



January-February 2017 ~ Vol. 66 No. 1

Cooperator

Published Monthly

Newsletter

1330 N. County Rd 25A
Troy OH 45373

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Linda Raterman - Information/PR Spec Jennifer Korte - District Technician Travis Puckett - Drainage Technician

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Brian Leptak - Civil Engineering Technician Renee Buck - Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Board of Supervisors

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Andy Shuman
Diane Yingst

This issue marks the first Cooperator Newsletter for 2017. We're going to try something new and only publish 6 newsletters for the year. We hope you feel you're still getting the information you need in a timely fashion and if you have any comments, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@miamiswcd.org.



Passing of Former Supervisor

Victor Batdorf

Vic Batdorf always met you with a smile and there was usually a handshake from his big, powerful farmer's hand, too. And though I only knew him in his older years, it was easy to imagine just how strong and hardworking he must have been in his younger years.

He was called Mr. No-Till due to his trailblazing incorporation of adding no-till and other minimum-till practices to his operation in the 70s. And this

office was lucky enough to have Vic Batdorf serve as supervisor from 1977 to 1988. After that, he maintained his presence in the county by sometimes participating in District activities like no-till and cover crop events when he'd proudly pose for pictures demonstrating just how big oilseed radishes can get (see photo). And though it's been some time, we'd even see Vic on canoe trips with his little dog Darby.

Farmer, Husband, Dad, Grandpa and much more, it's pretty safe to say that when Vic passed away on November 23rd at the age of 91, he had accumulated a wonderful legacy and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Vic's son Dan is a current Miami SWCD Supervisor. Cards and sympathy may be sent to Dan Batdorf and Family at 9291 N. St. Rt. 48, Covington OH 45318.



Upcoming Events



- JAN 1** Happy New Year!
- JAN 2** Holiday observed, office closed
- JAN 7** The Great Christmas Tree Bon Fire
5PM 1995 E. Ross Rd. Tipp City
www.greatmiami.net
- JAN 10** Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District Office, Public Welcome
- JAN 13** Dulcimer Concert Hayner Center
7:30PM-9PM 301 West Main St., Troy
(937) 339-0457 www.TroyHayner.org
- JAN 16** Martin Luther King Jr Holiday, office closed
- FEB 3** Deadline for CRP
- FEB 10-12** Sports Cards & Collectibles Show @ Miami Valley Centre Mall 10AM-9PM
(937) 773-1225 www.MiamiValleyCentreMall.com
- FEB 14** Miami SWCD District Board Meeting 8AM District office, Public Welcome
- FEB 15** Deadline 2017 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (LAEPP) Miami SWCD Application Window
- FEB 20** President's Day Office closed
- MAR 3-5, 10-11** Neil Simon's Rumors 8PM-10PM (937) 339-7700
www.troycivictheatre.com
- MAR 18** Shamrock Shuffle 5K 8AM www.speedy-feet.com/races.php
Benefits St. Patrick's school. After the race, Kegs and Eggs at St. Patrick's Church!

Mark Your Calendar.....

Congressman Warren Davidson Farm Forum will be held March 18, 2017 at Edison Community College.

2017 MIAMI SWCD ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE!



Order your 1-3 year old bare-root trees using the enclosed order form before March 17th and come April 11th and 12th, stop by the Miami County Fairgrounds to pick them up. We've got 23 species of trees, 2 ground covers and 5 perennials!

Tell your friends! For more order forms, stop by 1330 N. County Road 25A Troy or go online to www.miamiswcd.org. Call 335-7645 with any questions!

LARRY STUDEBAKER MEMORIAL & MIAMI SWCD SCHOLARSHIP

The Miami Soil and Water Conservation District is offering two \$750 scholarship awards for the purpose of continuing higher education at a two or four year college or university.

QUALIFICATIONS – Applying students:

- Must be a Miami County, Ohio resident.
- Must be an Agriculture or Natural Resources major.
- Must be enrolled for Fall Quarter/Semester of 2017.
- MAY be a prior Miami SWCD scholarship recipient.

CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP – The award will be used towards the student's tuition and fees and will be processed through the scholarship office of the chosen school.

WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY – Send completed applications, along with high school or college transcripts and three (3) letters of recommendations from three (3) references listed on the application form to: Miami SWCD Scholarship Committee, 1330 North County Road 25A; Suite C, Troy, Ohio 45373.

Deadline for applications and recommendations is Friday, March 17, 2017. (Postmarked)

For applications, go online to www.miamiswcd.org or contact Kristin Lewber at KLewber@miamiswcd.org. Call 335-7645 for more information.

Application and information received becomes the property of Miami Soil and Water Conservation District and will be held in strict confidence.



Regan Bowman

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2017 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (LAEPP)

Miami SWCD Application Deadline - February 15

Now through February 15th, 2017, the Miami SWCD will accept applications from Ohio landowners interested in selling an agricultural easement on their farms through the Ohio Department of Agriculture Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP), made possible from allocations from the Clean Ohio Fund.

The easement requires the:

- Farm remain permanently in agriculture production
- Farm must be 40 acres or more
- Participation in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program
- Owners demonstrate good stewardship of the land

If you think you'd like to pursue this opportunity, please contact Kreig Smail or Linda Raterman at Miami SWCD at 335-7645 or visit our offices at 1330 N. County Rd 25A, Troy



From our Friends at FSA...

The Farm Service Agency is setting up appointments for 2017 ARC/PLC contracts to begin in January. You should have received a card with your appointment over the last couple of weeks. If you fail to receive an appointment by February please contact the office at 335-1918. The FSA office has completed 2016 payments on corn and soybean bases. If you have ownership, operator changes, or changes to your bank account please contact the office.

USDA Now Accepting Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently accepting applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program.

NRCS has made several updates to the program this year to help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. New methods and software for evaluating applications will help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their conservation objectives. These new tools also allow producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

CSP is for producers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them to deliver multiple conservation benefits on working lands, including improved water and soil quality and enhanced wildlife habitat. Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available on the Ohio NRCS website. Producers interested in the program should visit their local USDA Service Center to submit an application. Erika Kemper and Justin Wagner with the Miami NRCS staff can be contacted at 335-1918. NRCS offices will accept applications through February 3, 2017.

Those interested in the additional opportunities the updated CSP will offer can find information on the new CSP portal, located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp>. This one-stop shop, which provides information to help producers determine whether CSP is right for them, will be continually updated as more information becomes available. Changes that producers can expect to see include nearly double the enhancements and conservation practices offered and better reporting tools to tell producers the results of their conservation efforts on their land.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT:



January 18 & 20

Pesticide Applicator Exam Preparation (Core, Cat 1 and 2)

10AM-12PM Hobart Center for County Government,
510 Water St, Troy

\$20 Preregistration (must be postmarked by January 13)

January 23, 30, & February 6

Advanced Farm Management School

6:30-8:30PM Hobart Center for County Govt., 510
Water St, Troy

\$50 Pre-registration required by January 18, 2017

January 24 & 31 and February 21 & 28

Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection Webinars

7PM Topics include: Precision Agriculture, Corn Production and Diseases, Cover Crops, Soil Health, Soybean Production
FREE Available to watch from home. Register with
bennett.709@osu.edu or (937) 440-3945 for login information.

February 23

Farm Transition Planning

1-4PM First Baptist Church, 53 S Norwich Rd, Troy

FREE. Must register by February 17.

February 28, 2017

10AM-12PM **Fertilizer Certification** (for those with
Pesticide License only)

1PM- 4PM **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**

Upper Valley ATCR 8811 Career Drive, Piqua

*Lunch is on your own!

Register at <http://pested.osu.edu/PrivateApplicator/testing>

For question on any of these opportunities within Miami County, contact: Amanda Bennett, bennett.709@osu.edu or call (937) 440-3945

2017 Ag Outlook – Joint with Darke County

February 3 Romers, 118 E Main, Greenville

12PM \$20 Preregistration – Lunch Included - (must be postmarked by January 27)

For more information or to register: www.darke.osu.edu

Contact: Sam Custer, custer.2@osu.edu or (937) 548-5215

Miami Soil & Water Conservation District
 1330 N. County Road 25-A
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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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