

MEET THE CANDIDATES for Pickaway SWCD Supervisor

Two supervisors will be elected to serve three-year terms that will begin January 1, 2009. Bill Black, Kenny Davis, Brandon Fannin, and Donald Minor, Sr. have accepted the nomination to run for the open positions on the Pickaway SWCD Board. Voting will take place at Emmett Chapel Church on September 11, 2008 between 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

Bill Black



Bill will be completing his ninth year on the Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors this December and is seeking reelection to the Board.

"I've always wanted to be a farmer. But now I'm very concerned about the viability of farming with the current crop of houses sprouting up in northern Pickaway County!"

Bill is a member of the Joint Board of Supervisors for the Darby Creek Watershed Program, which encompasses 355,200 acres and crosses six counties. Pickaway County includes 34,780 acres of the watershed. This board acts like a county soil and water conservation district except it includes supervisors from the participating SWCDs.

Bill also serves as the Treasurer for the Area 5 SWCD Board of Directors and is instrumental in making decisions on policy and procedures to better guide seventeen SWCDs in their effort to serve their customers.

Bill and his dad, Bob Black, farm approximately 1,600 acres. All the soybean and wheat acres and one-half of the corn acres are no-tilled.

Bill and his wife, Lynn and children, Sidney and Ross, reside in Harrison Township.

Kenny Davis

"Over the years of farming with my family, I have seen how soil erosion and poorly drained soils affect the farm and the crops being grown. By adding tile and grass waterways to our farms it has helped save soil and raise crop production at the same time. I would like to see more involvement between land owners to work together in draining connecting farms and come to solutions to resolve differences and share the cost when needed."

"Also, with more housing coming to the rural areas there needs to be an understanding of the natural flow of water and existing tile that may run through a property that has been purchased."

"I have been working on tile and drainage with my dad and brothers since I was a kid. We have put in systematic tile systems and waterways. I have also received help and knowledge from the technicians of the Pickaway Soil & Water and a local tile contractor."

"I believe I would understand the problems that arise and be able to see the problems from a owners point of view and also the views of the technicians and contractors. I am still learning but believe there is always a solution to every problem."

"With the help of my brother, Roger, and my two sons we have laid several feet of subsurface drainage and waterways. I have worked with waterway designs from Soil & Water. We have our own tile plow & ditching machine. So I have some knowledge of the installation."

Kenny is a Wayne Township Trustee and a member of the Elks lodge.

Kenny farms with his family in Pickaway County. He graduated from Circleville High School and started farming with his family right out of high school. He and his wife Debbie have two sons, Tyler and Brent, who both attend The Ohio State University.

Brandon Fannin



Brandon has farmed all of his life on a Pickaway County grain and livestock farm. He learned the carpentry trade and started Fannin Contracting in 1996.

When asked to explain his interest in becoming a district board member, he replied, "To help conserve our land for coming generations and to get the most out of it and be the best conservationist I can be while serving the board and years to come." Brandon believes he will bring young and unbiased options to the board. He is a farmer and a home builder and has a deep concern for preservation of the land. He is the Ducks Unlimited Pickaway Plains Chair Person, a member of National Corn Growers, National Home Builders, and Grove City Church of the Nazarene.

Brandon resides in Scioto Township with his wife, Cari, and their two boys.

Donald Minor, Sr.



Donald Minor, Sr. is a life time farmer. He has been involved in soil & water conservation since the early 1970's. He is a no-till farmer who has put in waterways and field tile. "I do what I can to save the soil for future generations."

Don brings experience to the district. As a farmer and long time SWCD board member (24 years), Don has worked on the land and worked with many different people regarding soil issues. As a board member, Don has dealt with personnel issues and is always willing to listen and help solve problems.

Don has served as Saltcreek Township Trustee for 24 years, is a member of Salem UMC, is on the Tri County Joint Solid Waste Management Board, is on the Heart of Ohio Planning Committee, is a member of the Circleville Elks and past member of Saltcreek Valley Grange.

Don and his wife, Rose, live on Hayesville Road in Saltcreek Township. They own two small farms they purchased from Don's father. They also rent and farm an additional 1,200 acres in Pickaway and Ross Counties. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren who help with the farming.