

# PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



*Pickaway SWCD's Mission:  
To encourage and assist the people of Pickaway  
County through technical assistance and education  
outreach in applying conservation practices.*

Photo courtesy of Robert Clark

# Our Vision & Who We Are

We are a professional team leading the community in the conservation of our natural resources.

Our mission is to encourage and assist the people of Pickaway County in applying conservation practices, which conserve, preserve, and protect our natural resources for present and future generations.

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District was organized under Ohio law on December 9, 1944. On April 14, 1945, the district was approved by referendum vote of the people and became the 32nd Soil and Water Conservation District in Ohio.

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District, a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, is managed by five supervisors, who are elected by Pickaway County landowners. Supervisors serve without pay and are responsible for developing the local programs, obtaining and disbursing funds, and setting priorities. They also have the authority to hire district staff and to oversee all district activities.

All District programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, marital or familial status, or handicap.

# Thank You!

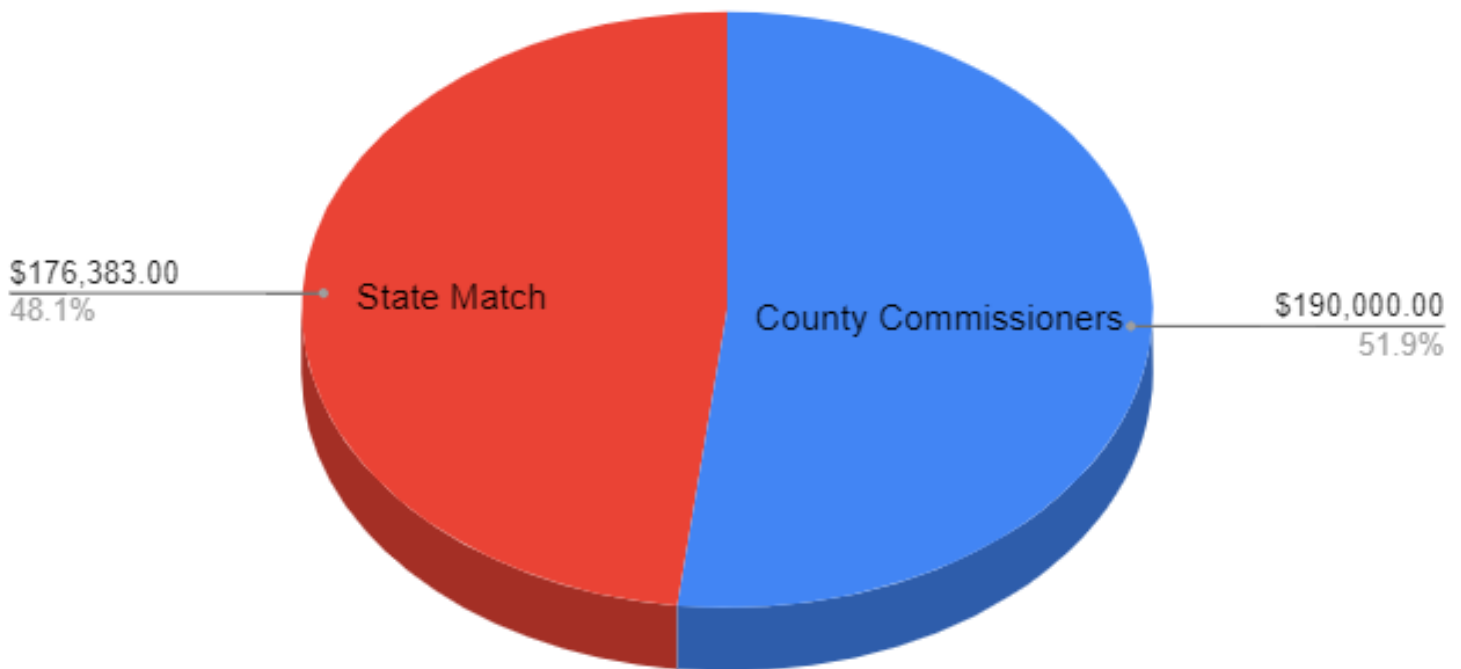
The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to thank Pickaway County Commissioners Harold Henson, Brian S. Stewart, and Jay Wippel for their continued support and dedication to our local conservation efforts, and we look forward to working with Mr. Gary Scherer. Their financial support at the county level draws matching funds from the state, enabling the SWCD to provide conservation assistance, information, and education to all Pickaway County residents.

The Board would also like to thank the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Ohio for their continued acknowledgement and support of the conservation of our natural resources.



# Pickaway SWCD Operating Fund 2021

Pickaway County Commissioners \$190,000  
State Matching Funds \$176,383



Pickaway SWCD operates on funding provided by the Pickaway County Commissioners and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Resources.

# 2021 Board of Supervisors

Clyde Ohnewehr, Chairman (resigned August)

Jonathan Lohstroh, Vice-Chairman

Barbara Martindale, Secretary

Bill Black, Treasurer/Fiscal Agent

Matt Anderson, Member

Dewey Mann, Member (approved November)

# 2022 Board of Supervisors

Matt Anderson

Bill Black

Jonathan Lohstroh

Dewey Mann

Brian Reid

Current Terms:

2020 through 2022

2021 through 2023

2021 through 2023

2021 through 2022

2022 through 2024

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. The Board of Supervisors guide staff & partnering agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs which address management and conservation of soil, water and related resources.



# Pickaway SWCD & NRCS Staff

## SWCD

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator

Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator

Nate Taylor, District Technician (hired March 2021)

## NRCS

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist

Lindsey Shaffer, Civil Engineering Technician

Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Resource Conservationist

Phil Roe, Ag. Con. Experienced Service Enrollee (retired May 2021)

Caleb Worley, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever



Justin, Eli, Nate, Tawn, Katerina, Lindsey, Caleb

# 2021 Affiliate Members

## Corporate

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 & 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

Thank you to our affiliate members for helping to fund some of our education programs! We were able to award 3 graduating seniors each a \$1,000 Donald E. Minor Memorial scholarship in spring of 2021.

# 2021 Resource Concerns

1. **Soil Erosion**
2. **Water Quality Degradation**
3. **Soil Quality Degradation**
4. **Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife**







# District Initiatives

1. **Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality**
2. Forestry & Wildlife Conservation
3. Resource Conservation
4. Education, Outreach & Public Information
5. Administrative Policy

## **Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality**

Reducing cropland and rural erosion, improving water quality, and promoting best management/reduced input methods of farming and rural land in Pickaway County through the adoption of sound soil and water conservation practices.

# Ag Conservation & Water Quality

## Assist NRCS with CRP

- 150 total contracts
- 4,418.16 acres approved
- \$1,557,753 annual payments

## Grassed Waterways

- 36 customers/projects signed up in 2021
- 22 waterways in various stages of progress
- 10 waterways fully installed

## Assist to review, revise, assemble & approve conservation plans

- 36 conservation plans

Assisted 47 people with additional drainage design & construction questions, issues, soil and watershed maps, etc.

## Ag Pollution Abatement Program

- Investigated - 4
- Actual Violations - 3



# Ag Conservation & Water Quality

We purchased a new drill in the spring of 2021! The new drill is a Great Plains end wheel 7 foot no-till drill with a standard grain seed box, a native grass seed box, and a fine grass seed box attachment. The drill can be used to plant soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, cool and warm season grasses, and small grains.

The rental rate is \$10.00 per acre with a minimum charge of \$100.00. Additional information and Rental Agreement Form are on the District website.

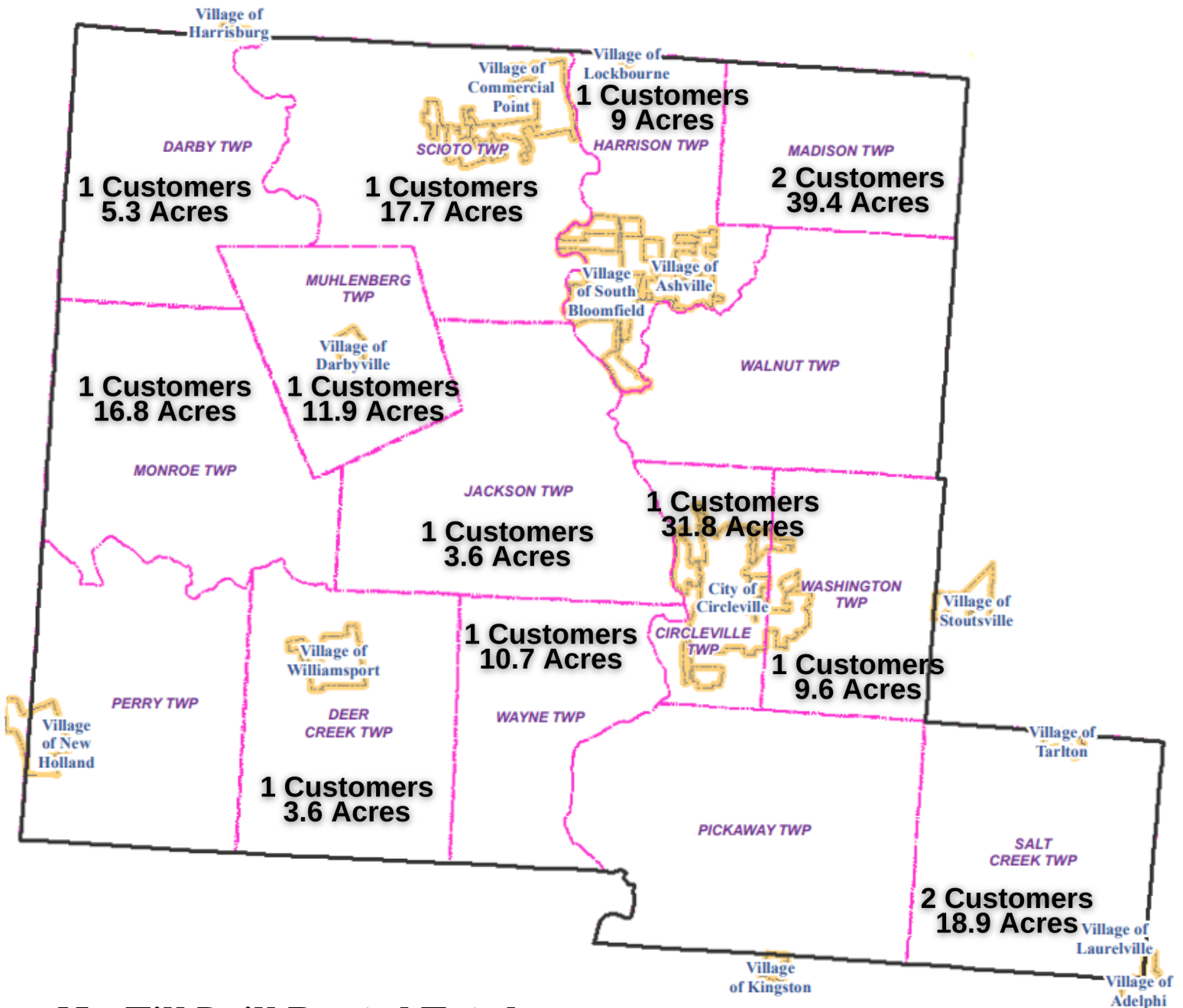
## No-Till Drill Rental

- 14 customers
- 190.2 acres seeded



# Ag Conservation & Water Quality

## Drill Rental Use per Township



### No-Till Drill Rental Totals

- 14 customers
- 190.2 acres seeded



# District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
2. **Forestry & Wildlife Conservation**
3. Resource Conservation
4. Education, Outreach & Public Information
5. Administrative Policy

## **Forestry & Wildlife Conservation**

Pickaway County recognizes forestland as a valuable resource and promotes the conservation and wise management of woodlands and wildlife.

# Forestry & Wildlife Conservation

## Hold the Annual Tree Sale

- 107 customers
- 456 bundles = 9,578 trees/shrubs planted
- 49 other items (ground cover, seed, etc.)
- 1,560 total flags

## Hold & Distribute the Mid-Contract Management Plug Sale

- 14 customers, 81 flats of plugs

## Hold the Annual Fish Sale

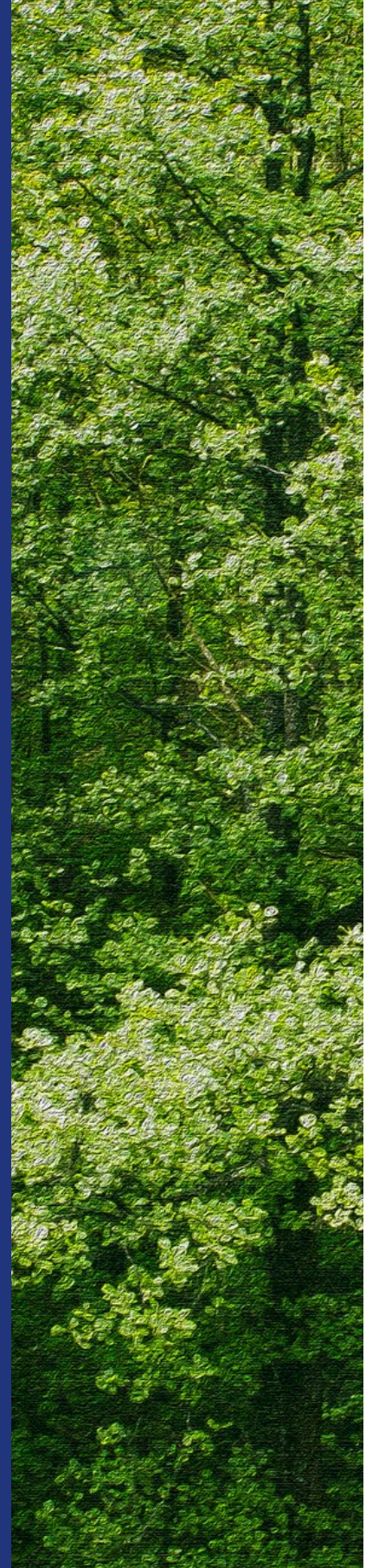
- 36 customers
- 22,923 fish
- 7 additional items

## Timber Harvest Plans

- Received 1 timber harvest notice of intent and timber harvest plan

## Assist NRCS with EQIP & CSP

- 19 EQIP
- 18 CSP
- 37 total active





# District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
2. Forestry & Wildlife Conservation
3. **Resource Conservation**
4. Education, Outreach & Public Information
5. Administrative Policy

## **Resource Conservation**

Pickaway County land has many diversified users including absentee landowner investments and oil and gas exploration.

The Pickaway SWCD will provide educational and technical assistance to landowners in these areas in order to protect soil and water resources.

# Resource Conservation

## Pond Assistance

- Assisted with 9 ponds

## Complete Annual Evaluation & Report of Conservation Easements

- 4 easements held under the District



Photo courtesy of Robert Clark





# District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
2. Forestry & Wildlife Conservation
3. Resource Conservation
4. **Education, Outreach & Public Information**
5. Administrative Policy

## **Education, Outreach & Public Information**

The Pickaway SWCD will use an effective educational and informational program to promote the wise use of our natural resources and agriculture.



# PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

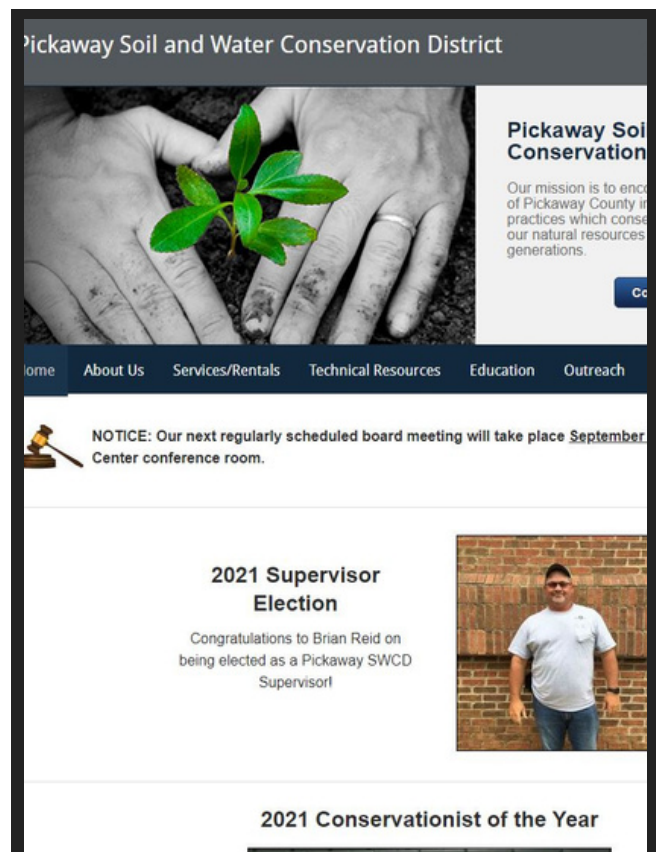
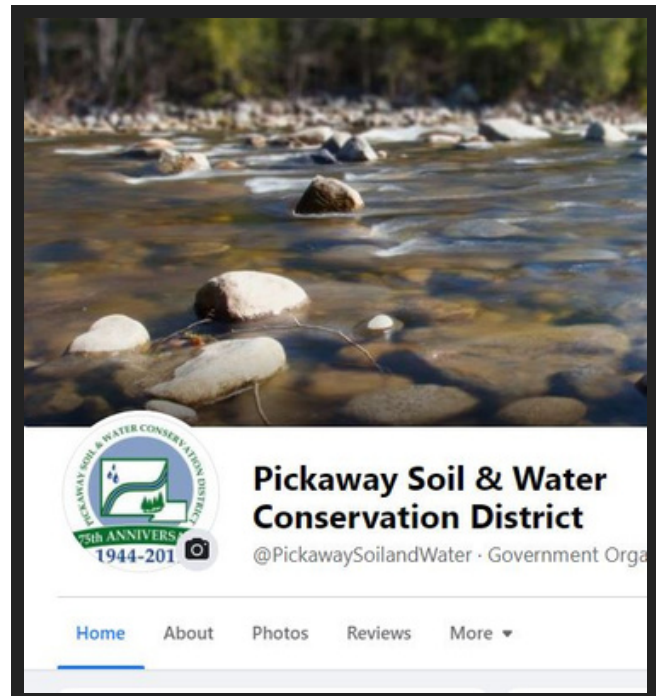
## CONSERVATION NEWS

## Outreach

- Quarterly Newsletters
  - E-Newsletters are emailed in Jan., April, July & Oct.
  - Printed newsletters are mailed out in Jan. & Oct.
  - Mailing List 2,558 Approx.
  - E-News List 560 Approx.
- Website
- Facebook
- Education Newsletter

## Committees

- Ag Day (Farm Bureau)
- Be the Change for Clean Water
- FFA Advisory
- Land Labs (TV & LE)
- Pickaway WORKS



# School Programs

Spring 2021:  
50 class programs  
886 students

Fall 2021:  
128 class programs  
2,948 students



3,834

Enviroscape - 1st Grade



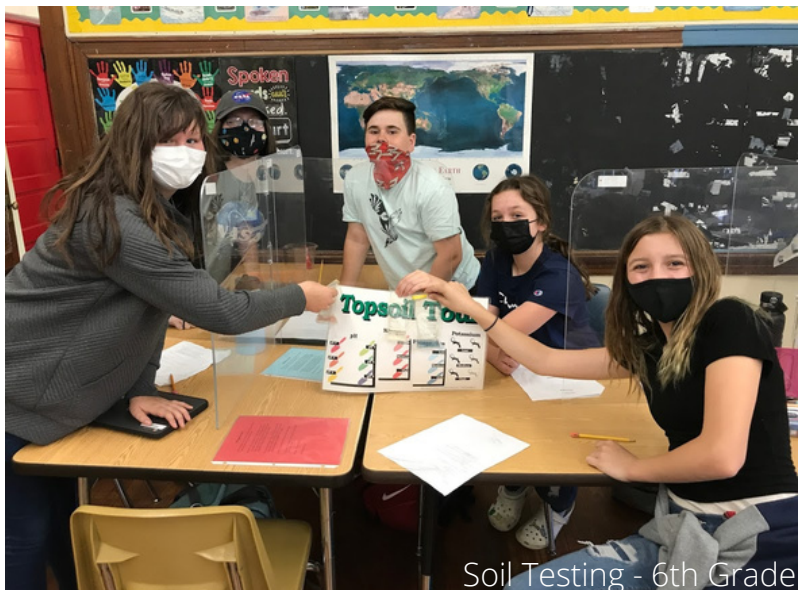
Sandbox - 4th Grade



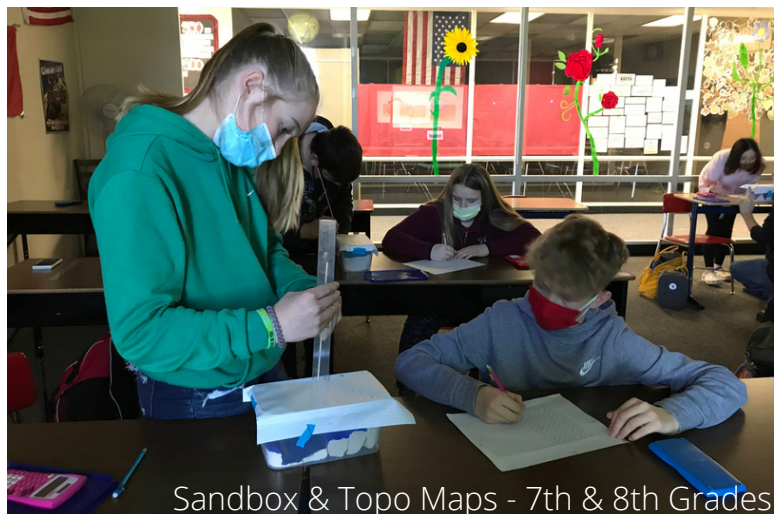
Stream Quality Monitoring - Girl Scouts



Stream Table - 4th Grade



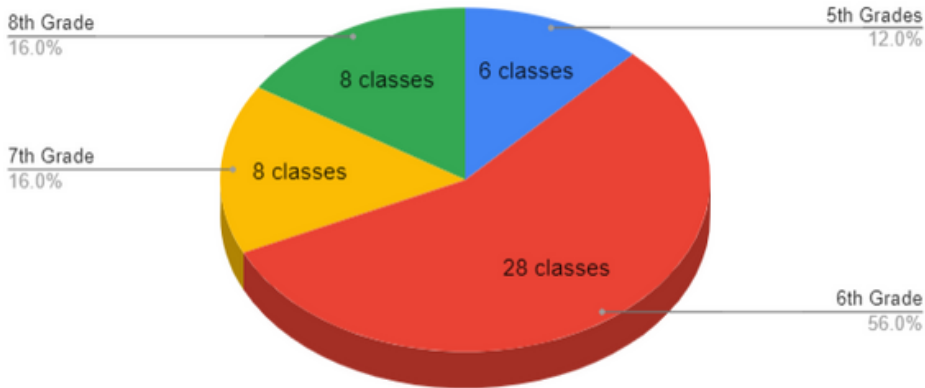
Soil Testing - 6th Grade



Sandbox & Topo Maps - 7th & 8th Grades

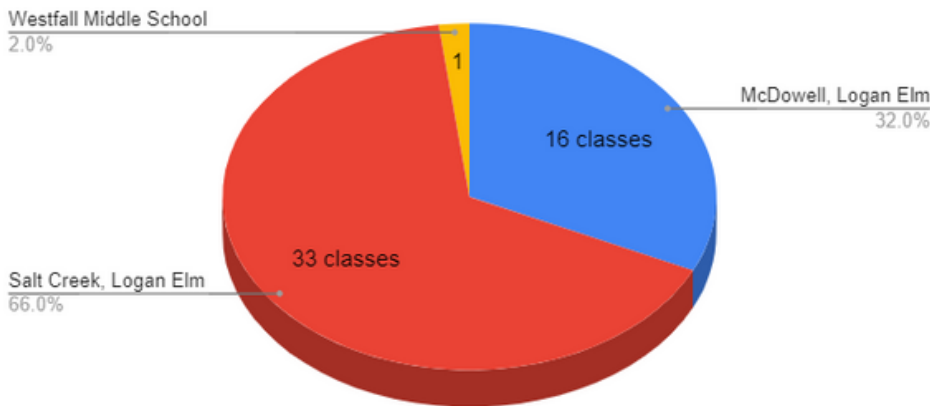
# School Programs - Spring

## Spring 2021 Programs by Grade Level



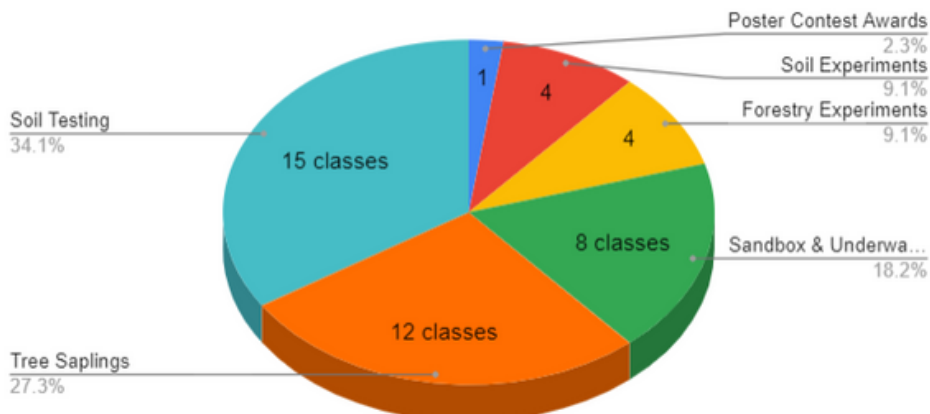
Audience	# Classes
5th Grades	6
6th Grade	28
7th Grade	8
8th Grade	8

## Spring 2021 Programs by School Building



Location	# Classes
McDowell, Logan Elm	16
Salt Creek, Logan Elm	33
Westfall Middle School	1

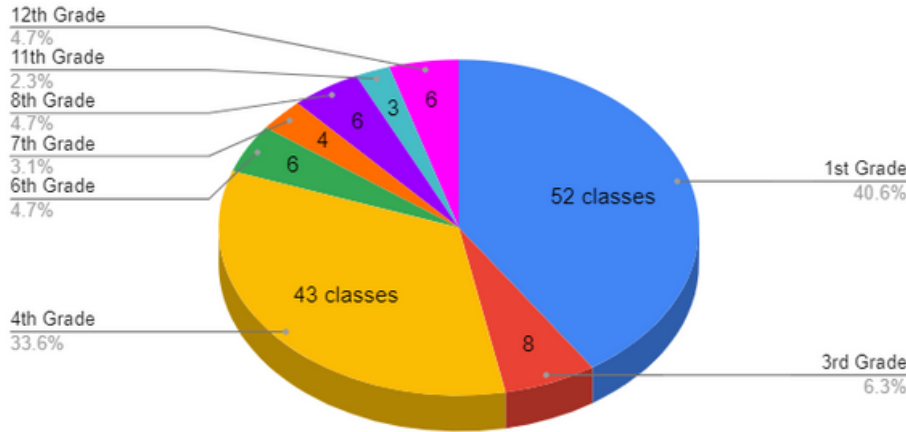
## Spring 2021 Programs by Program Type



Name	# Classes
Poster Contest Awards	1
Soil Experiments	4
Forestry Experiments	4
Sandbox & Underwater Landforms	8
Tree Saplings	12
Soil Testing	15

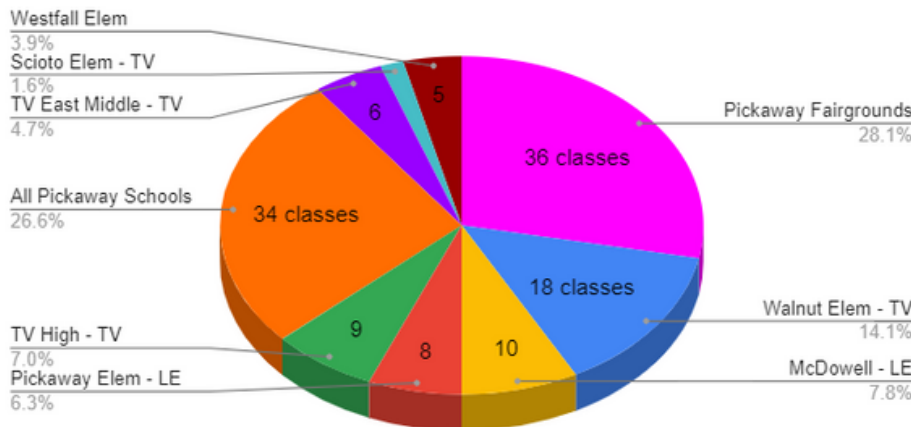
# School Programs - Fall

## Fall 2021 Programs by Grade Level



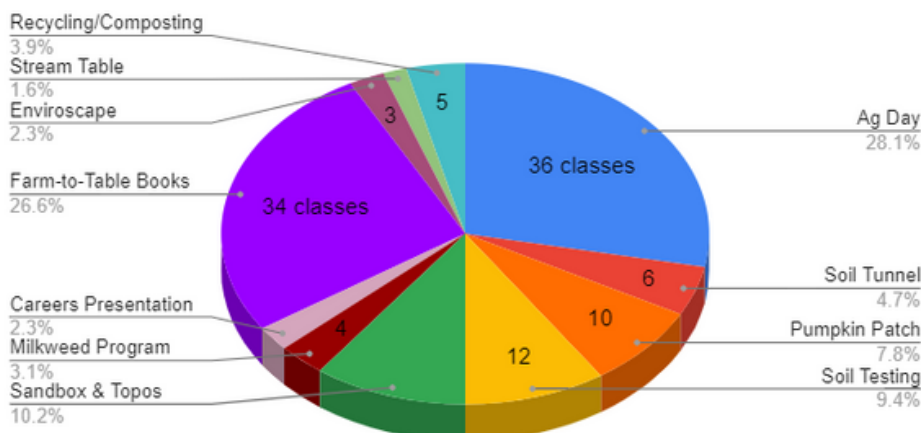
Audience	# Classes
1st Grade	52
3rd Grade	8
4th Grade	43
6th Grade	6
7th Grade	4
8th Grade	6
11th Grade	3
12th Grade	6

## Fall 2021 Programs by School Building



Location	# Classes
Pickaway Fairgrounds	36
Walnut Elem - TV	18
McDowell - LE	10
Pickaway Elem - LE	8
TV High - TV	9
All Pickaway Schools	34
TV East Middle - TV	6
Scioto Elem - TV	2
Westfall Elem	5

## Fall 2021 Programs by Program Type



Name	# Classes
Ag Day	36
Soil Tunnel	6
Pumpkin Patch	10
Soil Testing	12
Sandbox & Topos	13
Milkweed Program	4
Careers Presentation	3
Farm-to-Table Books	34
Enviroscape	3
Stream Table	2
Recycling/Composting	5

# Ag Day

Pickaway County Ag Day is a partner project of Pickaway County Farm Bureau, SWCD, and local FFA chapters. Ag Day 2021 took place at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds. We had approximately:

- 800 fourth grade students
- 120 FFA students
- 50 teachers, principals, chaperones, visitors
- 5 FFA advisors
- 10 SWCD & Farm Bureau workers/volunteers

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 videos available on website: [www.virtualagdays.com](http://www.virtualagdays.com)





# Farm-to-Table Books

Agriculture is the backbone of our country and also the industry many communities are most disconnected from. It is important everyone understand where their food comes from, and we believe the best way to share this knowledge is through stories. 2021 is the second year Pickaway SWCD has provided 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). The book is written by Lisl H. Detlefsen and illustrated by Renee Kurilla. Virtual activities, recorded readings, and related ag videos have been created and compiled into a Google Classroom on our website. Copies of the book to borrow are available at the Pickaway County Public Library and also at the Pickaway SWCD office.

# Poster Contest

81 students participated in the Pickaway SWCD annual poster contest in spring 2021.

Theme: Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities

1st Place: Caden MacDonald

2nd Place: Zoe Burson

HM: Lydia Colahan

HM: Shania Salyers

HM: Stephen Snyder

HM: Drew Stant

HM: Jaryn Fox

HM: Carlie Moss

HM: Tea Adkins

HM: Sarah Lewis

The Top 10 placing posters were scanned and displayed at the Pickaway Library and Bob Evans during National Stewardship Week in April and May. The 1st place poster is also on display near the children's area in the library for a year.



Salt Creek Students

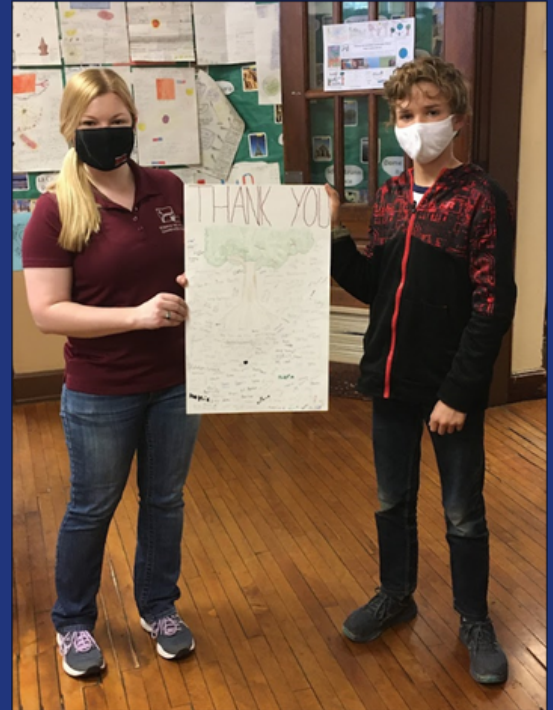


Westfall Student



# Tree Saplings at Salt Creek School for Earth Day

In the spring of 2021, a 6th grade student at Salt Creek reached out to ask if PSWCD could provide tree saplings to 5th and 6th grade students at Salt Creek. We were able to give 275 white pine saplings to these students! In spring 2022, we plan to offer tree saplings to all Pickaway County 5th grade students in conjunction with Earth Day.



## Composting 101 Workshop

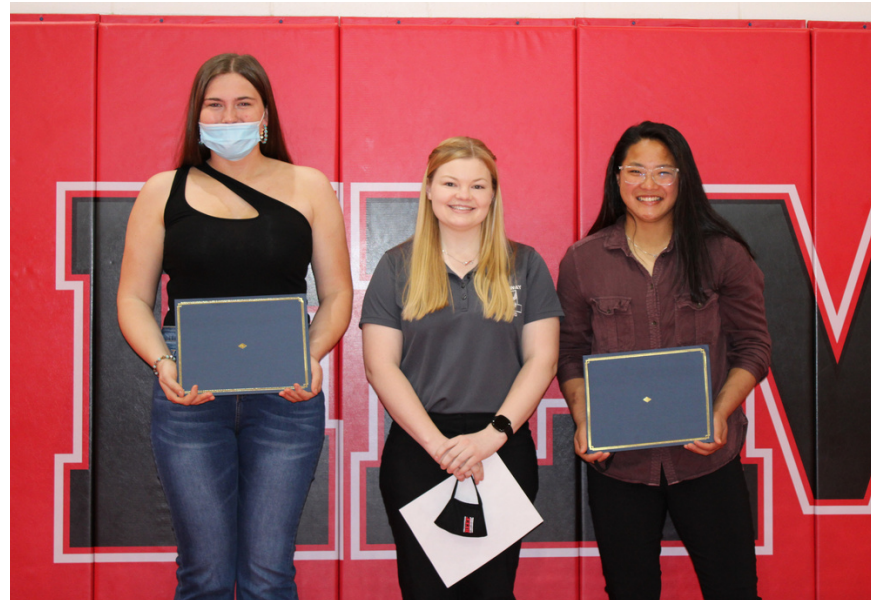
Pickaway SWCD partnered with the Park Dist. and RPHF Solid Waste Dist. to host a composting workshop at the Pickaway Co. Fairgrounds in Heritage Hall.

# Scholarships

Our 6th annual Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship was presented to three students in Pickaway County. We awarded Sterling Jarvis, Sydney Spires and Danielle Jones each with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sterling Jarvis is a graduating senior from Logan Elm High School. She has been an active member of her school and community. As an FFA member, she has served as Chapter President, earned her State Degree, and competed in several Career Development Events. She has played soccer, tennis, and been on swim team through her school. Sterling has been involved in several community service events while in high school, including volunteering at a nursing home, community care day group, and a toy drive. In 2020, Sterling served on the Ohio Attorney General Teen Ambassador Board. She plans to attend The Ohio State University ATI or Tarleton State in the fall for Agriscience Education.

Danielle Jones is a graduating senior from Circleville High School, where she has been involved in Key Club, Rotary Club, National Honor Art Society, National Honor Society, 4-H, Art Club, Drug-Free Club, FFA, HOSA, and several different athletics including soccer, track, bowling, and swim. She has been extremely involved in her school and community and has accumulated approximately 160 hours of volunteer time. Danielle plans to attend The Ohio State University in the fall to major in Animal Science with the goal to become a veterinarian.



# Scholarships Continued

Sydney Spires is a graduating senior from Logan Elm, where she is graduating with high honors, an honors diploma, and a cap stone diploma. She has taken AP Courses in chemistry, calculus, literature, language arts, seminar and research. Sydney has been involved in soccer, basketball, and swimming while in high school. In her community she is a member of Mount Pleasant Church and Key Club, and she has also volunteered her time to assist in several events including the Dan Fouts Memorial Veteran's Hunt, World Vision 6K for Water, and the Circleville Soup Kitchen. Sydney plans to attend The University of Findlay in the fall to major in Animal Science with the goal to become a veterinarian.

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

Any upcoming 2022 Pickaway County High School or Home School Seniors should check with school counselors and on our website in the Spring of 2022 for an application.





# Ohio Forestry Camp Sponsorships

Pickaway SWCD helped sponsor two 4-H members to attend forestry camp in the summer of 2021: Anam Havan and Mitchell Ruff





# Pickaway County Fair

Pickaway SWCD shared a tent at the fair with the Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. We shared District info, had educational activities and displays, led the Cloverbud activity one morning, and raffled off 2 rain barrels painted by Logan Elm art students. Roughly 475 people visited our tent!



# Natural Resource Project Judging

Pickaway SWCD again judged the 4-H Natural Resource Projects this year at the fair, which included about 30 projects in the following areas: outdoors, insects, geology, birds, trees, beekeeping, ponds and fishing.

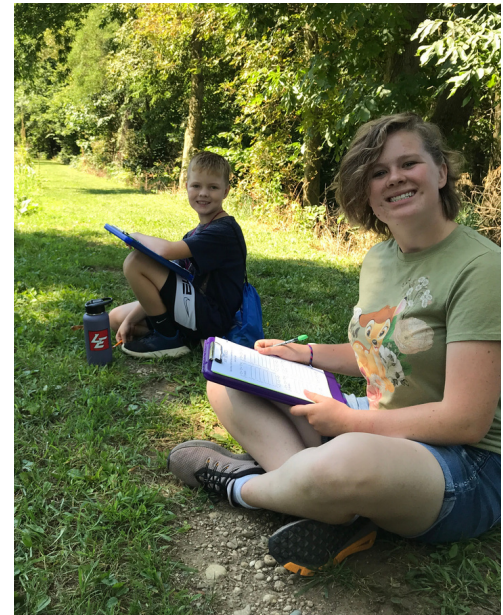
Overall Natural Resource Project winners: Caleb Ball & Austin Clark





# Experience Earth Camp

Pickaway SWCD has been hosting EE Camp each summer for over 20 years. In 2021, we had 29 students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades attend EE Camp at Canal Park on August 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Campers are given the opportunity to learn about nature, wildlife and the environment from experts in a fun and educational way. Pickaway SWCD was happy to partner with Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District for a second year to host EE Camp.



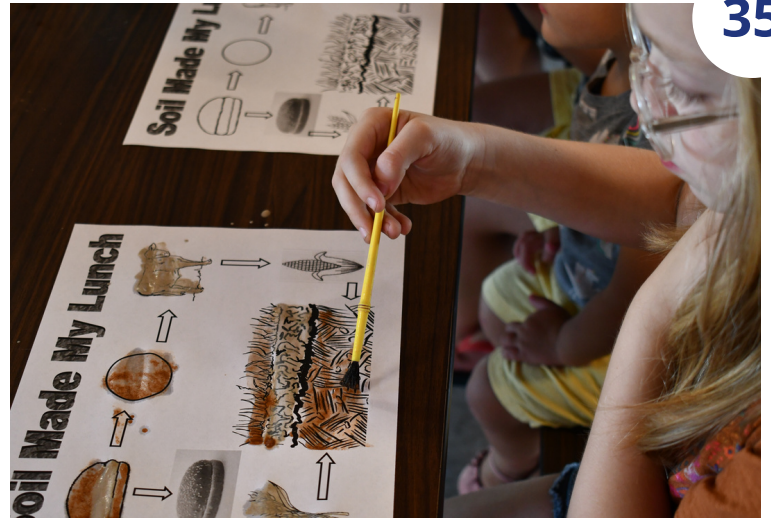


# Jr. Experience Earth Camp

New in 2021, we were excited to offer a one-day Jr. EE Camp on August 12, 2021 for 22 incoming 1st and 2nd grade students in Pickaway County.



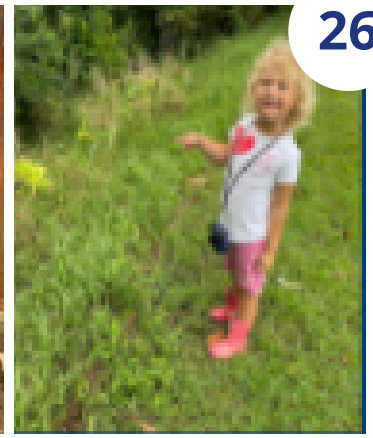




# Friday in the Park

Friday in the Park is a free event geared towards children in grades pre-k to 5th grade held throughout the summer at Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park. Pickaway SWCD, Park District, and RPHF Solid Waste District hosted the August 13th Friday for 35 people. The SWCD activity included tracing food back to the soil and using soil to paint.





# Jr. Conservationist Program

New in 2021 is the Jr. Conservationist Program, a do-it-yourself conservation program hosted by Pickaway SWCD, the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Kids/families register to participate and are 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. 26 kids/families signed up in 2021. Details and the activity list are on website: [www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program](http://www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program).



# District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
2. Forestry & Wildlife Conservation
3. Resource Conservation
4. Education, Outreach & Public Information
5. **Administrative Policy**

## **Administrative Policy**

Since District operations are the key to program success, the SWCD will strive to serve Pickaway County the best way it can.

# 2021 Board Meetings

Monthly board meetings take place in the Service Center Conference Room the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

January 19 – 9:00 a.m.

February 16 – 9:00 a.m.

March 16 – 9:00 a.m.

April 20 – 8:00 a.m.

May 18 – 8:00 a.m.

June 15 – 8:00 a.m.

July 20 – 8:00 a.m.

August 17 – 8:00 a.m.

September 21 – 8:00 a.m.

October 19 – 8:00 a.m.

November 16 – 8:00 a.m.

December 7 – 9:00 a.m.



# Trainings & Workshops

- 4 Staff Attended 41 Trainings/ Workshops/ Webinars
- 1 Board Member Attended Summer Supervisors School
- 1 Board Member Attended 4 New Supervisor Trainings
- District Hosted the Jan. Area 5 Educators Workshop

## Cash Basis Financial Report

Published in the Circleville Herald on February 11, 2021

## Yearly Reporting

Quarterly Reviews with Commissioners

Annual Plan of Work

Annual End of Year Report

5-Year Strategic Plan

Mid-Year & End of Year Staff Reviews



# 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, 2021. 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.



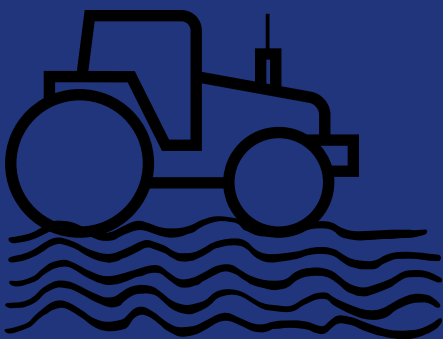
# Conservationist of the Year

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer a huge 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 recognized as the Pickaway SWCD 2021 Conservationist of the Year!



# Supervisor Election

Brian Reid grew up on a small family farm in Pickaway County. He worked at an ag center for seven years before starting his own lawn and landscaping company over 20 years ago.

Through these varying careers, Brian has had experience working with a multitude of different individuals. Brian volunteers as a 4-H advisor in Pickaway County, and is also a member of the Pickaway County Farm Bureau. He enjoys outdoor sports such as 4-wheeling and jeep riding. Brian and his wife Bethany have four children ages 14 to 20. He has lived in Pickaway County his entire life.

Andrew “Dewey” Mann currently serves as Director of the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, and Interim Director for the Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens, at The Ohio State University. Formerly, Dewey taught in the Ag Systems Management (ASM) program for nine years, with a focus on teaching and student advising. He resides east of Circleville on a small farm with his wife Kathy and two sons. Growing up on his family’s diversified row-crop and livestock farm in northern Missouri greatly impacted his experience and passion for production ag, machinery systems, and environmental stewardship. Dewey appreciates the opportunity to serve in his community and connect with those around him. He and his family are active members of the Village Chapel church.



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



Thank you to Dewey Mann for agreeing to fill an open supervisor position on the board for 1 year until the term is complete at the end of December 2022.