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#### **VOTING FOR A PERRY SWCD SUPERVISOR HAS CHANGED THIS YEAR!**

The voting period will run from Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2021. This year's candidates are Beverly Decore-Trovato, Rich Maxwell, and Mindy Franks.

Anyone 18 years or older who owns or occupies land in Perry County is eligible to vote.

## There are three ways to cast a ballot:

Vote absentee from Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. You can call the office at 740-743-1325, email us at <a href="mailto:perryswcd@gmail.com">perryswcd@gmail.com</a>, stop at the office at 109 East Gay Street in Somerset, or mail to P.O. Box 337, Somerset, OH 43783 to request a ballot. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by

Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

You can vote in person at the SWCD office beginning on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 during our normal business hours – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You can vote in person at the Tecumseh Commons/Tecumseh Theater, 116 Main Street, Shawnee, Ohio, 43782 on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 740-743-1325

#### USDA EXPANDS FARMERS.GOV FEATURES TO HELP MANAGE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

New self-service features on farmers.gov will help farmers and ranchers manage their conservation activities online and request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"These conservation features join a number of others already available through farmers.gov, including the ability to access information on current and past conservation practices," said Terry Cosby, State Conservationist in Ohio. "As more content and capabilities are added, farmers.gov is quickly becoming the online hub for producers to find resources, submit applications and assistance requests and make connections. Now, amid the COVID-19 challenges, we recognize the importance of online options for producers to manage their USDA business."

Producers can access these conservation features by desktop computer, tablet or phone. They can now:

- View, download and e-sign documents;
- Request conservation assistance:
- Reference technical terms and submit questions;
- · Access information on current and past conservation practices; and
- View detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of planned and received cost-share assistance

The new conservation features enhance the request process with a customer-friendly unified mapping tool that allows farmers to locate areas of interest in minutes, with high-resolution aerial imagery and multi-layered display functionality.

The new features include the most popular functionalities from NRCS's Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) while providing enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. CCG is the NRCS portal for producers, but now these functionalities are being moved to farmers.gov to give producers one place to do business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency, and other USDA agencies.

### **Managing Conservation Online**

To access their information, producers will need a USDA eAuth account to login into famers.gov. After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit farmers.gov and sign into the site's authenticated portal via the "Sign In/Sign Up" link at the top right of the website. Current CCG users can use their existing login and password to access the conservation features on farmers.gov. CCG will continue to be actively maintained and supported until all core components have been migrated to farmers.gov later this year. Currently, only producers doing business as individuals can view information. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, or producers doing business on behalf of another customer cannot access the portal at this time, but access is being planned.

Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge are the recommended browsers to access the feature.

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