

# Knox County Ag News

January-February 2022



## Knox County Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification

**Due to COVID uncertainties the pesticide & fertilizer recertification classes have been pushed to March.**

Thursday March 3, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 9, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 22, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Fertilizer is the first session at each class

Cost = \$35.00 for pesticide, \$10.00 for Fertilizer, \$45.00 for both  
Call the Extension office at 740-397-0401 to reserve your spot.

Ramser 4-H Activity Center  
(on the fairgrounds)

700 Perimeter Dr. Mount Vernon, OH 43050





# The Central Ohio Agronomy School

## The 2022 Central Ohio Agronomy School

Will provide you with the most comprehensive, up-to-date crop production and agricultural technology information available today.

This school is designed with everyone in mind; part-time or full-time producer, beginner or CCA agronomist. Within each subject area we will teach the basic concepts and progress to the most advanced agronomic principles.

### Agenda:

March 7

### Weed ID - Key Identifying Characteristics

John Barker, Ag Educator, Knox County  
Is it palmer? Is it powell? Is it waterhemp? I hope it's pigweed!

Learn the key identifying characteristics to differentiate between palmer, waterhemp and pigweed. Actual live plants will be used in this workshop

Palmer, Pigweed & Waterhemp ID.



### I Have It ... Now How Do I Get Rid Of It?

Dr. Mark Loux, OSU Weed Science

Dr. Loux will discuss how to develop a comprehensive multi-year, multi-crop weed control program aimed at controlling palmer, waterhemp and other invasive weeds.

March 14

### Key Issues Facing Agriculture

John Linder, Chairman National Corn Growers Association

John will share his thoughts on local, state and national issues facing American farmers

### Are Retirement Plans In Your Future?

David Marrison, ANR Educator, Coshocton County

Are you ready ... Mentally?  
Is your farm ready? Are your buildings and equipment ready? What about tax implications! David will address these and many other retirement considerations.



March 21

### Corn Disease Update

Dr. Pierce Paul, OSU Plant Pathology

Tar Spot - Do we have it, Can we control it?  
Aerial Applications of Fungicides ... is 2 gallons really enough?  
Vomitoxin Research Results.  
Dr. Paul will discuss current disease topics facing Central Ohio farmers.



### Carbon Credits - Is There Really A Market In Ohio?

Mike Estadt, ANR Educator Pickaway County

What is a carbon credit?  
What is a carbon credit worth?  
What do I have to do?  
Mike will answer these and many other questions about selling carbon credits.

March 28

### Solar Leasing Considerations for Ohio Farmers?

Eric Romich, Field Specialist Energy Education  
Ohio State University Extension

Eric will share information on solar leasing options for Ohio farmers

### Ag Outlook - Farming in a World Facing Supply Chain & COVID Issues

Ben Brown, Sr. Research Associate  
Univ. of Missouri Extension

Ben will provide information on the economic outlook for 2022 including crop supply & demand, input pricing & supply, supply chain and covid related issues for ag.

### Cost:

\$40.00 Registration Fee

\$60.00 (Additional) for CCA Credits (optional)

CM .....	2 CEU's
IPM .....	5.5 CEU's
NM .....	1 CEU's
PD .....	3 CEU's
	11.5 CEU's

\$45.00 (Additional) for Pesticide Credits (optional)

Private Pesticide Recertification Credits

Core .....	1.0 Hours
Category 1 .....	2.5 Hours
Category 2 .....	.5 Hours
Category 6 .....	.5 Hours

Commercial Pesticide Recertification Credits.

Core .....	1.0 Hours
Category2A .....	1.5 Hours
Category2C .....	2.0 Hours
Category2D .....	1.0 Hours

Fertilizer Recertification Credits.

Category 15 .....	2.0 Hours
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**This will meet all of your pesticide & fertilizer recertification hour requirements.**

To register call the Extension Office at 740-397-0401 or visit

<https://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag/agricultural-news/>



## **New Enlist Labels – When Enlist is Outlawed, Only Outlaws.....**

By: Dr. Mark Loux, OSU Extension

Sometimes you'd like the s\*\*t to stop hitting the fan just long enough to get cleaned up, but you can't get a break. Like when you're in the middle of an endless pandemic, a worldwide shipping fiasco, herbicide scarcities and price increases, and parts shortages. And just when you had it worked out to use Enlist herbicides on Enlist soybeans for 2022 so you wouldn't have to deal with dicamba, their use is no longer legal in your county. We're trying to find something reassuring to say here, but there's not much. The USEPA issued a new seven-year registration for Enlist One and Enlist Duo, valid through January 2029. Changes include a revised application cutoff for soybeans, "through R1" that replaces "up to R2" on previous labels, and the addition of a slew of spray nozzles to the approved nozzle list. **The most significant change for Ohio is that due to changes in endangered Species information, Enlist One and Enlist Duo cannot be used in 12 Ohio counties: Athens, Butler, Fairfield, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Vinton, and Washington.** We contacted Corteva to see if this was likely to change anytime soon, and got no assurances of this, although the PR information they have distributed indicates it is possible.

Read more at: <https://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag/2022/01/19/new-enlist-labels-when-enlist-is-outlawed-only-outlaws/>

## **The Ohio Farm Custom Rates Survey data collection has launched once again.**

The online survey for 2022 is available at: <https://go.osu.edu/ohiofarmcustomratesurvey2022>

A large number of Ohio farmers hire machinery operations and other farm related work to be completed by others. This is often due to lack of proper equipment, lack of time or lack of expertise for a particular operation. Many farm business owners do not own equipment for every possible job that they may encounter in the course of operating a farm and may, instead of purchasing the equipment needed, seek out someone with the proper tools necessary to complete the job. This farm work completed by others is often referred to as "custom farm work" or more simply "custom work". A "custom rate" is the amount agreed upon by both parties to be paid by the custom work customer to the custom work provider.

Custom farming providers and customers often negotiate an agreeable custom farming machinery rate by utilizing Extension surveys results as a starting point. Ohio State University Extension collects surveys and publishes survey results from the Ohio Farm Custom Survey every other year. This year we are updating our published custom farm rates for Ohio.

We kindly request your assistance in securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery and building rental rates and hired labor costs in Ohio.

This year we have an online survey set up that anyone can access. We would ask that you respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what **you paid** to hire custom work or what **you charged** if you perform custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel and lube. If fuel is not included in your custom rate charge there is a place on the survey to indicate this.

You may access the survey at: <https://go.osu.edu/ohiofarmcustomratesurvey2022>

If you prefer a document that you can print out and fill out by hand to return, email Barry Ward at [ward.8@osu.edu](mailto:ward.8@osu.edu)

**The deadline to complete the survey is March 31,2022.**



## The 2022 PLC and ARC Decision

By: Gary Schnitkey, Nick Paulson, and Krista Swanson, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois and Carl Zulauf, Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics Ohio State University.

Farmers will again have until March 15 to make commodity title program selections. Given the current high prices, commodity title payments are not expected from any program option for the 2022 marketing year. If a change in conditions resulted in payments, those would be received in October 2023, after the close of the 2022 marketing year. Farmers wishing to purchase the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) crop insurance policy must select Price Loss Coverage (PLC) as the commodity title choice. Based on current price projections, Agriculture Risk Coverage at the county level (ARC-CO) will maximize the chance of payment for soybeans, although that chance will be small. The probability of payments is roughly the same for corn and soybeans.

Read more at: <https://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag/2022/01/14/the-2022-plc-and-arc-decision/>



## It's a good time for a farmland leasing update

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law

Winter is a good time to review farm leases, and current information is critical to that process. That's why our Farm Office team is offering its Ohio Farmland Leasing Update, a webinar on February 9, 2022 from 7 to 9 p.m. I'll be joined for the webinar by co-speakers Barry Ward, Leader of Production Business Management for OSU Extension, and attorney Robert Moore.

On the legal side, we'll share legal information to help parties deal with addressing conservation practices in a leasing situation, using leases in farmland succession planning, Ohio's proposed new law about providing notice of termination, and ensuring legal enforceability of a lease. On the economic side, Barry Ward will provide a current economic outlook for Ohio row crops, research on cash rent markets for the Eastern Corn Belt, and rental market outlook fundamentals. We'll also overview farmland leasing resources.

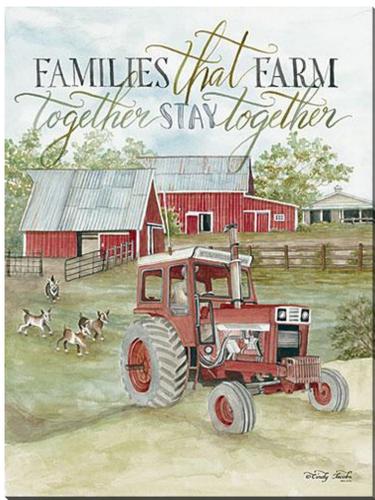
There is no fee for the webinar, but registration is necessary.

Register at: <https://go.osu.edu/farmlandleasingupdate>.



## Planning for the Future of Your Farm” Workshops offered by OSU Extension

By: David Marrison, OSU Extension-Coshocton County, [marrison.2@osu.edu](mailto:marrison.2@osu.edu)



To kick off 2022, OSU Extension will be offering “Planning for the Future of Your Farm” workshops to help farm families actively plan for the future of their farm business. The workshops are designed to help farm families learn strategies and tools to successfully create a succession and estate plan which can be used as the guide to transfer the farm’s ownership, management, and assets to the next generation. Learn how to have the crucial conversations about the future of your farm.

Topics discussed during this series include: Developing Goals for Estate and Succession; Planning for the Transition of Control; Planning for the Unexpected; Communication and Conflict Management during Farm Transfer; Legal Tools & Strategies; Developing Your Team; Getting Your Affairs in Order; and Selecting an Attorney. This workshop will be taught by members of the OSU Farm Office Team.

Families can choose to attend the workshop virtually or in-person at regional workshops which will be held across the state. These sessions being offered include:

### Virtual “Planning for the Future of Your Farm” Workshop

A virtual version of this workshop will be held on January 31 and February 7, 21 & 28, 2022 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. Because of its virtual nature, you can invite your parents, children, and/or grandchildren (regardless of where they live in Ohio or across the United States) to join you as you develop a plan for the future of your family farm.

Pre-registration is required so that a packet of program materials can be mailed in advance to participating families. Electronic copies of the course materials will also be available to all participants. The registration fee is \$75 per farm family. The registration deadline is January 25, 2022. More information and on-line registration can be obtained at [go.osu.edu/farmsuccession](http://go.osu.edu/farmsuccession)

### In-Person “Planning for the Future of Your Farm” Workshop

In addition to the webinar series, 3 regional in-person workshops will be held in February and March of 2022. Each of these programs will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. The base registration cost for each of these meetings is \$85 for 2 attendees, lunch and 1 notebook. Additional participants can attend for a \$20 fee and extra sets of the course material can be purchased for \$15. Registration is due 1 week prior to each event.

Read more at: <https://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag/2022/01/14/planning-for-the-future-of-your-farm-workshops-offered-by-osu-extension/>



### Small Farm Conference Registration Options

By Mail: Use form below (check only)  
Online: go to <https://go.osu.edu/osufarmconference2022>

#### Mail-In Registration Form

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION is March 4, 2022

Please use one form per person

Choose the Sessions you will be attending

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Full Conference, \$75.00

Sessions

Indicate session # per time slot (see track schedules for #s)

- 9:15 a.m. Session # \_\_\_\_\_
- 10:45 a.m. Session # \_\_\_\_\_
- 1:15 p.m. Session # \_\_\_\_\_
- 2:30 p.m. Session # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch will be provided and served.

Do you have any food dietary restrictions?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your restriction: \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ Do NOT Send Cash
- ◆ There will be no refunds
- ◆ No registration confirmation with mail-in registrations
- ◆ Make Checks Payable to OSU

Please send completed form to:  
**OSU Extension Morrow County**

5362 US Highway 42, Suite 101  
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

Thank you to our Sponsor



**Due to changing COVID restrictions conference may have to held virtually. Participants will be notified IF changes are made.**



The Ohio State University  
Mansfield  
Ovalwood Hall  
1760 University Drive  
Mansfield, Ohio 44906  
Phone: 419-947-1070  
[Jagger.6@osu.edu](mailto:Jagger.6@osu.edu)  
[Schirtzinger.SS@osu.edu](mailto:Schirtzinger.SS@osu.edu)

<https://go.osu.edu/osufarmconference2022>

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**CFAES**

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

**Sowing Seeds for Success**  
2022 Small Farm  
Conference & Trade Show

March 12, 2022

The Ohio State University Mansfield  
Ovalwood Hall



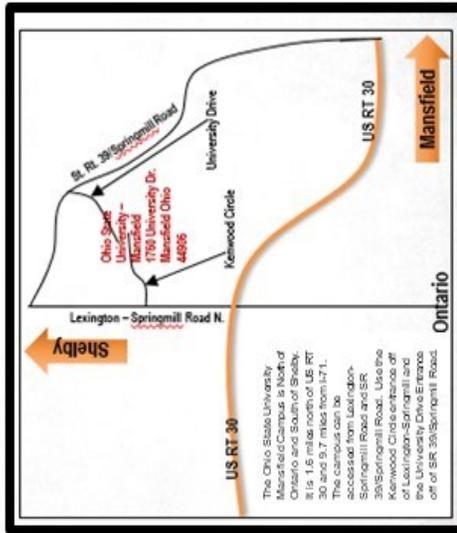
**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
EXTENSION



**2022  
Small  
Farm Conference  
& Trade Show**  
March 12, 2022  
to be held at  
**The Ohio State University  
Mansfield**



OSU Mansfield is located at 1760 University Dr. Mansfield, OH 44906 Parking is available



The Ohio State University Mansfield Campus is North of Ontario and South of Shelby. It is located on US RT 30 and is 6.7 miles from I-71. The campus can be accessed from Lexington-Springmill Road and SR 39/Springmill Road. Use the Kenwood Circle entrance off Lexington-Springmill Road or SR 39/Springmill Road.

**Conference Schedule**

**Saturday, March 12th**

8:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m. Check-in/Registration  
8:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Opening Comments  
9:15 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. Multiple Sessions  
10:45 a.m. — 11:45 a.m. Multiple Sessions  
12:00 noon **LUNCH**  
1:15 p.m. — 2:15 p.m. Multiple Sessions  
2:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. Multiple Sessions  
3:30 p.m. Evaluations and Close of the Day  
For further information on registration, sessions, and more go to <https://go.osu.edu/osu/farmconference2022>

**Track 1: Horticulture**

- 1. 9:15 a.m. **Micro, Farm at OSU Mansfield**  
Amanda Startfield- Owner of Grow Fourth Urban Farm
- 2. 10:45 a.m. **Controlled Environment Agriculture/Hydroponics**  
Cherie Kubota-Ohio State University
- 3. 1:15 p.m. **Growing and Selling Cut Flowers**  
Lyndsey Bleht- Producer/Owner Wild Root Flower Co.
- 4. 2:30 p.m. **Chain Saw Safety**  
Dave Apsley and Lee Beers

**Track 2: Produce Production**

- 5. 9:15 a.m. **Starting and Managing an Orchard**  
Anne Joudrey- Apple Hill Orchard Owner
- 6. 10:45 a.m. **"Super Berry" Production and Marketing**  
Gary Gao- OSU South Centers
- 7. 1:15 p.m. **Invasive Pests in Fruit Production**  
Ashley Leach- Ohio State University
- 8. 2:30 p.m. **Growing in High Tunnels**  
Matthew Kleinhenz- Ohio State University

**Track 3: Natural Resources**

- 9. 9:15 a.m. **Timber Harvesting and Marketing**  
Kathy Smith- OSU Extension
- 10. 10:45 a.m. **Managing Your Woodland for Wildlife**  
Marne Tichenell- OSU Extension
- 11. 1:15 a.m. **Landscaping for Wildlife**  
Marne Tichenell- OSU Extension
- 12. 2:30 p.m. **Maple Syrup Production**  
Les Ober- OSU Extension  
Gabriel Karns- Ohio State University

**Track 4: Livestock**

- 13. 9:15 a.m. **Water and Fencing for Livestock**  
Ted Wiseman & Chris Penrose- OSU Extension
- 14. 10:45 a.m. **Basic of Forage and Pasture Management**  
Christine Gallely- OSU Extension
- 15. 1:15 p.m. **Maximizing Reproduction of a Small Beef Herd**  
Garth Ruff- OSU Extension, Dean Kraeger- OSU Extension
- 16. 2:30 p.m. **Small Ruminant Production- Sheep and Goats**  
Tony Nye- OSU Extension, Brady Campbell- OSU Extension

**Track 5: Specialty Crops**

- 17. 9:15 a.m. **Growing Hops**  
Mike and Jenny Napier
- 18. 10:45 a.m. **Shitake Mushroom Production**  
Jeff Wilkinson- Local Producer
- 19. 1:15 p.m. **Getting Started in Hemp Production**  
Lee Beers- OSU Extension
- 20. 2:30 p.m. **Paw Paw Production**  
Ann Channon- OSU Extension

**Track 6: Farm Management**

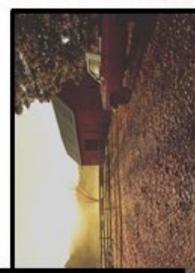
- 21. 9:15 a.m. **Choosing an Enterprise**  
Mike Hogan- OSU Extension
- 22. 10:45 a.m. **The Government is Actually Here To Help**  
Mike Hogan, David Morrison, Tony Nye- OSU Extension
- 23. 1:15 p.m. **Is Farming for You? Introduction to Farm Business Management**  
David Morrison- OSU Extension
- 24. 2:30 p.m. **Purchasing a Used Tractor**  
Jason Hartschuh- OSU Extension

**Track 7: Marketing**

- 25. 9:15 a.m. **Creative Marketing**  
Shelly Detweiler- Mitchell's Berries
- 26. 10:45 a.m. **Choosing the Best Market Channel for Your Farm Success**  
Christie Welch- OSU South Centers
- 27. 1:15 p.m. **Marketing Your Produce to Wholesale Buyers**  
Benji Ballmer- Yellowbird Food Shed
- 28. 2:30 p.m. **Developing a Marketing Plan**  
Mary Griffith-

**Track 8: Miscellaneous**

- 29. 9:15 a.m. **Selling Meat at Markets and Off Your Farm**  
Lz Looker- Producer, Angela Dinneen ODA
- 30. 10:45 a.m. **Growing Ginseng**  
Karam Sheban - Rural Action
- 31. 1:15 p.m. **Navigating the World of Cottage Food Regulations**  
Emily Morrison- OSU Extension
- 32. 2:30 p.m. **Bury Seeds Not Stress**  
Bridget Britton, OSU Extension



Photos compliments of Dickie Bird Farm



## Good Agricultural Practice Training (GAPs)

What is GAPs class? An educational course that covers good agricultural practices or ‘GAPs’, which helps reduce the risk of on-farm produce contamination. Learn about water quality, worker training, health and hygiene, manure and compost handling, domestic and wild animals.

Attending the OSU GAPs class does not equate to being ‘GAPs Certified.’ Many auctions, markets, stores, etc require this training to sell your products. This training is a requirement to sell at the Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market.

Thursday, April 7, 2022- 4pm at the OSU Extension Office Conference Room- 160 Columbus Road, Mount Vernon. Cost for the training is \$20 per person.

Space is limited, please register at the OSU Extension Office 740-397-0401 or email [Schirtzinger.55@osu.edu](mailto:Schirtzinger.55@osu.edu).

## Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market New Vendor Orientation Meeting

Are you interested in selling your products at the Mount Vernon Farmers Market? Plan to attend this informational meeting to get all your questions answered. Learn how to become a vendor, what cost is involved, and what licenses you may need.

**Saturday, February 19, 9:00 A.M.- Registration for seating is required!**

**Location:** Ramser 4-H Activity Center (adjacent to the fairgrounds)

700 Perimeter Drive, Mount Vernon

**To Register or For More Information Contact:**

Sabrina Schirtzinger- OSU Extension Educator at 740-397-0401 or [Schirtzinger.55@osu.edu](mailto:Schirtzinger.55@osu.edu).

Marty Trese- Market Coordinator at 740-501-7019

## Starting Seeds Indoors

By: Sabrina Schirtzinger, OSU Extension Educator Knox County

Are you “itching” to begin gardening again!? I sure am! One way to get started early is by starting seeds indoors. Plants started indoors germinate sooner and produce a healthier root systems. Plus, plants are ready to be planted as soon as the threat of frost is gone! Using bottom heat from a heat mat can help prevent damping off. Damping off is the death of tiny seedlings due to pathogens at the surface of the potting mix.

What do you need to start plants indoors?

Containers- You do not have traditional seed starting trays. Yogurt cups, restaurant salad containers with a plastic top, dixie cups, any container that has drainage will work!



- Seed starting mix
- Seeds
- Spray bottle with water,
- Saran wrap (if you don't have tray domes),
- Grow lights or sun light,
- Plant labels (popsicle sticks, plastic utensils, anything to write plant variety on)

**Step 1:** Fill containers with seed starting mix.

**Step 2:** Plant seeds no deeper than the diameter of the seed. You can use a pencil to make a hole prior to planting. Don't worry about over planting you will need to thin the seedlings after they germinate.

**Step 3:** Moisten with a spray bottle. If starting seeds and caring for transplants is something you think you would like to start doing, then invest in a gallon sprayer like pictured below. You will thank me later!



**Step 4:** Cover with a tray dome or saran wrap. This will create the greenhouse like effect.

**Step 5:** Place in sunlight or under grow lights. Once seedlings have germinated you can remove the saran wrap or dome.

**Important Tip:** Read the back of your seed packet to time seedlings to be ready for planting outside after the last frost-free date. Here is a timeline to give you an idea of when to start your seedling.

6-8 weeks: peppers, tomatoes, and cauliflower

4-6 weeks: lettuce, brussel sprouts, and cabbage

3-4 weeks: watermelon, cucumbers, and squash

Our frost-free date is approximately May 15, so you will need to start your peppers and tomatoes indoors between March 20 and April 3.

Source: Ferree, R. (2017, January 20) Starting Seeds Indoors. The University of Illinois Extension. Retrieved from: <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/ilriverhort/2017-01-20-starting-seeds-indoors>



## Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks (including semi-trucks).

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water), malted small grains and maple sap or syrup. Eligible malted small grains include barley, oats, rice, rye and wheat. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns, cold storage facilities for eligible commodities, and more.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security. **The 7-year FSFL interest rate is 1.3750% for January 2022.**

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

## Subscribers Can Receive Important Program Updates through SMS Messages

Farmers can sign up to receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone.

Whether producers are in the field, or on a tractor, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements and program updates.

To enroll, producers must text a keyword consisting of the 2 letter state abbreviation and the county name from which they want to receive alerts to FSANOW or the numeric keys (372669) on your cell phone. *For example, producers wishing to receive alerts from Knox County FSA would text the keyword OHKNOX to 372669.* Producers interested in enrolling in a different county would need to text OH and the county name to 372669 to begin to receive alerts from their FSA County office. Producers will receive a system generated reply if they have successfully enrolled. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

Please contact our FSA office if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the new text message option.



## CRP Cost Share Reminders

Our office would like to remind our conservation participants, that once you have successfully completed your CRP practice and gathered all bills, receipts, and seed tags to submit these to FSA for cost share reimbursement. Make sure there is an itemized bill for all components listed on your CRP Conservation Plan. If any of the work was done by yourself, include a bill for work completed, time to complete, and cost.

Participants are advised that starting or installing a practice before approval of the CRP contract is at your own risk. Cost share may be ineligible if the offer is not accepted or if the practice does not meet specifications in the approved Conservation Plan.

Please be advised that this is a cost share payment program. As a participant, you are willing to share in the expense of improving and conserving natural resources on your land. As such, you may have out of pocket expenses.

For more information or if you have any questions about cost share reimbursements, please call our office.

## FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Continuous Signup](#).

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your Knox County FSA office at 740-392-0891.

## Conservation at Work Video Series

A video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, *Conservation at Work*, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it. The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they've implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.



We've got videos showcasing high tunnels, no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and many more. Check out the *Conservation at Work* video series at [farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork](https://farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork).



## USDA Encourages 2022 ARC and PLC Enrollment

FSA is encouraging producers to contact their local USDA Service Centers to make or change elections and to enroll for 2022 ARC or PLC, providing future protections against market fluctuations. The election and enrollment period opened on Oct. 18, 2021 and **runs through March 15, 2022**.

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-CO or PLC, which are both crop-by-crop, or ARC-IC, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2022, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

## Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

**Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. The staff can provide more details on farm operating and microloans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include: **Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of new and used structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, semi, grain trailers, grain carts, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.





## Low Interest Commodity Loans Provide Options for 2021 Crops

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest and provides interim financing at harvest time to help meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities until favorable market conditions emerge. With the current market conditions producers who have access to on-farm storage or warehouse storage should consider a Marketing Assistance Loan (warehouses must be able to issue acceptable warehouse receipts). Contact our Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office for additional information on warehouse loans.

### Producer Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the producer must:

Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements;

Submit an acreage report for all cropland on all farms;

Have and retain beneficial interest until the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity;

Meet adjusted gross income limitations.

### Commodity Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the commodity must:

Be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC;

Meet specific CCC minimum grade and quality standards;

Merchantable contaminated commodities are eligible for a recourse loan at the full loan rate.



### Final Availability Dates

March 31<sup>st</sup> is the final availability date for a wheat loan. *For instance, producers that harvest a wheat crop this summer, have until March 31, 2022 to apply for a wheat loan.*

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the final availability date for a corn or soybean loan. *For instance, producers that harvest a corn and soybean crop this Fall have until May 31, 2022 to apply for a corn or soybean loan.*

## Save Big by Planting Trees on Your Home, Farm

Did you know the cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is the same as having 10 air conditioners operating 20 hours every day? In addition to their cooling power, trees provide other benefits. Trees growing along the banks of rivers and streams keep the soil and nutrients on your land and ensure the water running off is cleaner downstream. These same trees also help prevent floods by slowing down water during periods of heavy rain. As the water slows, it helps recharge underground aquifers that supply fresh water for drinking wells and irrigation.

A native deciduous tree planted in the right location can keep your house or barn temperature regulated. To maximize your energy savings, plant your large deciduous trees on the east, west and northwest of your building. Doing so can help you reduce your air conditioning needs by 30 percent and heating needs by 20-50 percent depending on your location.



## Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.



FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.

## The Knox County Farm Service Agency is Hiring

The Knox County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for a Part time, temporary Program Technician position. The FSA is an exciting and rewarding place to start, build, and/or continue your career. Be part of our team and help support the well-being of Ohio agriculture and the American public.

FSA is seeking candidates with farming experience and/or knowledge to perform work in support of Ohio agriculture and farmers This position is responsible for:

- Carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the program areas administered in the county.
- Interpreting and explaining procedures, program regulations and forms to producers and other agency personnel.
- Utilizing various web-based software applications to maintain producer data and processing automated forms.
- Using a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered..

Application deadline is 2/4/2022

Individuals who are interested in applying for these job opportunities will mail a resume or FSA– 675 to:

**Knox County FSA**  
**ATTN: Katie Hill, CED**  
**1025 Harcourt Road– STE 500**  
**Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050**

USDA employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If selected, the individual will be required to submit documentation of COVID-19 vaccination. Contact Katie Hill at 740-392-0891 if you have specific questions regarding the position.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



## **Native Plant Spotlight!**

Brian Hackett, Wildlife Specialist, highlights an Ohio native perennial, shrub, and tree.

### ***Perennial –***

#### **Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)**

Blazing Star is a wildflower garden staple and showstopper! Stems reaching 3-5 feet tall produce an abundance of small purple flowers that begin blooming at the top and slowly progress down the stalk. This perennial wildflower is a pollinator magnet and is usually covered in all manner of butterflies, bees, and beetles throughout its bloom. Dense blazing star is highly adaptable and easily grown in medium, well-drained soil, in full sun. It is the most moisture tolerant of the blazing stars and can be used in rain gardens. The alternating leaves of the plant are grass-like, up to 10” long and dense at the base, becoming smaller as they ascend the stem. It typically blooms for about three weeks in mid-late summer (July – September). After the blooms are spent be sure to leave the spikes as birds, such as goldfinches, will readily come and eat the seeds.



### ***Shrub –***

#### **Northern Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)**

Spicebush is a single or few-stemmed deciduous shrub that grows 6-12 feet tall, with a broad, rounded habit. Found naturally in moist locations in bottomlands, woods, ravines, valleys and along streams. It is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Brilliant yellow autumn color is best in sunny areas. Tolerates full shade, but habit becomes more open and wide-spreading. Clusters of small, aromatic, greenish-yellow flowers bloom along the branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. Flowers of female plants give way to bright red berries which mature in fall and are attractive to birds. Female plants need a male pollinator in order to set fruit, however. One of the biggest draws of this shrub is that it is the host plant for the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar (pictured).



### ***Tree –***

#### **Black Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)**

Black gum, also known as black tupelo, is a large, deciduous tree typically growing 30’-60’ tall with a 20’-30’ spread. It is primarily a lowland tree found in low wet woods, bottomlands and pond peripheries, but also can be found on dry rocky wooded slopes and ravines. It is easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, acidic soils, but tolerates poorly-drained soils and can adapt to dryer soils. Long taproot precludes moving established trees. Although flowers are not showy, they are an excellent nectar source for bees. Female trees need a male pollinator to set fruit. Fruits mature to a dark blue and are attractive to birds and wildlife. Black gum has spectacular autumn color as smooth, waxy, dark-green summer foliage changes to fluorescent yellow, orange, scarlet and purple. Bark matures to medium gray and resembles alligator hide. When combined with the several other tupelo species, these trees have the distinction of being favorites with honey producers. The resulting honey is light and mild-tasting.





## Fencing Grants Available

A renewed program being funded by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and administered in Knox County by the Knox SWCD is intended to provide financial incentives to landowners interested in improving or restoring the aquatic habitat in a stream by protecting the land area adjacent to it from livestock grazing.

The program will pay landowners to establish permanent fencing that restricts livestock access to local streams. It can also be used to provide alternative water sources or improved limited access points and crossing areas where there is no other water available for livestock. Cost-share rates for fence establishment are generally based on 100% of the current USDA practice cost estimates for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for Knox County. Several different types of fencing are eligible. Required fencing offset distance from the top of the stream bank varies depending on the watershed area of the stream at that point and ranges from 15 to 35 feet.

Cost share rates for necessary crossings, watering access points, or alternative water supplies in conjunction with fence projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis but will also generally be at 100% of the USDA cost basis for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

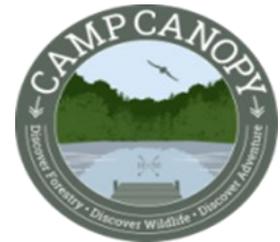
For more details on the program, or to apply, contact the SWCD office at 740-393-6724 to schedule a site visit.

## SWCD Has Camp Sponsorships Available

Camp Canopy takes place June 12 – 17, 2022 at FFA Camp Muskingum, Carroll-OH and is open to freshmen through graduating seniors.

To apply for a sponsorship, contact Althea Dye at 740-393-6724 or [altheadye@knoxswcd.org](mailto:altheadye@knoxswcd.org)

For more camp information visit [www.campanopy.com](http://www.campanopy.com)



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## 2022 Ag/Conservation Scholarship

The Knox SWCD is awarding a \$1000 scholarship to qualifying individuals. Those students who are eligible include: Knox County High School Seniors or current Knox County residents pursuing their field of study in a post-secondary institution enrolled in an agricultural, environmental studies or wildlife field of study. There will be at least one agriculture/environmental studies scholarship and one wildlife scholarship. This scholarship program was established to financially assist students with the pursuit of a college, university or technical school degree. To review the eligibility and selection process, applications will be made available at [www.knoxswcd.org](http://www.knoxswcd.org) or hard copies can be picked up at 160 Columbus Road. Deadline for application submission is 4:00 pm May 2, 2022. Contact us at 740-393-6724 or [altheadye@knoxswcd.org](mailto:altheadye@knoxswcd.org) with questions.



## Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

160 Columbus Road, Mt. Vernon (740) 393-6724

“Serving Our Community and Touching the Earth”

### 2022 Wildlife Packet Order Form



The Knox Soil and Water Conservation District conducts a Wildlife Packet program each year that is designed to meet a specific need by landowners to acquire small numbers of trees and shrub stock. This stock is suitable for use in backyards, odd corners, steep banks, or for the development of wildlife land. Transplanting is not necessary and with reasonable care a fine planting can be developed.

All stock is state and federally inspected. It may be necessary for us to make reasonable substitutions based on availability of certain species; however, we guarantee that only first quality plants will be used.

The deadline for ordering your packets is April 4th, 2022 or until our supply is exhausted. There is no limit to the number of packets ordered, however, payment must be included with your order and orders will be processed on a first come basis. In April, you will receive notice when the packets will be delivered.

Planting instructions, as well as a guide to plant, will accompany your packet at the time of delivery. Payment can be made through a money order, personal check, or cash and must accompany the order. Please remember that these plants are seedlings and the packet will be about the size of a small bag of groceries. Delivery time should be around the third week of April. If you do not receive notification during the second week of April, please contact the Knox SWCD at (740) 393-6724.

**KNOX SWCD WILDLIFE PACKET ORDER FORM**

(DEADLINE - April 4th, 2022 or until supply is exhausted)

Receipt # (office use only)

Item	Seedling/Packet	Qty		Price/Tax	Total Price		Total
Eastern White Pine– 3yr	10		x	\$11.19 /.81	\$12.00	=	
Eastern White Pine– 5yr	5		x	\$10.26/.74	\$11.00	=	
Norway Spruce– 3yr	10		x	\$11.19/.81	\$12.00	=	
White Flowering Dogwood	3		x	\$7.46/.54	\$8.00	=	
Nut Tree	8		x	\$13.99/1.01	\$15.00	=	
Hardwood	15		x	\$22.38/1.62	\$24.00	=	
Red Oak	10		x	\$13.05/.95	\$14.00	=	
Fraser Fir	5		x	\$9.32/.68	\$10.00	=	
Marking Flags	100		x	\$10.25/.75	\$11.00	=	
Plantsydd- Powder	1 lb		x	\$18.65/1.35	\$20.00	=	
Plantsydd- Granular	3.5 lb		x	\$20.51/1.49	\$22.00	=	
Plantsydd- Liquid (RTU)	1 qt		x	\$14.92/1.08	\$16.00	=	
<b>Grand Total</b>						\$	



**It's Tree Packet Time!**  
**Hurry and Place Your Order!!!**  
**Deadline April 4th, 2022**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*(For Delivery Notification)*

SEND PAYMENT AND MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: KNOX SWCD, P.O. BOX 270, MOUNT VERNON, OH 43050



### Eastern White Pine Packet

**(10 seedlings 3yr. 5" - 10") \$12/packet**

**(5 seedlings 5yr. TP 3-2, 8" - 15") \$11/packet**



These seedlings are large conifers with needles 5 to a cluster and 2 to 5 inches long. This is an excellent shade and ornamental tree. Our best pine for lumber and a rapid growth rate.

### Norway Spruce Packet

**(10 seedlings 3yr. 16" - 24") \$12/packet**



A medium to rapid growing evergreen of conical form. Cones are pendant and the needles usually have four sides. Stiff and sharp to the touch. Good drainage is necessary.

### White Flowering Dogwood Packet

**(3 seedlings 6" - 12") \$8/packet**



This is a small tree growing to approximately 25 feet in height. It is one of the finest ornamental trees in the Eastern United States. Slow growing, long lived and tolerates either sun or shade on a dry or well-drained soil.

### Nut Tree Packet (8 seedlings/2 varieties) \$15/packet



**American Hazelnut:** Grows 8 to 10 feet in height. Well aerated and light soils such as loamy sands, sandy loams, and loams support vigorous growth. Flowers in March and April; the fruit ripens from July to September. This uniquely flavored nut is eagerly sought by many wildlife species.



**Chinese Chestnut:** A prolific bearer of delicious nuts, similar to the American Chestnut, but is blight resistant. Smaller than the American Chestnut. With plenty of room to grow, it will resemble the shape of an apple tree. The chestnut, like the oaks, holds its leaves during the fall and winter.

### Fraser Fir Packet (5 -5yr seedlings/ 18" - 30") \$10/packet



This is a classy tall fir tree that has short dark-green needles with silver undersides. It is among the most classy of the conifers. A great ornamental and Christmas tree because of its density and compactness. Fraser Firs will grow in most locations but must have good drainage. Fraser Fir is a medium-sized tree, 40 to 70 feet high and one to more than two feet in diameter.

### Hardwood Packet (15 seedlings/3 varieties) \$24/packet

#### **Sugar Maple:**



A favorite shade tree with reliable fall color. Valued for its hard dense, fine-grained and difficult-to-split wood. Trees in open grow to 80 feet tall and 40 feet wide. Requires a fertile, well drained soil and ample moisture. Full sun or partial shade. Performs poorly in compacted soil with limited root space.



**Tulip Poplar:** Oval to round crown. Beautiful yellow, tulip-like flowers attract honey bees. Bright green foliage turns yellow in fall. Needs full sun and plenty of space. Grows 70-90 feet with a spread of 35-50 feet. Good to use to fill in vacant spots in tree plantings.

#### **Red Oak:**



This wide, massive, long-lived shade tree is fast growing reaching 80 to 90 feet at maturity. It's lustrous green leaves change to russet red in the fall. It is commercially valuable timber and provides acorns for wildlife.

### Red Oak Packet (10 seedlings 10" - 20") \$14/packet



This wide, massive, long-lived shade tree is fast growing reaching 80 to 90 feet at maturity. It's lustrous green leaves change to russet red in the fall. It is commercially valuable timber and provides acorns for wildlife.

### Plantskydd Soluble Powder Deer Repellent

Proven effective in commercial applications, this 100% natural product is now available to the home gardener and landscape professional. Animals avoid treated ornamentals, shrubs, perennials and annuals. The Plantskydd can last up to six months over winter on dormant ornamental shrubs and three months on most other succulent /broadleaf plants. The smell of the blood meal base powder deters the deer and wildlife. For more information visit [www.plantskydd.com](http://www.plantskydd.com)

◆-**Powder (1 lb.) \$20:** Treats 270 seedlings 1' high.

◆-**Granular (3.5 lbs.) \$22:** Treats approximately 1800 square feet.

◆-**Liquid (1 qt.) \$16:** Treats 100 seedlings 1' high.





## Welcome New Service Forester

Greetings! My name is Katie Gerber, and I am the new ODNR Service Forester for Knox county. I've been a Service Forester down in southern Ohio since 2019, and I am happy to be assisting forest landowners in a part of the state that's closer to my hometown (Willard in Huron County). After earning my Associates of Science in Forest Management at Hocking College in 2017, I attended The Ohio State University, where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Forest Ecosystem Science and Management in 2019. My favorite part about my job is getting the opportunity to inform and empower landowners to make decisions that will improve the health and vigor of their forestland. I also enjoy taking part in educational programs and events and working on our Interagency Wildfire Crew. My landowner assistance service area includes Wyandot, Crawford, Morrow, Richland, and Knox counties. I'm so enthusiastic to help landowners meet their goals for the forestland on their property. Please don't hesitate to call me at 614-425-7767 or send me an email at [Katherine.Gerber@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Katherine.Gerber@dnr.ohio.gov) if you have any questions about tree plantings, harvesting timber, forestland invasive species, forest stand improvement, or any kind of forest management on your property!



## Upcoming Important Dates

### OSU Extension Office

2/8 - Master Gardener Meeting - 6:30pm  
 2/19 - New Farmers Market Vendor Meeting- 9am  
 3/3 - Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification 5:30 – 9:30 pm  
 3/7 - Sheep Improvement Banquet- 7pm  
 3/7 – Agronomy School 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
 3/9 Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 3/14 - Agronomy School 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
 3/12 - Small Farm Conference  
 3/21 - Agronomy School 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
 3/22 - Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification Noon – 4:00 p.m.  
 3/28 - Agronomy School 6:30 – 9:00

### USDA Office

1/31 - **Deadline** 2021 LDPs for wool and unshorn lamb pelts.  
 1/31 - 2021 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) including water hauling and hay/feed transportation. Application for Payment **Deadline** for timely filed 2021 ELAP notices of losses.  
 1/31 - **Deadline** for the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Application and all supporting documentation.  
 2/4 - FSA application deadline for Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP).  
 2/21 - President's Day Holiday. **FSA and NRCS Offices Closed. OR USDA Service Center is Closed.**  
 3/1 - Primary Nesting Season begins.  
 3/1 - **Deadline** for the 2021 Livestock

### Soil and Water Conservation Dist.

1/26 – ODA/Case Farms 1:00 to 7:00 pm  
 1/27 – Ag Pro Expo (Millersburg) 9:00 am  
 1/29 – Knox County Pheasants Forever Banq. 5:00 pm Floral Valley  
 2/16 – Board Meeting 1:00 pm  
 2/21 – CLOSED for President’s Day  
 2/28 – OFSWCD Meeting (Columbus) 9:00 am  
 3/1 – OFSWCD (Columbus) 9:00 am  
 3/16 – Board Meeting 1:00 pm  
 3/? (TBD) – Legislative Pancake Luncheon  
 4/4 – Tree Sale Ends  
 4/27 – Area 3 Envirothon

Non-Profit  
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 Mount Vernon OH 43050  
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 160 Columbus Road  
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 Mount Vernon, OH 43050