



Conservation Quarterly

75th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election

Please join us to celebrate Madison SWCD's 75th Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 15th. Voting is from 5:30—6:30 p.m., a farm tour from 6:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Two candidates are running for one open seat on the Board of Supervisors. Candidates in this year's election are Nancy Denes-Sparks and Suellen Graumlich Radabaugh.

The event will be held at the Procter Camp & Conference Center, 11235 SR 38, London, OH. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Tickets to the dinner, catered by the Procter Conference Center, are \$20 (Children 10 and under are \$15). Tickets may be purchased from any one of our board supervisors, at the District office located at 831 US Hwy 42 NE, London, or [online](#). Please invite friends and family and reserve your tickets by Thursday, September 1st.

Prior to the banquet, Ryan Wesolowski, Farm Manager, will provide a tour of Procter Farm to show how they are bringing traditional farming back to life. After you have built up an appetite, enjoy delicious parmesan chicken, roasted red skin potatoes, corn casserole, salad, homemade rolls, fruit, dessert, iced tea and lemonade with fellow stewards and cheer on this year's award winners.

During the banquet, retiring supervisor Howard Yoder will be recognized for 14 years of service on the SWCD Board. Also, West Jefferson High School students Olivia Foreman, Jessica Fling, Tennessee Jennings, Grace Kitchen, Graham Gardner and their advisor, Mike Harkleroad, will be recognized as Madison County's Top-Ranked Envirothon Team in the Envirothon Competition for Southwest Ohio. Steve Denes, Denes Farms LLC, will be recognized as Madison SWCD's Cooperator of the Year.

The banquet will conclude with a special 75th Anniversary slide show by the staff.

August Bloom Ride

Enjoy a leisurely 11 mile bike ride along re-stored prairie sites, with the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District on August 20th at 8 a.m. starting from the Prairie Grass Trailhead, 280 W. Hight St., London, Ohio. The ride will feature "pit stops" where riders can learn about local plants, history, and conservation practices. We will ride rain or shine. No RSVP needed. For questions, contact broc.sehen@oh.nacdnet.net.



Our rides are fun even in the rain.

Inside this issue

75th Annual Meeting	1
August Bloom Ride	1
Tour Procter Farm	2
Thank You Affiliate Members	2
Meet the Candidates	3
Three Ways to Vote	3
High Tunnels	4
Contact us	4

Important Dates

8/17	Board Meeting
8/20	August Bloom Ride
8/22	Election period begins
8/29-30	Summer Supervisor School
9/05	Labor Day (office closed)
9/14	Board Meeting
9/15	Annual Meeting
9/20	Election period ends
9/20-22	Farm Science Review



Thank you, Affiliate Members!

Gerald T. Baynes, Attorney

Beck's Hybrids

Buckeye Ford

David & Rebecca Call

Roger & Pam Call

Julia Cumming

David & Jo Ann Dhume

Gene & Sue Dougherty

Dwyer Bros. Inc.

Paul Gross

Kronk & Scaggs Insurance

Madison County Fish & Game

Marian Fisher

John & Joanna Mitchell

Murry & Edwards Marathon

Ralph Parsons Farm Partnership

James Peart, State Farm Ins.

Pleasant View Stock Farm

Ramona Porter

Gary & Diane Shannon

Harold & Ruth Spegal

James & Sherry Stewart

Stewart Farm Inc.

Juanita Thomas

Joe Vick Farms

Mary Ette Kramer & Peter Yoder

**Our affiliate members support
local conservation education
programs that encourage
better stewardship of the land
& water in Madison County!**

Tour the Procter Farm at our 75th Annual Meeting

The beautiful Procter Camp & Conference Center, 11235 SR 38, London, OH, is the perfect place to relax and appreciate the rich agricultural heritage that brings hope to the future. We highly encourage you to take a tour before the SWCD 75th Annual Meeting on September 15th at 6 p.m. with Ryan Wesolowski, the farm manager, who will show how Procter Center is bringing traditional farming back to life!

The property in which Procter Camp and Conference Center sits was originally the Procter family's property - the same family whose products we use each and every day throughout life with Procter and Gamble. William Cooper Procter was the last of the founding families to run the company as president of Procter & Gamble between 1907 and 1930.



Children learn about growing food at the Procter Farm.

William Cooper Procter and his wife, Jane Elizabeth Johnson, were avid philanthropists. Surrounded by 5,000 acres, the property was one of the biggest at the time. But upon the death of William Cooper Procter, Jane, seeing no need for the large property, donated it to her church. The Diocese of Southern Ohio then allowed farmers from the area to farm the land until 1952. Seeing the need for a place for church members to retreat and congregate, the Diocese established the Procter Center.

Today Procter Center operates as a Camp and Conference Center as well as a small organic farm. The property in total is 1,200 acres, with the facilities sitting on 200. The Procter Farm operates on 6 acres and is expanding every year. This past spring, the farm has planted over 100 various native fruit and nut producing perennials such as bur oak, pin oak, paw paw, persimmon, white dogwood, American redbud, blueberries, raspberries, and elderberries. They have also planted native plant habitats for pollinators, including black eyed Susan, wild bergamot, butterfly weed, purple coneflower and milkweed.

This season, the farm is growing several different types of produce, such as peppers, potatoes, watermelon, beans, corn, eggplant, and carrots. Alongside the crops, they are rotating pasture for chick and hog meat production and have free range hens foraging throughout the property.

As the farm looks toward the future, they look to establish a multi-purpose area for animal grazing and forest product production. Their farm is a learning lab for children, outdoors groups, families as well as other farmers to experience what permaculture, "the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems," can provide.

Meet the Candidates

Nancy Denes-Sparks



Nancy Denes-Sparks, 7550 Scenic Dr., West Jefferson, has been a Special Education Paraprofessional/Job Coach with Dublin City schools for the past 22 years. In January of this year, she took the position of Attendance Counselor. She grew up in Jefferson Township on her family tree farm, Denes Tree Farm. She

served on the Village Council in West Jefferson from 1994-1998, until she moved out of the Village. She volunteers with St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, the West Jefferson Ox Roast and various organizations in the community. She also is a third generation 4-H family, with her oldest granddaughter taking a Market Goat and Dairy Feeder Calf Projects. Nancy believes that Madison County has always been a strong agricultural county and with current growth, there is a great need to make sure our natural resources are protected. Many areas of the country struggle to maintain and collect quality water, so we need to be good stewards of our water and land for future generations. She knows she would have a lot to learn as a member of the Board and would welcome the challenge to serve Madison County.

Suellen Graumlich Radabaugh



Suellen Graumlich Radabaugh, 3460 SR 323, Mt. Sterling, lives on a 97-acre farm. She has goats, chickens and other animals in addition to corn, soybeans and wheat. She was a teacher at Miami Trace High School from 1965-1991, where she taught biology and

anatomy as well as girls' sports. She used to be on the scholarship committee for Madison Plains. Her biggest concern is the health of our environment. Everyone makes decisions that can have a big impact on the health of our creeks. Anything put on the land by a landscaping company, resident, farmer, etc., can wash off if not properly managed. She would like to support programs that help young people to be adequately exposed to these topics. She hopes to bring ideas to the group, listen to others, and get new kinds of programs implemented to address local concerns. She views the board as a team, and she would like to be a team player.



Three ways to vote

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Madison and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. There are three ways to cast a vote!

- (1) Cast a ballot during the SWCD annual meeting from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 15th, at the Procter Camp & Conference Center, 11235 SR 38, London, OH
- (2) Call 740-852-4003 or e-mail gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net to request an absentee ballot
- (3) Visit the Madison SWCD in person at 831 US Highway 42 NE, London, Ohio

Voting by absentee or in person begins August 22nd and ends on Tuesday, September 20th.

75 years

looks good on you

As our way of saying thanks for protecting the soil and water, wide brim hats will be given away at our 75th Annual Meeting.

Hats off to

75 years!

High Tunnels Provide More Locally Grown Fresh Fruits, Veggies



In high tunnels, plants are actually in the ground rather than on tables or in pots.

electricity to heat – only sunlight. The plastic on the frame actually provides enough insulation to add up to 12 extra weeks to the growing season, depending on location. The inside of a high tunnel boasts its own microclimate, often producing crops of higher quality and quantity than those in traditional farm fields. High tunnels are also different than greenhouses in that the plants are actually in the ground, not in pots or on tables. You can think of it as a plastic covering over a field.

High tunnels can cut costs for the producer by conserving water and requiring fewer inputs, like fertilizers or pesticides. In high tunnels, these inputs are often applied through tubes that run along the base of the plants, allowing water and fertilizer to be delivered directly above the soil. Outside of high tunnels, these inputs are often dispersed on a larger scale and require more to ensure the plants receive an adequate amount.

NRCS helps farmers build high tunnels, providing technical expertise and funding. Local and regional markets often provide farmers with a higher share of the food dollar, and money spent at a local business often continues to circulate within community, creating a multiplier effect and providing greater economic benefits to the area.

It's hard to beat produce grown locally. It's often fresher and tastier, uses less energy for transport, and helps farmers in your community. But the off-season presents a big challenge for farmers who grow fruits and vegetables and for consumers who want to find local produce throughout the year.

When farmers can lengthen the growing season, even by several weeks, their options change. That's why the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service promotes seasonal high tunnel as such a powerful tool. High tunnels are plastic-wrapped, metal-framed structures that are fairly easy and inexpensive to build. They are designed to extend the growing season into the colder months, helping to increase the availability of local produce, keep plants at a steady temperature and even conserve water and energy.

High tunnels are similar to greenhouses, except they are considered "passively heated." That means they do not require

Contact us

Board of Supervisors

Howard Yoder, Chairman
Steve Davis, Vice Chairman
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Jonathan Francis
David Junk

NRCS Staff

Brianna Matthies, Resource Conservationist
James Tillman, District Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Julia Cumming, Program Administrator
Brad Hughes, District Technician
Broc Sehen, District Technician
Gail Wilson, Operations Coordinator

Madison Soil and Water Conservation District

831 U.S. Highway 42 NE
London, Ohio 43140
Phone: (740) 852-4003 opt. 3
www.madisonsoilandwater.com
www.facebook.com/madisonswcdohio

All NRCS/MSWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Please contact Gail Wilson at gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net if you wish to be put on or removed from our email list.