



# PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## CONSERVATION NEWS

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Conservation News — Published Quarterly

July 2023

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

### Upcoming Events

July 3 & 4  
Independence Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

July 18  
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

July 18-20  
Experience Earth Day Camp

July 21  
Jr. Experience Earth Camp

August 15  
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

September 1  
RSVPs for Annual Meeting &  
Banquet Due to Office

September 4  
Labor Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

September 16  
Joint Annual Meeting &  
Banquet with Pickaway  
County Farm Bureau

September 19  
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

September 28 & 29  
Pickaway County Ag Day

October 9  
Columbus Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

October 17  
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

## Joint Annual Meeting & Banquet with Pickaway County Farm Bureau

Please join us for our joint Pickaway SWCD and Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & Banquet on September 16. We're mixing things up this year and holding an OSU football game watch with cards and games following the meeting for anyone who would like to stay. Please bring a chair.

#### Date

Saturday, September 16, 2023

#### Agenda

2-3 p.m. SWCD Supervisor Election & Social Hour  
3 p.m. Joint Meeting  
4 p.m. OSU Football Game Watch  
Food Trucks Available for Dinner During Game

#### Location

Justin Adams - Barn  
10858 SR-56  
Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

#### Attendance is Free of Charge

Attendees may purchase dinner from food trucks as they wish. A discounted meal ticket will be provided for those who reserve by the RSVP date.

#### Reservations due Tuesday, September 1

Please call Pickaway SWCD (740-477-1693) or  
Pickaway County Farm Bureau (740-474-6284)  
by September 1 to RSVP



# Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisor

## Election Notice and Procedures

Five county residents serve as supervisors on the Pickaway SWCD Board. Each supervisor serves a three-year term and may run for re-election at the end of their term. Current board members are: Dewey Mann, chair; Matt Anderson, vice chair; Brian Reid, secretary; Bill Black, treasurer/fiscal agent; and Jonathan Lohstroh, member. The Board of Supervisors guide the staff and partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Bill Black and Jonathan Lohstroh have accepted nominations to run for the Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisors. The two elected supervisors will begin their term January 1, 2024. The Pickaway SWCD Annual Supervisor Election will be held from August 18 through September 16, 2023. Voters will have the opportunity to vote in the office, by mail, or at our Annual Meeting and Banquet on September 16 at 10858 SR-56, Mt. Sterling, OH 43143. Results of the election will be announced after the votes have been tallied, which will be on or after September 16, 2023.

### There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

**1. Mail in Voting** - Absentee voting is available from [August 18, 2023 through September 15, 2023](#).

Residents wishing to vote absentee may request a ballot application and ballot from Pickaway SWCD by any of the following:

- Mail - 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, OH 43113
- Email - katerina-sharp@pickawayswcd.org
- Phone - 740-477-1693

Upon request for the absentee voting, the SWCD will provide a ballot application, election ballot, and ballot envelope to the absentee voter. Absentee ballots must be returned to the SWCD office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023.

**2. In Person Voting at the Office** - Voting may take place at the Pickaway SWCD office from [August 18, 2023 through September 15, 2023](#). Voting may take place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all days except September 15, when in person voting at the office will end at 4:00 p.m.

**3. In Person Voting at the Annual Meeting & Banquet** - Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting & Banquet located at 10858 SR-56, Mt. Sterling, OH 43143 on Saturday, [September 16, 2023](#) from 2-3 p.m.

### Voters May Vote for Two (2) Candidates

# Meet the Candidates

## Bill Black

Bill Black lives in Harrison Township with his wife, Lynn, where he farms approximately 1,300 acres of no-till or minimum till soybeans, wheat and corn with his dad, Bob Black, and son, Ross. Bill and Lynn have two children, Sydney and Ross.

Bill is currently the Treasurer and Fiscal Agent of the Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, where he has served as a supervisor on the Pickaway SWCD Board for the past 23 years. He is also the Treasurer of the Area 5 SWCD Board of Directors. The Area 5 Board of Directors is instrumental in making decisions on policy and procedures to better guide the 17 Area SWCDs in their effort to serve their customers.

Bill is also the President of the Teays Valley Young Farmers Club.



## Jonathan Lohstroh

Jonathan Lohstroh grew up in Madison County next to Deer Creek. He was heavily involved in 4-H and FFA growing up, and graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness and a minor in Animal Sciences. After graduation, he began farming full time with his dad in Pickaway and Madison Counties.

"As a corn and soybean farmer, soil and water conservation is at the heart of our operation and has become a passion of our family to integrate new conservation methods into our farm," said Jonathan. "Like other farm families, I want to help preserve the land for the next generation."



Jonathan is a member of Farm Bureau in Pickaway County, where he lives with his wife and kids. He also has experience with design and installation of farm drainage and the challenges and opportunities it presents to land owners and neighbors.



### Current Board of SWCD Supervisors

(from left to right)

- Matt Anderson
- Bill Black
- Jonathan Lohstroh
- Brian Reid
- Dewey Mann

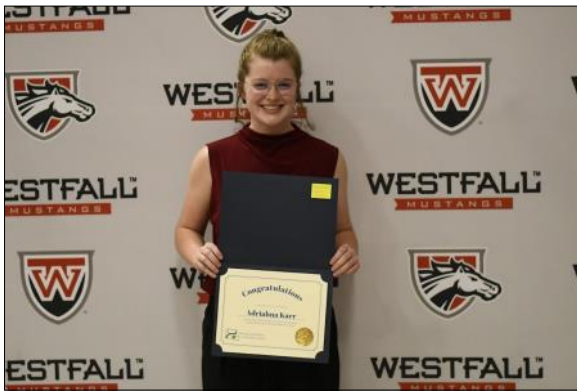
Follow us on Facebook  
@Pickaway Soil and Water  
Conservation District to keep  
up to date with our activities!

## New Faces with the District

We'd like to give a warm welcome to some new faces in the Pickaway SWCD office!

Adriahna Karr joined us in May as our new technician. She is a graduate of Westfall High School and a past recipient of our Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship. Adriahna has been training with our other technician, Brad Hughes, and is working on getting up to speed. We are very fortunate to have her!

For the first time, we also have two high school students interning with us for the summer. Quincy Lowery, a student at Logan Elm, and Emma Brown, a student at Westfall, have been hard at work for weeks helping with education, outreach and technical projects and programs both in and out of the office. These ladies have done a fabulous job jumping right in and learning! Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to see some of the digital media posts they've created and programs they've helped with.



## Quarterly E-Newsletters

Please Note: We have grown our newsletter list a great deal over the past few years, and it is starting to become very expensive to mail to everyone on the mailing list. This spring and summer we reviewed our mailing list and our e-news/email list to see how many duplicates we have. If someone was receiving our newsletter by both mail and email, we may only send this and future newsletters to you by email to help keep costs down and conserve paper - we are a conservation district, after all! If this is an issue for you, please let us know. We love sharing our news with you!

## Jr. Conservationist Program

The Jr. Conservationist Program is a do-it-yourself conservation camp hosted by Pickaway SWCD, Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Designed to encourage families to spend time outside in the summer, you can register to participate and be eligible for a free hat and button if youth complete the required number of activities from each topic category: Animals, Plants, Soil, Water, Exploration and Community. Details and the activity list can be found on our website: [www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program).

# Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarships

The Donald E. Minor Scholarship was created by the Pickaway SWCD Board of Supervisors in memory of Donald E. Minor, Sr. and his 25 years of service to the board and community. Mr. Minor began as a supervisor in 1985 and served on the board until he passed in October 2010. Funds from the scholarship are currently accumulated from Affiliate Memberships and Pumpkin Show parking lot fees. The award is available to any Pickaway County High School or Home School Senior who will be majoring in Agriculture or Natural Resources, and/or students who have been Student Affiliate Members for at least three years but may not be going into an ANR area. The scholarships are for the purpose of continuing higher education at a two- or four-year college or university.

Our eighth annual Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship was presented to two deserving students here in Pickaway County. Our office awarded **Braeden Martin** of Logan Elm High School and **Nathan Videkovich** of Teays Valley High School each with a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Braeden Martin**, a graduate of Logan Elm High School, has been heavily involved in the Logan Elm FFA Chapter and is also active in 4-H. Braeden plans to attend The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute this fall to study crop management and soil conservation. He hopes to bring new ideas and conservation back to his family farm.



**Nathan Videkovich**, a graduate of Teays Valley High School and Eastland Career Center, lives on his family's beef cattle and crop farm and operates his own herd of Simmental cattle for livestock shows. Nathan plans to attend The Ohio State University ATI this fall to major in Livestock Production and Management. Following his studies, he plans to return to his family farm to improve operations.



We wish both of these scholarship recipients the best of luck on furthering their education and becoming further involved in the agricultural, environmental and natural resources industries!

Any upcoming 2024 Pickaway County High School or Home School Seniors should check with school counselors and on our website in the spring of 2024 for an application.

# Old or New Tile & WW Records

If you have any old or new tile and/or waterway records you would like us to scan and preserve as an electronic format to be stored in our office, please call our office at 740-477-1693. Paper records don't last forever!

# Pickaway County Fair

We had another great week at the Pickaway County Fair! Following the Cloverbud activity at the start of each day, Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District had educational activities set up, Pickaway County Park District provided displays, and RPHF Solid Waste District had goodies to share. We were even visited a couple times by Rossco Raccoon! Thanks to all who visited! We had around 1,000 visitors at our tent throughout the week.



## 4-H Natural Resource Project Winners

Congrats to Ava Moyer and Cameron Clark for being named as our Best and Runner Up Overall Natural Resource Project Winners!

Pickaway SWCD judges the 4-H Natural Resource projects each year, and each year we choose our top two standout members for these awards. This year we judged 22 members in the following areas: Explore the Outdoors, Geology, Fishing 1 & 2, Birds, and Beekeeping . All the exhibitors put in a lot of great work on their projects!



# Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover

In the past, aesthetic mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that properly managed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view properly managed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not be attracted to CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Properly managed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled. This can be done in several ways. Mowing of CRP cover, not to exceed 20% of the total CRP acres in a field, is permitted. This activity must be included in your conservation plan and be conducted outside of Ohio's primary nesting season (March 1st – July 15th). The location of this mowing shall be changed from year to year. Another option to control noxious weeds is by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Unauthorized disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature. Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Ohio's primary nesting season (March 1st – July 15th). Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined in your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan.

Contact your USDA County office for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover. The number for Pickaway County is 740-477-1691.



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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 199

## 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  
Garrett Caudill, 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
Adam Komar -ODNR Service Forester	740-961-0194

### Affiliate Members 2023

#### **Corporate Members**

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

#### **Steward of the Land**

Tim & Amy Colburn, Crawford Apiaries, Dunlap Farms-John & Susan Dunlap, John & Curtis Drummond, Hartsock Ag, Laurina Harper, Musselman Farms, Pickaway County Banking Center, Clyde Ohnewehr, Wiseheart Farms

#### **Soil and Water Protector**

Anonymous (2), Thomas & Scarlett Ebenhack, John & Kathy Ellis, Doug & Vicki Kohli, Penelope LaRock, Darren & Susan Metzger, Todd Millard, Mark & Toni Schein, Melanie Self

#### **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