



PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

Volume 81, Issue 2

Conservation News — Published Quarterly

April 2024

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District, 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, Ohio 43113

Upcoming Events

April 16
Board Meeting
8:00 am

April 28- May 4
Stewardship Week
Poster Winners at Library

May 21
Board Meeting
8:00 am

May 27
Memorial Day
Office Closed

June 9
Board Meeting
8:00 am

June 16-27
Pickaway County Fair

June 25-27
Experience Earth Camp

June 28
Jr. Experience Earth Camp

July 4 & 5
Independence Day
Juneteenth Observed
Office Closed

July 12
Friday in the Park
10:30 a.m. to Noon

July 16
Board Meeting
8:00 am

H2Ohio Info Meeting

Learn about H2Ohio conservation practices and applying for funds. Representatives from Ohio Department of Agriculture and Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District will explain the application process and answer questions. The Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative will explain the new Farmer Certification Program.

Date: Monday, April 22

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location:

Pickaway County Ag & Event Center
Ankrom Building
415 Lancaster Pike
Circleville, OH 43113

FYI

We continue to update our website with H2Ohio information.

www.pickawayswcd.org/h2ohio



**Department of
Agriculture**

Pickaway



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

Are You Interested in Becoming a Pickaway SWCD Supervisor?

A district supervisor is a local board member, elected from a non-partisan slate of general election, to assess local conservation needs and to develop conservation programs to address these needs. The district is funded by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the General Assembly, and the County Commissioners.

Supervisors serve three year terms on the board. There is no limit on the number of terms a supervisor can serve, but when their three year term ends they must re-run if they wish to serve another term on the board. Supervisors receive no compensation; they are reimbursed for travel to meetings, registration, meals, and other associated expenses when conducting work of the district.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend monthly district meetings (3rd Tuesday of the month, currently meeting at 8:00 am in the morning).
- Participate on district committees and in work groups.
- Be willing to represent the citizens of Pickaway County in regard to conservation issues.
- Be willing to stay informed and inform others about conservation issues.
- Be willing to learn.
- Be willing to participate in statewide meetings and workshops on conservation issues.
- Participate in district policy and program development.
 - a. Prepare strategic and annual plans of work.
 - b. Establish and implement district policies regarding natural resource conservation issues as well as personnel and office matters.
 - c. Develop and/or implement conservation programs (educational and/or technical) to meet the needs of the district.
- Provide financial direction.
 - a. Be responsible for the proper expenditure and management of public funds.
 - b. Review and approve annual budget and financial statement.
 - c. Approve monthly treasurer reports.
- Participate in public and community relations' activities/programs.
- Participate in personnel management.
 - a. Provide guidance and direction to staff and maintain fair and equitable personnel policies.
 - b. Maintain an open working relationship between staff and board members.
 - c. Serve on personnel committee and participate in all aspects of personnel management to include hiring, personnel reviews, etc.

If you are interested in running for a 3-year term as a Pickaway SWCD board member, please contact the District office (740-477-1693), or view the website (pickawayswcd.org) for details and info. Thank you!

Our upcoming supervisor election will take place this summer. The official dates and voting location(s) will be posted to the Pickaway SWCD website soon.



Tree Sale & Fish Sale

We have been very busy this spring with our annual tree sale and fish sale. Thank you for your support!

For the 2024 Tree Sale, 93 customers purchased **5,307 trees** and 49 other items.

For the 2024 Fish Sale, 37 customers purchased **24,014 fish** and 11 other items.



Rain Barrels for Sale

We have rain barrels for sale at our office for anyone interested!

Ever wonder how much water comes off your rooftop in a 1 inch rain? Take the square footage of your rooftop and multiply this number by 0.62 gallons. You may be surprised how quickly a rain barrel would fill up!

Rain barrels are an excellent way to help conserve and reuse water around your home. Great for watering gardens, flowerbeds, and other house plants, rain barrels are also a good way to save money on your water bill, reduce runoff pollution, contribute to erosion prevention, and help to control moisture levels around the foundations of your home.

The cost of the barrel and kit together is \$40 + tax. We accept cash or check. If interested, please call in advance of stopping by so we can pull a barrel out of storage for you.



Affiliate Memberships for 2024

THANK YOU to everyone who signed up to be an affiliate member this year! We appreciate all of your support to our office and dedication to conservation and education. We couldn't do all we do without your help. You are very much appreciated and truly make a difference! While we renew all memberships the beginning of each calendar year, anyone is welcome to send in a form at any time during the year.

Some of our many education and outreach endeavors include graduating senior scholarships, school programs, Experience Earth Camps, the Junior Conservationist Program, our farm-to-table book project, tree saplings to students, and many other community activities as well. **THANK YOU** for helping us with these important and impactful initiatives! This year's affiliate members are:

Corporate Members (\$250)

Columbus Turf Nursery, LTD.
Elite Construction Design Management, LLC
Honeyrun Farm
Laurina Harper
Leist Mercantile Inc.
Lightning Tree Barn, LLC
Pickaway County Farm Bureau
Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel
Professional Gutter & Drain, LTD.
Randy & Cindy Metzger
Richard & Judy Clifton
Ruff Agri-Services LLC
The Savings Bank
Vickers Farms

Soil and Water Protector (\$30)

Baylous Family Farm
Brad & Jan Shannon
Darren & Susan Metzger
Doug & Vicki Kohli
Dr. Hugh Dresbach
John & Kathy Ellis
Mark & Toni Schein
Melanie B. Self
Thomas & Scarlett Ebenhack
Todd Millard

Steward of the Land (\$100)

Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr
Crawford Apiaries
Dunlap Farms-John & Susan Dunlap
Gail Ellen Dunlap
John & Curtis Drummond
Musselman Farms
Penelope LaRock
Pickaway County Banking Center
Shaw Farms
Tim & Amy Colburn
Tim & Tom Hartsock - Hartsock Ag

Future Conservationist (Students) (\$10)

Austin Clark
Trey Dille
Trenton Dille
Mackenzie Dille
Lane Musselman
Levi Musselman
Reese Moehl
Adrian Moehl
Zac Scott
Zoe Scott
Clara Wilson
Maggie Wilson
Mark Wilson

Thank you



Summer Education Opportunities

Jr. Conservationist Program

The Jr. Conservationist Program is designed to encourage kids to have fun learning outside over the summer months. Hosted by Pickaway SWCD, the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Register to participate and be eligible for a free hat and button if youth complete 6 activities, 1 from each of the 6 categories: Animals, Plants, Soil, Water, Exploration and Community. Program details and the activity list are on our website: www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program.



Pickaway County Fair

Come find us at the fair! We plan to have a display and our augmented reality sandbox set up again this year at the fair. The dates for fair are June 16-27, 2024. We are also leading the Cloverbud activity at our tent on Tuesday morning.



Experience Earth Camps

This summer we are offering a three-day day camp to incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students June 15-27, and also a one-day Jr. Camp to incoming 1st and 2nd grade students June 28. Both will take place at the new Park District Headquarters (former Cooks Creek Golf Course) on State Route 23 just North of Circleville. We will again be partnering with the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District for these camps. Registration forms and camp details are posted on the website: www.pickawayswcd.org/experience-earth-camps



We will cap registration off at 60 campers for the 3-day EE Camp and at 30 campers for the 1-day Jr. Camp. All forms and payment are due to the office by May 10.

Nature Navigators Camp

NEW* in 2024, Nature Navigators Camp will take place July 19 at the Pickaway County Park District. This is a brand new outdoor, forestry and hiking camp for incoming Pickaway County 5th and 6th grade students. Campers will immerse themselves in the great outdoors exploring nature trails, honing their forestry knowledge, and mastering navigational skills. Registration and payment must be completed online: <https://bit.ly/3VPeRAR>



Friday in the Park

Friday in the Park is scheduled to take place every Friday at Ted Lewis Park in Circleville from June 21-August 2 from 11-12:30. Activities are geared toward children pre-school to 5th grade. This FREE event has crafts, games, exercise & education. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Organized by the City of Circleville, different county groups take turns hosting each Friday to make every one fun and different.



Technical Corner

Do you have gully erosion on your farm? There are 3 ways to receive help:

1. CRP

New Conservation Reserve Program waterway cost-share:

- 50% cost-share
- 40% incentive paid at completion of practice construction
- 10% incentive at year 5 of 10-year contract
- 100% cost-share based on state-average cost list that has been updated along with soil rental rates!

To check eligibility (cropping history 4 years in 2012-2017, not drawn out on FSA map, etc.), contact Farm Service Agency 740-477-1691.

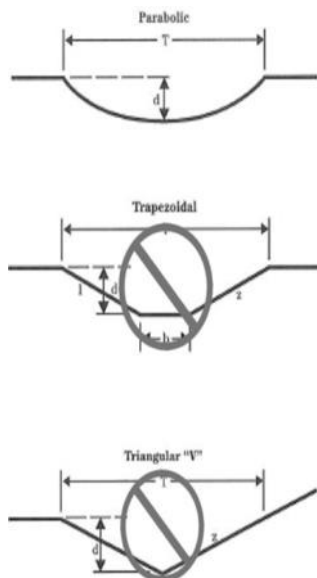


2. EQIP

If not eligible for CRP, the alternative program is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a competitive program that applications are scored against all of the other Pickaway County applications received. Once they are all ranked, the top scoring ones get funding. Funding is made available usually annually at minimum. Also be aware that one waterway on an application may not be enough points to obtain funding. EQIP cost-shares approximately 50% of eligible components designed based on a state average cost list. To apply for EQIP, contact NRCS District Conservationist Justin Armintrout at 740-477-1961.

3. No Funding

Even if you don't get into a program and/or decide to build the waterway on your own, we can give you sizing or design a plan (if land is agriculture) and help your contractor with layout, etc. Call us at 740-477-1693.



SEED MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ALL DISTURBED AREAS SHALL BE SEEDED AND MULCHED ACCORDING TO NRCS SPECIFICATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING RATES PER ACRE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL CAN BE MADE.

| SEEDING | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|----------|------------|
| MATERIALS | TYPE | RATE (Pure Live Seed) | % of Mix | TOTAL LBS. |
| Seed Mixture | KY 31 Tall Fescue | 40 Lb. / Acre | 47 | |
| | Kentucky Bluegrass | 20 Lb. / Acre | 23 | |
| Fertilizer | Perennial Ryegrass | 25 Lb. / Acre | 30 | |
| | 15-15-15 or Equivalent | 100 Lb. / Acre | | |
| Lime | Ag Lime | As Req'd by Soil Test (or) 5000 Lb. / Acre | | |
| | Straw Mulch | 5000 Lb. / Acre | | |
| Mulch | Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) | Width of Waterway | | |
| | | | | |

The seeding rates listed above are standard seeding rates. The applicable seeding period for these rates is March 15 to May 31 and August 1 to September 15.

The dormant seeding period is December 1 to March 14.

** Seeding may be considered from June 1 thru July 31 if the area is mulched with 95-100% cover (approx. 3 tons/acre of straw).

** Seeding may also be considered between September 16 and October 15, use seeding and mulching rates listed in above table.

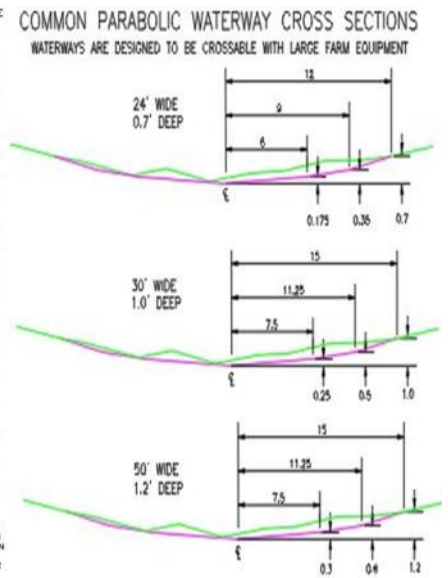
** Both of these periods are considered "outside the seeding window" and will need to be evaluated for adequate establishment prior to final approval.

Seeding between October 15 and December 1 is not recommended.

Prepare a firm seedbed with a disk or similar equipment. Work seedbed to a depth of three (3) inches on all areas accessible to equipment. Other areas not accessible to equipment shall be worked by hand tools to a depth of one (1) inch. Lime and fertilizer shall be incorporated into the seed bed prior to seeding.

Calibrate drill and seed 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep for cool season grasses and legumes. When broadcast seeding method is used, outpass or light drag/narrow to achieve seed coverage and seed to soil contact.

* EROSION CONTROL BLANKET DOWN THE CENTER OF THE WATERWAY IS AN AVAILABLE OPTION. MAKE SURE ECB IS LISTED AS A COST-SHARE ITEM ON YOUR CRP CONTRACT IF YOU WISH TO USE IT. IF ECB IS NOT USED FOR THE ENTIRE WIDTH OF THE WATERWAY, ANCHORED STRAW IS REQUIRED FOR THE REMAINING WIDTH. DOUBLE NET ECB IS RECOMMENDED.



PICKAWAY SWCD
110 ISLAND ROAD, SUITE D
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

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PERMIT NO. 199

Check out our website at www.pickawayswcd.org
for resources such as:

- Office News and Events
- Rental Equipment
- Residential Resources
- Education Program Info
- Scholarships
- Newsletters
- Tree and Fish Sales
- Contractor and Vendor Lists
- Poster Contest
- Affiliate Members
- Lending Library Book List



Follow us on Facebook!
@ Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Posted to website:

www.pickawayswcd.org/annual-reports

IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER:

- ◆ Details for the August 8, 2024 Annual Meeting/Banquet
- ◆ Details and dates for the 2024 Supervisor Election & Voting

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 740-477-1693 Website: pickawayswcd.org



Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Brad Hughes, District Technician
Adriahna Karr, District Technician
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Matt Mauzy, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician
Megan Sweeney, Soil Conservationist
Melanie Cowell, Pheasants Forever, Farm Bill Biologist

PSWCD Board

Matt Anderson, Vice-President
Bill Black, Treasurer & Fiscal Agent
Jonathan Lohstroh, Member
Dewey Mann, President
Brian Reid, Secretary

Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Farm Service Agency | 740-477-1691 |
| Pickaway County Commissioners | 740-474-6093 |
| Trenner Wile, ODNR Service Forester | 740-438-6954 |

Affiliate Members 2024

Corporate Members

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Soil and Water Protector

Baylous Family Farm, Brad & Jan Shannon, Darren & Susan Metzger, Doug & Vicki Kohli, Dr. Hugh Dresbach, John & Kathy Ellis, Mark & Toni Schein, Melanie B. Self, Thomas & Scarlett Ebenhack, Todd Millard

Future Conservationist (Students)

Austin Clark, Trey & Trenton & Mackenzie Dille, Lane & Levi Musselman, Reese & Adrian Moehl, Zac & Zoe Scott, Clara & Maggie & Mark Wilson

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| OSU Extension | 740-474-7534 |
| Pickaway County Engineer | 740-474-3360 |
| Division 1 ODNR | 614-644-3925 |

Overview for Ohio Producers

H2Ohio was first made available to producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin in 2019. Since then, more than 2,600 producers have enrolled 1.8 million acres into voluntary conservation practices that are improving Ohio's waters.



H2Ohio is Governor DeWine's statewide water quality initiative designed to address complex issues impacting Ohio's waters. Launched in 2019, H2Ohio uses a comprehensive approach guided by science and data to reduce algal blooms, stop pollution, and improve access to clean drinking water by supporting best farming practices, road salt runoff reduction, litter cleanup, dam removal, land conservation, and water infrastructure revitalization.

OVERVIEW

Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) H2Ohio program is designed to reduce nutrient runoff by incentivizing producers to implement science-based, proven best management practices (BMPs) on the farm.

ODA's incentive program was first made available to producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin and is now expanding to counties statewide. ODA has a close partnership with SWCDs across Ohio to provide technical assistance, administer program contracts, and assist producers in implementing BMPs.

BENEFITS

H2Ohio provides producers cost-saving benefits with financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that are proven to improve soil health and water quality.

Eligible producers can enroll acreage into a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) and earn a \$10/acre incentive for VNMP development and approval. Producers can also earn incentives of \$10/acre (Basic) or \$15/acre (Precision) for VNMP implementation.

ELIGIBILITY

Agricultural, row-crop producers who farm outside of the Western Lake Erie Basin.

HOW TO ENROLL

Please visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

