



In This Issue:

- COVID-19 updates
- Affiliate Memberships
- No-Till Drill Rental
- Photo Contest
- Educational Articles
- Election Requirements
- Supervisor Election Nominees

Upcoming dates to remember:

- **Oct. 2nd**– Voting starts
- **Oct. 11th**– Columbus Day office closed
- **Oct. 20th**– Board meeting
- **Nov. 13th**– Voting ends
- **Nov. 11th**– Veterans Day office closed
- **Nov. 17th**– Board meeting
- **Nov. 26th-27th**- Thanksgiving office closed
- **Dec. 15th**– Board meeting
- **Dec. 24th-25th**- Christmas office closed
- **Dec. 31st-Jan. 1st**- New Year's office closed

COVID-19 Updates

Due to concerns over coronavirus, the Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will remain closed to the public. Our staff is available by email, phone and appointment only. Please contact district staff during business hours if you have any questions or to schedule an appointment. Thank you for understanding and flexibility, during these ever changing times.

Harrison SWCD office: (740)-942-8837

Keila Ferguson, District Administrator– kferguson@harrisoncountyohio.org (x1701)

Stephanie Birney, Administrative Assistant– sbirney@harrisoncountyohio.org (x1758)

Kristy Dickey, Watershed Specialist– kdickey@harrisoncountyohio.org (x1702)

Stuart Heavilin, Agricultural/Natural Resources Technician– sheavilin@harrisoncountyohio.org (x1703)

Billy Wilson, Forestry & Wildlife Technician– bwilson@harrisoncountyohio.org (x1704)

We are committed to supporting farmers and the essential agricultural industry. Our No-till drill, is still available for rental. Soil Test kits and Geotextile fabric are also available for purchase.

The monthly Board of Supervisor meetings continue to be held the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm. Please contact the district for instructions to participate.

Group in-person programs and events are on hold until further instruction is given from the state and county officials. We have the intention to resume education and producer events and programs as soon as possible.

The Harrison SWCD Annual Meeting for 2020 is cancelled. However, the election for the board of supervisors will still take place. See enclosed election info for nominees and voting on page 7.

USDA Hopedale Service Center Pandemic Changes

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Hopedale Service Center, which houses both the Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has been operating with the building doors locked as directed by the USDA. However, customers can be seen by appointment. Call (740) 937-2500 to schedule an appointment. The FSA staff are only in the Hopedale office on Monday and Friday each week, spending the rest of the week at the New Philadelphia office. The NRCS staff are there daily, although sometimes they are in the field assisting customers.



Virtual Eastern Ohio Grazing Council

Since the Covid-19 Pandemic has prevented the Eastern Ohio Grazing Council (EOGC) from holding in-person pasture walks or meetings, the EOGC has created virtual pasture walks and other informational videos to help fill the void. A virtual pasture walk is shared on the 4th Thursday of each month on YouTube, Facebook, and through the EOGC's email list. Send an email to beth.krupczak@usda.gov if you would like to be added to the email list.

All of the EOGC videos and virtual pasture walks to date can be viewed on the EOGC YouTube channel, by searching "EOGC" at www.youtube.com.

The EOGC Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/EasternOhioGrazingCouncil/.

2020 Affiliate Memberships

Dear Potential Affiliate Members, we wanted to let you know what your generous contributions can help provide to the community here in Harrison County.

Programs, events, and workshops offered at Harrison SWCD:

Conservation in Your Backyard

Forestry Workshops

Community Garden at the Fairgrounds

Classroom Presentations & Youth Education

Conservation Plans & Technical Assistance for Landowners

Grazing Council Workshops & Pasture Walks

Watershed Programs & Water Quality Monitoring

No-Till Drill Equipment Program

If you would like to become an Affiliate Member of the Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District, please fill out the "Affiliate Membership for 2021-2022" form below and mail along with payment.

Affiliate Membership (2021-2022):

Affiliate Membership (\$30.00): _____

Affiliate Member Name: _____

Affiliate Member Address: _____

Submit payment with check to:

Harrison SWCD
538 North Main Street
Cadiz, OH 43907

FOR RENT

6" No-Till Drill Great Plains 606NT

- Pasture renovations
- Wildlife food plots
- End wheel design
- 6ft. Working width
- Two seed boxes
- 12 bushel main seed box
- 1.44 bushel small seed box
- Minimum of 40 hp tractor
- Pioneer ends included
- 9 rows
- 7.5" row spacing
- 2,700 lbs (approximately)
- 8'10" total width
- Rental as low as \$9/acre
- Delivery & setup assistance included



Rates:

Rental \$15/acre

Minimum rental \$50

Out of county fee \$50

Contact our office today to get
your rental on our calendar for
2020-2021

Discounts:

- Do you have a current Conservation Plan? -\$3/acre
- Planting into greater than 40% residue? -\$2/acre
- Do you have current soil tests? -\$1/acre

Looking Through the Lens

Photo Guidelines:

- Photos can be color or black and white
- Pictures must have been taken during the year of 2019 or 2020
- Digital photos can be emailed to (hswcd@harrisoncountyohio.org)
- Photos must be taken in Harrison County
- Winning photos will be announced via Facebook
- Harrison SWCD has the right to use photographs on any printed or digital material.



Each Submission Must:

- Include name and phone number
- Photos must be free of watermarks or logos.
- DEADLINE: December 1, 2020

Grazing Management for the Summer Heat

By Stuart Heavilin, HSWCD Agriculture/ Natural Resources Technician

Most pasture plants are cool season plants, meaning that they grow best when soil temperatures are low, as they are in the spring and fall. Some common cool season pasture plants include orchard grass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, red and white clover, and alfalfa just to name a few. These plants thrive when the temperature is between 50 and 80 degrees and some species can stay productive until the temperature drops below 32 degrees.

As soil temperature begins to rise in the summer heat, the cool season grasses begin to enter a state of dormancy where growth slows or even stops. During this dormancy period, overgrazing of the pasture plants can easily become an issue as the plant no longer can regrow the parts removed by livestock. The leaf area of plants helps to shade the soil to keep soil temperatures lower and to prevent moisture loss. Overgrazing causes an increase in soil temperature which, once it reaches 85 degrees, causes damage to the roots and can lead to the death of these plants. In this situation, the results can be weak regrowth of desirable pasture plants, an influx of unwanted weed growth, and poor soil health.

So how do you prevent this from happening? The most effective way to avoid the harmful effects of the summer heat on your pasture is to follow the grazing principal of take half, leave half. This is the practice in which livestock should eat the top 50 percent of all available plants and leave the bottom half of the plant to remain. This practice gives the plant leaf area to continue photosynthesis and a reserve of energy to continue growth once it leaves dormancy.



Ensure that you do not start grazing a forage until they have reached a height of at least 6-8. Give the plants at least 30 days of rest and in very hot and/or dry situations even longer during the summer and early fall months without grazing to prevent damage. The height of the plant above ground is roughly equivalent to the depth of the roots below ground and therefore continuous overgrazing the plant leads to shorter roots with less potential to flourish.

In order to allow this rest period to occur some alternative strategies can be implemented. One of these approaches is to feed hay during the very hot and dry summer. This seem counterintuitive to many, but it has some advantages. Feeding hay gives the plants time to rest and regrow resulting in more forage mass and quality. Also, for hay stored outside, the quality of the fed hay will be better than it will be in winter as the exposure to rain and snow reduces feed value.

Another way to combat the so called “summer slump” of forage growth is to plant part of the grazing acreage with warm-season grasses. These are plants that thrive in the hot summer heat as they have deep roots and have evolved to withstand hot, dry conditions. Examples of warm-season grasses included big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass and Indian grass. The establishment of this grass can be tricky as it has a hard time competing with the early growth of cool-season plants.

Once the cooler fall weather returns, as it appears to be now, these cool season plants will experience a new round of robust growth. During this time, the plants are beginning to store energy in their roots to prepare for winter and then the initial growth in the spring. Overgrazing of these plants at this period in their lifecycle will cause damage to the future growth and spring productivity.

Winter Wildlife

By Billy Wilson, HSWCD Forestry/Wildlife Technician

Winter brings many obstacles for humans and wildlife alike. Luckily for us we can go get warm in our houses and cook up a hot meal after a long day in the cold. Wildlife on the other hand does not have that luxury. All of our species of wildlife in Ohio are made for the type of environment we have and have adapted over time to survive even in the coldest of winters.

Specific needs change for different wildlife as well. When you look at how the birds migrate through the winter we see a theme, especially with waterfowl. Many times, migrating waterfowl only go as far south as they need to go, based on food and available open water. Historically, Ohio was forest and wetlands, which has greatly changed by agriculture and channelization of rivers and streams. These factors affect how wildlife use the landscape in ways we do not even realize. With the river systems and waste grain in fields, we now have a recipe for wintering waterfowl instead of just being a migration pitstop.

For some of the terrestrial wildlife, life can be much harder during these cold months. Most of the hard and soft mast is either gone or covered in snow. Browse is a very important type of feeding behavior that many terrestrial animals use in hard times of the year. Whitetail for example often browse new growth twigs from the past summer as well as remnant grasses. Again, our agricultural landscape helps combat some of the food availability issues with left over grain that all sorts of wildlife can take advantage of.



One topic that many people have issues with, whether good or bad, is supplemental feeding during hunting seasons. Now I am not talking about food-plots, because that is a great way to provide wildlife with food and cover. Artificially providing food for wildlife such as corn piles can be very detrimental to wildlife of all varieties. If by chance you go all through November, December and January dumping corn to attract wildlife for hunting, then after season ends and the cold comes the corn stops. The potential for wildlife to become dependent on that is a lot higher due to the harsh conditions. Once dependent, many species of wildlife stop searching for other sources of food and in-turn this can cause malnutrition, loss of natural habits, and in extreme cases death.

Overall it is vital to provide our wildlife with suitable habitat for year-round use and not just for hunting seasons. We can modify habitat in ways where false sources of food are not necessary. Wildlife is wild and should be treated as such. Suitable habitat is the best recipe for healthy wildlife and successful outdoor recreation as well. Next time you are out and about on your farm or land, see what areas certain wildlife use and what food sources they rely on at different times of the year, then try to provide more of that for them.

Ripple Effects of a Watershed

By Kristy Dickey, HSWCD/CSWCD Watershed Specialist

A simple definition of a watershed is a drainage area, a body of water that rainwater drains to. Watersheds can be small such as a local stream, and small watersheds are part of larger watersheds. In Carroll and Harrison counties our larger watersheds are the Muskingum River Watershed and the Ohio River Watershed. What happens in our counties impacts those larger rivers that do not even flow through our counties, and eventually everything that happens in our counties impacts the Gulf of Mexico through the Mississippi River. Sometimes though, our actions in our local watersheds can have consequences in those local watersheds. An example of this happened recently in Stark County.

Near Springfield, OH a pollutant was introduced into the local waterway and the pollutant is perhaps an unexpected one, dish detergent. Something we encounter on a day to day basis and not something we consider harmful when used for its intended purposes. Many substances we may see as safe, clean, non-toxic, or even organic, can wreak havoc when they end up where they are not supposed to be. Pollution can be anything that is not naturally occurring in the stream, even excess dirt is considered pollution. The dishwashing detergent ended up in a storm drain which discharged into the stream. This resulted in a fish kill. Eight miles of the stream and tributaries were impacted. Fish died, mus-



cles died, and though not noted in news reports, I'm sure countless macroinvertebrates died. Six pumps were used by the Environmental Protection Agency to aerate the impacted areas. Basically 8 miles of ecosystem were wiped out because of the detergent. It is important to note that this area is the headwaters to the Tuscarawas River, so the river is much smaller than further downstream. This area is also very populated and has many residential areas with storm drains. If you live in a residential area with storm drains, it is very important to be aware of where those storm drains discharge. Storm drains are not part of sanitary sewers and discharge, untreated water, into local streams and rivers. In rural areas, drainage ditches act in many ways like storm drain sewers. Water runs downhill and any substance applied or dumped upstream, or in a ditch, has the potential to make its way into the stream.

There are many things that help to reduce pollution, vegetated buffer strips, proper application of fertilizers and pesticides, but to me the easiest and most impactful, is to be aware of where you are in the watershed. Are you near a stream, uphill of a stream? If you wash your vehicle in your driveway, where will the soapy water go? Will your compost pile, leaf pile, manure pile, dirt pile be washed into a stream with a heavy rain? Where will the litter on the street or in a ditch go? If we are conscious of our decisions in relation to where water is, and where water goes, we can start to make better decisions for the areas we live in. Sometimes I think the term watershed may seem abstract, and not something we think about on a daily basis. But we all live in watersheds and we need good water quality. Everything that enters a stream, visible or not, has an impact somewhere. Some pollutants impact a local area immediately, such as the dish detergent example, and others accumulate and have greater impacts downstream, in lakes, or eventually the ocean. We see some of these impacts in the form of Harmful Algal blooms, or degraded habitats, and even negative impacts to drinking water. So I encourage you today to give a little extra thought to your local watershed and maybe make a choice to be proactive in the health of YOUR watershed. It can be as simple as picking up a bag of trash or disposing of something down the proper drain.

"Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land." - Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Association

A Special Thank You

We would like to thank the Harrison County Commissioners Dale Norris, Don Bethel, and Paul Coffland for their financial support and dedication to conservation. The financial assistance from the county will be matched by state funds which enables the district to better aid and provide assistance to the landowners and residents of Harrison County.

Supervisors Jody Keller

Lynn Mendenhall

Ryan Marker

Bryant Valdinger

Kathy Depew

Staff

Keila Ferguson

District Program Administrator

Stephanie Birney

Administrative Assistant

Kristy Dickey

Watershed Specialist

Stuart Heavilin

Ag/Natural Resources Technician

Billy Wilson

Forestry/Wildlife Technician

NRCS

Beth Krupczak

District Conservationist

Clint Finney

Soil Conservation Technician

Hans Baltzley

Civil Engineering Technician

Harrison SWCD & NRCS are Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District

538 North Main Street

Cadiz, Ohio 43907

Phone: 740-942-8837

Fax: 740-942-4036

Website: harrisoncountyohio.org/swcd

NON-PROFIT
PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PD
PERMIT #23
CADIZ, OH 43907

“Return Service Requested”

«AddressBlock»



Like us on Facebook to get monthly event reminders! www.facebook.com/harrisonswcd