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The Fairfield SWCD would like to thank those who assisted with the development of this plan:  
*Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Farm Service Agency  
 SWCD Board of Supervisors*

Plan reviewers:

*Travis Markwood (Lancaster Fairfield Co. Chamber of Commerce)  
 Merv Bartholow (Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow/business professional)  
 Kevin Elder (Chief, ODA Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting)  
 Ed Laramie (Fairfield County Chief Deputy Auditor)*

Last updated 9/2016



## 20/20 Five Year Business Plan Focus on the Future

2016-2020

### Goals through 2020

1. Facilitate responsible urban and rural development, land use and local infrastructure, including energy resources, to best care for valuable water and land resources using modern technology and skilled staff
2. Leverage state, federal and grant dollars within our local economy to better care for our valuable manmade and natural resources while collaborating with a broad array of government and non-government organizations to address community-specific challenges
3. Serve as a resource to enhance the profitability and environmental stewardship of farms, the top land use and economic driver in Fairfield County
4. Educate area youth and community leaders about the vital importance of properly caring for the often-overlooked value of our community's soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources

### Community Partner since 1943

Creation	Past	Present
The District was established in 1943. Authority of the District is given under the Ohio Revised Code Section 940 (previously 1515). We are governed by a Board of five publicly elected Supervisors representing the diversity of resource concerns in the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District.	The District has worked for more than a half century in partnership on flood control and erosion reduction that helps protect Lancaster and the Hocking River Valley with the Hunter's Run Conservancy District as well as the Rushcreek Conservancy District protecting Sugar Grove and Bremen.	The District has been involved in assisting county and local governments with erosion and sediment control and compliance with the Ohio EPA's Phase II requirements since its inception.
<b>The mission of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District is "to be a progressive natural resource advocate by assisting the public with conservation choices".</b>	These flood control structures help protect part of the commercial and industrial engines of our economy by controlling storm water run-off and water quality in our community.	We still partner with the United States Department of Agriculture for Farm Bill conservation program practices, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for agriculture and silviculture pollution complaints as per Ohio Revised Code 940.
	We have always aided Fairfield County residents and agencies with drainage issues and provided guidance.	

#### Your partner in:

- Erosion Control
- Water Quality Protection
- Natural Resource Concerns

#### INDEX

Organizational Goals & Initiatives	1-6
Business Structure, Key Personnel, Supervision and Training	7-11
Partnerships and Agreements	12-15
Resource Concerns and Historical Data	16-20
Funding: Past and Five Year Projections, Line of Credit, Equipment	21-25
Replacement Schedule, Financial Goals	
\$ to Agricultural Economy and Fairfield County Statistics	26
Accomplishments	27



### Initiatives

All Fairfield SWCD initiatives are predicated on the Goals as defined. Failure to achieve these specific goals positions the District to see a decline in personnel providing services required for the longer term agreements and partner agreements in place throughout the County and region. With our mission in mind, and our ever-increasing economic limitations, here are more details of the broad initiatives for the future through 2020.

#### 1. Facilitate responsible urban and rural development, land use and local infrastructure, including energy resources, to best care for valuable water and land resources using modern technology and skilled staff

A. Urban storm water management planning and water quality improvement have been an increasingly important service provided by the District. The decline in development from Regional Planning agreements and an increased number of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) named communities has led us to support more community MS4 permit programs by taking primary lead on Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) in two townships while supporting the City of Pickerington and County permit needs through limited compensation agreements. This was not the approach taken 20 years ago, but the mandates of the EPA MS4 Permits on communities created the need and we have filled it. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships. This work is reliant on certified or Licensed Professionals and will become more important in coming years as communities continue to grow.

The District's role in these agreements includes: reviewing major subdivisions and re-zoning for the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission and for townships (tech review, subdivision regulations, active transportation subcommittee); consulting with other agencies concerning storm water management; performing inspections for sediment and erosion control on construction sites as needed; reviewing and inspecting all individual drainage, erosion, and sediment control plans for Violet and Liberty Twp.; water infrastructure mapping for Fairfield County Utilities in the Little Walnut watershed in Violet Township; public outreach/education to comply with NPDES Phase II permits issued to two townships in Fairfield County (Liberty and Violet); administration of portions of the Fairfield County MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Program for Violet Township, Liberty Township, and the City of Pickerington. In the future we hope to: work with the Village of Lithopolis MS4 permit, further develop efforts in the Violet Storm Water District, increase Pickerington services, increase County services with mapping/inventory and inspections and a countywide storm water GIS layer, and conduct biological sampling to facilitate improvement and maintenance of local urban water quality. These efforts will support our ongoing MS4 area agreements and generate District income.

B. The District also maintains a modern array of AutoCAD software, GIS software, GPS surveying and mapping equipment which are available to assist in EPA Phase II compliance through service agreements, traditional agricultural services but has been most recently used as we need to partner on civil engineering services for stream bank stabilizations. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership. This work is reliant on a Professional Engineer, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment.

C. In 2012, the District identified invasive plants as a threat to natural systems in both rural and urban parts of the county and positioned itself to take on that challenge with other government entities and obtained herbicide application equipment, licenses and insurance. The District continues to adapt and change and now provides limited pesticide application and the necessary equipment to combat noxious and invasive plants on parks, road rights-of-way or government facilities. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships. This work is reliant on Licensed Applicators, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment. The need for this too will only



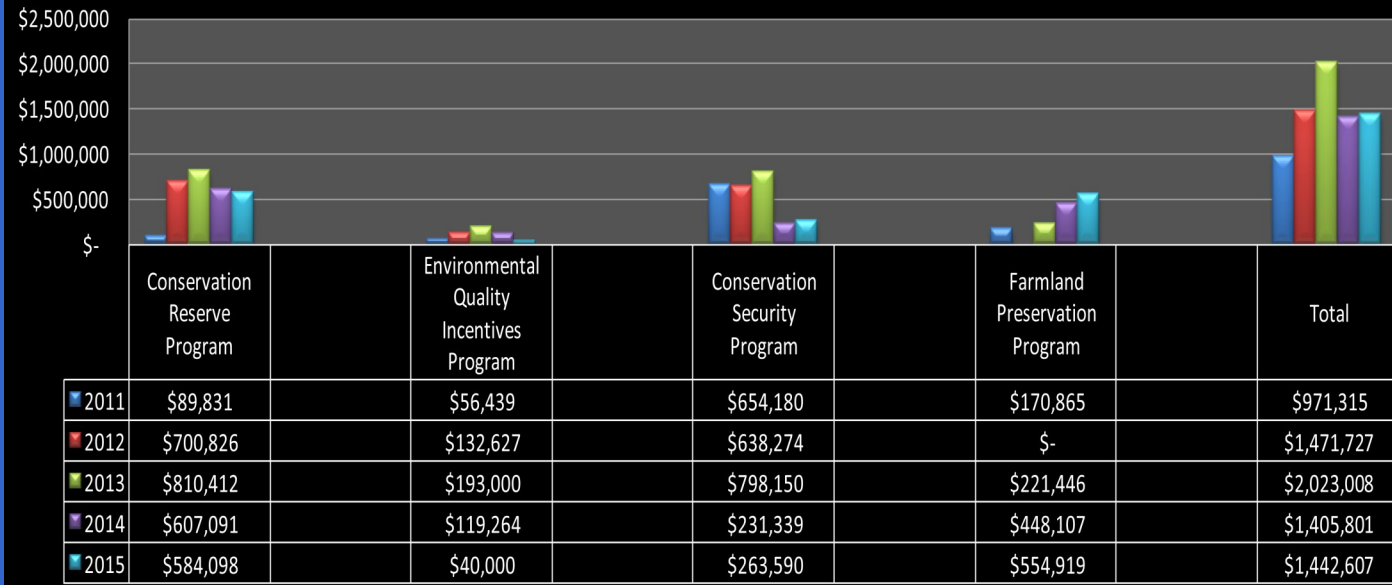
### Accomplishments (2011-2016)

- Conducted a Buckeye Lake Watershed Inventory in conjunction with the Ohio EPA 319 Grant Funding. Much of the efforts for the Western Lake Erie Basin follow aspects of our work at Buckeye lake.
- Aided in the revision of Ohio's CAUV Laws to improve the ability to dredge inland lakes and rivers.
- We have developed the first oil and gas lease language in the state of Ohio to meet conservation easement standards.
- Wrote the Fairfield County/Violet Township, Liberty Township and City of Pickerington Storm Water Management Plan and NPDES Small MS4 General Permit 2014-2019.
- Our participation in development of Fairfield Growing became the statewide model for local foods and agricultural economic development.
- Partnerships with various Fairfield County agencies has stretched local funds to accomplish more goals; most recently with Fairfield County Airport, Fairfield County Utilities, Fairfield County Auditor and Fairfield County EMA.
- Developed Emergency Action Plans for private and public Class II and III dams in Fairfield County. Our office is an EMA contact for technical advice when dams are in jeopardy of failure.
- Sediment studies on various bodies of water for safety and planning purposes: City of Lancaster's Alley Park, Lancaster City Schools, City of Pickerington.
- Developed a unique partnership with US Forest Service and ODOT for non-native invasive species identification on the US 33 Corridor.
- Key partner in the development of Lancaster Sensory Trail.
- We partnered with the Fairfield County Auditor GIS Department to develop award winning plat books.
- Ohio EPA has given the SWCD authority to monitor and control wastewater application for the only daily ODA inspected local slaughterhouse in Fairfield County.
- Through our Collection Events in partnership with Litter and Recycling, Fairfield County Sheriff and Violet Township, 94 pounds of drugs have been properly disposed of and 9,772 pounds of electronics were recycled in 2015. We have been doing these events since 2010.
- We host an orientation tour (twice a year) for new Natural Resource Conservation Service employees from all over the country. Fairfield County is a technical training ground for agricultural and environmental conservation.
- Two *Ohio Farmer* Conservation Farm Family Award Winners: Elder and McLaughlin. Don Sharp and Brad Berry were presented the Statewide Environmental Stewardship Award from the Ohio Livestock Coalition. Tim White (SWCD Board Member) was inducted into Ohio's Agricultural Hall of Fame.
- Quotes and Fairfield SWCD work have been highlighted in: the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*, *Drainage Contractor Magazine*, *Our Ohio*, *Ohio Country Journal*, *Ohio Farmer* and the *Columbus Dispatch*.

### Agricultural Statistics

The office continues to bring in outside monies to the agricultural community to aid the local economy. The chart below shows state/federal dollars brought in through various agricultural programs. This would not be possible without work from the soil and water staff. **\$7,314,458+** over 5 years.

**\$ Into Fairfield County Economy Thru Agricultural Programs**



- No Farmland Preservation Program available in 2012 due to statewide lack of funding
- 2011 Conservation Reserve Program number incorrect, actual number should be comparable to other years. Complete data was not available.

Farmland Preservation Program in Fairfield Co. is **Ranked #4** of 46 counties participating in program.

Conservation Security Program in Fairfield Co. is **Ranked #6** in the state for funds and **#2** for amount of qualifying participants. This program rewards participants for good environmental stewardship.

**Agriculture is Fairfield County's largest private economic industry.**

Fairfield County is **Ranked #9** in the state for alfalfa hay production.

#### CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FACTS

- The Fairfield SWCD was the original petitioner to get both Hunter's Run and Rushcreek Conservancy Districts established (1952/1961).
- There are 22 permit sized flood/sediment control dams in Fairfield County (39 dams total).
- Hunter's Run structures control 50% of the runoff that goes through Lancaster.
- Rushcreek structures have a 24-87% reduction of flooded area depending on the statistical storm (2,040 to 3,561 acre flood prevention).
- Dams in need of upgrading or rehab = 25



increase in the future. Invasive plant efforts are attempting to look regionally along US 33, the Walnut Creek and Hocking River and reduce movement of seed sources to reduce maintenance costs. This includes a 5-year agreement between Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton and Jackson SWCD's Wildlife Specialists to monitor and map the Nelsonville Bypass for ODOT and USDA Forest Service (2015-2019).

D. Rural area improvements for the Conservancy District Initiative through 2020 include dam inspections, asset inventory, wildlife demonstrations, and development of adjacent land use planning priorities with the goals of transfer institutional knowledge of operations, improved use of public lands and maintaining or increasing public health and safety. Activities include invasive plant treatments, dam safety, lake management workshops, beaver monitoring and watershed sampling.

E. The USDA, through NRCS, is working to protect the pollinating insects that are a crucial part of healthy agricultural and natural landscapes. The 2014 Farm Bill retains all of the pollinator conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and adds targeted support for the creation of honey bee habitat under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that are beneficial in both rural and urban areas of the County.

F. Hocking Hills Woodland Plan (2013). Participation is voluntary and open to all landowners; however, the focus of the plan is on small woodlot owners and woodland cabin owners. The goal is to maintain healthy woodlands in the area by providing information and natural resource professional assistance to landowners.

G. The Natural Resource Stewardship Oil and Gas Initiative seeks to diversify income and enable a stable energy supply for the future. Fairfield County already has numerous energy transmission corridors and systems including the Columbia Pipeline Group and Crawford Storage field in Berne Township. In addition, there are still productive oil and gas reserves. At the same time, these projects must be handled in a manner that protects and balances the needs of the other valuable natural resources and land uses in the county. The District is uniquely positioned to continue addressing the vital needs. Projects in the area include the new Columbia pipeline, Columbia abandonment projects, orphan well closures, maintaining pipeline standards for restoration, community risk reduction and awareness, fire suppression, safety seminars, adhering to the community land use plan, and addressing risks for tile installation and ground water exposure in Rushcreek, Richland, and Pleasant Townships. The District also offers technical support for fracking and gas pipeline landowners for pre and post-construction drainage issues.

H. Our proximity to Columbus and our agriculture land base as land application sites for nutrient rich biosolids offer both potential benefits and challenges for the urban and rural areas of the county. With this, District oversight is vital.

I. With regard to wildlife assistance, the District assists county residents with nuisance animal problems, issue and administer deer damage permits for orchards, nurseries, and cropland in Fairfield County. We also work closely with sportsmen's clubs and conservation groups on wildlife topics and issues, assist county residents with questions and concerns on managing their ponds, assist residents in creating or improving wildlife habitat on their land, perform post-planting inspections and mid-contract inspections on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts for NRCS, and develop management plans for school land labs and small area parks.

J. Review logging plans and silviculture complaints.

K. The District also conducts yearly inspections on Goss Ditch, Lateral A – South Fork of the Licking River and updates all remaining ditch projects. We also participate in annual inspections of flood control dams for Rushcreek, Hunter's Run, and Upper Hocking Conservancy Districts.



2. Leverage state, federal and grant dollars within our local economy to better care for our valuable manmade and natural resources while collaborating with a broad array of government and non-government organizations to address community-specific challenges

A. In the 1980s the District began to embrace its role with urban development. The District set a goal to employ a Professional Engineer in 1994. It currently employs a Professional Engineer and Professional Landscape Architect. These are rare professionals in most Districts. The combination of this collaboration-focused philosophy and our unique combination of professionally licensed individuals allows the District to aid many partners beyond the limitations of the USDA and ODA Engineering agreements, serving all landowners and stakeholders, not just those participating in government programs. This is a key pillar of “cooperative” conservation in the eyes of the District that brings funding and expertise into the community that would not otherwise be present.

B. Because the District can aid in addressing issues on the private lands and public land in all of Fairfield County, the District works with many cooperators for natural and agricultural resource concerns on behalf of the Commissioners and their constituents including but not limited to: Public, Technical and Private Schools, Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, other state, county and national Soil and Water Conservation Districts, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Pheasants Forever, area chambers of commerce, Lancaster Parks and Recreation, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks (four locations within Fairfield County), Fairfield County Historical Parks, Fairfield County and Ohio Farm Bureau, Fairfield and Franklin Boards of Health, all Township Trustees (Violet and Liberty by agreement), all Municipalities (Pickerington by agreement) and Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow (BLT) watershed group. We coordinate forest/woodland programs with ODNR Service Forester, Jason VanHouten, assist the Fairfield Land Preservation Association with acquiring easements, and we coordinated with Fairfield County Board of Departmental Disabilities, City of Lancaster and Historical Parks on the Sensory Trail with planning/construction of a wetland development including boardwalk and covered bridge along Fetters Run, opposite the universally accessible tree house. We coordinate with Sheriff Dave Phalen, Prevention Works, Adult and Children First, Pickerington Police Department, Litter and Recycling, Violet Township and the City of Canal Winchester on drug collection and recycling events in Violet Township, Pickerington and Canal Winchester each year. We also continue coordination with the Fairfield County Auditor’s office on additional GIS layers and CAUV evaluation assistance.

The District also works extensively with private landowners and land managers of Fairfield County including: farmland owners, forestland owners, urban and rural residential home owners, commercial property managers, camps and private club owners. In addition, the District works with Rushcreek Conservancy, Hunters Run Conservancy (SWCD and Commissioners are local sponsors) and South Fork Licking Conservancy (inactive).

C. In terms of funding, the District has operated in cooperation with the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners since 1943, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). It has been the cooperative nature of the Commissioners to grant public dollars from their General Fund to the District, which has resulted in numerous agreements and projects for the betterment of Fairfield County and its watersheds for drainage, flooding, water quality, natural and agricultural resource conservation for future generations. Municipalities and townships have provided additional local public dollars to the District to further projects for the betterment of their political subdivisions’ watersheds for the same purposes.

**Financial Goals**

- A. Complete Master MOU with the Commissioners in **2016**.
- B. Maintain current professional and experienced staff which will allow us to increase partner services and sustain current agreement services cost effectively **by 2018**.
  - Adjust staff salaries to compensate for 5 years of stagnant financial compensation while insurance costs kept climbing which resulted in decreased overall salary with benefits.
  - Plan for **2%** annual salary increases to staff.
  - Plan for **4%** annual health insurance increases.
- C. Increase Engineering Services for a fee with partners including the City of Pickerington, City of Lancaster, Townships and individual landowners who retain a current Conservation Plan with the District, all within the professional limitations and judgment of the District Engineer and Board of Supervisors.
  - Increase receipts annually to \$     TBD     **by 2018**.
- D. Increase herbicide application for invasive plants and public health, safety and welfare for a fee with partners including the Hunters Run and Rushcreek Conservancy Districts, the Fairfield County Airport, City of Pickerington, City of Lancaster, Townships, City-Regional Park Systems.
  - Increase receipts annually to \$   6,000   **by 2018**.
- E. Increase MS4 services as new communities are named including the potential of Lithopolis, Bloom Township and Greenfield Township for DESC specific services.
  - Increase receipts annually to \$  13,500  **by 2019**.
- F. Increase State Match rate to get the District back to prior averages (75%). Discuss need with the State Legislators and SWCD Conservation Commission.
  - Increase State Match to Fairfield County to   75%   **by 2020**.

All initiatives are predicated on the Goals as defined above. Failure to achieve the Goals positions the District to see a decline of professional staff and those with high efficiency through longevity.

Flat Funding \$274,724 (2010-2015)	Requested Funding (\$290,150) + annual adjustment	Additional Funding (\$330,000) + annual adjustment
<b>Loss of staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in educational services to local schools.</li> <li>• Increased wait time for agricultural conservation projects.</li> <li>• Less MS4 permit administration.</li> <li>• No assistance to other agencies without financial compensation.</li> <li>• Limited Farmland Preservation application assistance.</li> <li>• Reduction in staff availability during office hours, automated phones.</li> <li>• No ability to take on new projects, grants, etc.</li> </ul>	<b>Maintain current staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes in current services.</li> <li>• Minimal ability to take on additional MS4 communities permit requirements.</li> <li>• Limited flexibility to take advantage of grant opportunities.</li> </ul>	<b>Allow addition of staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to take on more MS4 communities as they are named in the County Permit.</li> <li>• Keep up with plan review and construction inspections when the housing market rebounds.</li> <li>• Additional partnering with other county agencies to stretch local funds.</li> <li>• More opportunity to acquire watershed grants to improve the water quality of Buckeye Lake.</li> </ul>

## 2016-2020 Estimated Special Fund

	2016 Projection	2017 Projection	2018 Projection	2019 Projection	2020 Projection
<b>Revenue</b>					
State Grants	199,746	191,152	184,288	181,993	180,844
Wildlife Grant	13,700	14,400	15,120	15,876	16,670
Other Receipts	15,800	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
BWC Refund					
Comm's Allocation & other intergovt transfers	314,725	290,150	301,100	312,300	324,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>543,971</b>	<b>509,702</b>	<b>514,508</b>	<b>524,169</b>	<b>535,514</b>

### Expenses

Employee Salaries	304,384	311,418	317,646	323,999	330,479
Vacation Payout	0	0	0	0	0
Sick Payout	0	0	0	0	0
Health Insurance	108,290	117,536	122,237	127,127	132,212
Health - EAP	0	0	0	0	0
Life Insurance	428	450	459	468	478
Medicare	4,308	4,600	4,692	4,786	4,882
OPERS	42,614	44,000	44,880	45,778	46,693
Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0
Workers Comp	3,700	3,700	3,793	3,887	3,984
Contractual Services	11,000	13,500	12,000	12,500	12,500
Specialized Services	3,800	3,800	4,000	4,100	4,100
Repair & Maintenance	1,250	1,250	1,400	1,500	1,600
Rentals/Lease	0	0	0	0	0
Advertising	5,000	4,600	5,200	5,300	5,400
Travel Reimbursement	6,010	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
General office supplies	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Equipment/software	13,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Scholarships	50	50	50	50	50
Other Expenses					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>512,834</b>	<b>529,904</b>	<b>541,357</b>	<b>554,495</b>	<b>567,378</b>

<i>beginning cash c/o</i>	112,658	143,795	123,593	96,743	66,418
<i>estimated ending cash c/o</i>	143,795	123,593	96,743	66,418	34,554

Special Fund is not a full reflection of total budget. Numbers do not account for monies transferred to the Special Fund from non-state matched contracted services (see all estimated incoming revenue chart on page 22). An average of \$30,000 needs to be available for transfer each year to remain solvent at this level if ODA state match does not increase.



These local dollars bring in state and federal funding to benefit and enhance our community. The District pursues matching funds from the State of Ohio for grants made by the Commissioners from their General Fund along with Municipalities and Townships also making grants to the District each year to further cooperative goals. **These State funds are not guaranteed annually.**

The District has requested that the Commissioners provide baseline funding from their General Fund and operational space at the Ag Center, 831 College Avenue, Suite B. Operational space is used in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District has operated in cooperation with the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners through the Fairfield County Engineer in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6137 (ditch maintenance). Time expended in these efforts is billed as defined by the ORC and is not eligible for matching grants from the State. Because special grants become available for water resource concerns, the District must remain flexible and hold back some "local match" to pursue such funds as we have done to obtain Clear Creek and Buckeye Lake Section 319 grant funding.

### 3. Serve as a resource to enhance the profitability and environmental stewardship of farms, the top land use and economic driver in Fairfield County

A. One of the key roles of the District is to offer technical assistance with agricultural engineering projects in the County. For this effort the District offers survey, design, construction, and inspection of conservation practices such as animal waste systems, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures, agrichemical containment, mortality composting, livestock watering systems, systematic tile drainage, water and sediment control basins, wetland development and stream bank stabilization. We also design dry hydrants for use by local fire departments.

B. We have a state mandate to investigate agriculture pollution complaints and work with landowners to solve problems.

C. The District assists with on-farm drainage issues.

D. We work to administer USDA landowner incentive programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

E. Through the Agriculture Soil Health Initiative through USDA-NRCS, we hope to facilitate the goal of 140,000 acres of agricultural land in production in the County by 2022 to enhance the protection of critical resources and improve water quality. Projects for this effort include encouraging the use of cover crops, winter wheat, proper stewardship of biosolids/beneficial use products, and soil sampling. This is guided by the 2002 Land Use Plan and Fairfield Growing, an agricultural economic development plan created in 2011. This is also in alignment with the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Action Plan (2016) and the Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan and Open Space Plan (2009).

F. The District prioritizes and assists county residents with the Clean Ohio Local Agriculture Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) applications. In addition, we assist county residents with alternative land protection programs through the Fairfield Land Preservation Association or through USDA's Grassland Reserve Program. We also conduct follow-up monitoring of land enrolled in the LAEPP Program (2,793 acres) and the Walnut Township Ag Security Area.



G. The District works regularly with local food promotion to help connect consumers with farmers, return underutilized land to production, supports Ohio State University Extension efforts with the Chamber of Commerce and contact with Destination Downtown, and encourages economic development with small local farms through soil type production summaries, workshops on small plots, and holding events to cover pertinent topics. Recent projects include Keller Market House, high tunnels and greenhouses, and Taste of Fairfield County.

**4. Educate area youth and community leaders about the vital importance of properly caring for the often-overlooked value of our community’s soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources**

A. Through the Land Lab Initiative we provide support and assistance for areas designated for educational purposes including the Fairfield Union Land Lab, Liberty Union Land Lab, Amanda-Clearcreek Land Lab, Pickerington North enhancements, Lancaster Stream Corridor, Sensory Trail Corridor, and Bloom-Carroll Arboretum.

B. We participate in and cooperate with various adult education workshops on topics including pond and stream bank management, forestry and tree identification.

C. We integrate curriculum in a number of school classroom programs using hands-on topography and erosion modeling and wildlife education. We publish two teacher newsletters and facilitate soils education, an important testing component of core curriculum.

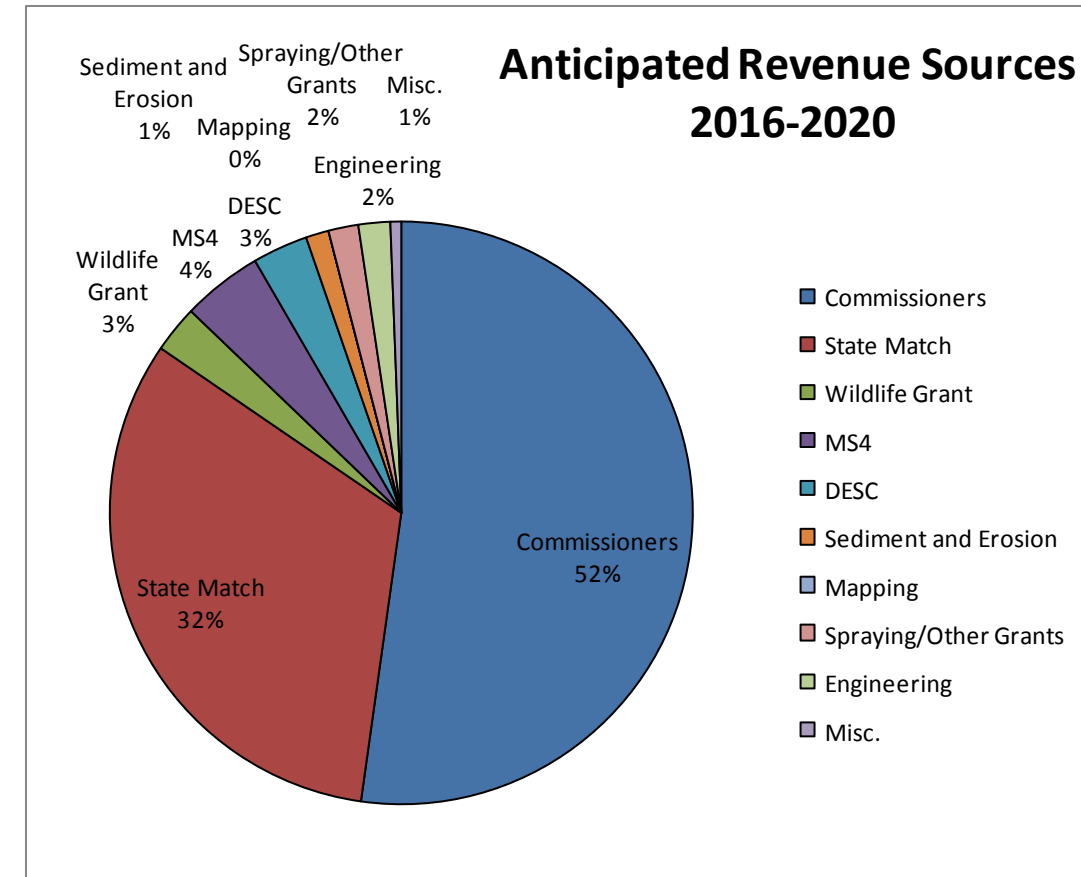
D. We provide a weekly educational wildlife column in the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*.

E. The District works to increase farmer awareness of facts concerning nutrient loss, soil erosion prevention, alternative manures, long-term farm sustainability, and winter wildlife management through field days, sampling trials/reports, and signage.

F. We participate in a number of extracurricular youth activities as well. These include: the Earth Camp outdoor education event held at a different park location each year for third, fourth and fifth grade students; a semi-annual meeting with our Education Subcommittee and its 8-12 members; annual Clear Creek Day event for Amanda-Clearcreek 6th grade students; MS4 education for all 7th graders in the Pickerington School system; classroom or land lab presentations on various conservation topics in Fairfield County schools as requested; a free tree program for all 5th grade students countywide; participate in the annual youth event with Pheasants Forever and other conservation partners in April each year; annually serve as judges for local and district school science fairs and 4-H summer projects; coordinate a K-12 Conservation Poster Contest countywide; annual High School Envirothon Contest for 17 central Ohio counties; and the annual High School Soil Judging Contest.

G. The District holds an annual meeting/banquet in September each year which honors conservation farmers of the year, an educator of the year, and our photo contest winners. Some years we also give a conservation partner of the year award.

H. Fairfield SWCD maintains an internet home page at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org) and Facebook page, publishes three District newsletters, participates in the Fairfield County Fair, maintains a frequent local radio and cable television programming presence, and serves on the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Agriculture Committee.



Although State Match is representing a smaller section of the pie as opposed to 2011-2015, other projected revenue sources are making up some of the difference. Once mapping/invasive control projects are determined, the percent of commissioner allocation should remain constant.

**OHIO UNIVERSITY INTERN OPPORTUNITIES**

- Plan to take advantage of the Great Lakes Grant funded internship through Ohio University for several mapping projects and engineering database/interactive GIS scanning project.
- Summer 2016 (2 interns at no charge to District)
- Fall 2016 (2 interns at \$446.64 to District)
- Winter 2017 (2 interns at \$446.64 to District)

Total Cost **\$893.28**

**OTHER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- Will coordinate with Hocking College on internships through their Environmental Program. We've had many participate in the past. Fairfield SWCD was on the list for spring/summer 2016 with no respondents. District will re-apply 2017-2020. **No cost.**
- University of Illinois—graduate student capstone in environmental policy and sustainability with interest in soils health and recycling. Project details: MS4 public outreach, Buckeye Lake comprehensive data collection/consolidation, nutrient availability study. (240 hours in fall 2016). **No cost.**

**Five Years of Projections**

Fiscal projections for 5 years, 2% per salary increases and benefit cost increases.  
 Contract agreements are assessment of applicable employee billable hours with benefits with a cost for the two GMC Sierra trucks (recover over 10 years) and average gas usage per vehicle.  
 Assessment of the replacement cost of the survey units over seven years and the number of hours on “engineering projects” or urban special projects to tack onto cost recovery.

**2016-2020 SWCD Projected Budget**

Total Incoming Revenue

Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Commissioners*	\$ 314,725.00	\$ 283,150.00	\$ 294,100.00	\$ 305,300.00	\$ 317,000.00
MS4 (County Commissioners)*	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
MS4 (Pickerington)*	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
MS4 (Violet)*	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
MS4 (Liberty)*	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MS4 (Lithopolis/Bloom)*		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
State Match	\$ 199,746.00	\$ 191,152.00	\$ 184,288.00	\$ 181,993.00	\$ 180,844.00
Wildlife Grant	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 15,120.00	\$ 15,876.00	\$ 16,670.00
NRCS Technical	\$ 17,625.00	\$ 7,005.00	\$ 7,005.00	\$ 7,005.00	\$ 7,005.00
DESC (Violet)	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020.00
DESC (Liberty)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
DESC (Lithopolis/Bloom)		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
RPC - Commercial Building					
Inspection draws - (Sediment/Erosion)	\$ 7,369.00	\$ 7,369.00	\$ 7,369.00	\$ 7,369.00	\$ 7,369.00
FLPA, ODA Grant	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,200.00
Tile Plans	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 900.00
CAUV (Auditor)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Airport spraying	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Conservancy District spraying					
Violet spraying	\$ 2,630.19	\$ 2,630.19	\$ 2,630.19	\$ 2,630.19	\$ 2,630.19
FU land lab	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
LU land lab		\$ 2,500.00			
Misc.	\$ 3,477.00	\$ 3,477.00	\$ 3,477.00	\$ 3,477.00	\$ 3,477.00
Mapping (Lithopolis Water)					
Mapping (Greenfield Water)					
	\$ 599,492.19	\$ 569,003.19	\$ 567,909.19	\$ 576,170.19	\$ 587,615.19

\* State Match requested on Commissioner funds and all MS4 funds  
 -Misc. (drill rental/tree sale/copies/plat books/affiliate memberships)  
 -Details need yet to be determined for future mapping projects and Conservancy spraying (assistance requested)  
 -Projections represent a combination of 5-year averages/agreements/estimated requests  
 -Source colors correspond to fund (see page 19)



**Business Organization and Key Personnel**

District staff is highly educated, diverse, and able to assist in many aspects of their co-workers needs. Beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2014 the District has not replaced the positions of soil scientist, an engineering technician and secretary/receptionist. Office management has been assumed by the District Engineer. Technology, integration of job descriptions, and a decline in other work because of the economy has allowed this to happen. Additional staff reductions would create extreme challenges to continue to raise additional funding sources. At this time the District believes the following core personnel and job descriptions must remain or services will be lost to the County, Townships, Municipalities, Non-Profits and tax paying landowners.

**Five District Board of Supervisors**

**District Manager/Engineer**  
 Agriculture Pollution Abatement  
 Farm Bill Projects  
 Tile plans  
 Conservancy District Assistance  
 Administrative and Management  
  
*General Education*  
*General Inquiry*  
*Drainage Complaints*  
  
**Professional Engineer**

Urban Specialist	Resource Specialist	Administrative Assistant	Engineering Technician	Wildlife/Education Specialist
Urban Pollution Abatement RPC Subdivisions DESC MS4 Pesticide Application  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i>	Farmland Preservation Silviculture Pollution Abatement Timber Harvests DESC MS4 Pesticide Application Special Projects  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i>  <b>Professional Landscape Architect</b>  <b>Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control</b>  <b>Pesticide License</b>	Budgets Timesheets Policy/Inventory Invoicing Personnel Assistance Marketing -Newsletter -Web -Facebook Annual Tree Sale Daily front door presence  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <b>Administrative Assistant Development Program through the Division of Soil and Water Resources (DSWR)</b>	Pollution Abatement Farm Bill Projects Tile plans Conservancy District Assistance Administrative Chamber of Commerce Liaison  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i>  <b>DSWR Technician Development Program Level 5 Certified</b>  <b>USDA-NRCS Job Approval Authority</b>	ODNR Wildlife Grant Timber Harvests Pesticide Application NRCS CRP Mid-Contract Management  Education -Core curriculums -MS4 -Newspaper -Radio -Speaking  <i>General Inquiry</i>  <b>Burn License</b>  <b>Pesticide License</b>

### Staff Resources

The District maintains a diverse staff of six employees knowledgeable and certified in many resource concerns.

The District employs a Professional Engineer (PE) trained in Agriculture Engineering, along with a DSWR Level 5 Technician; a Resource Specialist who is a Professional Landscape Architect (PLA), a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control

(CPESC) and a licensed commercial applicator; and an Urban Specialist with a background in soils who is also a CPESC and a licensed commercial applicator. The District also employs a Wildlife/Education Specialist and an Administrative Assistant.

The professional skills of our office are rare in most Conservation Districts which positions us as a strong local partner. The District currently holds

multiple cooperative agreements and works with the Fairfield County Commissioners, Fairfield County Utilities, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission, Violet and Liberty Townships, the City of Pickerington, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the United States and Ohio Department's of Agriculture along with the Hunter's Run and Rushcreek Conservancy Districts.



#### Amy Boyer, District Engineer and Manager, PE

Amy Boyer is a 2000 graduate of The Ohio State University, College of Engineering with a Bachelors of Science in Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Amy is a Professional Licensed Civil Engineer with the State of Ohio.

Amy has worked for the District since 2000. Amy is the District Engineer and has focused on USDA Farm Bill program design and construction of projects such as manure storage and composting facilities, wetlands and tile systems. She has also been involved in community stream bank stabilization projects, assists with Fairfield County's conservancy dams and emergency action plans for class II and III dams. Prior to working with the District, Amy interned with Stults and Associates of Delaware, Ohio, where she was involved in commercial and residential subdivision and permitted livestock facility designs. Amy resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Lancaster.



#### Sondra "Nikki" Drake, Engineering Technician

Nikki Drake is a 1994 graduate of Ohio University-Lancaster with an Associates Degree in Office Management Technology. Nikki has completed the highest levels of training available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources Technician Development Program.

Nikki has worked with the District since 1999. As an Engineering Technician, she has focused on USDA Farm Bill programs for agricultural producers while maintaining job approval authority through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, petition ditch inspections with the County Engineer, conservancy dam inspections, along with other duties. Prior to working with the District she was employed in the insurance industry. Nikki resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Stoutsville.



### 2011-2015 Special Fund

	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>					
State Grants	\$ 248,062	\$ 218,905	\$ 227,479	\$ 216,614	\$ 211,545
Wildlife Grant	\$ 18,340	\$ 18,440	\$ 18,440	\$ 18,600	\$ 11,290
Other Receipts			\$ 14,794	\$ 8,783	\$ 19,320
BWC Refund	\$ 278	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,516	\$ 2,888	\$ 1,354
Commissioners Allocation & other intergovt transfers	\$ 274,724	\$ 274,724	\$ 274,725	\$ 274,725	\$ 274,725
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 541,404</b>	<b>\$ 513,069</b>	<b>\$ 537,954</b>	<b>\$ 521,610</b>	<b>\$ 518,234</b>

<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee Salaries	\$ 340,263	\$ 352,525	\$ 361,897	\$ 336,625	\$ 298,635
Retiree Vacation Payout	0	0	\$ 319	\$ 12,626	0
Retiree Sick Payout	0	0	\$ 116	\$ 13,544	0
Health Insurance	\$ 56,614	\$ 57,660	\$ 75,219	\$ 75,147	\$ 101,159
Health - EAP	\$ 33	\$ 65	\$ 40	\$ 36	0
Life Insurance	\$ 359	\$ 370	\$ 393	\$ 378	\$ 400
Medicare	\$ 4,789	\$ 4,964	\$ 5,066	\$ 5,043	\$ 4,054
OPERS	\$ 47,636	\$ 48,933	\$ 50,036	\$ 46,707	\$ 41,704
Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0
Workers Comp	\$ 3,283	\$ 3,576	\$ 3,380	\$ 3,585	\$ 3,469
Contractual Services	\$ 6,784	\$ 7,830	\$ 6,705	\$ 7,032	\$ 7,942
Specialized Services	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,419	\$ 3,581	\$ 3,465	\$ 3,248
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 1,439	\$ 2,048	\$ 1,989	\$ 1,304	\$ 844
Rentals/Lease	0	0	0	\$ *30,176	0
Advertising	\$ 4,469	\$ 3,869	\$ 3,884	\$ 5,176	\$ 2,878
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 2,731	\$ 5,924	\$ 6,786	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,351
General Office Supplies	\$ 8,157	\$ 9,362	\$ 9,295	\$ 6,526	\$ 4,856
Equipment/Software	\$ 9,377	\$ 31,933	\$ 6,554	\$ 14,591	\$ 10,492
Scholarships	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 489,693</b>	<b>\$ 532,528</b>	<b>\$ 535,310</b>	<b>\$ 567,511</b>	<b>\$ 482,082</b>

Health Insurance is our greatest variable expense.

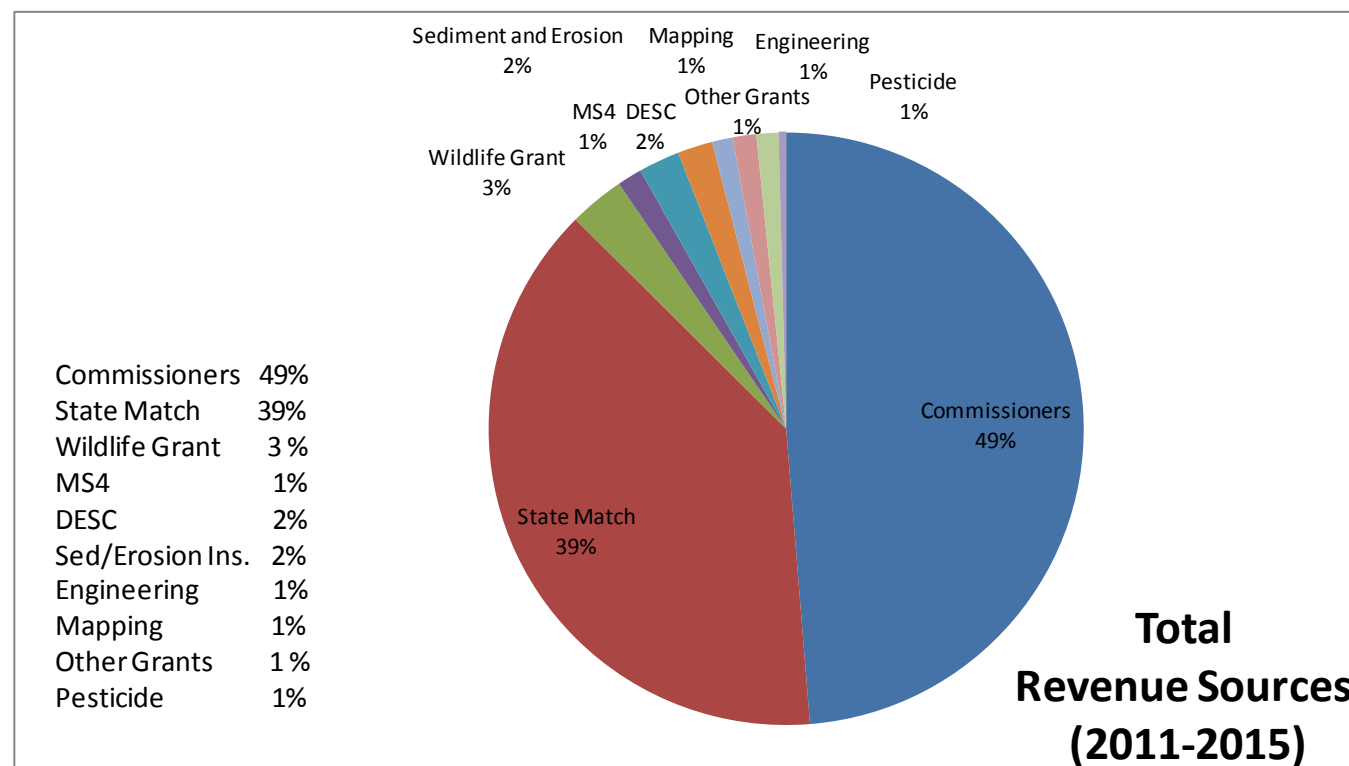
\* 2014 included Federal back-rent bill



**Historical Data (continued)**

**Total Incoming Revenue**

Source	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Commissioners	\$274,724.45	\$274,724.45	\$274,725.00	\$274,725.00	\$274,725.00
State Match	\$248,062.00	\$218,904.57	\$227,478.99	\$216,614.00	\$211,545.00
Wildlife Grant	\$18,340.00	\$18,440.00	\$18,440.00	\$18,600.00	\$11,290.00
NRCS Technical	\$14,927.45	\$3,715.00		\$7,785.00	\$8,600.00
MS4 (Liberty)			\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
MS4 (Pickerington)			\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
MS4 (County Commissioners)		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
DESC (Violet)	\$7,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$22,500.00	\$12,300.00	\$17,100.00
DESC (Liberty)					\$1,100.00
319 Grant (Buckeye Lake)		\$352.43	\$14,793.73	\$8,732.99	
ODA Grant (FLPA)					\$1,300.00
Dam EAP Grant (ODNR)					\$11,200.00
Tile Plans	\$550.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,250.00
Pesticide (all sources)		\$2,367.54	\$3,613.70	\$2,208.67	\$3,441.25
Fairfield Co. Utilities (mapping)		\$15,500.00			
Violet (mapping)			\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	
Inspection draws (erosion/sed)			\$39,216.00		\$14,738.30
Misc.	\$1,857.00	\$4,639.00	\$4,040.00	\$3,850.00	\$3,000.00
	\$565,460.90	\$548,292.99	\$628,357.42	\$566,615.66	\$571,289.55



**Jonathan Ferbrache, Resource Specialist, PLA, CPESC**

Jonathan Ferbrache is a 1998 graduate of The Ohio State University, College of Engineering with a Bachelors of Science in Landscape Architecture. Jonathan is a Professional Licensed Landscape Architect (PLA) with the State of Ohio, a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) through EnviroCert International.

Jonathan has worked for the District since 2007. Jonathan is a Resource Specialist who assists developers and local governments with EPA Phase II compliance, administers the Farmland Preservation Program along with other duties. Prior to working with the District he was employed by Fanning/Howey Associates Inc. of Dublin, Ohio, and Smith Group JJR of Ann Arbor, Michigan, directly involved with K-12 school facility and subdivision design and construction. Jonathan resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Bremen.



**Chad Lucht, Senior Urban Specialist, CPESC**

Chad Lucht is a 1994 graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelors of Science in Agronomy, Soil Science with a minor in Environmental Geology, Water Quality. Chad is a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) through EnviroCert International.

Chad has worked with the District since 2001. As the Senior Urban Specialist, Chad has focused on Phase II compliance with County and local governments and assisted developers and property owners with compliance requirements along with other duties. Prior to working with the District he was employed by The Ohio State University as a field project coordinator for the Soil and Water Resources Program at their research facility in Piketon, Ohio. Chad resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Pickerington.



**Tommy Springer, Wildlife/Education Specialist**

Tommy Springer is a 2005 graduate of Hocking College and 2007 from Rio Grande College with Associates Degrees in Fish and Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Management and a Bachelors in Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management. Tommy's wildlife position is funded in part through a grant by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Tommy is a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and a Certified Prescribed Fire Manager with the Division of Forestry.

Tommy has worked for the District since 2014. Tommy aids land managers (private and public) on USDA Farm Bill programs for wildlife enhancement, wildlife crop damage to row crops, orchards, vineyards and nurseries. He aids in defining management approaches for ponds, wetlands and woodland systems. He writes the "Conservation Corner" for the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, does radio programs, conducts in-classroom education and special events with our partners. Prior to working with the District he was employed by Franklin County Metro Parks. Tommy resides in Fairfield County, between Lancaster and Lithopolis.



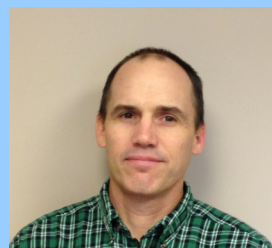
**Christina Holt, Administrative Assistant**



**Christina Holt** is a 1996 graduate of Ohio University-Lancaster with an Associates Degree in Office Management Technology.

Christina has worked for the District since 1996. She processes budgets, invoices, timesheets and provides front desk services for walk-in residents and taxpayers with resource concerns. She has completed the highest levels of training available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources Administrative Assistance Development Program. Chris resides in Fairfield County, just outside of West Rushville.

**Federal and Local Partnership**



**David Libben** serves as the District Conservationist for Fairfield and Hocking Counties. The USDA-NRCS resides with the District through invitation of the District and the enduring cooperative relationships to implement the programs of the Farm Bill as they relate to compliance with wetlands, highly erodible land and conservation planning. Our engineering staff works directly with the Farm Bill programs. We seek reimbursement for our time in engineering these practices whenever possible. **These Federal funds are not guaranteed annually.** The District always seeks manpower assistance when available from our USDA-NRCS partners to keep costs down. When interns are available from USDA or Hocking College we pursue them to support our work and their education experience.

**Staffing Trend 2000-2015**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Engineering Technician																
Engineering Technician																
Eng Tech (part-time)																
District Engineer																
Urban Specialist																
Urban/Resource Specialist																
Soil Scientist																
Education Specialist																
District Manager/Wildlife Specialist																
													Wildlife/Ed. Spec			
Administrative Assistant																

Over the last 15 years, two positions have been combined into one. Lost positions include a part-time secretary/receptionist, one full-time and one part-time engineering technician and a full-time soil scientist.

**Historical Data (continued)**

In the past 5 years, approximately half of our revenue has come from local appropriations. Incoming revenue chart (page 20) shows more partnerships are being made with similar conservation goals. These increased funds have not offset the decline in state match to date.

The decline in development from Regional Planning agreements and an increased number of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) named communities has led us to support more community MS4 permit programs, taking primary lead on Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) in two townships while supporting the City of Pickerington and County permit needs through limited compensation agreements.

In 2012 the District identified invasive plants as a threat to natural systems and positioned itself to take on that challenge with other government entities and obtained herbicide application equipment, licenses and insurance. The last 10 years has shown a reduction in USDA reimbursement money to the District annually, but those funds have increased in 2016. ODNR/ODA continue to shrink their services for professional engineering for non USDA programs. The District seeks compensation for use of equipment, fuel, paper and software costs to support the services that our agriculture community demands most. When grant opportunities arise to the benefit of the District, we pursue them including those that support EMA, watersheds and schools.

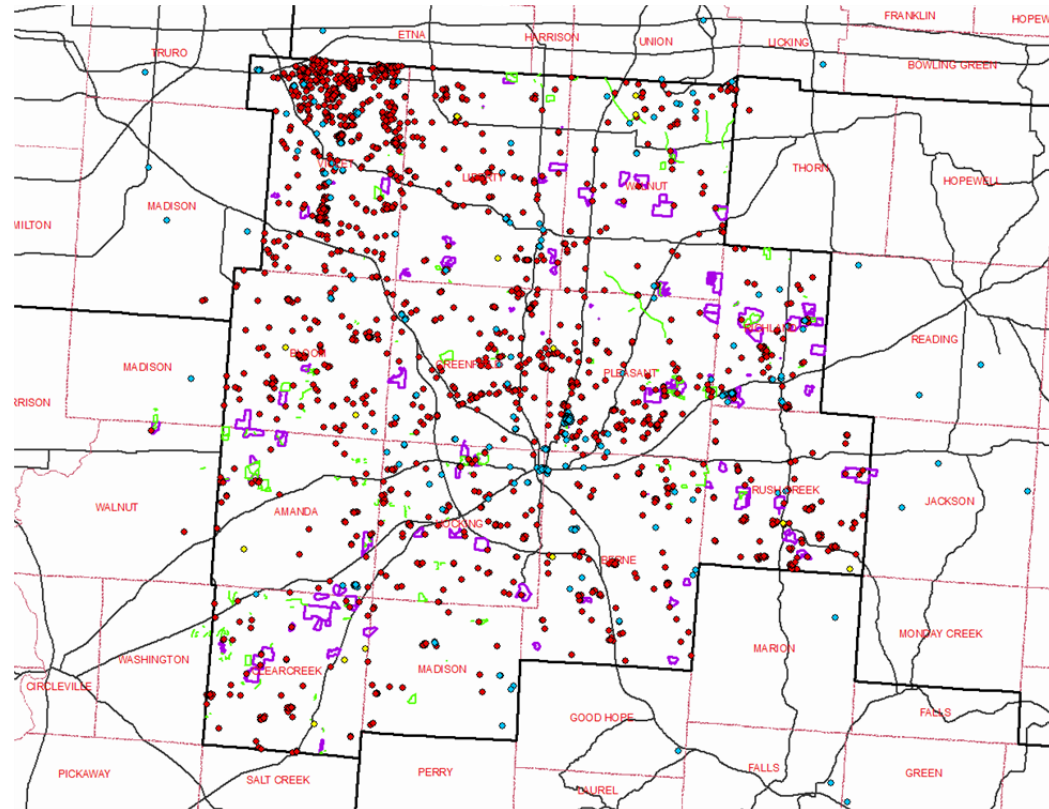
**Accounts: Sources and Uses**

District Fund <i>Since 1943</i>	Special Fund <i>Since 1963</i>	Dedicated Conservation Fund <i>Since 2013</i>
Primarily funds scholarships, local cash match for grants and miscellaneous expenses	Primarily funds salaries, benefits and general office equipment	Primarily funds large equipment
Income derived from:	Commissioners (General) - <i>Since 1951</i> Commissioners MS4 Township MS4 City MS4	Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) and other Urban Storm Water  Invasive Plant Treatment
Plat Book Sales Marking Flags Annual Tree Sale - <i>Since 1966</i> (Licensed by ODA) Tree Planter Rental No-Till Drill Rental	State Match - <i>Since 1959</i> The above local funds are State Matched at an assumed 50% (Historic range is 55-90% with future projections at 50%)	USDA reimbursement, non traditional engineering and tile plans
	Division of Wildlife Grant (not matchable)	*Most monies from "unmatchable" agreements are held in this account to cover purchases on our large equipment inventory schedule.
	*EPA 319 Grants (not matchable)	*All contract services include reimbursable costs and follow the 319 grant process so that we pay back the dedicated fund for long-term equipment costs.

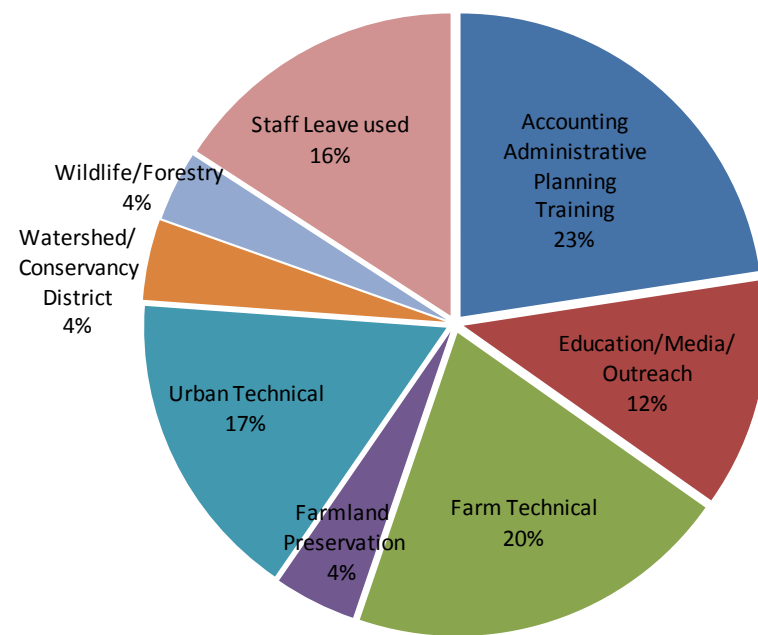
### Historical Data

#### Five years of historic service data

Dots, lines, and polygons capture where the District has provided service to individuals, developers, schools and other public entities between 2011-2015.



#### 2011-2015 Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District Work Hours



This is a distribution of staff time that we want to maintain. If future needs would merit, the urban technical portion would increase with the addition of another staff member.



The District Board of Supervisors is made up of five publicly elected individuals representing the diversity of resource concerns in the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. Each elected term is 3 years. Candidates for the positions are typically sought by a committee made up of one current Board member and several previous Board members. **These Supervisors are not compensated for their service.** The goal of the District is to maintain regional diversity of where the Supervisors reside, types of resource concern awareness they bring to the table as well as diversity of viewpoints, experiences and leadership among other cooperators. Supervisors must be in compliance with Sunshine Laws. This business plan was developed under the direction of the following:

**Matt Reese, 2016-2018** Liberty Township  
 -Editor of the *Ohio Country Journal*  
Areas of Expertise:  
 Media and Outreach  
 Tree Farm Operations  
 4-H and Youth Programs



**Mike Wolfe, 2010-2016** Walnut Township  
 -Full-time farmer  
Areas of Expertise:  
 Conservation Practice Construction  
 Protected Farmland  
 Cover Crops/Precision Agriculture



Commissioner Mike Kiger (right) swearing in Mike

**Mark Boving, 2012-2017** Violet Township  
 -Full-time farmer  
Areas of Expertise:  
 Row Crops and Livestock Management  
 Cover Crops/Precision Agriculture  
 Urban Adjacent Agriculture



**Tim White, 2003-2008 and 2015-2017** Berne Township  
 -Retired Editor of the *Ohio Farmer Magazine*  
Areas of Expertise:  
 Media and Outreach  
 Livestock Management  
 Timber Management



Senator Troy Balderson (left) swearing in Tim

**Don Rector, PE 2016-2018** Violet Township  
 -Engineer, Fairfield County Utilities  
Areas of Expertise:  
 Urban Development  
 Urban Storm Water  
 Professional Engineering



## Collaborative Partnerships: Public and Private

Existing agreements with continued responsibility for Fairfield County:

County Commissioners - Memorandum of Understanding with SWCD, March 18, 1974  
 "The Foundation for an Enduring Cooperative Working Relationship"

County Regional Planning Commission - Memorandum of Understanding with SWCD and USDA for planning assistance, July 19, 1974

County Engineer - Agreement for Ditch Maintenance, July 30, 1982, Volume 28, Page 364 as ORC 6137. Being revised.

County Regional Planning Commission - Agreement for Subdivision Plan Review, July 13, 1983

County Engineer - Agreement to Review Approved Subdivision Storm Water Prevention Plans (SWPP), January 1, 2003, 02-12.71.c

County Commissioners - Resolution designating the SWCD as the County Local Sponsor Representative for the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, January 25, 2011, 11-01.25g

County Engineer - Agreement for Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) Services, 02-12.17.e, NEEDS APPROVED 2015-2019 SWMP-Funds are rolled into General Fund allocation and not issued separately.

County Utilities - Agreement for Use of GPS Mapping and GPS Survey Equipment, February 12, 2009, 09-02.03.e NEEDS APPROVED allocation of dedicated funds for equipment.



Pictured: NRCS training at the Sensory Trail tree house, Rushcreek Conservancy's Rush Creek Lake, Buckeye Lake outfall inventory, sediment study at Lancaster High School ecological area, Earth Camp group photo.



### Type of Operation

Local Government

### Real-estate and Facilities

Facility is rented from the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners:  
 831 College Avenue, Suite B in Lancaster, Ohio.

### Chattel Property and Insurance

District insured under CoRSA, not associated with the Fairfield County policy.

- No-till drill, tree planter, kept on private property by handshake agreement (need in SWCD controlled facility)
- Trailer/John Deere Gator kept on Violet Township property by handshake agreement (need in SWCD controlled facility)
- Co-owned boat and trailer kept with Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) (agreement on file)
- Concrete forms, kept on private property by handshake agreement (need in SWCD controlled facility)

Property, less vehicles: \$189,959

District owned vehicles: 5

Deductible: \$2,500

Liability: \$3,000,000 including Errors and Omissions Liability

\*Numbers current as of May 2016 policy\*

### Large Equipment Replacement Schedule

Year	Item to be Replaced	Replacement/New Item	Estimated Cost to Replace
2016	Dissolved oxygen meter (1998)	Dissolved oxygen meter	\$ 1,800.00
	new item	Fire rated file cabinet	\$ 1,500.00
	Trimble hand held GPS (2010)	Trimble handheld GPS	\$ 12,000.00
2017	Trimble survey grade GPS (2009)	Trimble survey grade GPS unit	\$ 25,000.00
	Trimble survey data collector (2009)	Trimble data collector	\$ 5,000.00
2018	Ford F-150 (2003)	4WD truck, 1/2 ton	\$ 28,000.00
2019	2 Lenovo computers (2014)	2 new engineering computers	\$ 2,000.00
2020	Jeep Cherokee (1999)	car/suv/truck	\$ 30,000.00
	2 Lenovo computers (2012)	2 new desktop computers	\$ 1,600.00



### Modern Resources for Resource Concerns

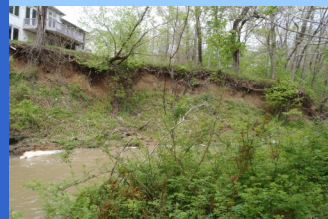
In the 1980's the District began to embrace its role with Urban development. The District set a goal to employ a Professional Engineer in 1994. The District currently employs a Professional Engineer and Professional Landscape Architect. These are rare professionals in most Districts. These professionally licensed individuals allow the District to aid many partners beyond the limitations of the USDA and ODA Engineering agreements. Serving all landowners, not just those participating in government programs, is a key pillar of "cooperative" conservation in the eyes of the District.

The District also maintains a modern array of AutoCAD and GIS software and GPS surveying and mapping equipment which are available to assist in EPA Phase II compliance through service agreements and traditional agricultural services but has been most recently used as we need to partner on civil engineering services for stream bank stabilization sites. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership. **This work is reliant on a Professional Engineer, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment.**

The District continues to adapt and change and now provides limited pesticide application and the necessary equipment to combat noxious and invasive plants at parks, road rights-of-way or government facilities. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership. **This work is reliant on licensed applicators, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment.**

The District now dedicates time and resources to specific municipalities and townships through annual cooperative agreements. This was not the approach taken twenty years ago, but the mandates of the EPA MS4 Permits on communities created the need and we have filled it. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships. **This work is reliant on certified or licensed professionals to assure a high quality product is produced for the cooperative entities.**

Our staff recently assisted the City of Pickerington with stream bank stabilization projects. The District provided surveying, engineering and landscape plans as part of the grant's in-kind requirement using Section 319 grant funding with the Ohio and US EPA with engineering oversight from the City of Pickerington.



Historically the District has assisted with EPA Phase II education requirements for Violet and Liberty Townships and the City of Pickerington and serves on multiple committees through the Regional Planning Commission. The District is diligent in communication with mutual concerns for water resources of the County.



Lancaster High School Stream Bank Stabilization



Violet Township Stream Inventory

### Collaborative Partnerships: Public and Private (continued)

Because the District can aid in addressing issues on both the private and public lands in all of Fairfield County, the District works with many cooperators for natural and agricultural resource concerns on behalf of the Commissioners and their constituents including but not limited to:

- Private Landowners and Land Managers of Fairfield County including:
  - Farmland owners
  - Forestland owners
- Urban and Rural Residential homeowners
- Commercial property managers
- Camps and private club owners

- Rushcreek Conservancy
- Hunters Run Conservancy
- (SWCD and Commissioners are local sponsors)
- South Fork Licking Conservancy (inactive)

In 2013 the District staff wrote 26 Emergency Action Plans for the county's Class II and III permitted dams. This placed landowners and Conservancy Districts in compliance with ODNR Division of Dam Safety regulations and provided our EMA with critical information in case of any dam emergency.

**"Class II and III dams still can present hazards to life and property. Having an EAP assists the dam owner and first responders to lessen that risk."**  
- Jon Kochis, Fairfield County EMA

Fairfield and Franklin Boards of Health

- All Township Trustees
- Violet (by agreement)
- Liberty (by agreement)

- All Municipalities
- Pickerington (by agreement)



2012 Drug Collection Event in Violet Township



Public, Technical and Private Schools  
The Ohio State University Extension

Local, County and Regional Park Districts

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Other Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS



Farm Service Agency

MOU's and working relationships with non-government organizations

Fairfield County Farm Bureau  
Fairfield Land Preservation Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Chambers of Commerce



2012 Conservation Ohio Farm Family Awards

## Where we are, plans and laws that guide us.

### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND REDUCTION

- Clean Water Act 1972
- County and Municipal Well Head Protection Plans
- Buckeye Lake Nutrient Reduction Plan 2013
- Walnut Creek Watershed Planning Partnership, Balanced Growth Plan 2012
- TMDL for Walnut Creek Watershed 2010
- TMDL for Hocking River Watershed 2009
- TMDL for Big Walnut Creek Watershed 2005
- Ohio Revised Code 940  
The District is responsible to aid in the adopted rules and standards for agricultural pollution abatement. These rules and standards address appropriate application standards for animal waste in addition to proper design and construction of manure storage and treatment facilities. **State match funding is tied to compliance.**
- Strategic Planning and Organizational Visioning for Soil, Water and Natural Resources Community of Conservation Serving Ohio 2011
- Rural Action Watershed Planning Initiative  
"Managing for the Future in the Ohio River Basin" 2015
- Fairfield County Community Health Assessment Project 2013
- Healthy and Smart Development in Fairfield County 2005

Supporting public health, high quality municipal water systems, construction, industry and recreation in urbanizing areas.

Land Mass  
8.29% Urban  
0.50% Open Water

2012 Ohio County Profiles

### 140,000 ACRES OF AG LAND IN PRODUCTION BY 2022, PROTECTION OF CRITICAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- Guided by the 2002 Land Use Plan
- Fairfield Growing, An Agriculture Economic Development Plan 2011
- Lancaster/Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Action Plan 2016
- Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan and Open Space Plan 2009
- ODOT, USFW and USDA Pollinator Initiatives 2015
- Hocking Hills Woodland Plan 2013
- Invasive plant efforts are attempting to look regionally along US 33, the Walnut Creek and Hocking River and reduce movement of seed sources to reduce maintenance costs. This includes a 5-year agreement between Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Wildlife Specialists to monitor and map the Nelsonville Bypass for ODOT and USDA Forest Service (2015-2019)

Supporting the largest private economy sector in food and agriculture

\$94,412,000 in agriculture receipts

Land Mass  
62.77% Cropland (172,000 acres)  
23.89% Forest

2012 Ohio County Profiles

### DIVERSIFIED INCOME AND ENERGY KEEPS FAIRFIELD COUNTY MOVING AND GROWING

- Fairfield County already has a lot of energy transmission corridors and systems including the Columbia Pipeline Group and Crawford Storage field in Berne Township
- Still productive oil and gas reserves
- Our proximity to Columbus and our agriculture land base as land application sites for nutrient rich biosolids
- Strong ground water resources for industry
- Large percentage of forested lands for industry
- Ohio Agricultural Roadmap, Establishing a 25 year vision for Ohio's Ag-bio-resource sector, Ohio Farm Bureau 2005

Regional balance must be considered long-term. Columbus is primarily reliant on surface water from the north, while the west has development limitations. Fairfield County is well positioned to support food based industry through strong ground water systems and protected ag lands.

## Maintaining local control or response when opportunities arise for economy driven needs.

### Legend

4R - Fertilizer-Right Source, Right Time, Right Rate, Right Place  
EAP - Emergency Action Plan  
FHS - Flood Hazard Study  
FHAR - Flood Hazard Analyses Report  
SWMP - Storm Water Management Plan  
QHEI - Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index

### Ag Storm Water

-Tile  
-Waterways  
-Erosion reduction  
-Cover crops  
-4R  
  
-Farmers, landowners, ODNR, ODA, USDA

### Flood Water

-Dam EAP's  
-FHAR Hocking River 1977  
-FHAR Upper Hocking River 1979  
-FHS Rush Creek 1980  
  
-EMA, Hunters Run & Rushcreek Conservancy Districts, ODNR and USDA

### Urban Storm Water

-Violet 2015 SWMP  
-Liberty 2015 SWMP  
-Pickerington 2015 SWMP  
  
-Builders, developers and EPA

### Wildlife

-Recreational lakes  
-Ponds  
-Stream health monitoring  
-Silviculture pollution  
  
-Hunters, fisherman, loggers, ODNR and EPA

### Watersheds

-Buckeye Lake, Walnut Creek and the Hocking River assessments and QHEI

### Legend

LAEPP - Local Agriculture Easement Purchase Program  
FLPA - Fairfield Land Preservation Association  
NRAC - Natural Resource Assistance Council 17

### Commodity Foods

-Grains  
Corn, soybeans and wheat  
-Livestock  
Beef  
Pork  
Dairy

### Specialty Crop

-Keller Market, Produce Auction, Farmers Markets  
  
-Grass Fed Beef  
-Pasture Poultry  
-High Tunnels

### Invasive Species Control

-Farmland  
-Forest land  
-Public Land

### Conservation Easements

-LAEPP  
-FLPA  
-NRAC's

-Utility corridor managers for the control of the spread of seed

### Legend

ODA - Ohio Department of Agriculture  
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
ROW - Right of Way

### Biosolids

-Sludge from municipal sources  
-Biogas digester waste  
-Manure  
-Commercial nutrients

-Synagro, Quasar, City of Columbus, farmers, ODA and EPA

### Oil and Gas

-pipelines  
-orphan wells  
-minimizing well pad impacts

-ODNR, drillers, pipeline companies, landowners

### Electric

-Remote solar systems  
-ROW concerns  
-Geothermal  
-Utility corridor managers to sustain services

### Forestry

-Firewood  
-Chipping  
-Loggers and foresters