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HURON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT THE DISTRICT SURVEYOR

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2017 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- John Ganz* Chairman
- Dan Stevens* Vice Chairman
- Don Sweeting* Secretary
- Brad Harris* Treasurer
- Gerald Martin* Special Projects

2017 SWCD STAFF

- Chad Stang* Manager
- Lori Liles* Technician
- Ron Ritz* No Till Specialist
- Aaron Robinson* Ditch Maintenance Supervisor
- Alisa Schaffer* Administrative Assistant

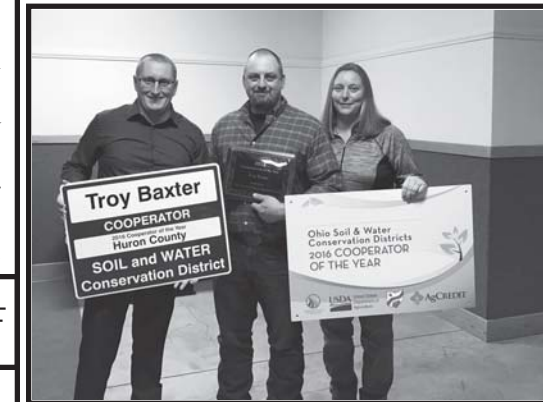
ERIE BASIN R.C.&D.

- Greg Small* Coordinator

2017 NRCS STAFF

- Kevin Kaltenbach* District Conservationist
- Vacant* Soil Conservationist

LAURA AND TROY BAXTER 2016 CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR



Left to Right: Huron SWCD Manager Chad Stang, Troy Baxter, Laura Baxter

Troy Baxter and his wife Laura were named Conservationists of the Year at the Huron Soil and Water Conservation District's 72nd Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Troy and his wife Laura live in Greenfield Township. They farm 500 acres of corn, beans, wheat, and hay with Troy's father. Since 2008, and beginning with their 1st Grazing Management Plan through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (E.Q.I.P.), Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), Troy and Laura truly exemplify conservationists and what it means to be a steward of the land for future generations through implementation of best management practices on their farm.

- 2013 A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan was developed.
- 2014 The Grazing Management Plan was revised based on farming operation changes.
- 2016 A 12,800 cubic foot, roofed Waste Storage Facility was built. 162' of Access Road was installed. .4 acres of critical seeding was established around the Waste Storage Facility.

2017 SAVE THE DATES

- 3/24/17 Envirothon registration to Huron SWCD
- 3/31/17 Deadline for Envirothon registration & release to Summit SWCD
- 4/6/17 Fish order deadline
- 4/13/17 2:30 p.m. fish pickup
- 4/20/17 8 am to 4:30 p.m. tree seedling pickup
- 4/21/17 8 am to 4:30 p.m. tree seedling pickup
- 5/3/17 Area II Envirothon in Seville, OH
- 5/16/17 4th Grade Conservation Day
- 8/13/17 Huron County Fair week
- 10/14/17 10 am start Fall Fun Fest @Huron County Fairgrounds Wilson Building
- 12/7/17 72nd Annual Meeting & Banquet @ Huron County Fairgrounds EXPO Building

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HURON S.W.C.D. BOARD REORGANIZES

HURON/ERIE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

At the recent 71st Annual Meeting and Banquet held on December 8th, Dan Stevens and Don Sweeting were re-elected to three year terms. They join other board members John Ganz, Brad Harris, and Gerald Martin in administration of the Huron County Soil and Water Conservation District's (Huron S.W.C.D.) programs and policies.

On January 23, 2017, the Huron S.W.C.D. Board re-organized retaining their 2016 positions. The board positions remain as John Ganz, Chairman; Dan Stevens, Vice-Chairman; Don Sweeting, Secretary; Brad Harris Treasurer; and Gerald Martin, Special Projects Supervisor.

All board meetings are public, and regular meetings are scheduled the 3rd Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Huron/Erie County Agricultural Service Center located at 8 Fair Road, in Norwalk, Ohio.



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2017 ARC/PLC ENROLLMENT PERIOD UNDERWAY

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017. Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a new contract each program year. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period to be eligible for benefits. The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offers a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, dry peas, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Your contracts are ran and ready for you to sign. The process of enrolling will only take a few minutes unless you have changes. Give our office a call to schedule your appointment. Now is the best time to complete this process so you do not have to worry about it later!

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFERS TEXT ALERTS

The Huron/Erie County Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a new free program available to producers. FSA has announced that farmers in Ohio now can receive notifications from their county office through text messages on their cell phone. Subscribers to this new program can receive important program reminders and updates to help them avoid missing deadlines or opportunities. Whether producers are in the field, or on a tractor, this service enables FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go. Producers will receive text messages regarding important program deadlines, reporting requirements and program updates. To enroll, producers must text a keyword consisting of the 2 letter state abbreviation and the county name from which they want to receive alerts to FSANOW (372669). On some phones the use of the numbers works better than entering the word FSANOW. For example, producers wishing to receive alerts from our FSA would text the keyword OHHURON to 372669. Producers will receive a system generated reply if they have successfully enrolled. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time. You will never receive more than two text messages a month from our office. If there is no urgent information you may not receive a message at all. If you are a multi-county producer you can sign up to receive texts from any county you wish. You may receive a text from the state office or the national level from time to time as well. Please contact your local FSA office at 419-668-4113 if you have questions.

DITCH MAINTENANCE 2016

2017 RENTAL EQUIPMENT

This past year marks the 43rd year of Huron County Ditch Maintenance Program operations.

Vegetation Activities:

In the past year, Mitch Otto and Aaron Robinson have completed brush control on the open ditch projects in the Ditch Maintenance Program by doing our own spraying. Great progress has been made in controlling the broadleaf weeds. Cattail is next on the list for 2017.

We also completed the following activities in 2016:

- ◆ 90 miles of ditch were sprayed this year
- ◆ 5 ditches were dipped out
- ◆ 7 more ditches are in contract to be dipped out
- ◆ Tree removal was completed on 5 ditches

Ditch Maintenance Costs:

In 2016, \$79,950.10 was expended. The average cost per watershed acre drained was \$1.41, while the five year average cost was \$1.50, **down \$.43**. The average per mile of ditch was \$703.17, and the five year average cost was \$747.18, **down \$215.29**.

We continued to do the following in 2016 to improve communications:

- ◆ Owners or advisory committees assisted the SWCD in the annual inspection of twenty eight projects.
- ◆ Using personal contacts and newsletters, we inform owners about the benefits of forming advisory committees, installing grass berms, and answer questions about the maintenance program.

We did the following things to reduce maintenance costs:

We continued to encourage owners that qualify for assessment reductions to apply for them. Filter strips, no-till, and systematic tile drainage are some conservation practices that reduce run off, sedimentation, and qualify for an assessment reduction. Qualified owners benefit by paying reduced assessments. The whole group ultimately benefits by reducing the need for silt removal and improving water quality. Contact Aaron Robinson, Ditch Maintenance Supervisor at 419-668-4113 #111 to apply for maintenance reductions.

The Huron S.W.C.D. continues to offer rental equipment as a service for the public's conservation needs and ditch maintenance purposes.

During conservation construction season and planting season, please keep in mind that some equipment is requested by multiple users. It is necessary that our agreements be followed by giving proper notice and only requesting the equipment when ready to seed, straw, or plant in consideration of the next user.

New this year is a \$50.00 delivery fee outside a 20 mile radius of the office and no delivery outside a 40 mile radius of the office for use of our 10' Land Pride No Till Drill, our 15' No Till John Deere Drill, and the 6 Row Remlinger Strip Till.


Billing is completed through our bookkeeper with minimum charges, delivery fees, and for **drill use per metered acres**.




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