



PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

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October 2021

Pickaway SWCD, 110 Island Road, Suite D, Circleville, OH 43113



Upcoming Dates

October 11

Columbus Day
Office Closed

October 19

Board Meeting @ 8am

October 22

Juneteenth Observed
Office Closed

November 11

Veterans Day
Office Closed

November 16

Board Meeting @ 8am

November 25 & 26

Thanksgiving
Office Closed

December 7

Board Meeting @ 9am

December 24

Christmas Eve
Office Closed

December 31

New Year's Eve
Office Closed

Supervisor Election

Congrats to Brian Reid on being elected to the board!
Brian's term will run from January 2022 through
December 2024.

Andrew "Dewey" Mann has agreed to fill an open
supervisor position on the board for 1 year until the term
is complete at the end of December 2022.



Brian Reid



Dewey Mann



Joint Annual Meeting/Banquet



Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District and Pickaway County Farm Bureau held their first ever Joint Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 2. There were 108 guests in attendance. The meeting was held in Heritage Hall at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds and featured Ag Day, which took place the following day. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!



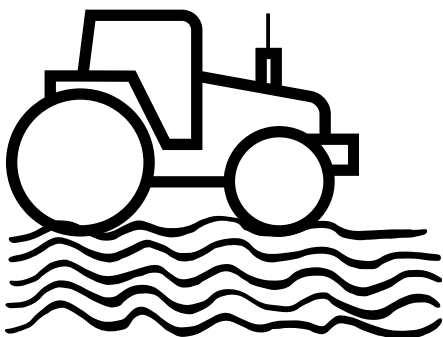
Conservationist of the Year

Congratulations to Keith Peters for being chosen as the Pickaway SWCD 2021 Conservationist of the Year!

Keith Peters has worked with our organization since 1989. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1989 and served two terms through 1994. Since his first commitment to establish conservation methods on his farm, he has installed over 3.8 acres of grassed waterways, a stream crossing, and 217,915 feet of sub surface drainage tile systems on different farms. His various methods of conservation include installing filter strips, utilizing conservation crop rotation, planting cover crops and implementing a Nutrient Management Plan.

Our office has enjoyed working with Keith for the past several years, and we are excited to continue working with him to conserve our natural resources here in Pickaway County.

Congratulations to Keith Peters for being named the Pickaway SWCD 2021 Conservationist of the Year!



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 September 27 - October 1 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.bethechangeformcleanwater.org



Milkweed Pod Collection

Pickaway SWCD is accepting collected milkweed pods from September 1 - October 29. Milkweed pods can be dropped off at our office any Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

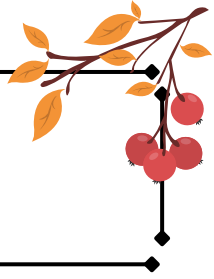
Please Note:

- To collect the seed pods from a Common Milkweed plant, it is best to pick them when they are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. You can prevent the rest from popping open by gently putting a rubber band around them.
- Do not pick when they are green. The seeds will not be viable.
- Collect pods in paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture.
- Please mark on the sack the county where the pods came from and the date.
- Store pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area.

Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for Monarchs as well as many other pollinator species. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard to change this, and you can help!



New Hunter Program



The Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership (OLHAP) Program is a new way for Ohio hunters to get access to private properties. This program is funded in part by the federal Farm Bill under their Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). This bill provides funding to state and tribal agencies through a competitive grant process to implement programs encouraging hunting access on private properties. As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Ohio was awarded \$1,831,500 to implement the new OLHAP program. The OLHAP program uses part of those funds to pay landowners for hunters to access their property. Participating landowners receive annual payment rates ranging from \$2.00 to \$30.00 per acre depending on the characteristics of the property enrolled. Enrollment contracts are for 2-3 years, with the possibility of extension.

Additional details at and excerpt from:

ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/ohio-landowner-hunter-access





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 or your local USDA Service Center by calling the office at 740-477-1693.

CONSERVE — Opportunities to implement conservation on your operation.

Ag 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.
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.

Ag Day

Ag Day 2021 took place at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds on Friday, September 3. Pickaway County Ag Day is a partner project of Pickaway County Farm Bureau, Pickaway SWCD, and local FFA chapters.

This year at Ag Day, we had approximately:

- 800 fourth grade students
- 120 FFA students
- 50 teachers, principals, chaperones, visitors
- 5 FFA advisors
- 10 SWCD & FB workers

We finished filming our Virtual Ag Days videos in the spring of 2021. Local farm tour videos and interactive, virtual activities created to go along with the videos are available on the Ag Day website: www.virtualagdays.com



Experience Earth Camps

Pickaway SWCD was happy to host our annual EE Camp again this summer! We had 29 students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades attend EE Camp at Canal Park on August 3rd, 4th, and 5th. New this summer, we were excited to offer a one-day Jr. EE Camp on August 12 for 22 incoming 1st and 2nd grade students. The two camps with the additional grades included worked very well, and we plan to offer camp to these five grade levels again next summer.

Campers are given the opportunity to learn about nature, wildlife and the environment from experts in a fun and educational way. Pickaway SWCD was fortunate to again partner with Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District to host our EE Camps.



Farm-to-Table Books

Again in 2021, Pickaway SWCD will provide a copy of the book "Right This Very Minute: a table-to-farm book about food and farming" to every 1st grade student in Pickaway County (roughly 800 students). Virtual activities, recorded readings, and related ag videos have been created and compiled into a Google Classroom on our website. Books will be delivered to Pickaway Elementaries in October!

PICKAWAY SWCD
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Affiliate Membership

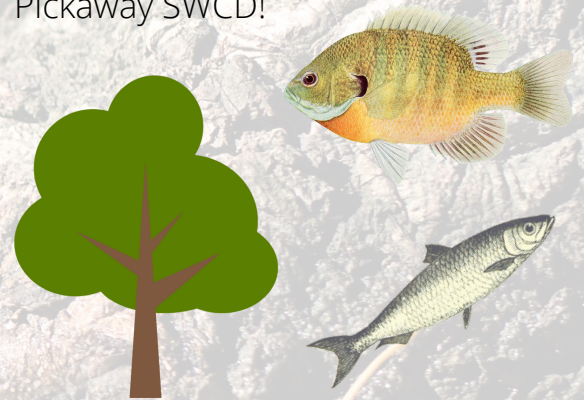
Corporate Member	\$250
Steward of the Land	\$100
Soil & Water Protector	\$30
Future Conservationist (Student)	\$10

Affiliate dues help pay for our senior scholarships and for some education/ outreach programs. We appreciate those of you who do this so much!

Affiliate Member sign up/renewals will be in the January newsletter. All affiliate members receive recognition in the newsletter, on the website, and at the Annual Meeting.

In the January Issue of Conservation News

Information on ordering tree seedlings and fish fingerlings from Pickaway SWCD!



Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Nate Taylor, District Technician
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Resource Conservationist
Lindsey Douglas, Civil Engineering Technician
Caleb Worley, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

PSWCD Board

Jonathan Lohstroh, Vice Chairman
Barbara Martindale, Secretary
Bill Black, Treasurer & Fiscal Agent
Matt Anderson, Member

Pickaway County Agencies Phone Numbers

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

Affiliate Members 2021

Corporate Members

Columbus Turf Nursery, C. Randall & Cindy Metzger, Honeyrun Farms, Pickaway County Banking Center, Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel, Richard & Judy Clifton, Ruff Farms, The Savings Bank, Vickers Farms

Steward of the Land

Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr, Dunlap Farms-John & Susie Dunlap, Hartsock Ag, John & Curtis Drummond, Musselman Farms, Shaw Farms, Tim & Amy Colburn

Soil and Water Protector

Ashley Hansen, Becky Messer, Daren & Susan Metzger, Doug & Vicki Kohli, Laurina Harper, Mark & Toni Schein, Paul Marshall, Penelope LaRock, Todd Millard, Wiseheart Farms

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