

2010 AFFILIATE MEMBERS PLATINUM

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- CSB – The Commercial & Savings Bank
- Dale & Jackie McKee
- First-Knox National Bank
- Four Corners Furniture
- Gerber & Sons, Inc.
- Guggsberg Cheese, Inc.
- Harold's Equipment, Inc.
- Holmes Oil Distributing
- Holmes Supply Corp.
- Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Jane C. Graven
- Kozak Jersey Dairy
- Margandale Farms
- Miller Lumber Co., Inc.
- Steinle Law Office
- Sweet Breeze Farms & Excavating
- Tate Farms
- Wayne Savings Community Bank

GOLD

- Denco Marketing Company
- Farm Credit Services of Mid-America
- Hipp Farms, LTD.

SILVER

- Briellenbach Wine Cellars, Inc.
- Chuck Nicholson's Auto Super Store
- D Yoder Hardwoods
- Ivan Yoder Builders LLC
- Jelloway Valley Equipment
- Joel Menuez FRLC
- Lang's Sunny Slope Acres
- Loudonville Farms Equity
- Millersburg Electric
- Millersburg Tire Service, Inc.
- Potts Tree Farm
- Ruth Steinel
- Schlegel Dairy Farms, Inc.
- Shearer Equipment
- The Kilbuck Savings Bank Co.

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- Joe Christner, Water Quality Technician
- Bill Long, Program Assistant
- Jeff Pratt, Program Assistant
- Dean Slates, Program Assistant
- Chuck Reynolds, District Conservationist



Help Researchers Find Bioherbicide for Ailanthus alitissima

Researcher Joanne Rebeck of the USDA Forest Service wrote an article in the *Ohio Woodlands, Water, Wildlife* newsletter published by the Ohio Woodlands Stewards Program about a promising bioherbicide for Ailanthus alitissima. Ailanthus alitissima, commonly known as tree of heaven, is an introduced invasive tree found throughout much of the U.S. It grows rapidly and disrupts forested ecosystems. Ailanthus is challenging to control by cultural and chemical means since it is a prolific sprouter.

In 2002, Penn. State forest pathologist Don Davis and his graduate students identified a Verticillium wilt that may prove to be an effective biological control agent for ailanthus. The group isolated the fungus from dead and dying ailanthus trees within forested areas of south-central PA. After rigorous testing and numerous trials in PA, the fungus has proven to be very specific and pathogenic to Ailanthus. Seedlings and canopy trees of northern red oak, chestnut oak, red maple, sugar maple, white ash and yellow-poplar were inoculated with the pathogen and it did not induce wilt symptoms or mortality. Ongoing research continues to test other woody species as well as crop plants. The current list of tested non-susceptible species approaches 50. Since this fungus can quickly and specifically kill Ailanthus and it can survive in the soil for many years, it has great potential as a biological herbicide.

Ohioans familiar with this wide-spread and tenacious tree are excited about the potential of a highly effective and economical biological control option. However, before testing of the Verticillium wilt on Ailanthus can occur in Ohio, the fungus must first be identified as naturally-occurring on Ailanthus trees. Researchers need your help to document its presence in Ohio. Here are the symptoms to watch for this summer:

- Rapid or sudden wilting foliage through the entire tree followed by defoliation as the tree dies.
- Vascular discoloration—check by peeling away the bark. If it is an orange-brown color instead of creamy white, it is probably infected.
- Large areas of declining, dying and dead ailanthus. It is uncommon to find isolated single infected or dead trees.

If you see any of these signs in Ailanthus trees, contact Joanne Rebeck, USFA Northern Research Station, 359 Main Rd, Delaware, OH 43015. Her phone number is 740-368-0054, or email her at rebbeck@fs.fed.us. Photographs and GPS coordinates would be greatly appreciated if possible.

USDA Issues Final Rule On Organic Access to Pasture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced details of the final regulation regarding access to pasture for organic livestock operations. This rule amends the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations to clarify the use of pasture in raising organic ruminants.

“Clear and enforceable standards are essential to the health and success of the market for organic agriculture,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The final rule published will give consumers confidence that organic milk or cheese comes from cows raised on pasture, and organic family farmers the assurance that there is one, consistent pasture standard that applies to dairy products.”

The final rule provides certainty to consumers that organic livestock production is a pasture based system in which animals are actively grazing pasture during the grazing season. The majority of organic dairy and ruminant livestock producers are already grazing animals and maintaining pastures that meet the requirements of this rule. These standards contain clear requirements that will provide greater assurance that all producers are being held to the same standards.

USDA received a substantial number of comments on provisions of the rule affecting finish feeding practices of slaughter livestock. Finish feeding is commonly used by organic farmers and ranchers to improve the grade of beef and involves feeding livestock grain.

This final rule is the culmination of a process that was initiated in 2005 when the National Organic Standards Board recommended that ruminants obtain a minimum 30 percent dry matter intake for at least 120 days. The proposed rule, published on Oct. 28, 2008, received over 26,000 comments from producers, retailers, handlers, certifying agents, consumers, trade associations, organic associations, animal welfare organizations, consumer groups, state and local government entities and various industry groups. The main components of the rule include:

- Animals must graze pasture during the grazing season, which must be at least 120 days per year;
- Animals must obtain a minimum of 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing pasture during the grazing season;
- Producers must have a pasture management plan and manage pasture as a crop to meet the feed requirements for the grazing animals and to protect soil and water quality; and,
- Livestock are exempt from the 30 percent dry matter intake requirements during the finish feeding period, not to exceed 120 days. Livestock must have access to pasture during the finishing phase.

The final rule becomes effective, June 17, 2010. Operations which are already certified organic will have one year to implement the provisions. Operations which obtain organic certification after the effective date will be expected to demonstrate full compliance.

Bat Facts by Michelle Wood, Holmes SWCD
The phone rang at our office the other day and I could hear shrieking voices on the other end. “Can you come over,” my friend in the office next door said, “We have a bat flying around, and the rest of my staff is under their desks!”
Now what qualifies me to catch bats is the fact that we have a large sweep net at the office and I’m not afraid of them. When I caught the bat with a lucky swing, he made clicking noises. Bats use echolocation to detect obstacles and find food in the dark. While bats can see, echolocation is a sophisticated sensory system based on sound. Scientists have studied it to perfect advances in radar and sonar technology. I walked the bat the few blocks down to the Holmes County Trail and immediately caught the attention of four little kids with their grandma. Of course they were curious as to what I was doing so I answered their questions and to their delight, they watched the bat fly out of the net and into the trees. They apparently hadn’t heard the many myths about bats and didn’t know they are supposed to be afraid of them.

The big myth that needs to be dispelled is that bats fly into people’s hair. Bats avoid people as much as possible. A person who unsuspectingly stands in a bat’s flight path might cause an unintentional collision. If a bat does fly into you, it will want to get away from you faster than you want to get away from it!
Unless they are disturbed or handled, bats are generally non-aggressive animals. Leave them alone, and they will leave you alone. This is particularly important in areas such as caves where bats hibernate and have their young. About 700 of the 1,000 known bat species eat insects. Each takes about its own weight in food nightly. A colony of 100 Big Brown bats will eat about 4 pounds of insects a night, enough to fill a gallon jug. 200 species of bats feed on nectar, pollen or fruit. These bats pollinate important crops like bananas, avocados, figs, cashews, almonds and mangoes, to name a few.

Like all other mammals, bats can contract rabies. However this disease is present in less than 1/2 of 1 percent of all naturally occurring bat populations. Unlike dogs, raccoons, or foxes, bats that get the disease only rarely bother people or other animals. And lastly, bats do not feed on people. Vampire bats, which occur in Central and South America, make small bites on large farm animals, not people. Bats are beneficial to us. Pay attention during warm summer evenings and you will see them flying around catching bugs, including some of those nasty mosquitoes. I invite you to learn more about bats and why they are important. Do some research on your own or call me at 330-674-SWCD and I can send you some information.

It’s a Bird, it’s a Plane – no – it’s Conservation Crusader!
Conservation Crusader has arrived and has a new home in Ohio! This “superhero” can be found on www.conservationcrusader.org. Conservation Crusader helps SWCDs across the state teach the importance of conservation stewardship. CC has a contest that you can participate in. Here’s the information from the website. Check out the submissions at facebook.com/conservationcrusader.

Contest Dates: June 1, 2010 - August 20, 1010
Contest Information: Create your own personal “Conservation Crusader” by visiting the links below. Print me on card stock or any other type of paper and cut me out. See Contest Guidelines for more information.
To Enter: Send photos with a brief description to info@conservationcrusader.org
Categories: Funniest, Most Natural Park Setting, Best Conservation Activity, Farthest Trip, & Best Use of SWCD Staff (Your photo may qualify for more than one category!)
Voting: Online voting will start August 20, 2010 and will run through August 31, 2010.
Prizes: Grand prize winner will receive a family four pack of tickets to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium! Top winners in each category will receive a gift bag full of conservation related items. Winners will be contacted by email.
Follow me online through my adventures at www.facebook.com/conservationcrusader or www.twitter.com/swcdcrusader! I will be posting your submissions weekly as well as updating you on conservation tips and facts!

2010 Holmes SWCD Cover Crop Meeting

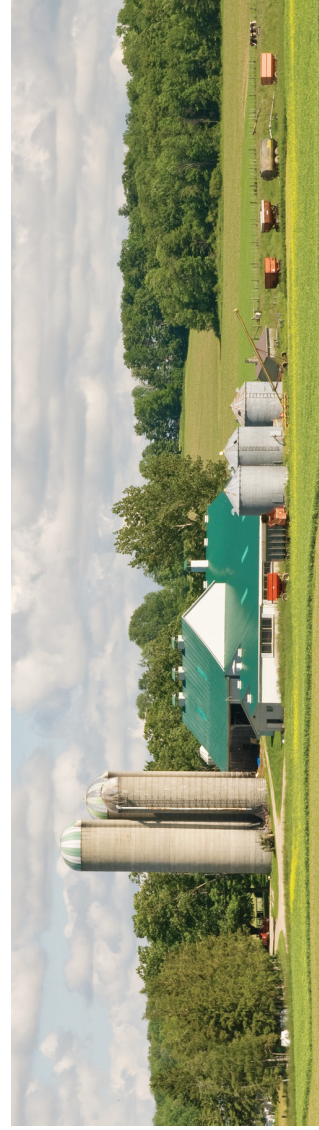
Want to learn more about the Holmes SWCD aerial cover crop program and how it worked in Holmes County last year? Join the SWCD staff at the Mike and Amy Fair farm, 4724 TR, 305 Millersburg on Wednesday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. to find out. Hear a brief overview of the results gathered from the 2009 program, including plant counts, percent of residue, and soil loss with cover crops vs. soil loss without cover crops. Also find out about the Ohio EPA 319 grant for the Paint Creek watershed that will pay \$14/acre to participate in the program.
Joe Christner and Dean Slates will lead the discussion and ask for producer comments and discussions. Bill Long will be on hand to sign producers up for the upcoming program. Light refreshments will be served. Contact the SWCD office for more information at 330-674-SWCD.

HOLMES COUNTY

Agencies Serving Agriculture

Dates to Note:

- June 15** FSA County Committee Nomination period begins
- June 25** Deadline to sign up for NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Contact Chuck Reynolds for more information.
- June 30** SWCD Aerial Cover Crops Program meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Mike & Amy Fair Farm, 4724 TR 305, Millersburg
- June 30** FSA deadline to certify all small grains
- July 15** Deadline to sign up for Holmes SWCD Aerial Cover Crops Seeding Program
- July 15** FSA deadline to certify all crops except small grains
- July 17** Farm Family Field Day at David Hershberger farm at 5119 TR 613, Fredericksburg (SWCD will have a display)
- July 21** Holmes SWCD Corn Population Demo Plot meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Leon Miller farm, 3251 TR 414, Dundee
- August 16-21** Holmes County Fair (See FSA and SWCD in the agriculture/natural resources tent!)
- August 23-27** Tentative aerial seeding this week (weather dependent)



Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

The Holmes County Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. *If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.*

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 15 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office prior to June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

2009 ACRE Program Production Reports

Producers who participated in the ACRE program for 2009 are required to report 2009 production to be used to compute 2009 ACRE payments, if applicable, and 2010 benchmark farm yields. The reporting deadline date for 2009 production reports has been extended until July 15, 2010 for small grains and other crops. Production reports may be submitted by the 2009 crop year operator, owner or other producer with an interest in the reported acreage. Failure to file a production report (FSA-658) for a farm enrolled in ACRE will result in the farm’s producers being ineligible for any ACRE contract payments and the actual yield used to determine future benchmark farm yields will be zero.