



# PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## CONSERVATION NEWS

Volume 77, Issue 4

Conservation News — Published Quarterly

October 2020

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

### Upcoming Events

**October 12**  
Columbus Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

**October 20**  
Board Meeting - 8 a.m.



**November 11**  
Veterans Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

**November 17**  
Board Meeting - 9 a.m.

**November 26 & 27**  
Thanksgiving  
OFFICE CLOSED



**December 8**  
Board Meeting - 9 a.m.

**December 25**  
Christmas  
OFFICE CLOSED

**January 1**  
New Year's Day  
OFFICE CLOSED



## 2020 Conservationist of the Year

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer a huge congratulations to Musselman Farms LLC for being chosen as the Pickaway SWCD 2020 Conservationist of the Year!

Over the past several years, Bennett and Tom Musselman have installed various methods of conservation including widening filter strips to reduce sediment in surface water, utilizing conservation crop rotation, and practicing integrated pest management and nutrient management through the latest technology. Bennett has embraced good soil health practices through no-till and planting cover crops. He has also implemented wildlife and pollinator habitats on his farm through the Conservation Stewardship Program, which includes using cover crops to provide habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects, and leaving grain unharvested to benefit wildlife cover and shelter.

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District has enjoyed working with the Musselman family and we are excited to continue working with them to conserve our natural resources here in Pickaway County.

Congratulations to Musselman Farms LLC for being awarded the Pickaway SWCD 2020 Conservationist of the Year!



## Supervisor Election

Congratulations to Bill Black and Jonathan Lohstroh on being elected to serve as supervisors for the Pickaway SWCD. Their three-year terms will begin January 1, 2021. We appreciate their service to the District!

### 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 20 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 has been a 4-H Advisor in Pickaway County for the past 12 years. He 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.



## Newsletter Ads for Affiliate Members

Beginning 2021, we will offer business card sized ad space in our newsletter to any affiliate member who is a Corporate (\$250) or Steward of the Land (\$100) level. Our annual affiliate membership program sign up runs each year from January 1 through March 20. Information for this is included in our January Newsletter and eNewsletter, and the information is also on our website. Anyone who signs up for a Corporate or Steward of the Land affiliate membership the beginning of 2021, and who would like an ad included in our subsequent April, July, October & January newsletters, can send us a business card with their affiliate membership sign up. Please look for the form in January. Thank you!



# Education & Outreach Events

## Experience Earth Day Camp

We were fortunate to be able to host our Experience Earth Day Camp again this year on July 21 & 22 at Pickaway County Sportsmen's Inc. Campers learned about a variety of environmental, wildlife, natural resource and STEM areas. A huge THANK YOU to Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District for partnering with us this year, Sportsmen's Club for allowing us to use their beautiful facility, and to all the volunteers, campers, and parents who helped to make camp this summer so great! We are excited for camp next summer!



Wildlife



Archery



Dragonflies and Damselflies



Birds



Fishing



Hiking



Kite Making



Paper Making



Mining for Natural Resources



Leaf Print Tee Shirts



Prairie Hike



Paper Rockets

# Education & Outreach Events

## Pickaway County Virtual Ag Days

Each fall, Pickaway SWCD, Pickaway County Farm Bureau, and local FFA Chapters host an annual Ag Day event for approximately 800 fourth grade students from across the county at the Pickaway Agriculture and Event Center. Though we are unable to have an in-person event this year, we decided to create an alternate plan that will still allow students to learn about agriculture this year while also growing the Ag Day event in the future.

For the 2020-2021 school year, we are hosting Virtual Ag Days. We are partnering with OSU Extension to create videos featuring agriculture in Pickaway County. Each month throughout the school year, a new video covering a different local ag topic will be posted to our new Virtual Ag Days website and shared with Pickaway County Schools. Each video has interactive, digital activities to go along with it, and students will also receive an accompanying Ag Mag publication to go along with each video.

We are very excited about this new opportunity to further share local agriculture with our students! While the in-person Ag Day event is invaluable and cannot be replaced, these farm tour videos will give students an entirely new view of what a farm looks like. If you would like to watch the videos being created, you can view the videos and activities on the website: [www.virtualagdays.com](http://www.virtualagdays.com). New videos will be uploaded once a month throughout this school year. The first video to be shared features dairy cattle. Moo-ve on over to the website to check it out!

## Stormwater Awareness Week

Experts believe almost 70% of the pollution in our rivers and lakes is carried there by stormwater runoff. While rainwater is great for lawns and gardens, it can be dangerous for streams and rivers. Stormwater can push common household items – such as trash, lawn fertilizer, or paint - into local waterways, threatening our environment and clean drinking water.

During Stormwater Awareness Week, Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Ohio are urging residents to take one or more of the following actions:

- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or a local park. It can be a family game to see who can fill up a bag first.
- Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn or any oil or chemicals to driveways and sidewalks. This will protect the environment and your pocketbook.
- Make sure lawns have 3-4 inches of topsoil under the grass. This reduces runoff and makes lawns easier to maintain.
- Plant native plants that have deep roots, which will help break up clay soil and increase the amount of water remaining on a property while benefiting birds, butterflies and bees.
- Plant a tree in your yard or install a rain garden. Trees can soak up 900 gallons of rain a year and a well-designed rain garden almost entirely reduces stormwater from a property.

Pollution left on roadways, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots drains directly to our streams and rivers. Simple actions can improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff. Stormwater can also erode away streams, which can cause flooding. Each year, Conservation Districts investigate multiple sources of pollution and assists hundreds of homeowners concerned with stream erosion and flooding, all caused by stormwater runoff.

There is so much we can do for Clean Water in Ohio. Take a moment at home and at work during the week of October 18-24 to make your family and co-workers aware of what they can do to make Ohio a great place to live, work and play.

How much do you know about clean water? Take a quiz here: [www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org](http://www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org)







Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District  
110 Island Road, Suite D  
Circleville, OH 43113-9056  
740-477-1693 [www.pickawayswcd.org](http://www.pickawayswcd.org)



## **RAIN BARRELS & KITS FOR SALE**

### **Interested in owning your own rain barrel?**

A rain barrel is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff to be used later for activities such as lawn and garden watering, car washing, and even window cleaning. You can purchase the rain barrel kit (installation instructions and tubing) and a 50-gallon barrel for \$35.

\*Limited quantities, please call for availability

### **PICKAWAY SWCD**

110 Island Road  
Suite D  
Circleville, Ohio 43113

740-477-1693

[www.pickawayswcd.org](http://www.pickawayswcd.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:00-4:30

**You'll Have Your Own  
Water Source in  
Times of Drought**

**Reduce Your Water  
Bill**

**You'll Help Reduce  
Runoff Pollution**

**Contribute to  
Erosion Prevention  
Efforts**

**Control Moisture  
Levels Around the  
Foundations of Your  
Home**



# Technical Corner



## Technical Update

Pickaway SWCD technicians have been hard at work for months surveying and designing (and completing about a million other steps for) waterway projects, assisting with ditch petitions, handling drainage and pollution concerns, completing pond evaluations, attending commission meetings and viewings, assisting landowners with various land questions and concerns, running watershed and soil maps for various projects, and much more. There's even been a student job shadow (pictured on left). While times are definitely different than normal, education is always essential and students still need to learn. We were happy to be able to help with this.

## Grain Bin Hazards to Keep in Mind

**Respiratory:** Dust from grain can affect people in a variety of ways. Reduce and prevent by wearing protective gear or ventilation equipment so you won't suffer breathing issues from the dust.

**Fire or Explosion:** Build-up of grain dust can be ignited by a heat source such as fire, sparks, or hot bearings. Don't weld or smoke in a grain bin containing grain.

**Falling:** Falls can occur as workers move from bin to bin, vertical exterior ladders, grain legs etc. Be aware and careful of your surroundings while working.

**Entrapment:** Flowing grain, which is a down and outward movement, forms a funnel when grain flows to the center of the cone. It only takes 3-4 seconds to be knee deep and become "trapped" or suffocated. Never enter a grain bin when grain is being removed. Always use a safety line or have two observers during grain bin entry.



**Be safe out there!**

Check out our website at [www.pickawayswcd.org](http://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
- Photo Gallery!





# NRCS Updates



## Farmers' Guide to 2018 USDA Farm Bill Programs

This guide describes Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest managers available through the 2018 Farm Bill. To learn more, visit [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) or your local USDA Service Center by calling the office at 740-477-1693.

### MANAGE — Opportunities to mitigate risk on your operation.

Conservation Stewardship Program Grassland Conservation Initiative	Provides financial assistance to conserve grasslands through a single opportunity to enroll in a 5-year contract. Eligible lands are limited to cropland for which base acres have been maintained under FSA's ARC/PLC and were planted to grass or pasture, including idle or fallow, during a specific period. Enrolled acreage must be managed consistently with a grassland conservation plan.
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### CONSERVE — Opportunities to implement conservation on your operation.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.
Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)	Helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing, or natural resource conservation practices. NRCS administers the conservation provisions while USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and RMA implement the production diversification and marketing provisions.
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	Awards competitive grants that drive innovation and develop the tools, technologies, and strategies for next-generation conservation efforts on working lands. Grantees leverage the Federal investment through matching requirements. Through CIG's new On-Farm Trials, partners provide incentive payments to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches.
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.





# NRCS Updates



## CRP Waterway Steps for Customers

The Conservation Reserve Program cost-share is 50% (no longer 40% additional incentive) for grassed waterways based on flat rates for waterway components. If you are interested in a CRP grassed waterway, here are the steps to follow:

1. Contact the Soil and Water office (740-477-1693). Please provide the location and a Farm and Tract number if possible. Let us know when you would like to build the waterway and if you have a contractor lined up to do the work once the project is under contract. If you can't find a contractor, SWCD has a contractor list on their website at [www.pickawayswcd.org](http://www.pickawayswcd.org). You are not required to use one of them, nor do we make recommendations.
2. SWCD/NRCS staff will visit the site to verify erosion in the field. If there is no erosion present, a waterway can't move forward at this time.
3. SWCD/NRCS staff will work with FSA to determine if the site is eligible for the CRP program. To be eligible for the CRP program, there must be reported crop history for the area of the waterway. If the area is not eligible for CRP, you can either sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with NRCS or the SWCD staff will design a plan for you without a cost-share program.
4. Once erosion is verified, SWCD/NRCS staff will survey and start design on the waterway(s). This may involve several visits, especially if underground utilities are present.
5. Upon finishing the waterway engineering plan, the landowner will be given two copies. Additional copies may be purchased.
6. The conservation plan and contract will be written by NRCS and FSA based on the components of the engineering plan. FSA will contact the landowner to schedule an appointment to have it reviewed and signed.
7. Once the contract is signed and the site passes an archaeological study, construction can begin. SWCD/NRCS will schedule to meet with the contractor/landowner to review the plan, usually on site. Contractor or landowner will need to contact SWCD/NRCS a few days prior to construction to request a construction layout.
8. SWCD/NRCS will follow construction and approve the waterway(s) to be seeded when all standards have been met. After completion, the appropriate NRCS, ODA, or SWCD engineer or technician will approve the construction.
9. Your contract will have a deadline for completion, usually three years from the time you sign. Tile can be installed any time of year; most opt to do it over the winter in advance of any grading to allow tile trenches to settle. Seeding dates are March 15 to May 31 and August 1 to September 15. If the waterway seeding is completed outside of these dates (unless there was an extension by USDA), payment will be held until the next seeding date opening. If grass is established at that time, payment can be made. If not, the waterway will need to be reseeded at the landowner's expense.
10. Landowner submits bills to FSA and signs request for payment. The bills will be reviewed by FSA/SWCD/NRCS and compared to the constructed quantities. FSA then makes the payment.
11. Landowner is responsible for maintaining the waterway(s) for the contracted life of 10 years. They will receive annual rental payments with the potential to renew at expiration depending on program changes and the waterway condition.

### Contacts

SWCD	(740) 477-1693	Shelley Steele or Wesley French
NRCS	(740) 477-1691	Lindsey Douglas or Justin Armintrout or Eli Ortiz-Barbosa
FSA	(740) 477-1691	Sherrill King or Kristi Riddle



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

Address Service Requested

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

## Affiliate Annual Membership

Future Conservationist (Student)	\$10.00
Soil & Water Protector	\$30.00
Steward of the Land	\$100.00
Corporate Member	\$250.00

If you are interested in becoming an Affiliate Member, please [contact the SWCD office](#). All affiliate members receive recognition in the Conservation News, on the District website, and at the Annual Meeting. Beginning in 2021, Corporate and Steward of the Land affiliate members can send us a business card with their affiliate membership sign up to be included in the newsletter for the following year. We renew memberships the beginning of each calendar year from January through March.

*Your membership contribution is tax deductible and is used to help provide educational opportunities on soil and water conservation practices in our community. Thank You!*

## In the January Issue of Conservation News

Information on  
ordering tree  
seedlings  
and fish  
fingerlings from  
the PSWCD!



### Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

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



#### Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator  
Shelley Steele, District Technician  
Wesley French, District Technician  
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator  
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist  
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist  
Phil Roe, Agriculture Conservation Experienced Service Enrollee  
Lindsey Douglas, Civil Engineering Technician  
Caleb Worley, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

#### PSWCD Board

Steve Hawkins (resigned as of 6/8/2020), Chairman;  
Matt Anderson, Vice Chairman; Barbara Martindale, Secretary;  
Bill Black, Treasurer & Fiscal Agent; Clyde Ohnewehr, Member;  
Jonathan Lohstroh, Member

#### Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

Farm Service Agency	740-477-1691
Pickaway County Commissioners	740-474-6093
Jason Van Houten-ODNR Service Forester	614-265-6703

#### 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

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