





CAUV Ross County

From meeting 3/4/10 at Ross County Service Center, presented by Larry Gearhardt Ohio Farm Bureau, and Steve Neal, Ross County Auditor.
Reported by Tim Shoemaker

Larry Gearhardt explained the method for calculating the land value for the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV). There are 5 factors: YIELD INFORMATION: Figured for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, and Hay. CROPPING PATTERNS: by soil type and land slope. CROP PRICE INFORMATION: Averaged over a 7 year period. NON-LAND PRODUCTION COSTS: The cost to produce a crop. And CAPITALIZATION RATE: The fair market value of the farmland. As this information changes, the values are updated. For 2010.

Woodland and Pasture soils are categorized together at the lowest value. They have been set at \$100 per acre, but will now go to \$150 per acre.

Ross County was the only county represented at this meeting, but the Data was supplied by the Ohio Department of Taxation, which applies to all counties, but be aware that the calculations may have different values in the other counties.

Auditor Neal recommended that anyone interested, can obtain a "Property Record Card" from the auditors office. This card has details about your property, and out buildings for tax purposes.

There are 4 ways you can loose your CAUV status:

- 1) Failure to file your annual renewal
- 2) Failure of a new property owner to apply for CAUV
- 3) Failure to meet the requirements for participation
- 4) The land lies Fallow for more than 1 year

The calculations were pretty complicated, but Larry explained them very well. I think the 100 or so attendees came away with a better understanding of how the valuation process works, but was not surprised to hear that the bottom line was.....higher taxes.

If you would like more information you can reach Larry at lgearhardt@ofbf.org or Steve Neal at <http://co.ross.oh.us/auditor/>

You know you're getting old when...

...all of your favorite movies are re-released in color.
...you begin every other sentence with, "Nowadays..."
...you come to the conclusion that your worst enemy is gravity.
...you frequently find yourself telling people how much a loaf of bread used to cost.
...have way too much room in the house, and not nearly enough in the medicine cabinet.



SOFA has a lending library. If you would like to check out any items – or if you have any items you would care to add to the collection , contact Betsy Pierson by phone at 740-703-1645 or e-mail bbp@horizonview.net.



SOFA wishes to convey their deepest condolences to Janet Sweigart on the passing of her dear mother, Mrs. Mildred E. Binkley, recently. Janet's address is 420 S. Hardin Road, Ada, Ohio, 45810. Ph. 419-634-7216.

Who Owns the Land ?



More than 329,000 private individuals own Ohio's non-public forest land. Greater than half of them own less than 10 acres. Yet this group controls just less than 10 percent of the forest land. More than a third of the landowners hold parcels between 10 and 50 acres, and collectively control one third of the forest acreage. Significantly, only 38,000 landowners control more than 50 percent (4 million acres) of Ohio's forests. The overall average size of ownership is 21.9 acres.

Ohio's Trees



Though there are a great many species, between 10 and 20 tree species comprise the majority of all trees in Ohio forests. By volume, six species groups account for two-thirds of all trees. The most abundant species are the red and white oaks, which make up almost 25 percent of the total tree volume, followed by red and sugar maple, which comprise 18 percent. Yellow poplar and hickory make up another 18 percent, and white ash accounts for 8 percent.

Ohio's Forest Products Industry



The wood products manufacturing companies in Ohio can be divided into primary and secondary establishments, depending on the finished product and type of raw material consumed. The primary manufacturing companies, such as sawmills, pulpmills, veneer plants, and logging contractors, use round wood as raw material. Secondary manufacturing companies use lumber, composite wood products, and pulp to produce cabinets, millwork, furniture, pallets, and paper products. In addition, other companies process forest products such as maple syrup, Christmas trees, and firewood. The typical Ohio forest products industry is a small- to medium-size firm with fewer than 20 employees.

Ohio's Forests for the Future



Forest land is increasing in Ohio, and Ohio's forests are maturing. Wild turkeys have returned to the forests, and other wildlife species have gained ground. While Ohio's forests are growing 1 billion board feet of wood each year, tree growth continues to outpace removals by a ratio of more than 2 to 1. And our cities and suburbs are becoming more attractive as we recognize the value of urban forests.

Source: ODNR-Division of Forestry Ohio State University Extension
OhioLine.ag.ohio-state.edu

Ohio Deer Hunters Encouraged to Take an On-Line Survey **Survey will help ODNR gauge deer hunters' preferences**

COLUMBUS, OH –The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife encourages all Ohio white-tailed deer hunters and those with an interest in deer hunting to take a survey at wildohio.com. The survey will be available through mid-April.

The Division of Wildlife is considering some changes to the current deer firearms seasons. Anyone who would like to comment on this topic is encouraged to take a few minutes to provide some information and answer a few questions regarding preferences of possible new opportunities. Responses to the survey are confidential.

Information provided by hunters through surveys is vital to the successful management of Ohio's wildlife and the division encourages all hunters to participate. Wildlife biologists use survey data in combination with biological data from wildlife populations to identify ways of improving hunting in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR web site at www.ohiodnr.com.

What is the ODNR Division of Forestry doing to address the invasive plants issue?

A special [22-county invasive plant project area](#) has been delineated in south east and south central Ohio. This project area was chosen because of the high proportion of forest cover in this part of the state, the proximity to state and federal forest lands, and the high stewardship value of forests in these counties.

ODNR Foresters can help forest landowners identify invasive plants in their woodlands and provide guidance on controlling them. Private woodland owners within the 22-county project area can contact the [invasive plant forester](#) for assistance. Private woodland owners with property outside of the 22-county area can contact their [service forester](#) for assistance. In addition, special cost share funds will be available through the [Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(EQIP\)](#) to help offset the cost of invasive plant removal on privately owned forestland within the 22-county area. This program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Invasive Plant Forester:

[Annemarie Smith](#)

740-589-9914

Wildfire Season Precautions Urged



CHILLICOTHE, OH – Ohioans are urged to be aware of the state’s outdoor burning regulations and take necessary precautions if they are planning to burn debris, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry.

“About 500 wildfires are reported during spring wildfire season burning about 3,000 acres,” said David Lytle, chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry. “Almost every wildfire in Ohio is caused by human factors, and they can be easily avoided by understanding outdoor burning regulations and safe burning practices.”

Ohio law states that outdoor burning is prohibited from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during March, April and May. Burning is limited in the spring due to the abundance of dry fuel on the ground before small, grassy fuels green up with moisture.

The Ohio Division of Forestry, through its FireWise program, provides rural homeowners with tips on protecting rural homes and communities. Information can be found at www.ohiodnr.com/forestry and www.firewise.org. Burning regulations and safety measures are also provided, such as using a 55-gallon drum with a weighted screen lid to provide an enclosed incinerator, knowing state and local burning regulations, keeping up with current and future weather conditions, having suppression tools on hand, and contacting your local and knowledgeable local fire department for additional safety considerations.

If a fire does escape control, immediately contact the local fire department. An escaped wildfire is dangerous, even one burning in grass or weeds. Violators of Ohio’s burning regulations are subject to citations and fines. Residents should also check the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s regulations and consult with local fire officials about burning conditions.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR web site at www.ohiodnr.com.

LOOK AT LIFE THROUGH A CHILD’S EYES

On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League base ball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was..... 'We're behind 14 to nothing,' he answered with a smile.

'Really,' I said. 'I have to say you don't look very discouraged.'

'Discouraged?', the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face... 'Why should I be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet.'

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

EMAIL _____

If you own woodland, in which county? _____ Acres Owned _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____ Thank You.

Make check payable to Southern Ohio Forestland Association (SOFA).

Individual \$15. Family \$25. Partnership, Association, or Corporation \$25 Mail application / renewal & check to Jim Meacham, 4332 St Rt 776, Jackson, Oh 45640

You know you're getting old when...

...people call you at 9pm, they ask, "Did I wake you?"
...the little gray-haired lady that you help across the street is your wife.
...the pharmacist becomes your new best friend.
...you are cautioned to slow down by your doctor instead of the police.
...you don't care where your wife goes, just so you don't have to go along.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 8TH
AT OSU SOUTH CENTER

Meeting will be at the Shyville Rd, OSU South Center in Piketon.

Our Pot-Luck dinners have become a gourmet delight! We eat at about 6:15, if you have a favorite recipe that you like to fix, bring it along to share! Our business meeting will start at 7:00 sharp.

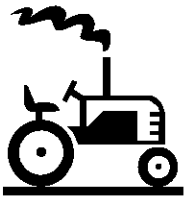
We will meet in the Endeavor Center, Room 160

(The Endeavor Center is the two story building to the right of our usual meeting place)

John Schmidt will present "EDIBLE PLANTS"

John Schmidt has practiced and taught primitive adventure skills for over 20 years, he also was the first president of SOFA. Don't miss this presentation!

Please consider a donation to the Scholarship fund, send to Jim Meacham, 4332 St Rt 776, Jackson, Oh 45640
In case you forgot, annual dues are now due.



tshoe

NOTE: Deadline for Newsletter items is 15th of the month.

S.O.F.A.
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