonville and Ashland. The ten barrels sponsored by local businesses and painted by local artists were on display throughout the downtown areas while they were being auctioned off online.

When the final numbers were tallied, the event generated over \$2,000 toward stormwater education efforts in Ashland County. Those funds were used to install rain barrels at four Head Start centers in Ashland County: Ashland West, Loudonville, the Kroc Center, and Sullivan as well as conduct programming for the head start students on thunderstorms as well as rain and rainbows (check out the #TeachMeTuesday videos on our [ashlandswcd.com](http://ashlandswcd.com) site to watch these virtual lessons).

Additionally, early this summer a demonstration rain garden was installed at the Ashland County Fairgrounds. Although this garden will take time to establish, we hope this garden will educate visitors to the fairgrounds for years to come on the benefits of rain gardens and proper stormwater management.

This year, the event is returning even bigger and better than ever, with even more rain barrels, local sponsors and local artists. And, we're going to be adding some hands-on, family-friendly and fun events on the Saturdays of our event, Check out the schedule above for more details! 

## 2021 Rain Beat on Main Street Sponsors

Brethren Care Village

Buzzard's Family Shoes

Columbus Irrigation

Cowen Truck Line

Eikleberry & Sons LLC

Elson Farms

Fish My Spot

Gerwig's White Barn

Loudonville Farmers' Equity

Mill Street Sweets

Mill Street Grill

Rooks Brothers Farm

Shakely Mechanical

Simonson Construction Services

Tin Can Chandelier



## 2021 Rain Beat on Main Street Artists

Brethren Care Village

Derick Cooper

Tanner Eitman Tin Can Chandelier

Hannah Endslow

Aubree Houin

Amanda Kencsan, Tin Can Chandelier

Liz Klingler

Loudonville Arts Alive Camp

gigi Obringer, Tin Can Chandelier

Jen. Bailey, Sydney & Laney Polen

Grace Ringler

Haley Spreng

Lara Spreng

Sharon Strimple

Donna Sutherland





# Conservation Chats Series Kickstart Conversations

One of the new programs Ashland SWCD staff have been working hard to initiate this year is our monthly Conservation Chats series. Each month, we commit to gathering together in person to visit local farm sites and talk about conservation programs and ideas. Here's a look back at this spring's programs and a look forward at what's yet to come.



*West Holmes FFA's Ag Issues team spoke about Precision Conservation at our March chat. They placed 4th in the state!*



*Ryan Haden from OSU talked about interseeding cover crops at the Cover Your Assets chat in April.*



*Walking pollinator tour at Heath White farm in Greenwich for Pollinator Points*



*Heath White shows off his pollinator practices at Pollinator Points in April.*

## conservation chats

JOIN US FOR MONTHLY FARM FIELD DAYS AT 6 P.M.

**july 28: oh, crap!**

VALLEY VISTA FARM, JEROMESVILLE

**august 25: precise solutions**

LOCATION PENDING

**sept. 29: don't fence me in**

SYCAMORE VALLEY FARM, ASHLAND

**october 2: focus on forests**

HURDLE WATERFOWL PARK, SULLIVAN



# SWCD Annual Meeting Scheduled for August 18

Ashland SWCD will hold its 2021 Annual Meeting on August 18 at the Ashland University Meyers Convocation Center. The meeting will include dinner and will be held in partnership with Ashland Farm Bureau. Tickets are \$5, and reservations must be made by August 6 by calling 330-263-7456.

In addition to our SWCD board of supervisor election, the meeting will also provide an opportunity for Ashland SWCD to recognize our 2021 award winners:



## Volunteer of the Year: Boy Scout Troop 356

Boy Scout Troop 356 members from Nashville have been tireless volunteers at the Hazel Willis woods. This small but mighty troop cleaned trails and water bars in our 2019 Scouting for Service event, constructed wildlife viewing blinds for us using a Project Wild grant in 2020, and most recently cleaned downed trees from the loop road in the spring of 2021. We truly appreciate all of their hard work!

## Ashland SWCD Board:

*Justin Ringler, Chair*

*Roger Amos, Vice Chair*

*Valerie Hall, Secretary*

*Karen Welch, Fiscal Officer*

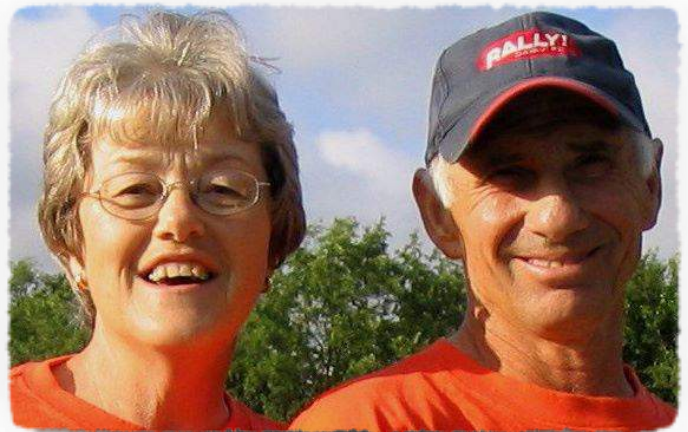
*David Elson, Equipment Mgr.*

Summer 2021



## Cooperator of the Year: Atterholt Farm

Although Aaron and his family live on a farm originally owned by their grandparents and Mike and his family live on a farm started by their great-grandparents, Aaron and Mike Atterholt are the first generation of their family to make farming a full-time career. From hosting soil judging contests to utilizing cover crops and responsible grazing practices, the Atterholt family's commitment to conservation and education make them our 2021 Cooperator of the Year.



## Horizon Award Winner: Swaisgood Family

The Swaisgood family has a long history with Ashland SWCD. Raymond Swaisgood served on the SWCD Board of Supervisors from 1969 until his death in 1975, when his wife Pauline fulfilled the rest of his term on the board and continued to serve until 1982. Raymond & Pauline's daughter-in-law Maxine joined the SWCD staff in 1999 through her retirement in 2014. Maxine then returned as a part time staff administrative assistant in our office from 2015 through her Retirement version 2.0 in July 2020.

**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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## **Funding Available for Log Jam Removal Projects**

Log jams can present serious problems for landowners, not only by creating excessive streambank erosion, but also as a potential threat to downstream properties if the debris were to come loose and move downstream during a severe rain event. Removing naturally occurring log jams can enhance water quality habitat and reduce flooding threats by improving the drainage of a waterway.

That's why Ashland SWCD is excited to share that funding is currently available for landowners within the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's jurisdictional boundaries to remove log jam obstructions. In the last year, Ashland SWCD has coordinated removal of two log jams in the Mohican River Watershed with two other projects currently underway.

Do you have a log jam on your property that needs removed? Contact Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator Erica White for more information at 419-281-7645 or [ewhite@ashlandcounty.org](mailto:ewhite@ashlandcounty.org) 