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Cooperator

Newsletter

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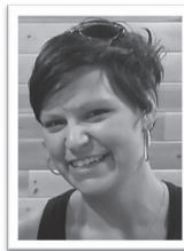
Board of Supervisors

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Introducing....

Erika S. Kemper-

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce the new District Conservationist for Miami County, Erika Kemper, who will be serving as the DC for both Miami and Shelby Counties. Erika comes to us from West Virginia, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Education. She started her career as a Grazing Specialist covering 17 counties in northern Ohio in June of 2007. From there, she has worked as a Soil Conservationist in Huron County; a Contracting Specialist in Chillicothe, OH covering 17 counties in southern Ohio; and a Resource Conservationist in Auglaize County. She currently resides in Mercer County with her husband. Erika enjoys gardening, outdoor activities, sports, and spending time with her family. She is excited about the opportunity to work with Miami and Shelby County landowners, NRCS partners, and the ag community to put conservation on the ground.



Justin Wagner-

Also, relatively new to the Miami County office... Justin Wagner is the new Resource Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Miami and Shelby County. He will be assisting Erika Kemper, District Conservationist, sharing his time between both offices.



Justin started his conservation career as summer help with NRCS in Shelby County in 2006. After college, he was hired as a District Technician in Van Wert County, and then as Soil Conservation Technician on the Grand Lake St. Marys Project. During his time there, he earned a Bachelor's in Agriculture. Justin has also worked as Resource Conservationist in Montgomery and Preble Counties.

He grew up in Botkins raising show pigs and being actively involved in 4-H and FFA and it was enjoying the outdoors along with raising livestock that motivated him to pursue a career in Conservation. He currently resides in Botkins with his wife, Megan and their three sons. Justin looks forward to working with the landowners and producers in Miami County and encourages anyone who has questions to call or send an email.

NOVEMBER Upcoming Events

- NOV 7** Daylight Savings Time
(Fall back one hour!)
- NOV 7** Wounded Warrior 5K Echo Hills Golf Course Piqua 9AM
Proceeds benefit Wounded Warrior Walk/Run timing, \$20 includes T-shirt.
- NOV 10** Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District office. Public Welcome
- NOV 11** Veterans Day Office Closed
- NOV 13-15** Downtown Troy Merchants Holiday Open House
For a full list of participating businesses, visit www.troymainstreet.org or contact Katherine Hayes at 339-5455
- NOV 14-15** A Winter's Yuletide Gathering Downtown Tipp City All Day www.DowntownTippCity.org
- NOV 19-22** Specialty Shoppes of West Milton Holiday Open House All Day Downtown West Milton 937-698-7037
<https://www.facebook.com/specialtyshoppesofwestmilton>
- NOV 20-21** Piqua Community Holiday Open House 773-9355 www.mainstreetpiqua.com
- NOV 26** HAPPY THANKSGIVING Office Closed
- NOV 27** Hometown Holiday Celebration DT Troy 6PM -10:30PM 937-339-5455 www.TroyMainStreet.org
- DEC 4** **Christmas on the Green** DT Piqua 6PM – 9PM 937-773-9355 www.MainStreetPiqua.com
- DEC 4-5** Tippecanoe Christmas in the Village Main Street Tipp City All Day 937-667-8631 www.TippChristmas.com

What Do Farmers Do in Winter?

By Linda Raterman

Information/Public Relations, Miami SWCD

As the Educator for Miami SWCD, I will occasionally present a lesson called, "How Many People Can One Farmer Be?" During this lesson, kids will be given a different hat or sign to wear indicating the many different roles in the life of a farmer. In addition to being a "Farmer", he or she could be: Weatherman, Stockbroker, Businessman, Vet, Diplomat, Mechanic, Fortuneteller, Nature Lover, Truck Driver, Educator, and certainly a Juggler. Some may be able to number even more descriptors of the farmer, but the point is this; lots more is going on than just throwing some seed on the ground and waiting to cut it down when the crop is done. As we head into winter, those who don't live on a farm, or find themselves generations removed from a farming life, may wonder just what the farmer does during these cold dark months ahead of us. It might be an easy thing to say that the farmer just hibernates during the winter and waits for spring, and it is likely things might be a little slower. And, of course, for those operations that have animals, things carry on just like every other day of the year, but otherwise, the farmer is hardly idle.

Wintertime is the time of inspection, maintenance and "doing"; taking real time perhaps to assess and/or repair equipment that had just made it through or had been fixed enough to get them through the last harvest or planting season. Maybe it's reinforcing the fencing along the old back 40, or if there's a woodlot, clearing out brush or trees. Maybe some feature of any of the outbuildings need to be repaired or seen to. There's also the effort to just winterize as much as possible as quickly as possible.

Then there's the "thinking". Wintertime is when things are taken into consideration. How did things go when we did this? Were we wise to gamble with that practice? Did it pay off? Will it pay off if we keep on doing it? How are the finances? What do we do next? Evaluating tax forms and investigating the latest developments in weed and insect control? What's the next thing down the pike that needs to truly be considered for the operation? What are the new studies in efficiency and cost control practices? Is Farm Bureau or OSU-Extension encouraging or researching anything to be aware of? Is there a workshop to attend offering in depth information regarding equipment and seed?

These few paragraphs have barely scratched the surface. There's more, lots more to do and after it's all done... well, it's most likely SPRING again!



Did you know...

With an average of 7,000 acres dedicated to growing pumpkins, Ohio is one of the top producers of the large, carving type of pumpkins, usually ranking between third and fifth in the country. However, according to experts with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, Ohio farmers harvested fewer pumpkins this year compared to the 2014 crop, and the fruits are smaller than usual. You may already have the pumpkins you need, but you may have noticed they were smaller, and maybe cost a bit more.

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Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits

WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING

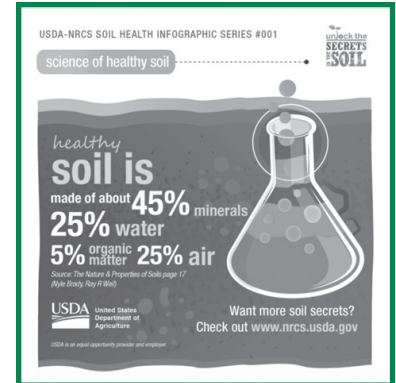
	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag Limit
Archery	9/26/15	2/7/16	Miami County has a 2 deer bag limit
Gun	11/30/15	12/6/15	
	12/28/15	12/29/15	
Muzzleloader	1/9/16	1/12/16	

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag Limit
Wild Turkey, Fall specific counties	10/10/15	11/29/15	Miami County bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

SMALL GAME HUNTING

	Opening date	Closing date	Daily bag limit
Squirrel (red, gray, black, fox)	9/1/15	1/13/16	6
Mourning Dove	9/1/15	9/8/15	15
	12/12/15	1/1/16	
Ruffed Grouse	10/10/15	1/31/16	2
Cottontail Rabbit	9/6/15	9/29/15	4
Ringneck Pheasant	9/6/15	1/10/16	2 (males only)
Chukar Partridge	9/6/15	1/10/16	2
Bobwhite Quail: specific counties	9/6/15	11/19/15	4
Fox (red, gray), Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, and Weasel	11/10/15	1/31/16	No Limit



NEWS from our friends at FSA

- Reporting of planted wheat:** The acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed to **Dec. 15, 2015**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including fall barley, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains. Please call to schedule an appointment to certify your wheat crop.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands Initiative:** Farmers and landowners can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish or already have established long-term, resource-conserving covers (grass) with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the cost to establish cross fencing to support rotational grazing and or livestock watering facilities. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences. The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General sign-up:** USDA will accept new offers to participate in CRP under a general sign-up to be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016. Farmers and landowners interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll for a period of 10 to 15 years. Financial assistance to cover seeding costs and annual rental payments are applicable.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):** Producers who are interested in the 2016 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), are reminded that the final application date is November 20, 2015 to apply for 2016 NAP coverage on apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap, and hops. The 2014 Farm Bill provides greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.
- Marketing Assistance Loans:** FSA is now accepting requests for 2015 Marketing Assistance Loans. These crop loans provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool and honey. These loans provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.



Miami Soil & Water Conservation District
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VISION: To be responsible leaders in promoting innovative stewardship of natural resources through the development of conservation partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

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