



Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District

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2020 Annual Report

Our Vision and Mission

We are a professional team leading the community in the conservation of our natural resources.

Our mission is to encourage and assist the people of Pickaway County in applying conservation practices, which conserve, preserve, and protect our natural resources for present and future generations.

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District was organized under Ohio law on December 9, 1944. On April 14, 1945, the district was approved by referendum vote of the people and became the 32nd Soil and Water Conservation District in Ohio.

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District, a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, is managed by five supervisors, who are elected by Pickaway County landowners. Supervisors serve without pay and are responsible for developing the local programs, obtaining and disbursing funds, and setting priorities. They also have the authority to hire district staff and to oversee all district activities.

All District programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, marital or familial status, or handicap.

Thank You!

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to thank Pickaway County Commissioners Harold Henson, Brian S. Stewart, and Jay Wippel for their continued support and dedication to our local conservation efforts, and we look forward to working with Mr. Gary Scherer. Their financial support at the county level draws matching funds from the state, enabling the SWCD to provide conservation assistance, information, and education to all Pickaway County residents.

The Board would also like to thank the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Ohio for their continued acknowledgement and support of the conservation of our natural resources.

Pickaway SWCD Operating Fund 2020

Pickaway SWCD operates on funding provided by the Pickaway County Commissioners and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Resources.

- Pickaway County Commissioners \$190,000
- State Matching Funds \$175,499

2020 Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion
2. Water Quality Degradation
3. Soil Quality Degradation
4. Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife

District Initiatives:

1. Agricultural Conservation and Water Quality

- Assisted County Engineer w/ the following ditch petition projects:
 - Complete set of plans, cost estimate, and construction specifications for Rhoads Drainage Petition
 - Complete set of plans for Autie Howard Maintenance Ditch re-design
 - Completed watershed study for Sunnyside Drainage Improvement Petition
 - Completed initial report and cost estimate for Hall/Justus Drainage Petition
- No-till drill rentals: 15 customers for 182.3 total acres
- Grassed waterways: Designed 8 waterways and constructed 7 waterways
- Assist with Conservation Plan (EQIP, CRP, CSP) Contracts: 141 plans
- Pollution abatement projects reviewed: 1 actual incident
- Drainage complaint/land evaluation (for county residents, planning commission, and farmers in county): 65 projects completed

2. Forestry and Wildlife Conservation

- Modified Tree Sale: sold 50 items
- Held a mid-contact management plug sale to fulfill requirements for CRP contracts: sold 169 flats to 24 people

3. Resource Conservation

- Pond assistance/evaluations: 11

4. Education and Public Information

- Published quarterly newsletters
 - E-Newsletters were emailed in January, April, July and October (approx. 460 people on email list)
 - Print Newsletters were mailed in January and July (approx. 2,565 people on mailing list)
- Education programs:
 - Spring 2020: 34 class programs, 681 students
 - Fall 2020: 60 class programs, 1222 students

- Purchased 850 copies of the book “Right This Very Minute: a table-to-farm book about food and farming” and gave them to all first-grade students and teachers, school libraries, public libraries, and The Little Free Libraries. Created online interactive activities to go along with the book.
- Create/manage brochures, Facebook page and website for the District
- NACD Poster Contest: 159 Pickaway County students participated
- \$500 college scholarships were awarded to 4 graduating high school students
- Signed up 26 affiliate members
- Provided one of the tests for the Ohio Envirothon contest
- Fish Sale: sold 13,215 fingerlings to 27 customers
- Co-hosted Pickaway County Virtual Ag Days with Pickaway County Farm Bureau
 - Created videos and activities to share with schools and community featuring Pickaway County Agriculture in the following areas: Dairy Cattle, Hogs, Corn, Bees, Soybeans, and Beef Cattle
- Hosted a 2-day Experience Earth Day Camp for 19 campers in July at the Pickaway County Sportsmen’s Club
- Helped to judge the 4-H Natural Resource Projects for Pickaway County: 15 projects
- Set up a tent with activities at the Pickaway County Fair: approx. 325 people, 26 Cloverbuds for Cloverbud activity

5. Administrative Policy

- Held 11 board of supervisor meetings.
- 4 staff and 5 supervisors attended a total of 45 online and in class trainings, workshops, etc.
- A full audit for 2018 and 2019 was completed in 2020.
- Attend quarterly meeting with commissioners.
- Awarded the Cooperator of the Year Award, and recognized one staff member and one board member for 20 years of service to the district.

2020 Affiliate Members

Corporate Members

The Savings Bank
 Pickaway County Farm Bureau
 Richard & Judy Clifton
 Honeyrun Farms
 Columbus Turf Nursery-Daniel Huggett
 C. Randall & Cindy Metzger
 Vickers Farms
 Pickaway Farms-Jay & Marci Wippel

Steward of the Land

Hartsock Ag
 Seth & Kacie Beachy
 Tim & Amy Colburn
 John & Curtis Drummond
 Dunlap Farms-John & Susie Dunlap
 Arnold & Diane Gabriel
 Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr
 Don Shaw & Sons/Shaw Farms
 Wiseheart Farm

Soil and Water Protector

Laurina Harper
 Doug & Vicki Kohli
 Daren & Susan Metzger
 Todd Millard
 Jane M. Poulson
 Mark & Toni Schein

Future Conservationist (Students)

Clara Wilson
 Maggie Wilson
 Mark Wilson

2020 Board of Supervisors

Steve Hawkins, Chairman (resigned June)
Matt Anderson, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Martindale, Secretary
Bill Black, Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Clyde Ohnewehr, Member
Jonathan Lohstroh, Member (approved Sept.)

NRCS Staff

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Lindsey Shaffer, Civil Engineering Technician
Phil Roe, Ag. Con. Experienced Service Enrollee
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist

Pickaway SWCD Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Rob Skidmore, District Technician (retired Aug.)
Shelley Steele, Technician
Wesley French, Technician
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator

Pheasants/Quail Forever Staff

Hannah Mullally, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Caleb Worley, Ohio Farm Bull Wildlife Biologist