

## Annual Meeting News

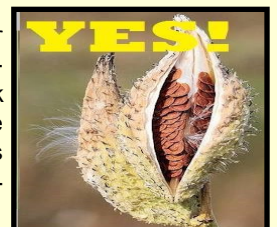
The Annual Meeting was held at the Junior Fair Building, located at the Auglaize Co Fairgrounds, honoring Richard Seibert with the Outstanding Cooperator Award, along with awarding four scholarships to Thomas Bills, John Kohler, Emma Link, and Leah Walter. We would like to congratulate Debbie Brown on her re-election and Sandy Zwiebel first time election. Emily Kramer with ODA gave an update on the H2Ohio program and speaker Theresa Dirksen with Ag Solutions gave a presentation on Grand Lake St Marys. A slideshow from the Engineers Office provided an update on the Auglaize and St Marys River log jams. A PowerPoint highlighting the SWCD office was shown and ice cream scoop and letter opener was given away to everyone who attended, with door prizes rounding out the evening! Banquet meal was catered by Everyone Cooks. Thanks to everyone who attended!



### HELP THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY



Common Milkweed is the sole host plant for Monarch butterflies. This particular plant is lacking on the landscape and has a direct effect on Monarch populations. **Our office is collecting milkweed pods till Nov 12th.** It is best to pick them when they are dry, gray or brown in color. If the seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. Collect the pods in paper bags. Harvesting pods from milkweed plants do not have any effect on the population of the established milkweed areas.





## H2Ohio Practice Overview

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An approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) is required for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.



### Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) Basic or Precision

**\$10/Ac.** for Basic VNMP - (<25ac. Composite Samples)

**\$15/Ac.** for Precision VNMP - (Grid <6ac. or Zone <12ac.)

- Soil tests must be no older than four years.
- Phosphorus rates shall not exceed more than a two-year recommendation, per Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations
- VNMP may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.



### Overwintering Cover - \$40/Ac.

- Establish crops that provided overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
- Overwintering Cover can be harvested as a grain or forage.
- Overwintering Cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
- 50% of the mixes must be overwintering species for cover crops.



### Subsurface Phosphorus Placement - \$20/Ac.

- All phosphorus applied must be placed.
- Fields that receive broadcast applications of phosphorus fertilizer are not eligible for this practice until the applied nutrients are utilized through crop removal.
- Producers may be eligible for payment when recommendations are made for the field, but nutrients are not applied.



### Manure Incorporation & Utilization

**\$35/Ac.** for dry manure or litter

**\$60/Ac.** for all liquid manure

**\$15/Ac. Bonus** - fields that have a field average of less than 25 ppm Mehlich-III

- All manure applications must be completed by November 1
- Manure application may be achieved through 9 different methods and timings of applications.

For More Information Visit:

<https://h2.ohio.gov/agriculture/>



**Department of  
Agriculture**

## SOIL JUDGING RESULTS ~ Congrats to the winners

Rural Team— Minster #2—Owen Bergman, Evan Prenger, Ian Homan, Leanne Wendln

Urban Team— Minster #4—Max Knapke, Will Knapke, Connor Schmiesing, Gabe Bornhorst

Rural—1st place—Max Bergman—Minster FFA

Urban—1st place—Max Knapke—Minster FFA

Rural—2nd place—Evan Prenger—Minster FFA

Urban—2nd place—Will Knapke—Minster FFA

Rural—3rd place—Owen Bergman—Minster FFA

Urban—3rd place—Grant Larger—Minster FFA

Continued pg 4



## Raising Monarch Butterflies

Have you wondered about raising Monarch Butterflies?


Alvin Brown from New Bremen has been raising them for many years. One of his close friends peaked his interest and taught him everything he needed to know to start. About 4 years ago he had his biggest release with 525 monarchs. Alvin uses homemade cages to keep the caterpillars safe from various predators. Inside the cage is a wood box with holes drilled into the top, to hold the milkweed plant, while underneath is a pan of water, so the milkweed last longer for the caterpillars. He usually uses multiple cages but this year he is only using two. Sometimes there are dry spells, one day you might find one caterpillar and the next day you might find seven.

Most of the caterpillars that he catches survive and become butterflies but sometimes they have already been injected with poison or larva from other insects when he catches them, so they do not survive. Alvin uses common milkweed to feed them and tropical milkweed to release them on. Tropical milkweed can't survive through the winter, so he has to hand pick the seeds, keep them in the house all winter and replant them the following spring. He also plants red clover and zinnias next to the milkweed as pollinator plants.

Alvin is teaching others about monarch butterflies as well. He has taken groups as big as 17 people to his woods to look for caterpillars. He talks to many community groups about raising monarchs. One year at a church camp he taught the kids about butterflies and released one at the end.

Monarch's come from as far as Canada and go as far as Mexico during migration, but they know the exact forest in Mexico to go. Once he releases the butterflies they know exactly where to go in the fall for migration but always return to where they are hatched, just like their parents and grandparents did.

~ written by Molly Hamp



Oct 9th—Holiday—office closed  
Nov 5th—Time Change  
Nov 10th—Holiday—thank you Veterans  
Nov 23rd-24th—Holiday—office closed  
Dec 25th—holiday—office closed  
Jan 1st—holiday—office closed  
Jan 15th—holiday—office closed

# Soil Judging 2023

Around 230 students from Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, St Marys, Wapak and Waynesfield FFA were hosted by John Braun with Dave Schwieterman Inc digging the soil pits and Turner Tents donating a tent for testing. Boogher Ag sponsored a lunch catered by Graze On Catering for the students! BIG THANKS to these individuals ~ the students had a great time!



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