

# The District Newsletter

## Scioto Soil And Water Conservation District

12167A State Route 104  
Lucasville OH 45648  
(740)-259-9231

### Board Of Supervisors

**Donald Gleim Jr.**  
Chairman  
**Thomas Turner**  
Vice Chairman  
**Bill Lewis**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
**Michael R. Wright**  
Fiscal Agent  
**Frank Pertuset**  
Member



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### SWCD Employees

**Debby Basham**  
District Administrator  
**Jeff Montavon**  
Education Coordinator  
**Gregg Spear**  
District Technician

### NRCS Employees

**Mel Smith**  
District Conservationist

## 2005 Banquet Highlights

Over 120 people attended the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District annual banquet at Minford High School to celebrate the district's 59 years of service to Scioto County landowners. Annually, the district holds the banquet to highlight their activities for the year and to elect members to the district's board of supervisors.

Several awards were presented to landowners and other members of the community for their participation in the district's conservation programs. Scioto SWCD Education Coordinator, Jeff Montavon, recognized Darren Pertuset as the Big Tree Award Winner. Pertuset nominated a

Sassafras tree that stands 76 feet tall with a circumference of 83 inches on Maple Benner Road. Beginning in January, the Scioto SWCD will begin accepting nominations for big Persimmon trees.

Montavon then presented awards to winners of the Fifth Grade Poster Contest. First place was awarded to Seth Pack of Rubyville Elementary School. Anna Trankina, also a student at Rubyville, placed second. Third place was presented to Cassie Edwards of Bloom-Vernon Elementary. Rhiannon Spriggs a student at Northwest Elementary was recognized as the fourth place winner and fifth place award was given to Anna Valentine of Rubyville Elementary.



Darren Pertuset receives Big Tree Award from Jeff Montavon.



Poster Contest Winners: From Left: Rhiannon Spriggs, Anna Valentine, Cassie Edwards, and Seth Pack

Mel Smith, District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service presented the 2004 Cooperator of the Year Award to Dale Kuhn. As a contractor, Kuhn has been responsible for

placing more conservation practices on other producers' land than his own. Kuhn's dedication to drainage impairment and conservation tillage

demonstrates his devotion to conservation farming and good stewardship of the land.



Dale Kuhn receives Cooperator of the Year Award From Mel Smith.



Gregg Spear (far right) presents Conservation Logger Award to Harold Blankenship. Also Pictured L-R: Jeremy (son), Andrea (daughter-in-law), and Jeannie (wife) Blankenship.

Scioto SWCD Technician, Gregg Spear, recognized Harold Blankenship as the 2005 Conservation Logger of the Year. Blankenship began logging with his sons Jeremy and Lee in 1994 and now harvests over 3 million board feet of stumpage annually. In 2004, Blankenship's logging company started a sawmill near Rarden, Ohio that produced 2 million Board Feet of grade lumber, railroad ties, and cants. Blankenship is a certified Master logger through the Ohio Forestry Association and a member of the Southern Ohio Loggers Chapter.

Later in the evening, Scioto SWCD Administrator, Debby Basham, presented Catherine Turner with the Farm Woman of the Year Award. In the past 25 years the farm has changed from an operation involving mostly livestock to a produce grain, and beef

cattle operation. Her days often consist of helping pick, pack, process vegetables, drive the sweet corn wagon in the field, helping move equipment between farms, getting parts or supplies as well as relaying questions from customers concerning the day's order. On top of that, she also keeps the books, and makes the payroll for the employees. In earlier



Catherine Turner accepts Farmwoman Award from Debby Basham.

days, over and above these tasks she raised 6 children with all that entails, advised a 4-H Club "The Lick Runners" for 15 years, played church organ and conducted the choir for over 40 years. Her off hours consist of cooking, canning, laundry and cleaning the house. Two of her great joys are her beloved flowers and keeping in touch with children and grandchildren that are out of town by way of phone or e-mail

To conclude the evening's business, results from the supervisor election were announced. Mike Wright of Morgan Township and Tom Turner of Porter Township were both elected to another term as supervisors. Wright and Turner were both elected to the Scioto SWCD supervisor in 1999 and were sworn in to serve their third term on the board at the Scioto SWCD's January Board Meeting.

### Public Welcome

#### (Rule 1)

Notice of all public meetings of the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District shall be given in accordance with the following procedure.

(A) Any person may determine (be informed of) the time and place of regularly scheduled meetings to the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting by calling on the telephone the office of the District.

(B) Any person may obtain advance notice of all meetings at which any specific type of public business is to be discussed by identifying the type of public business for which they desire to be notified and by supplying the District with stamped self-addressed envelopes. The District will mail to such persons a notice of the time, place, and type of business to be discussed at the meeting at least four calendar days before the meeting is scheduled unless the meeting is an emergency meeting.

(C) The Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District will maintain a list of representatives of the news media who have requested in writing notice of special or emergency meetings. The District shall mail such representatives notice at least twenty-four hours before special meetings. In the event of an emergency meeting, the representative of the news media who has requested notification of emergency meetings shall be notified immediately of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. News media requesting notice pursuant to this paragraph shall supply the District with the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the representative to be contacted.

(Rule 2)

Minutes to all meetings of the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District will be promptly recorded and shall be open to public inspection during work hours at the office of the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District, 12167A State Route 104, Lucasville, Ohio.

In 2005, 12 regular supervisor meetings were scheduled. Board members, district and NRCS personnel attend each meeting. Other agency personnel, county personnel, landowners, operators, and all interested persons are welcome to attend.



2006 Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors: (L-R) Mike Wright, Frank Pertuset, Don Gleim, Tom Turner, and Bill Lewis

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Tom Turner	Vice-Chairman
Bill Lewis	Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Wright	Fiscal Agent
Frank Turner	Member

**Equine Environmental and Liability Program set for May 6**

Helping horse farms of all sizes better manage environmental and liability issues is the ultimate goal of the Equine Environmental and Liability Awareness Program training session that is being hosted by the Scioto Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Lawrence SWCD, Ohio University on Saturday, May 6th, 2006 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Ohio Horse Park, 400 Bobcat Lane, Franklin Furnace, Ohio.

The program’s curriculum focuses on key issues that are critically important to the success of an equine operation developing and implementing practices that are economically viable, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable. Specific topics that will be addressed during the training session include protecting water quality, manure and nutrient management, pasture management, facility design, conservation practices, neighbor relations, regulatory compliance and

Ohio’s equine liability law.

“Manure on horse farms is typically handled and stored very differently than other livestock farms. Additionally, many horse farms do not have a direct link to crops like other livestock farms, nor do they usually have adequate forage resources,” said Gregg Spear, District Technician of Scioto SWCD. “Therefore, it is very important that they learn to recognize the challenges that they face and become acquainted with management practices that can help address natural resource concerns and potential liability issues. This comprehensive education and awareness program will help them do exactly that.”

According to Spear, the objectives of the program are as follows:

- Create awareness of environmental, conservation and natural resource issues that need to be addressed by horse farms in Ohio.
- Become more familiar with best management practices (BMPs) and best available technologies (BATs) that will specifically help horse farm owners, operators and managers better identify and address environmental, conservation and natural resource issues and challenges.
- Reduce the number of verified ag pollution complaints involving horse farms.
- Identify various alternatives for manure handling, storage, application, utilization and disposal.
- Learn how to manage, handle, store and apply manure in a manner that protects the environment and conserves precious natural resources.
- Learn how to manage pasture, hay, forages and grasses in a manner that enhances animal nutrition and utilization, efficiency and use of resources, maximizes profit and protects the environment.
- Use information from the personal self-assessment to improve your horse farm’s management and facilities, which in turn will lead to better protection of the environment and natural resources.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental rules and regulations by which horse farms must comply.
- Adopt and implement good neighbor policies that create a positive perception of the livestock industry, which includes equine.
- Develop an understanding of programs and incentives made available by various government agencies that may benefit your horse farm.
- Develop a more thorough understanding of Ohio’s equine liability law.

The Equine Environmental and Liability

Awareness Program was developed by the Ohio Livestock Coalition and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ohio State University Extension and Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil and Water Conservation and Ohio Horseman's Council.

To make a reservation to attend the training session, or for additional information about the program, for Scioto County contact Debby Basham at (740) 259-9231 and for Lawrence County Peggy Reynolds at (740) 867-4737 by April 28th.

### Notice

The annual financial report of the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District for 2005 has been completed and is available for inspection at the district office at 12167A State Route 104, Lucasville, Ohio.

### Residents Invited to Scioto Brush Creek Day

Over 100 Fifth Grade students from Northwest Elementary School will attend Scioto Brush Creek Day on Friday, May 5 at the Covered Bridge in

Otway, Ohio. Annually, the Shawnee Nature Club sponsors the event to teach student and residents of the community about the superior quality of the Scioto Brush Creek Watershed.

Scioto Brush Creek is arguably one of the best quality streams in Ohio, providing habitat to over 60 fish species, two of which are on the Ohio endangered species list. The watershed also hosts a wide a variety of plant life including Virginia Spiraea and Southern Monkshood, both endangered in Ohio.

As part of Scioto Brush Creek Day, students will sample macroinvertebrates, collect fish by electro-shocking, and participate in activities to learn more about stream habitat. Professionals from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and volunteers from the Shawnee Nature Club will coordinate the activities.

Everyone is invited to attend this special event. Students will arrive at the site at 9:30 AM and activities will run until 2:00 PM. In the event of inclement weather or high water, the event will be postponed until the following Friday. To Learn more about Scioto Brush Creek visit the Scioto SWCD online at [www.sciotoswcd.org](http://www.sciotoswcd.org) or [www.friendsofsciotobrushcreek.org](http://www.friendsofsciotobrushcreek.org).

*Visit our Website: [www.sciotoswcd.org](http://www.sciotoswcd.org)*



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District prohibit discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).

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