

Thank you

## Jodee Verhovec

*Fifteen Years of Service*

The JSWCD Board and Staff would like to express our sincere gratitude to Jodee for dedicating fifteen years of service as an integral volunteer member of the JSWCD Board. Within those fifteen years, she has commendably served as Board Chair and Board Treasurer and has actively participated in the development of state soil and water conservation policy and has worked to strengthen county, state and national partnerships.

In addition to serving the residents of Jefferson County locally, she also has served as an Area Director on the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation

District Board since 2016 representing the district boards within a 16 county region.

We are grateful for the countless hours she has dedicated to Districts' mission, "promoting conservation of our lands and waters".

Although Jodee decided not to run for another term, she will still play an instrumental role in guiding our mission as an Associate Board Member.

Please join us in thanking Jodee for her hard work.

## Shawn Dougherty

*Newly Elected Supervisor*

Join us in welcoming, Shawn Dougherty to the Board of Supervisors. Shawn moved to Jefferson County from his home state of Oklahoma, where his family had been farming and ranching since the 1889 Land Run. He and his wife, Beth, were always determined to raise their family in the country, so while teaching as a professor at Franciscan University, Shawn began searching for land. The 24 acres the Dougherty's purchased in 1996 may not look like a farm to conventional folks, but in 26 years it has been transformed into a functioning homestead that feeds their family and others, with four-season gardens, a small hoop house, dairy and beef cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Their special interest is no-inputs food production with grass management at the center.

In 2015, wanting to focus more time on developing farming, grazing, and food production methods and skills, Shawn took early retirement from Franciscan to work part time as Maintenance coordinator for the Franciscan convent where the Dougherty's rent thirty acres of pasture for their expanded Jersey/cross herd.

He and his wife began writing and speaking on family food production and small-scale intensive grazing at events and conferences; in 2016 their book on small-scale grass management and food production, *The Independent Farmstead*, was

published by Chelsea Green Publishing in Vermont. The Dougherty's also hold periodic workshops on their home farm to help other folks get started in grazing and home food production.

The Dougherty's attribute much of their education in grass management to work with the Eastern Ohio Grazing Council and to pasture walks, where they have been able to gain information and experience sharing with local graziers.

Locally and on the state level, Shawn has served on several boards, including the Ohio Theatre Alliance and the Grand Theatre in Steubenville. Presently he is also working with the Urban Mission as an advisor to their Backyard Food Garden initiative, intended to help Steubenville area residents overcome obstacles to backyard food production. Shawn is excited to bring the knowledge and methods he and Beth have acquired over the years to help Jefferson County residents on a limited amount of land achieve food independence.

Shawn and Beth have been married for 36 years, and have eight children and, presently, ten grandchildren.

Welcome



# ENVIROTHON



The National Conservation Foundation (NCF)- Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation

problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience for high school students across the United States, Canada, and China. During the various levels of competition each year, this international program annually impacts over 500,000 individuals. Through hands-on outdoor field experiences, the Envirothon program fosters student learning in the areas of:

- **Aquatic Ecology**
- **Forestry**
- **Wildlife**
- **Soils and Land Use**
- **Current Environmental Issues**

The mission of the Envirothon is *“to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who have an understating of natural resources and are willing and prepared to work toward achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.”*

Since 1979 the Envirothon program has grown to become the largest high school environmental education competition in North America and is managed and directed by the National Conservation Foundation and supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Students participating in the NCF-Envirothon are empowered to educate others, take action in their local communities and pursue careers in natural resources and conservation. Committed to fostering diversity and equity the NCF-Envirothon program strives to make environmental and natural resources education accessible to all students.

## Ohio to Host National Conservation Foundation Envirothon

### The NCF-Envirothon Comes to OHIO

Jefferson SWCD staff Irene Moore and Wendee Dodds assist with the Envirothon at Ohio’s area and state levels, as well as at the international level. Moore is a member of the National Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees, and Dodds is part of the NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee, which helps to guide the international competition. In 2019, Moore and Dodds began talking with the Ohio Envirothon Committee and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) about the possibility of hosting the event in Ohio in 2022.

Ohio is known nationwide for the strength of its regional and state Envirothon programs, as well as its diverse natural resources, exceptional colleges and universities, and endless list of enjoyable and educational things to do. Ohio’s Envirothon leadership felt it was a good fit for the program, making its efforts to host the 2022 event official, with the competition to be held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio July 24 through July 29, 2022.

The Ohio Envirothon State Committee has brought together educators from around the state to coordinate the week-long event and has selected **“Waste to Resources”** as this year’s theme. This current environmental issue recognizes the urban-rural interface of our diverse state.



### Sponsorship Opportunities

A fund-raising campaign has been organized by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to generate sponsorships and partners for the 2022 NCF-Envirothon. These partners support the delivery of a program that instills in students a greater understanding of our natural ecosystems and the role that they can play as champions of sustainability.

To learn more about the NCF-Envirothon, visit [envirothon.org](http://envirothon.org) or call our office to get more information.