



Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Almanac

Website: www.ashtabulaswcd.org

Newsletter 324

July, 2014

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2014 Conservation Farmers of the Year Outstanding Cooperators

Loren and Nancy Ring
Monroe Township



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The Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District
Annual Meeting and Election
Will be held in conjunction with the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Monday September 15th at
The Winery At Spring Hill - Harpersfield Twp.
Starting 7:00 pm Dinner Tickets \$15
Election of Supervisors 6:00 pm till 7:30 pm



The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Ashtabula and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) Prior to the Annual Meeting, which the election will take place September 15, 2014 at 6:00pm-7:30pm; (2) at the SWCD office until 4:00 p.m. on September 15, 2014; or (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address:

Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District
39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047
440-576-4946

Two supervisors will be elected. Nominees are: Robin Boggs, Ron Smoker and Robert Wilson. Newly elected supervisor's terms will commence January 1, 2015 and extend for a period of three years.

Special Points of Interest

July	15 Board Meeting 6:30pm @ office
August	19 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ office
September	19 Fall Amur Sale Order Deadline
September	15 Annual Meeting & Election
September	23 Fall Amur Pick-up 9:30-10:30am Fairgrounds
October	21 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ office

**TRIPLOID GRASS CARP (Amur)
2014 FALL ORDER FORM**

Triploid Grass Carp (White Amur) can be successfully used to control excessive amounts of pond vegetation as an alternative to chemicals, water shade and physical harvesting. Stocking rates recommended vary – many people recommend a flat rate of 10 fish per acre of 10-12” size.

Successfully managed ponds have 30-40% of pond area vegetated for fish habitat. A POND DEVOID OF VEGETATION IS UNDESIRABLE; KEEP 30-40% of POND EDGE VEGETATED. This provides suitable area for fish to spawn and also prevents shoreline erosion.

Factors involved in proper stocking include:

- 1) Size of pond surface area.
- 2) Percentage of pond shallower than 8”
- 3) Percentage of pond vegetated in July-August
- 4) Dominant plant species (favored species include:
Naiad, Leafy Pondweed and Large Leaf Pondweed.
Less favored are: Waterlily, Spatterdock, Milfoil, Cattails, Algae)

Order Deadline: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Amur Delivery: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 am. Bring one 5-gallon bucket for every two Amurs ordered. Line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers ³/₄ full with water (no more, no less!) Tie bags closed with ability to be able to untie or have lid which does not make holes in bag when placed on top to seal.

Pick up place: ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, west side parking lot. Orders must be picked up at this time as we have no place to keep them and we do not deliver.

NO REFUNDS ON AMUR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.

**Mark your calendars, as there will be no phone calls or post cards sent to remind you.
Return order form and remittance by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th to:**

**Ashtabula SWCD
39 Wall Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137**

Cut here

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CTIY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

COUNTY WHERE AMUR WILL BE STOCKED _____

_____ Triploid White Amur @ \$14.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CASH ___ CHECK ___ RECEIVED BY _____ DATE RECEIVED _____ RECEIPT # _____

Make checks payable to: ASHTABULA SWCD
“Your check is your receipt”

E-Mail Address _____

*optional - Provide e-mail address if you would like to receive future order forms by e-mail.

2014 Conservation Farmers of the Year Outstanding Cooperator

The Ashtabula SWCD 2014 Cooperator of Year is Loren and Nancy Ring, Ringbyre Jerseys, Monroe Township. Loren's humble beginning started on a dairy/apple orchard farm on Under Ridge Road in Conneaut. Loren was 1 of 9 children helping run the farm and stayed pretty busy on the approximate 800 hundred acres of land and milking approximately 30 dairy cows. "Dad bought up a lot of land from the neighbors during the depression".

Nancy grew up on a dairy farm in Pierpont where she was 1 of 7 children. With five older brothers she wasn't asked to attend to farm chores, but her mother kept her very busy. The Wright family milked Holstein cows and had to milk them by hand, which Nancy was quick to point out that Loren had it easier because Loren's dad had a parlor – 3 on a side for milking instead of milking by hand.

Loren and Nancy were married in 1955 and continued to work on the Ring Farm. In 1957, the United States Army offered Loren a deal he couldn't refuse.... Drafted into service. Loren and Nancy's best man at their wedding, Jim Comp, was drafted a year earlier and spent time in Germany in the infantry. Being that Jim was drafted 1 year ahead of Loren, he returned home 1 year earlier. They stayed in touch throughout. Jim told Loren that he could find a better way of life than slinging cow manure every day and headed off to the factory. Loren said it didn't take long and soon after a letter indicated that the life on the farm was where he belonged.

When Loren's time in the Army was done, he returned to Ashtabula County with his family and worked on his father-in-laws farm for a short time. "I worked on the 1960 census during the summer of '60 but remembered what his best man, Jim Comp, told him and wanted to be on the farm." At that time, the farm where they still live today was going to be sold with everything included: cows, buildings and machinery and wet soils. Loren -"We started the purchase under a land contract and very quickly went to the Farmer's Home Administration for a loan to buy the farm". Nancy- "We bought 200 acres but only 38 was tillable. The equipment was old and we inherited about 23 Holstein cows. Loren did bring his 4-H Jersey cow Anita to the farm. According to Loren "The switch to Jersey cows began almost immediately. The barn was the typical stanchion barn of the time with 4 milking units.

As time went on, the farm grew and so did their family – 2 girls: Martha and Sarah and 2 boys: Milton and Jeff. The family was going along like every other farm family until early summer of 1974. The barn burned! At that time, they were milking 50 cows with replacement heifers. "It was a real setback and we didn't know what we were going to do" said Loren and Nancy. "We looked at an opportunity to run/manage a jersey farm south of here, but in the end didn't want to leave". Loren said "we called the jersey club and told them our cows would be for sale and asked that they spread the word. A very good veterinarian friend of ours called the Jersey club and told them they could not sell those cows". "We will never forget what Karl Marcy did for us. He supplied us temporary stalls for the summer and our family milked cows on the farm through the nice summer and early fall weather" said Nancy. During the winter months, the cows were moved to a farm in Williamsfield to be housed and milked. "It was a long winter driving there twice a day to take care and milk the cows" said Loren.

When they decided to rebuild, it was based on one important decision. Loren and Nancy both said that if they were going to borrow money for a barn rebuild that they would borrow enough money to install tile in their fields! Nancy- "There was a fall harvest early in our time at this farm that I pulled Loren everywhere we harvested crops and we were done doing that! When we tiled the fields, it was like having a brand new farm."

Over the years, the Ring's added on to the farm by acquiring neighboring pieces of land to what is approximately 400 acres. "Drainage improvement through tile is necessary" said Loren. "We had Stan Hofka Sr do some of the first tiling and then tried the "plow in" method in a field installed by Dick Brady. Then as time went on, used Stan Hofka Sr, Bill Hofka and the Britton's to tile our ground". "We have around

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39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137 Phone: 440-576-4946 FAX: 440-576-9546 E-mail ashtswcd@suite24.net or ashtabulaswcd@gmail.com

Board of Supervisors

Web Page www.ashtabulaswcd.org

Wendell Obernyer - Chairman/Fiscal Agent
Ron Smoker -Vice Chairman
Robin Boggs - Secretary
Dr. Paul Mechling - Treasurer
Dan Decker - Member

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Thursday 8:00am—4:30 pm

Associate Supervisors

District Staff

Nathan Paskey-District Manager/Technician
Jim Welker-District Technician/Education Coordinator

Monthly meeting date change.

The Board of Supervisors for the Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District for 2014 will hold their monthly board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the District's office in Jefferson. All meetings are open to the public.

64 miles of tile on the farm and everything we own is tiled” said Loren.”

Over the years, Loren and Nancy moved from the moldboard plowing to conservation tillage. As a dairy farm, there was always a lot of years of hay in their crop rotation that helped water quality. When necessary and needed a grass strip or grass waterway would be installed to slow down erosion. Also as a dairy farm, there was always the fun task of properly managing their animal waste. Year- long storage capacity, irrigation and incorporation were how they manage the manure.

Loren was asked and said yes to running for the Ashtabula SWCD Board of Supervisors in the summer of 1983. He was elected in the fall of 1983 and took office in January of 1984. His tenure on the board lasted 26 years. In his 26 years he served as Chairman 12 times. He was a leader and instrumental in the program growth of the District over those 26 years. Though the District was created because of Ag and Ag land uses, Loren embraced changed and recognized that the current staff had many abilities. He was involved in the program expansion of working with Forestry/Logging and Forest issues, Conservation Education in the schools, Wildlife Habitat work/improvement, urban conservation -working with the Planning Commission on subdivision reviews and the current conservation easement program which has grown to approximately 3,900 acres of easements monitored each year by District staff. “I really enjoyed my years on the board and I am proud of what we accomplished. I also appreciate the effort our staff-Nathan Paskey, Jim Welker, Carla Henson and in the early years Kim Coy”. To say Loren was a steady presence at board meetings was an understatement. In 26 years of Board meetings, Loren missed only 1!!! “I really enjoyed coming to those meetings and riding with my good friend Gaylord Millard who served as a board member for 20 years”. Loren also served the Monroe Township residents as Township Trustee for 8 years. He and Nancy are members of the Pierpont Presbyterian Church, Farm Bureau and American Jersey Club.

As with all of us, Loren and Nancy decided in April of 2012, it was time to “retire”. They sold Ringbyre Jersey to their son Jeff and his wife Carole. Now Loren and Nancy sit back and enjoy watching their grandchildren work with their son/daughter-in-law in running the farm. When asked what challenges they see for Jeff/ Carole and the grandchildren in the future: “Environmental regulations and the fact the public is losing touch with where their food comes from”.

Loren and Nancy have been through so much together but wouldn't trade it for the world. As their best man Jim Comp told Loren, farm life is much better than the factory; Loren and Nancy not only believe that but lived that. With a quiver in his voice, Loren said, “I could have never done any of this without my wife Nancy!”

When you see the Loren and Nancy Ring, congratulate them on a job well done!