



PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

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

Upcoming Events

October 18

Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

October 19-21

Pumpkin Show



November 11

Veterans Day
OFFICE CLOSED

November 15

Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

November 24 & 25

Thanksgiving
OFFICE CLOSED



December 13

Board Meeting - 8 a.m.

December 26

Christmas
OFFICE CLOSED



January 2

New Year's
OFFICE CLOSED

2022 Conservationist of the Year

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer a huge congratulations to the Gifford Family for being chosen as the Pickaway SWCD 2022 Conservationists of the Year!

The Gifford Family have been with our organization as cooperators since 1988. Since their first commitment to establish conservation methods on their farms, they have installed over 54,200 feet of sub surface drainage tile systems on different farms and almost 300 acres of the Conservation Enhancement Reserve Program of warm season grasses along the Scioto River. Other various methods of conservation include installing filter strips, planting cover crops and implementing a Nutrient Management Plan. One of the family members has also worked with our office on the construction of waterways as a contractor.

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





District Updates

2022 Annual Meeting and Banquet

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our joint Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District and Pickaway County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & Banquet on September 7 at Flora and Field. We had a great evening with 126 people in attendance!

It was an eventful evening with displays from Pickaway County Park District, presentation by Mike Estadt from Pickaway County OSU Extension, and catering by the always fabulous Elegant Eats Catering. Congratulations to Matt Anderson and Dewey Mann on being re-elected to our Pickaway SWCD board! Their three-year terms run from January 2023 through December 2025.

Milkweed Pod Collection

Pickaway SWCD is accepting collected milkweed pods through November 13. Milkweed pods can be dropped off at our office any Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Please Note:

- Pick pods when they are dry and when they are GRAY or BROWN in color. GREEN seedpods are NOT ready for collection. Wear gloves.
- Center seam of pod should pop with gentle pressure when it is time to collect.
- Collect pods in paper lunch bags or paper grocery bags. Avoid using plastic bags, as they attract moisture. Be sure to leave a few pods on plant to endure natural regeneration occurs.
- Please mark paper bag with the collection details: county where milkweed was collected, date and time of the collection, species (if something other than Common Milkweed).
- Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Pickaway SWCD office.
- Harvesting milkweed pods does not destroy or have any lasting impact on the milkweed in an established area.
- All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) partners and all of the seeds collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch butterfly throughout Ohio. Some of the seeds are returned to Pickaway County.



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!

Education & Outreach Events

Pickaway County Ag Day

Over 800 fourth grade students learned about livestock, crops, ag careers, soil conservation, pollinators, and farm machinery from 180 FFA students at this year's Ag Day on Friday, September 30.

Thank You to:

- Pickaway Agriculture and Event Center for allowing us to use their space.
- Rural King Supply for donating bottled water for everyone at the event.
- The farmers who volunteered their time and equipment during harvest.
- Pickaway County Community Foundation - Farm Bureau fund and Ag fund (sponsor)
- South Central Power Co. (sponsor)
- Cargill (sponsor)
- Farm Credit Mid-America (sponsor)
- Kingston National Bank (sponsor)

Partnering to Host Ag Day:

- Pickaway County Farm Bureau
- Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District
- Circleville-PRCTC FFA
- Logan Elm FFA
- Teays Valley FFA
- Westfall FFA



Education & Outreach Events

Experience Earth Camps

Pickaway SWCD was happy to host our annual Experience Earth Camps (EE Camp) again this summer! EE Camp this year was held at Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park (MVCH). We had 52 students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades attend our 3-day camp on July 19-21, and 30 incoming 1st and 2nd grade students attend our one-day Jr. EE Camp on July 22.

Campers are given the opportunity to learn about nature, agriculture, wildlife and the environment from experts in a fun, hands-on 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.



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:

- Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn or any oil or chemicals to driveways and sidewalks.
- 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.





Technical Corner



Welcome Brad, Our New Employee

Hello, my name is Brad Hughes. I am the new District Technician for Pickaway Soil and Water. I come to Pickaway County with 10 years of service with Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In my years of service, I have worked on a variety of different projects from agriculture to urban settings. I grew up on a farm in Clinton County. I am married with two children. In my free time I enjoying trips with my family, exploring the outdoors and gardening. I look forward to working with the people of Pickaway County.

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!



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!



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.	
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 is a cost-share program for grassed waterways based on flat rates for waterway components. Check with the District for the current cost-share percentage. 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. 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, if the waterway is considered eligible for the CRP program and the landowner has agreed to the cost estimate and signed an application with FSA.
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 (Option 4)	Nate Taylor or Brad Hughes
NRCS	(740) 477-1691 (Option 3)	Justin Armintrout or Eli Ortiz-Barbosa
FSA	(740) 477-1691 (Option 2)	Sherrill King or Kristi Riddle

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

Address Service Requested

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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 2023, Corporate Affiliate members also receive an aluminum sign. 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 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
 Brad Hughes, District Technician
 Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
 Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Resource Conservationist
 Garrett Caudill, Pheasants Forever, Farm Bill Biologist
 Matt Mauzy, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician

PSWCD Board

Matt Anderson
 Bill Black
 Jonathan Lohstroh
 Dewey Mann
 Brian Reid

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 2022

Corporate Members

Anonymous (1), Columbus Turf Nursery, LTD., Honeyrun Farm, Lightning Tree Barn, LLC, Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel, Pickaway County Farm Bureau, Randy & Cindy Metzger, Richard & Judy Clifton, Ruff Agri-Services LLC, The Savings Bank, Vickers Farms

Steward of the Land

Clyde Ohnewehr, Crawford Apiaries, Dunlap Farms-John & Susie Dunlap, Drummond General Partnership, Hartsock Ag, Laurina Harper, Musselman Farms LLC, Pickaway County Banking Center, Shaw Farms, Tim & Amy Colburn, Wiseheart Farms

Soil and Water Protector

Anonymous (2), Darren & Susan Metzger, Doug & Vicki Kohli, John & Kathy Ellis, Mark & Toni Schein, Paul Marshall, Thomas E. Ebenhack

Future Conservationist (Students)

Clara Wilson, Maggie Wilson, Mark Wilson, Reese Moehl, Zac Scott, Zoe Scott, Trey Dille, Trenton Dille, Mackenzie Dille

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