



# Conservation News

VOLUME 23 No. 4

FALL 2018

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Steve Robinson  
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Rick Weigand

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Brent Nickel  
Sherry Maisenbacher  
Jeremy Burrey  
Mark Watkins  
Aaron Smith  
Garrett Carpenter

## NRCS Personnel

Ron Nieman, DC  
Robin Sweeney  
LaRae Baker

## Pheasants Forever

Charlie Allen

## **Union SWCD**

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[www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/](http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/)

## 73rd Annual Meeting a Success!

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 73rd Annual Meeting at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, on August 8th. Supervisor Matt Staley was reelected, and will start his new term on January 1, 2019. Other highlights include recognizing our generous affiliate members, the retirement of Administrator Terri Gravatt, presentation of the Rockenbaugh Memorial Education Grant, and a presentation of Supervisor Bill Conklin's exotic travels.

Following are some pictures from the meeting:



Long time Administrator, and recently retired, Terri Gravatt being recognized for her service.

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Supervisor Bill Conklin, assisted by his granddaughter, gives a presentation on his recent trip to the Amazon River Basin and Peru. He had many pictures, souvenirs, and artifacts to show!



Pictured L-R: Union SWCD Administrator Brent Nickel, Marysville 7th Grade Science Teacher Bob Bentz, Teresa Rockenbaugh, Union SWCD Urban Technician Aaron Smith. Mr. Bentz was awarded the John Rockenbaugh Memorial Education Grant to purchase supplies for 7th graders to do in-stream studies.

# Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD Wildlife Specialist.  
brent.nickel@oh.nacdn.net

## Fall Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Interests and Concerns

### New Deer Regulations Set for 2018-19 Season

Union County is still a 3 deer county. 3 either-sex permits may be used for the 2017-18 season, but Antlerless permits are NOT valid in Union County this year. Archery season opened on Sept 29. The statewide total bag limit is six with no more than one antlered deer.

For further information, please refer to the [Ohio Deer Hunting Regulations 2018-19](#)

### Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Hunting

Hunting season is here and now's the time to get into that Hunter's Education Class. The Division of Wildlife offers three types of certification courses; instructor-led training, home study courses, and online. The online course has a \$15 fee, but all other options are Free!

For more information about when and where these classes are available, see the web page below:

[Ohio DNR : Hunting and Trapping Basics](#)

If your young one isn't quite ready for Hunter's Education, check out the Hunter's Apprentice Program. Apprentice hunting licenses or fur taker permits allow new hunters and trappers, both adults and youth, to sample the experience of hunting under the mentorship of a licensed adult prior to taking a hunter or trapper education course.

Opportunities are available through **Pheasants Forever Chapter #535-Union County, Ohio** for youth to come out for a free day of hunting.

Oct. 20,21: Youth Hunt @ Bokes Creek Hunting Preserve Sandusky Rd. Just North of ST RT 347  
RSVP Required by Oct 15

**Logan County Conservation Club, Bellefontaine, Ohio** is also hosting a youth hunt on Oct. 28.  
RSVP by Oct. 20

For more information on either the *Pheasants Forever* Chapter hunt or the Conservation Club youth hunt contact me and I can send you the contact information to get you signed up.

## What's In-Season

*Always Refer to the Current Year's Regulations.*

### Fishing Regulations:

[2018-19 Fishing Regulations](#)

### Hunting Regulations:

[2018-19 Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)

Be sure to read up on the new changes associated with the Deer Hunting Seasons. A few changes have taken place again this year.

**"Hunting With Permission"** forms, **Hunting Regulations, Fishing Regulations, and Trapping Instruction Packets** are available at our office.

## Wildlife Conflict Management ...Forget Control!

Experiencing wildlife conflicts? Try the solutions associated with this wildlife conflict resolution website!  
**The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management:**  
<http://www.icwdm.org/>

## Wetland Dike Problems?

For anyone experiencing chronic damage from muskrats, now is the time to recruit trappers to reduce the explosive muskrat population. In Union County, the regulated muskrat trapping season is from **November 10, 2018** through **February 28, 2019**. I have a list of willing trappers in my office if you need someone to assist you.

## Don't Forget Your Best Friend

State public hunting areas opened back up to training and exercising on Sept. 1. Several hunting seasons are open also. Get out there with your best friend and enjoy the early season, either with the gun or just to get some exercise and do some scouting for other upcoming seasons. The work you put in now can pay big dividends come Upland Hunting Season.

## Tallgrass Truths—Revealed! Management is your Friend...

Landowners, there is nothing wrong or "illegal" with mowing random and curving "hunt trails", or walkways, through the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grassland practices. It is always best to mow to an eight-inch height. Hunting trails that wind through the tall and thick vegetation will not place the landowner in "non-compliance" with the voluntary conservation practices' contracts. Up to 20% of your acreage can be mowed per year under your contract without penalty. If done in sections or strips, this will not only open up the field for wildlife to use but will also open it up more for you to use and be easier to hunt.

## Injured—or what appears to be Helpless Wildlife?

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!  
<http://ohiowildlifecenter.org/dnn/>

# Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.  
Aaron Smith, Urban Technician - aaron.smith@oh.nacdn.net



## Hydrologic Unit Codes

Last issue, I discussed what watersheds are, and how you as an individual can impact them. This time, I will be discussing Hydrologic Unit Codes.

### *What is a Hydrologic Unit Code?*

A Hydrologic Unit Code (H.U.C. for short), are essentially an address for a certain watershed. Similar to how your house and property have an address number associated with it to help determine its location and keep it from being confused with another one, watersheds also have an address.

### *How do H.U.C.s work?*

In the U.S., the land is divided into successively smaller “hydrologic units” which are assigned numbers that tell you how large they are, and where they are located. Each H.U.C. consists of two to twelve digits based on the six levels of classification. Starting with the largest, the numbers are assigned to regions, sub-regions, accounting units, cataloguing units, watersheds, and subwatersheds.

### *What are the numbers that are assigned?*

The largest H.U.C. are assigned small numbers made up of two digits. For example, Ohio is located in “05” which is the Ohio River Basin (excluding the Tennessee River Basin). This is considered a 2-digit H.U.C. Then there is the Scioto River Basin within that, which is assigned a 4-digit H.U.C. “0506”. Next is an “accounting unit” 6-digit H.U.C. which specifies the Scioto River, 050600. The 8 Digit H.U.C. which would split the Scioto River Basin into three sections, with Union County residing in 05060001. A 10-digit H.U.C. that is well known in Ohio is the Mill Creek Watershed, being 0506000106. Then finally, at the smallest level is the 12-digit H.U.C. Mill Creek is divided up into smaller sections, and for example, Lower Mill Creek is assigned 050600010604.

### *Who assigns these numbers?*

Hydrologic Unit Codes were created by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a simple numerical way to catalog and categorize drainage basins in the U.S. in 1972. Originally, there were only 4 levels, 2-digit, 4-digit, 6 digit, and 8-digit. But the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked with the USGS to expand that to the existing system that officially has 10-digit, and 12-digit H.U.C.s.



# SWCD Equipment for Sale and Rent

The following items are available for sale:

- Marking flags \$10 per 100 flags, available year round
- Soil Survey Narratives \$15 each or free online, available year round
- Topographic Quadrangles \$6 each, available year round
- Soil Survey Aerial Maps Free
- Fish Fingerlings Prices vary, sale held in Fall
- Tree Seedlings Prices vary, sale held in April



The following equipment is available for rent:  
(subject to schedule and availability)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill (15-foot)            | \$12/ acre w/ \$125 minimum charge                   |
| <hr/>  |  |
| • Tree Puller  | \$100 per day<br>\$150 per weekend<br>\$300 per week |
| <hr/>  |  |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)<br>- \$150 deposit | \$75 per day<br>\$100 per weekend                    |
| <hr/>  |  |
| • Tree Planter                                       | \$40 per day   |

**All equipment must be scheduled through the Union SWCD office  
at 937-642-5871 during regular business hours.  
Please contact Brent Nickel at ext. 2220 to schedule.**

# **DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM** **QUARTERLY REPORT**

Jeremy Burrey, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor  
jeremy.burrey@oh.nacdnet.net

The Drainage maintenance staff has grown by one with the addition of our newest employee Garrett Carpenter. Garrett is a welcome addition to our growing department. Garrett will be our first drainage maintenance technician and will be covering the entire county performing various drainage maintenance tasks on our maintained drainage structures. Welcome to the team Garrett!

The Clark and Yoder improvement project has kept us busy the last couple months as we get closer to completing the bidding process and start construction on November 4<sup>th</sup> of this year (weather pending). This project is over 6,200 ft. long and will consist of mostly a tile main improvement with some open ditch area as well.

We have added more equipment to our fleet for our maintained ditches and sub divisions in the county! With the support of the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors and Union County Commissioners, we have added a new dump truck and trailer along with a mini excavator and skid loader to better serve our maintained drainage responsibilities in the county. The long-term cost savings per job and the ability to fix issues more efficiently are just some of the benefits of having our own equipment dedicated to the program. Increased responsibilities with our growing urban side of maintenance has a demand for man power and equipment to maintain the infrastructure. Growth is a constant in our county and our department continues to grow with it.



## **Drainage Maintenance Program Hires Technician**

Marysville resident Garrett Carpenter has been hired as the first Drainage Maintenance Technician. He graduated from the Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Systems Management in 2017. He and his wife Jessica reside in West Liberty.

In this position, Garrett will be the “boots on the ground”, allowing Drainage Maintenance Supervisor Jeremy Burrey to focus more time on the backend work. Garrett will be mowing, spraying, doing inspections, inventorying, and otherwise maintaining the drainage infrastructure under the responsibility of the drainage maintenance program. If you see him out and about, make sure to give him a wave!

You can reach Garrett by calling the office or emailing him at [gcarpenter@co.union.oh.us](mailto:gcarpenter@co.union.oh.us).



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# News Release

Program Contact: John Wilson  
(614) 255-2480  
[john.wilson@oh.usda.gov](mailto:john.wilson@oh.usda.gov)

## Ohio NRCS Announces New EQIP Application Deadline

COLUMBUS, OH, Sept. 11, 2018 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, October 19, 2018, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which helps producers make conservation work for them. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, you can voluntarily implement conservation practices, and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, and organic. Several special projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations, applying best management practices and many more. All available agricultural categories are listed on the Ohio NRCS website under "[EQIP Application Deadlines.](#)"

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the October 19 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2019 funding.

To learn more about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit [Get Started with NRCS](#) or visit your local [USDA Service Center](#).

# # #

## **A Fast Approaching Signup Deadline for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

### *With a Highlight on The Northern Bobwhite Quail:*

Here in Union County we are lucky enough to be one of the 30 counties in Ohio within the focus area of the Northern Bobwhite in Grasslands Project. The Northern Bobwhite in Grasslands, is a special project being implemented by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) What does this bring to Union County? A program with incentives for landowners to help re-establish this iconic bird, while providing quality grazing options for livestock. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages the production of native warm season grasses, forbs, and legumes to create a union between productive grazing and quail habitat.

In the 1860's the Northern Bobwhite Quail was seen on farmlands across Ohio. Early June mornings were filled with their distinct "Bobwhite" calls over the fields. Now, their population is in deep decline, mainly due to loss of habitat. Bobwhite quail are edge species, who thrived in Ohio during the first expansion of agriculture. Older agricultural practices allowed the quail to use brushy fencerows for cover from predators, open grazing fields for food and courtship, and neighboring woodlands for shelter. In the 1860's to early 1900's agriculture, Ohio, and quail went hand in hand.

Through the season we hear many stories about farmers dreading the upcoming "summer slump", when cool season pastures do not provide enough food and nutrients for livestock during the hot, dry summer months. Therefore, farmers are forced to find other resources, storing hay bales and purchasing more feed. EQIP and planting native warm season grasses can help minimize these problems. Native warm season grasses thrive in the heat of the summer, providing lush, plentiful grazing for livestock June through September. When you add forbs and legumes to the planting you create a food source which lasts, not only during the summer slump, but through the entire season. Native grasses and forbs will also provide higher amounts of nutrients than a cool season stand.

What EQIP offers? EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners implement conservation practices on working lands. Landowners are encouraged to take advantage of this resource. If you are looking for a change in grazing practice, want to help wildlife like the Northern Bobwhite quail or a combination of both, this program can help.

Act fast if you believe your land and wildlife can benefit from this program. The deadline for this year's EQIP sign up is **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Contact the NRCS office or Charlie Allen for further information and assistance.

### **Charlie Allen, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist**

Email: [callen@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:callen@pheasantsforever.org)

Phone: (614) 707-3791

### Site Sources:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/oh/plantsanimals/NRCSEPRD1363248/>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/plantsanimals/fishwildlife/?cid=nrcseprd1299624>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/oh/newsroom/releases/77d17169-d740-4216-bbc4-3160a360c3da/>



## Upcoming Events:

October 11, 2018 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 7:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

October 20-21, 2018 - Pheasants Forever Chapter #535 Union County, OH - Youth Hunt

November 8, 2018 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

November 12, 2018 - Veteran's Day Holiday (Observed) - Office Closed

November 22, 2018 - Thanksgiving Day Holiday - Office Closed

December 13, 2018 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

December 25, 2018 - Christmas Day Holiday - Office Closed

January 10, 2018 - Union SWCD Board Meeting - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Conservation Mtg. Room

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