

Program

Call to Order.....Jake Hortenstine
Invocation.....Pastor Roger Grimmett
1st United Methodist Church of Vandalia

Dinner

Pledge of Allegiance.....Poster Contest Winners

Introduction of Entertainment.....Birds of Prey, World Bird Sanctuary
Anthony Pals, RC

Introduction of Guests.....Nelson Torbeck

Business Meeting.....Jake Hortenstine
Election of Directors.....Matthew Runge

Presentation of Awards:

Conservation Farm Family.....Jim & Tim Hardimon
Steve Henna, First National Bank of Vandalia

Poster Contest Winners.....1st Place – Abby Hahn
2nd Place – Shawnee Street
3rd Place – Jaisa Wehrle
Jerry Reed, First National Bank of Brownstown

Soil Judging Winners.....St. Elmo High School
Tony Pals, Fayette County SWCD

Envirothon Winner.....South Central High School
Tony Pals, Fayette County SWCD

Envirothon Logo Winner.....Stacy White
Tony Pals, Fayette County SWCD

Additional Awards.....
Tony Pals, Fayette County SWCD

Adjournment and Door Prizes.....Directors and Staff

The Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District
February 2009

Board of Directors

Jake Hortenstine
Chairman
Route 1, Box 368
Herrick, IL 62431

Susan Holdeman
Vice-Chairman
389 Baden Avenue
Pocahontas, IL 62275

Gale Meseke
Secretary
Route 1, Box 156
Shobonier, IL 62885

Steve Henna
Treasurer
P. O. Box 362
Vandalia, IL 62471

Matthew Runge
Director
P. O. Box 77
St. Peter, IL 62880

Associate Directors

Jean Finley
Route 2, Box 91
Ramsey, IL 62080

Kelly Tarter
Route 1 Box 139
Ramsey, IL 62080

District Staff

Tony Pals
Resource Conservationist

Karen Sanders
Administrative Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Mary Ann Hoeffliger
District Conservationist

Scott Smith
Soil Conservation Technician

Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District ***2008 Annual Meeting Minutes***

The Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at the American Legion in Vandalia.

Chairman Dale Jahraus asked that everyone read the 2007 annual meeting minutes and study the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Annual Report.

Following the invocation by John Gehrke, Farm Loan Specialist, Farm Service Agency, approximately 80 people enjoyed a buffet dinner catered by Miller Market of Ramsey. During the meal the poster contest winners assisted the SWCD directors and staff in handing out door prizes.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown during the meal highlighting the projects that have been done the past year in Fayette County.

Poster contest winners Patrick Hannagan, Spencer Hulsey, and Robbi Edwards, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ray Meseke introduced directors, staff and various guests.

Jim Hardimon made motion to approve the minutes of the 62nd annual meeting as printed in the Annual Report. Seconded by Floyd Meseke. Motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Sarver to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Annual Report. Seconded by Leonard Rubin. Motion carried.

Ray Meseke, of the Nominating Committee, presented the names of Jake Hortenstine, Susan Holdeman and Matt Runge, to serve a two-year term as directors of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. The nominating committee consisted of Gale Meseke, Ray Meseke and Robert Harpster. Nominations were asked from the floor three times. There were no additional nominations. Motion made by Jim Hardimon to close nominations and proceed with the election, seconded by Paul Sarver. Motion carried. Jake Hortenstine, Susan Holdeman and Matt Runge were elected directors of the Fayette County Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mary Ann Hoeffliger, DC, gave a brief talk about the conservation accomplishments for Fayette County in 2007. Both NRCS and the district have cost share dollars that will assist producers with almost any project that they have to construct. We not only have CRP, CPP, but also EQIP that will assist with confined livestock operations. This is becoming very popular. Not only do we assist with cost share but we can also just give answers to questions that come up on a day to day basis for the producers.

Steve Henna, representing First National Bank of Vandalia (award sponsor), announced the Lee Stokes Family as Fayette County's Conservation Farm Family, and presented them with a plaque and sign.

Lee, son of Howard and Mary Stokes, was raised on the family farm near Ramsey, graduating from high school in 1964. After serving three years in the military, Lee attended the University of Illinois, graduating in 1972 with a degree in accounting.

He later got his law degree and now has his own law firm in Bozeman, Montana. Lee is married and he and his wife, Judy, have two grown children, Rebecca and Ethan. Lee's mom is a retired school teacher, having taught 31 years in the Ramsey school system. She was also very active in the community. She served on the Ramsey Village Board and the Fayette County and Pana Hospital Boards. She also founded the Ramsey Public Library.

The present day Stokes farm has been in the family for over 150 years. Lee carries on the tradition of good stewardship on that land. In the past five years he has: installed three acres of grass waterways, a block chute, and repaired over 8100 feet of some of the first tile outlet terraces in the county. On part of his farm, he is going to a Management Intensive Grazing System, putting in a water well, 3780 feet of pipeline with six hydrants, a stream crossing, and 7243 feet of fence, with additional cross-fencing. Lee's operators are Dave Marley and Brad Lay.

Tony Pals, RC of the Fayette County SWCD presented awards to the Poster Contest Winners in place of Jerry Reed, President of the First National Bank of Brownstown,. The theme this year was "Water is Life". The first place winner of a trophy and \$100 Savings Bond was Patrick Hannagan of St. Elmo. He attends the St. Elmo Elementary School. Second place winner of a trophy and \$75 Savings Bond was Spenser Hulsey, from the South Central Elementary School, and the third place winner of a trophy and \$50 Savings Bond was Robbi Edwards from St. Elmo Elementary School.

Tony Pals then awarded the St. Elmo High School a plaque for winning the soil-judging contest for Fayette County. Members of the team included: Colton Booher, Blake Wright, Fletcher Morison, Chelsey Durbin, and Lucas Mitchell. Their advisor is Bill Waggoner.

Tony informed everyone that Vandalia High School received first place at the Envirothon this year. The Vandalia High School team consisted of: Scott Boas, Austin Wollerman, Taylor Wollerman, Drew Bell, Sara Schwarm, and Zach Roper. The sponsoring teacher was Barbie Elliott. The team was presented with a traveling trophy.

Tony Pals then presented a \$100 Savings Bond to Megan Schultz from Vandalia for the winning Envirothon T-shirt logo.

Tony Pals presented Barbie Elliott and John Blythe with a clock for their continued help with the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District's education programs.

Kelly Tarter and Dale Jahraus were presented with a clock for their time served on the board.

Dale Jahraus introduced Tony Pals, RC as the main speaker. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on Global Warming

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Hardimon and seconded by Ray Meseke.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Remaining door prizes were given out by poster contest winners.

Gale Meseke, Secretary

Jim & Tim Hardimon are Conservation Farm Family



Brothers Jim and Tim Hardimon are this year's Conservation Farm Family for Fayette County. Jim and Tim farm around 800 acres near Herrick. The family moved to the current homestead from a farm by Bement in 1952. The two brothers had an additional four brothers and three sisters, so the big two-story house was always full and busy.

Jim was drafted into the army and served in Vietnam. After the service, he started farming. Tim got a degree in ag education and taught vocational agriculture in surrounding schools for 30 years, helping on the farm on weekends and during the summer.

They started using no-till in the early 1980's and now use a continuous no-till system on a corn – soybeans rotation on all their cropland. They also have terraces and grass waterways as a further means of controlling soil erosion.

Both have expressed their conservation ethic outside of farming. Tim served as an associate board member on the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District for four years. Teaching ag, he also got very involved with the soil judging contest, and teaching his students about soil erosion. Jim was a director on the district board for 34 years, serving as chairman for 10 years and Council 10 chairman for four.

Practices Applied in Fayette County in FY'08

July 1, 2007 through June, 30 2008

Programs

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

- 10 New Contracts

WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)

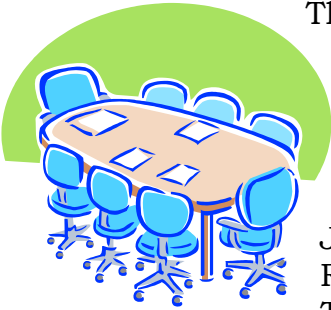
- 1 New Easement

<i>Practice and Name</i>	New	Unit
382 Fencing	22,212	Ft.
391 Riparian Forest Buffer	346	Ac.
393 Filter Strip	43	Ac.
410 Grade Stabilization Structure	8	Number
412 Grass Waterway	30	Ac
512 Pasture and Hayland Planting	48	Ac.
528A Prescribed Grazing	83	Ac.
600 Terrace	13,000	Ft.
612 Tree and Shrub Establishment	208	Ac.
620 Terrace Outlet	4,500	Ft.
638 Water & Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB)	4	Number
657 Wetlands Restored/Enhanced	603	Ac.
CRP CP-33 Quail Buffer	524	Ac.
Crop Residue Management	4,627	Ac
Grazing Plans Written	60	Ac.
CRP Eligibility Determinations made	94	Number



District Highlights

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008



The Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors held eleven regular meetings during fiscal year 2008. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m., in the USDA building at 301 South Third Street, Vandalia. All meetings are open to the public.

Jake Hortenstine was re-elected and Susan Holdeman and Matthew Runge elected as directors at the annual meeting in February 2008.

The organizational meeting of the Fayette County SWCD Board was held in March 2008 with Jake Hortenstine elected Chairman, Susan Holdeman, Vice-Chairman, Steve Henna, Treasurer, Gale Meseke, Secretary, and Matthew Runge, member.

The Fayette County SWCD Staff for FY '08 consisted of: Tony Pals, Resource Conservationist (RC) and Karen Sanders, Administrative Coordinator (AC). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff includes: Mary Ann Hoeffliger, District Conservationist (DC), and Scott Smith, Soil Conservation Technician (SCT).

Fiscal year 2008 included the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Allocations used for operating funds were received from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), Bureau of Land and Water Resources (BLWR), and the Fayette County Board. Special thanks to everyone for your past and present support!



The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District was able to provide \$ 22,500 cost share for the installation of conservation practices in the county through the state funded Conservation Practices Program.

The District, in developing an Annual Plan of Work, coordinated their objectives and activities with NRCS, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR), University of Illinois Extension (U of I), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

GP33 Seeding



Members of the District Board, district employees and NRCS staff attended two Council 10 Meetings this past year. Members of the District Board also attended two Council 10 Executive Meetings in FY08. Four members of the District Board and two SWCD employees attended the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District's (AISWCD) Annual Meeting and the Illinois Department of Ag, Bureau of Land and Water Resources' Summer Conference in Springfield.

SWCD and NRCS Staff and directors attended various meetings, training and workshops throughout the fiscal year, including:

- NRCS Employees Meetings
- Winter Training
- C-2000 Watershed Workshops
- Upper Little Wabash Eco-System Partnership Meetings
- Carlyle Lake Watershed Eco-System Partnership Meetings
- International Association of Administrative Professionals Meetings (IAAP)
- Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District Employees Association (Karen is on the board)
- Grazing Training
- Soil Judging Contest for all county Vo-Ag Departments
- Section 20 Soil Judging Contest
- RC & D Meetings
- RUSLE2 Training
- Zell Farm Meetings
- Conservation Work Group Meeting
- Carlyle Lake Days
- Nutrient Management Training
- IT Security Training
- Tillage Meeting
- TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Meeting
- Henry White Farm Tour
- Meeting on Conservation Stewardship Act
- Meeting on Proposed Pipeline
- Conducted Excel Training for AC's in Area
- Attended New Director Training



Throughout the year the District gives and arranges several presentations on conservation to various schools, clubs, and organizations. These included the following:

- Soil loss presentations to Fayette County High Schools
- Poster Contest presentations to all fourth graders in the county
- Vandalia Lake Appreciation Day for Vandalia 6th graders
- Judges for 4H projects at the Fayette & Effingham County Fairs
- Carlyle Lake Conservation Days
- Conservation Field Days
- Presentation to Fayette County Board
- Forestry PowerPoint Presentation to Farina Women's Conservation Club



The district offers several hands on classroom activities for the grade schools. These classes are offered to all teachers in Fayette County from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. All activities focus on protecting our natural resources, but at the same time give the students a fun way of learning. The programs that were presented to the students this year and the number of students presented to include: Edible Soil (275), Where Pizza Comes From (425), Backyard Composting (100), Incredible Edible Landfill (125), Aquifers (25), Farm Charms (50), Milk to Butter (50), Pick a Card Any Card [300], Milk to Glue [275], Bean Babies [250], and Sammy Soil [375]. We would like to say "Thank You" to all of the teachers that have allowed us into their classrooms.



We would also like to thank all of the businesses that have donated supplies to make these presentations such a success. We enjoy teaching the kids almost as much as it seems they enjoy the activities.

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The Fayette County SWCD assists NRCS and FSA with CRP in plan development, and survey, design, and installation of the conservation practices on those CRP acres. This past fiscal year, 647 acres were accepted into the program through the continuous CRP signup.

The District distributed approx. 300 White Pine Seedlings to the third grade students in Fayette County in celebration of Earth Week and Arbor Day. Thanks to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for donating these seedlings. We also provided a set of watershed activity books to each 4th grade students participating in the poster contest.

The District's Annual Tree Sale was held in April 2008. There were approximately 5000 trees sold, including: White Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Red Osier Dogwood, and Red Oak. The District is sponsoring another Tree Sale in April 2009.



This year the St. Elmo FFA wrapped the trees for us. Thank you Mr. Wagner and students. We would also like to thank everyone who responded to our 2008 Tree Sale and encourage you to do so again in 2009!

The Fayette County SWCD again co-sponsored a local Envirothon Competition with the Effingham, Cumberland, Jasper, and Shelby County SWCD's at the Ballard Nature Center. The Envirothon is a national program for high school students covering five subjects dealing with the environment (Wildlife, Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources were the topics used in 2008). The students compete as a five-member team with the winners going to Monticello for the state contest. The winning team from Fayette County this year was South Central

High School. Thanks to the Fayette County Farm Bureau for providing the t-shirts for everyone again this year.



The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District annually co-sponsors a soil judging contest with Marion and Effingham counties for all the Ag departments in those counties. The contest in FY '08 was held on the Wendell Alwerdt farm south of Altamont. Seven schools participated. The students judge five pits on qualities of the soil and its tendency to erode. Digging of the pits was donated by Kent Wolff. St. Elmo took top honors for Fayette County.

The district provides a Truax Grass Seed Drill to be used in the county for no-tilling warm and cool season grasses and legumes, and a filter fabric plow for fabric checks in grass waterways. We also have a root plow to use as an alternative to clearing fencerows, a tree planter, and an acorn planter available for rent.

The District has established a good working relationship with the local radio station, WPMB/WKRV. In addition, news articles on conservation and District activities were printed in the Vandalia Leader-Union, Ramsey News Journal, Farina News, Beecher City Journal, Altamont News, St. Elmo Banner and Effingham Daily News. This relationship is greatly appreciated by the District. The SWCD also publishes and distributes over 3000 copies of our newsletter, "Conservation Conversation". This is published six times per year to keep county landowners and operators informed about various conservation activities. This past year we also published "Carlyle Lake Watershed – At a Glance" newsletter three times. This goes out to nearly 6000 landowners in Carlyle Lake Watershed.

As another way of providing information on conservation, the district developed a website. The address is: www.fayettecountyswcd.com. Here you can find copies of our newsletters, information on cost-share programs, highlights from the annual meeting, pictures from some of our activities, and lots more. Visit us soon and browse.

The Fayette County SWCD would like to express their appreciation to the sponsors of the following awards for the year 2007: the First National Bank of Brownstown, for sponsoring the Poster Contest, and the First National Bank of Vandalia, for sponsoring the Fayette County Conservation Farm Family.

The District would also like to thank each and every one who has attended the Annual Banquets. You have made them a huge success. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all that have graciously donated cash and door prizes.

Again, we say

