

STARK STEWARDSHIP

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2019

Board of Supervisors

Natalie Hammer, Chair
Jim Halter, Vice Chair
Rodney Campbell, Fiscal Agent
Ann Wolfe, Secretary

District Staff

John S. Weedon
Rich Rohn
Matthew Ferrel
Jay Jordan
Anthony Lerch
Sarah Matheny

NRCS Staff

Sandy Chenal

2650 Richville Dr.,
Suite 100
Massillon, 44646
330.451.7645
www.starkswcd.org

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed: Labor Day
(September 2nd); Co-
lumbus Day (October
14th)

Board Meetings: August
14th; September 11th;
October 9th @ 8:00 a.m.

2019 Supervisor Election

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Stark County Farm Bureau will hold a joint annual meeting at Barley's Event Center (6461 Easton St. N.E. Louisville) on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person for Farm Bureau or SWCD members and \$30 per person for non-members.

Stark SWCD will hold an election at the meeting for one position on the Board of Supervisors for a three year term beginning January 1, 2020. Voting starts at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m. Eligible voters are Stark County landowners or residents at least 18 years old.

Absentee ballots may be requested in writing to the District office between August 20, 2019 and September 3, 2019 or in person between August 20, 2019 and September 10, 2019. Absentee ballots must be returned to the District office no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 10, 2019.

RSVP to 330.456.4889 no later than September 3rd to attend.

Farm Science Review Bus Trip

Stark SWCD, Stark County Farm Bureau, and OSU Extension are sponsoring the annual Farm Science Review bus trip on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Like last year, participants will enjoy breakfast, bus ride, admission ticket, and buffet dinner at Der Dutchman. The cost is \$35 per person.

RSVP to 330.456.4889 no later than September 13th. Limited seating. No refunds.

170th Stark County Fair

Stop by our booth in the Farm Bureau Building between August 27th and September 2nd to say a hello and participate in two fun fair activities.

For *kids*, create a mini pollinator garden by combining potting soil and wildflower seeds in a biodegradable cup.

For *adults*, enter the "Guess this Farm" contest by correctly identifying four aerial photos of farms in Stark County. Name all four farms and win an edible prize.

New this year in our hay and grain contest is the Healthiest Soil category. Enter your high quality soil sample by signing up at www.starkcountyfair.com/entries/#fairbook by August 10th at 5:00 p.m. Contact the District office for instructions on how to take the soil sample.



Natalie Hammer

Natalie lives in Canal Fulton with her husband, Andrew, and their three children: Joshua, Noelle, and Julianne. Natalie and her husband breed and raise beefalo, chickens, and pigs on their 39 acre farm. She has over 15 years in the cattle business as well as 20 years in land management.

She was elected to the Stark Soil & Water Board of Supervisors in 2017 and currently serves as Board Chair. She is active in her children's schools, Canal Fulton Chamber of Commerce, American Beefalo Association, and Stark County Farm Bureau.

Natalie is a firm believer that the key to conservation is being good stewards of our resources and keeping a balance between need and resources. She believes that the Board and the District staff have an incredible opportunity to provide both the urban and rural areas of Stark County with opportunities to learn and grow as experienced stewards of our resources.



Richard Horner

Rick resides in Tuscarawas Township and has lived in Stark County for 45 years. He works for HYDAC International as an application engineer. A farmer since 1986, he raises registered Angus cattle and grows corn, soybeans, and alfalfa on 150 acres. He has no tilled since 1988 and practices rotational, strip, and mob grazing to protect the soil, reduce potential run-off, raise healthy cattle, and foster productive pastures.

He is a life member of American Angus Association and an active member of Eastern Ohio Angus Association and attends Newcomers Chapel of Pigeon Run United Methodist Church in Massillon.

Rick is running for supervisor to represent county residents that are engaged in production agriculture and rural living. He feels blessed to own and farm a lot of the same land his family settled on 4 generations ago in Tuscarawas Township.

Smart Green Programs

Stream Maintenance: *Should I mow to the bank?*

Interested in learning how to properly maintain a stream or waterway in your backyard? Want to know how to reduce erosion and keep your backyard stream healthy? Join us as we share best management practices for streamside maintenance.

- Wednesday, Sept 11th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Jackson Township Offices (5735 Wales Ave. NW, Massillon)

Basic Composting: *There's gold in them thar hills (of leaves)*

Want to turn leaves, grass clippings, and table scraps into soil gold? Join us for a composting workshop where you will learn the basics of composting as well as have the opportunity to purchase a compost bin for \$50.00.

- Thursday, October 10th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Alliance Area Senior Center (602 W. Vine St., Alliance)

Farmer's Breakfasts

Join District board members, staff, and partners for the Farmer's Breakfast series at Thompson's Dairyland (7519 Columbus Rd. NE, Louisville). Meals are optional and at your own expense.

- Thursday, September 5th, at 8:00 a.m. — ADAPTING FARMING PRACTICES TO CLIMATE CHANGE
- Thursday, October 3rd, at 8:00 a.m. — HARVEST CONDITIONS

Save Money with Cover Crops

Go beyond one year budgets when analyzing cover crops economics to consider the impact of cover crops on whole farm efficiencies and resiliency. In other words, learn how cover crops pay.

- Monday, September 30th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- USDA Service Center (2650 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon)

Eastern Ohio Grazing Council Pasture Walk in Stark County

Join us as we visit Hans Baltzly's beef operation in Paris (not France) where he grazes 25 cattle on approximately 53 acres. He will discuss watering options as well as stream exclusion fencing and winter stockpiling. A light supper is provided. RSVP by contacting Carroll SWCD at 330.627.9852

- Thursday, October 24th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 1184 Pleasant Valley Dr. SE, Paris



Critical Area Seeding Program reimburses producers for seeding high-risk erosion areas in permanent vegetation. High risk areas are defined as concentrated flow paths through corn and soybean fields where grass waterways are impractical due to small field sizes or limited drainage acres. The program provides 100% reimbursement not to exceed \$500 per acre with a maximum of 1 acre. Producers must maintain the area in continuous vegetation for at least 3 years.

Livestock Exclusion Fencing Program provides a rebate up to \$10,000 per project to keep livestock out of streams and other waterbodies. Design and implementation must follow NRCS standards.

Contact Jay Jordan at 330.451.7643 or jmjordan@starkcountyohio.gov to see if you qualify.

Weather Corner

May, June, and July . . . The three month precipitation accumulation was 16.65 inches. This is double what the county received last year. For May, temperatures were 6 degrees cooler on average; in June, 2 degrees cooler; and in July, 1 degree warmer.

Going Forward . . . For the three month (August, September, October) outlook, there is a 33% to 40% chance of ABOVE average temperatures, and an EQUAL CHANCE of above normal, normal, and below normal precipitation.





2650 Richville Dr. Suite 100
Massillon, Ohio 44646
330.451.7645 (SOIL)
www.starkswcd.org
Facebook: StarkSWCD
Twitter: @Stark_SWCD



Use these tips to prepare your yard for winter



With fall around the corner, there's no better time to prepare your lawn for the next year's growing season. The number one tip is to keep mowing your grass. This will help what little sunlight we get reach the crown of the grass. Soil aeration is also helpful, allowing more oxygen and water infiltration into the soil. Rake leaves off your lawn as soon as possible as this avoids suffocating the grass and increases water infiltration. Consider shredding the leaves with your mulching mower instead of raking them to the curbside. This adds organic material to your soil and reduces solid waste. Finally, if you need to spot treat for weeds, fall is a good time as weeds are hungry and will quickly absorb herbicides. These easy to follow tips will not only beautify your lawn, but also add soil organic matter, increase water infiltration, and reduce water runoff.

Contact Anthony Lerch at 330.451.7649 or email aslerch@starkcountyohio.gov for more information.

"Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest."
Aldo Leopold, **Conservation Economics**, *The River of the Mother of God*.

Help Us Save Money

Request this newsletter electronically and help reduce our postage and printing expenses.

Send an email to jsweedon@starkcountyohio.gov with the message, "Want to save you money" or "Please put me on your electronic mailing list" or "Spend your money on other stuff."

Much appreciated.