

PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo courtesy of SWCD Staff



Photo courtesy of Julie Metzger



Photo courtesy of Julie Metzger



Photo courtesy of Linda Archer

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 through technical assistance and education outreach.

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, Gary Scherer, and Jay Wippel for their continued support and dedication to our local conservation efforts. 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.



2022 Board of Supervisors

Board Members:	Position:	Current Terms:
Jonathan Lohstroh	Chairman	2023 through 2025
Matt Anderson	Vice-Chairman	2021 through 2023
Dewey Mann	Secretary	2021 through 2023
Bill Black	Treasurer/Fiscal Agent	2023 through 2025
Brian Reid	Member	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

Brad Hughes, District Technician (hired September 2022)

NRCS

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist

Matt Mauzy, Civil Engineering Technician

Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Resource Conservationist

Garrett Caudill, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever



Garrett, Justin, Eli, Kat, Tawn, Nathan, Matt, Brad

2022 Affiliate Members

Corporate

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
Anonymous (1)

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 & Water Protector

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

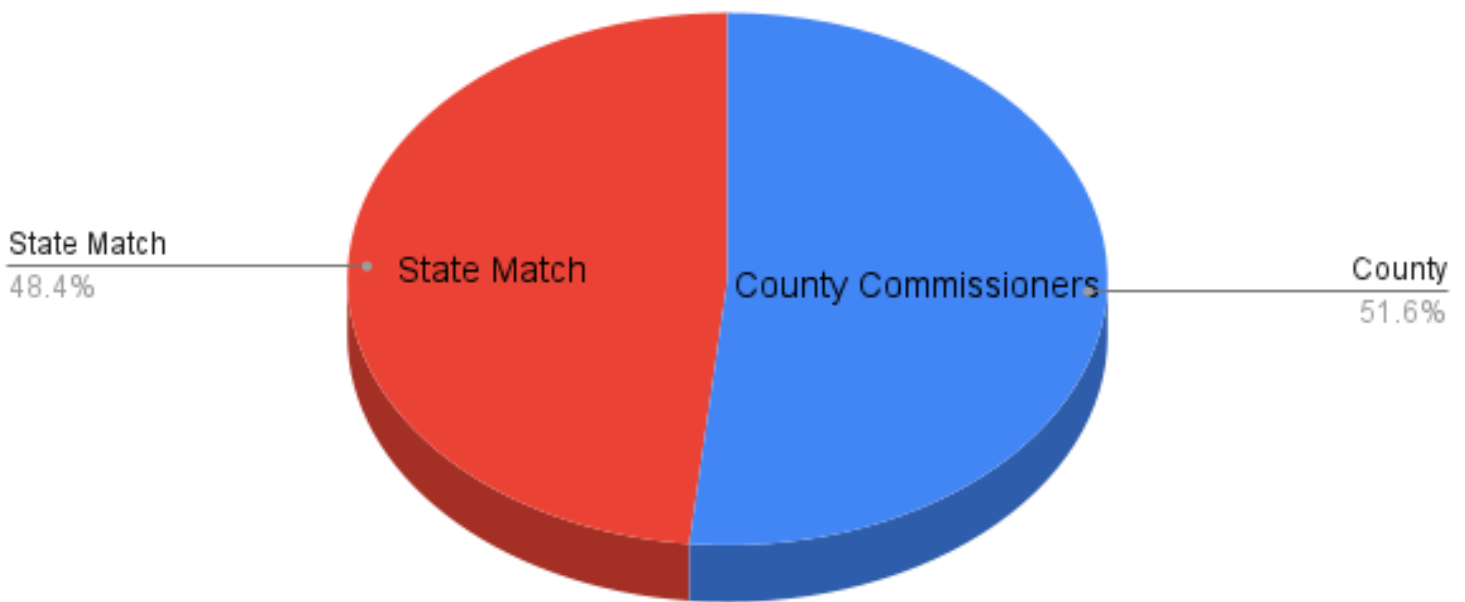
Future Conservationist (Students)

Trey Dille
Trenton Dille
Mackenzie Dille
Reese Moehl
Zac Scott
Zoe Scott
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 2022.

Pickaway SWCD Operating Fund 2022

Pickaway County Commissioners \$190,000
State Matching Funds \$178,215



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.

2022 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

Grassed Waterways

- 14 customers/projects signed up in 2022
- 15 waterways in survey/design stage
- 4 waterways fully designed
- 9 waterways constructed
- 35 waterways re-enrolled

Assist to review, revise, assemble & approve conservation plans

- 113 conservation plans

Assisted 99 people with additional drainage design & construction questions, issues, soil and watershed maps, etc.

Ag Pollution Abatement Program

- Investigated - 1
- Actual Violations - 0

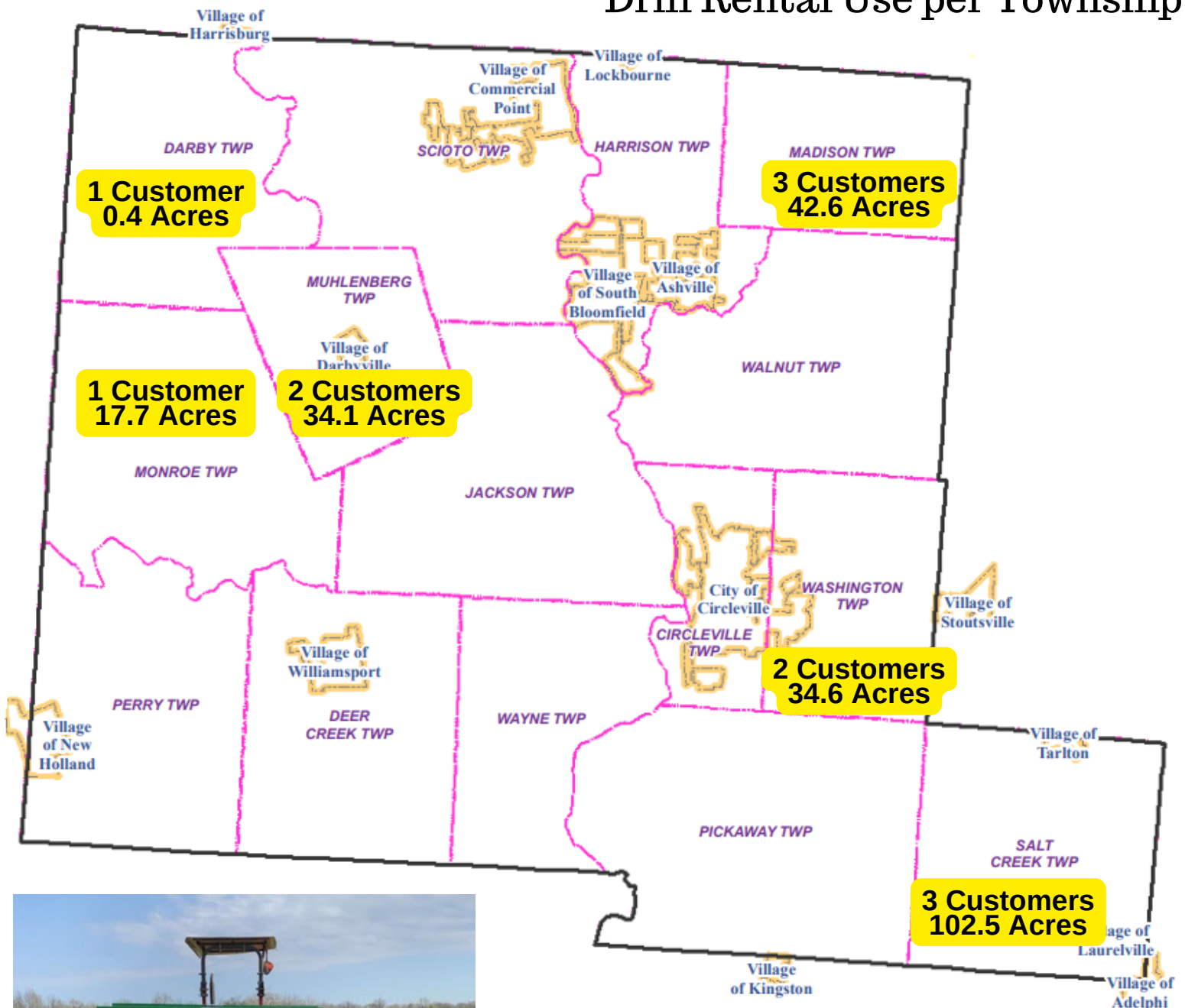
Other Projects

- Assisted with 3 ditch petitions
- 1 tile plan as-built
- 1 animal waste facility survey



Ag Conservation & Water Quality

Drill Rental Use per Township



No-Till Drill Rental Totals

- 12 customers
- 231.9 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

- 102 customers
- 375 bundles = 8,264 trees/shrubs planted
- 50 other items (ground cover, seed, etc.)
- 1,247 total flags
- Held in the spring



Hold & Distribute the Mid-Contract Management Plug Sale

- 16 customers, 96 flats of plugs
- Held in the spring



Hold the Annual Fish Sale

- 26 customers
- 17,150 fish
- 2 additional items
- Held in the spring



Timber Harvest Plans

- 1 timber harvest plan for 20.5 acres

Assist NRCS with EQIP & CSP

- 8 EQIP contracts for 829.9 acres
- 6 CSP contracts for 5,072.4 acres
- 51 CREP & Wildlife contracts





District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
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3. **Resource Conservation**
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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

- 3 easements held under the District



Photo courtesy of Robert Clark



District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
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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.

School Programs

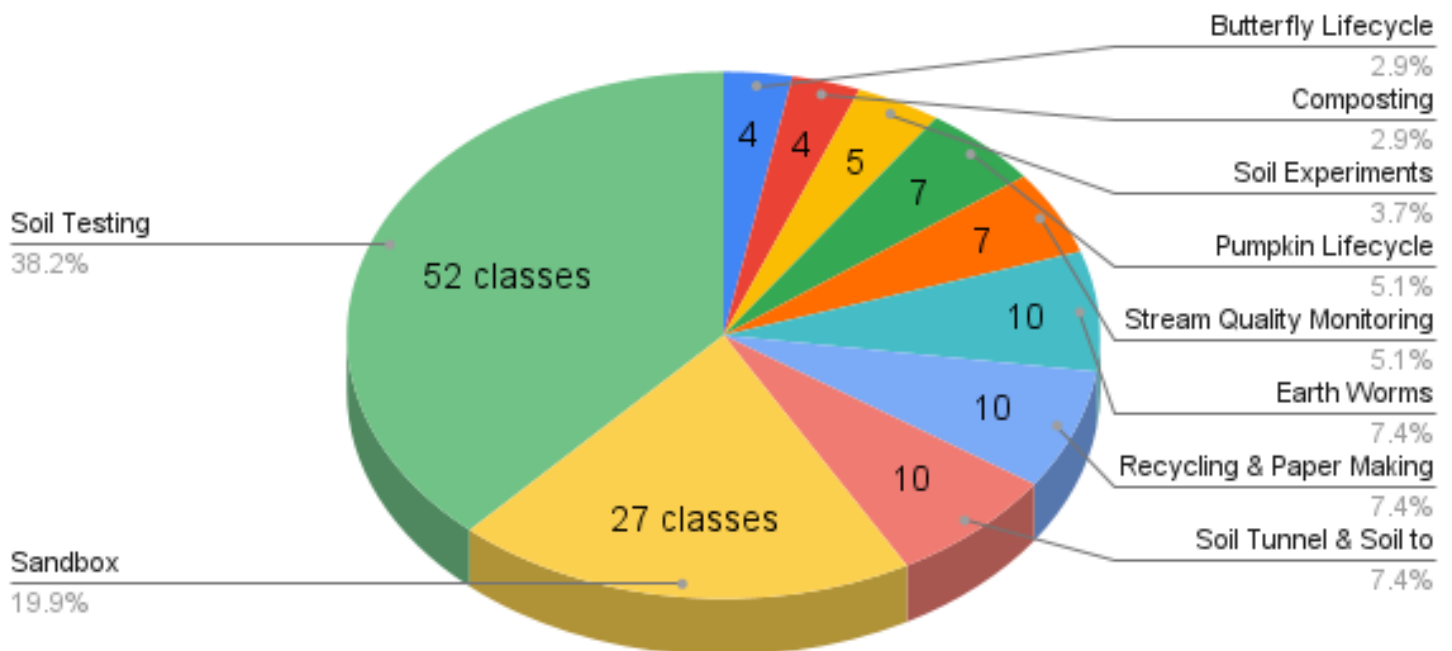


202 classroom programs
2,874 students
42 days in schools



School Programs

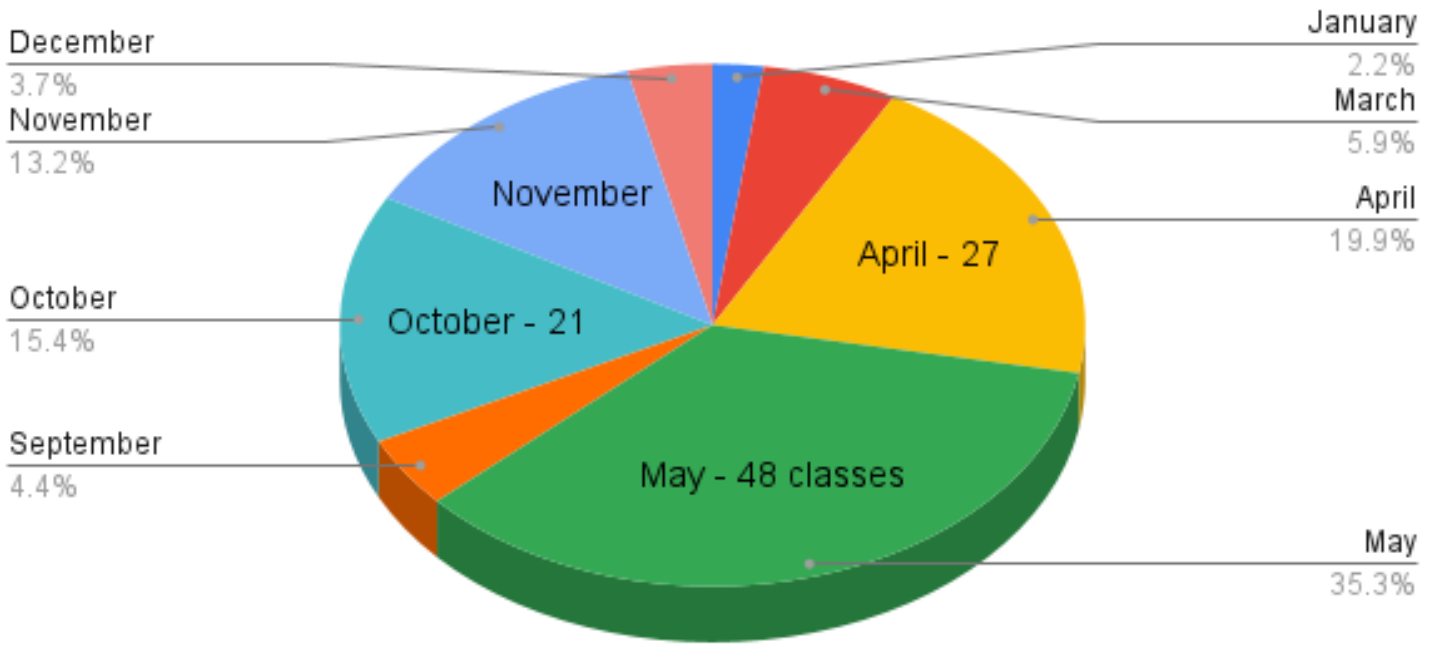
School Programs Sorted by Program



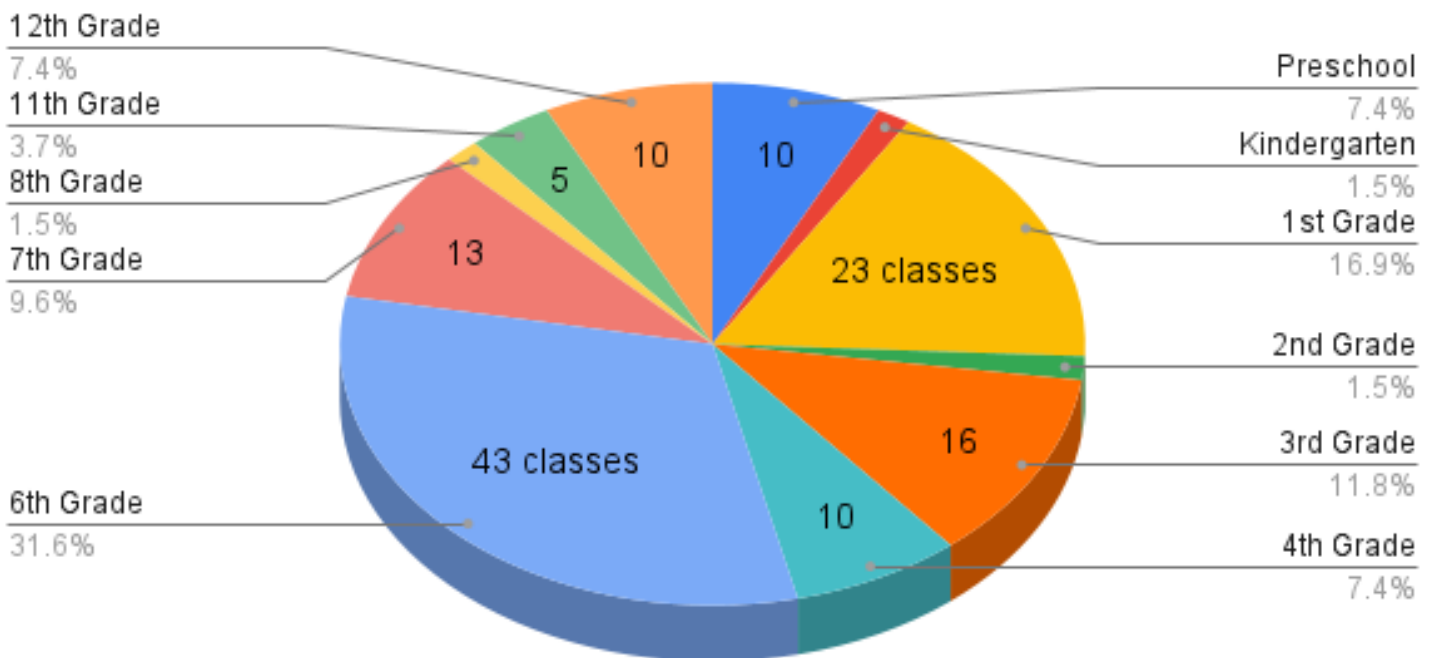
School Programs Sorted by Program	
Name	# Classes
Butterfly Lifecycle	4
Composting	4
Soil Experiments	5
Pumpkin Lifecycle	7
Stream Quality Monitoring Simulation	7
Earth Worms	10
Recycling & Paper Making	10
Soil Tunnel & Soil to Spoon	10
Sandbox	27
Soil Testing	52

School Programs

School Programs Sorted by Month

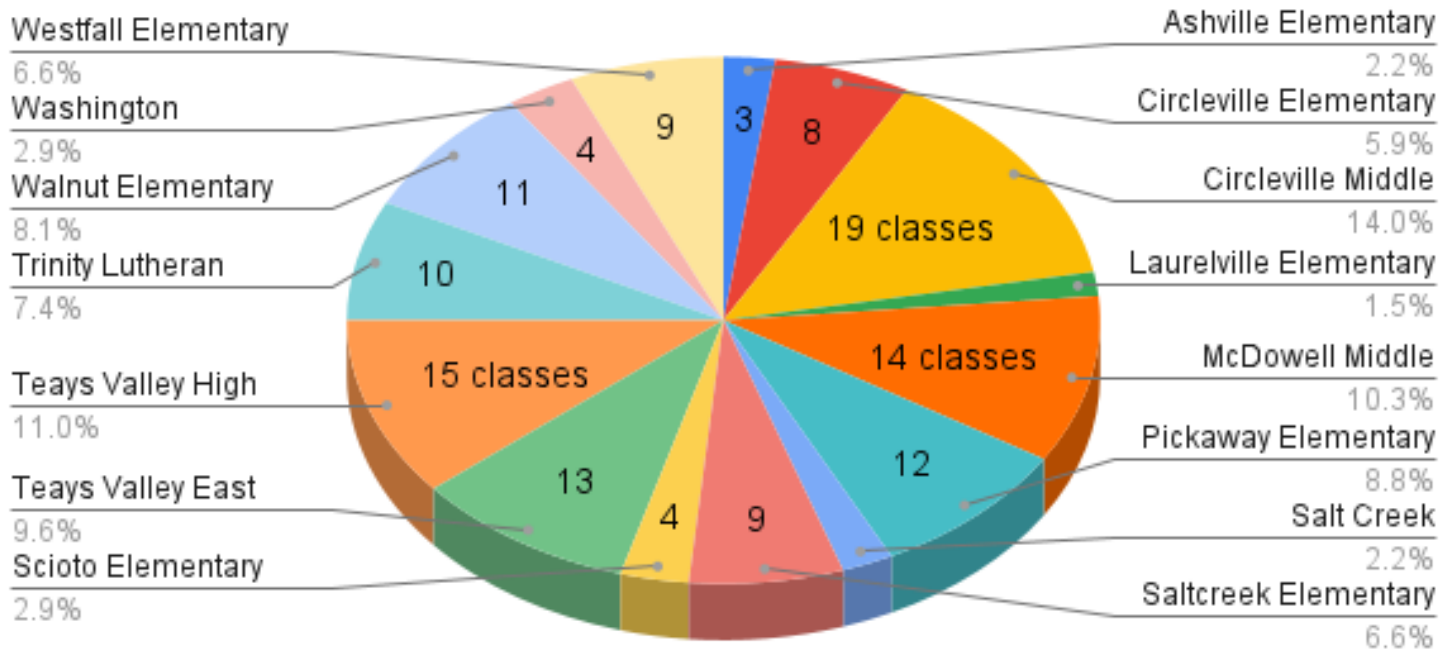


School Programs Sorted by Grade

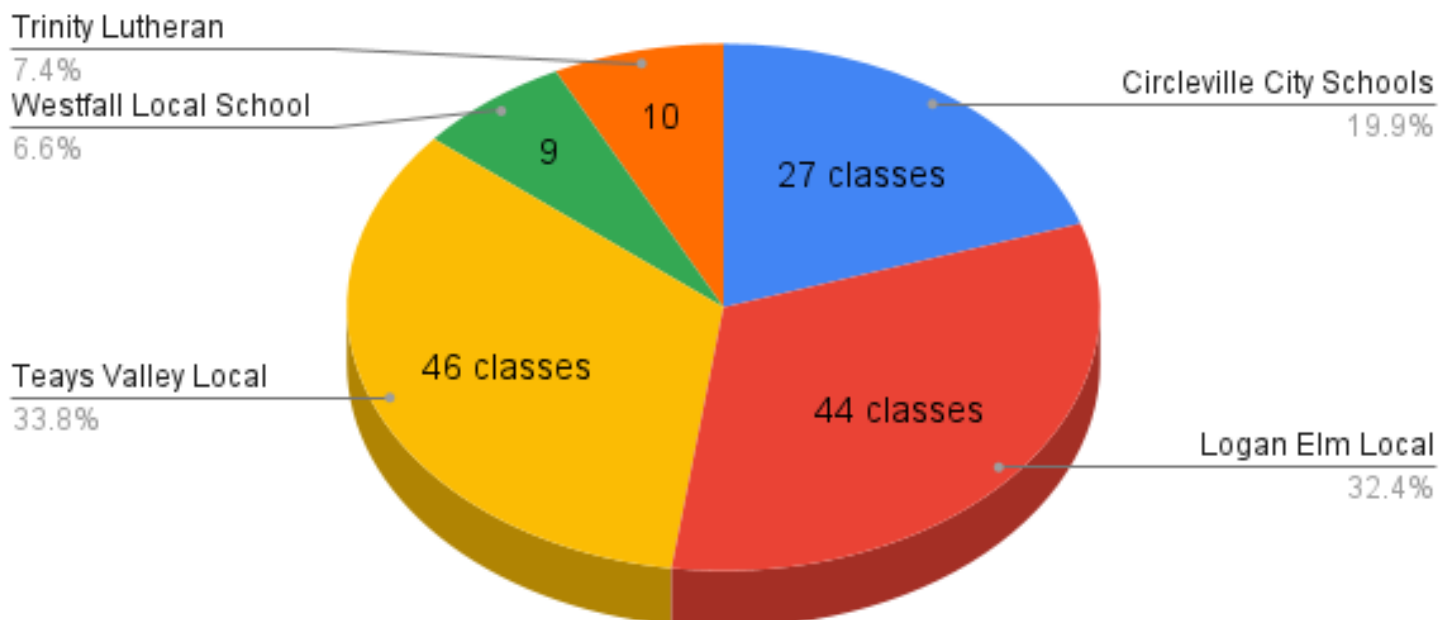


School Programs

School Programs Sorted by School Building



School Programs Sorted by School District



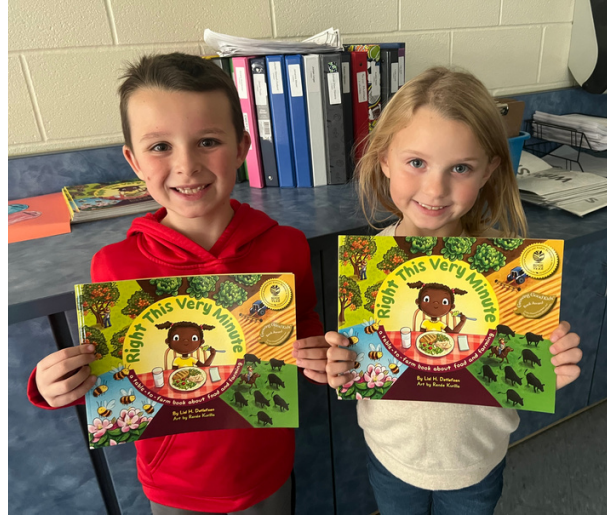
Ag Day

Pickaway County Ag Day is a partner project of Pickaway County Farm Bureau, SWCD, and local FFA chapters. Ag Day 2022 took place at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds. We had approximately:

- 815 fourth grade students
- 187 FFA students
- 75 school staff, visitors, SWCD & Farm Bureau workers



Farm-to-Table Books



Approximately 800 copies of the book titled “Right This Very Minute: a table-to-farm book about food and farming,” were delivered by Pickaway SWCD to 1st grade students in Pickaway County Schools in November. This is the third year Pickaway SWCD was able to provide these books. FFA members from Circleville, Logan Elm and Westfall partnered to read the books to and complete activities with the 1st grade students from their schools. We are excited about this collaboration!

The farm-to-table book gives students a sneak peek into the diverse world of agriculture and where our food comes from, whether it be from pollinators, crop fields, orchards, livestock farms, soil, etc. We hope the message within the book will reach both our students and their families. Details at: www.pickawayswcd.org/farm-to-table-book



Poster Contest

160 students participated in the Pickaway SWCD annual poster contest in spring 2022.

Theme: Healthy Soil: Healthy Life

7th-9th Grade Category:

1st: Caden MacDonald

2nd: Vera Henderly

HM: Zallana Clark

HM: Gracie Reft

HM: Sawyer Parish

HM: Peyton Richendollar

HM: Kylynne White

4th-6th Grade Category:

1st: Joaquin Villalobos

2nd: Eowyn Ellis

HM: Emma Champlin

HM: Connor Kint

HM: Layla Conant

HM: Jack Burke

HM: Jayanna Patete

2nd-3rd Grade Category:

1st: Brooklyn Steward

2nd: Mya Davey

K-1st Grade Category:

1st: Lydia Holbrook

State Winner: Caden MacDonald



Tree Saplings for Earth Day

All 800 Pickaway County 5th grade students received a white pine sapling in the spring in conjunction with Earth Day. Thank you to A-C FFA students for bundling the trees for us!



Summer Supervisors School

Pickaway SWCD and Adams SWCD partnered to host Soil and Water staff and supervisors from around Ohio who gathered in August for the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Summer Supervisors School. We took a canoe trip down the Scioto River ending at Canal Park for a presentation by the Pickaway County Park District.



Scholarships

Our 7th annual Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship was presented to three students in Pickaway County. We awarded Adriaahna Karr (Westfall), Julie Kitchen (Logan Elm), and Kelsey Whittington (Logan Elm) each a \$1,000 scholarship. Upcoming 2023 Pickaway County High School Seniors should check with school counselors and on our website spring 2023 for applications.



Ohio Forestry Camp Sponsorships

Pickaway SWCD helped sponsor one 4-H member, Eva Merritt, to attend forestry camp in the summer of 2022.





728

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, and led the Cloverbud activity one morning. Roughly 728 people visited our tent!





Natural Resource Project Judging 22

Pickaway SWCD again judged the 4-H Natural Resource Projects this year at the fair, which included about 22 projects in the following areas: outdoors, insects, geology, birds, trees, beekeeping, ponds and fishing.

Overall Natural Resource Project winners: Anam Havan from Monroe Clever Clovers and Brylee Brunton from Patriotic Pioneers.





Experience Earth Camp

Pickaway SWCD has been hosting EE Camp each summer for over 20 years. In 2022, we had 54 students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades register for EE Camp at Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park on July 19, 20 and 21. 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 third year to host EE Camp.





Jr. Experience Earth Camp

2022 was our second year of offering our one-day Jr. Experience Earth Camp. Jr. EE Camp took place July 22 at MVCH Park for 30 incoming 1st and 2nd grade students in Pickaway County.





Friday in the Park

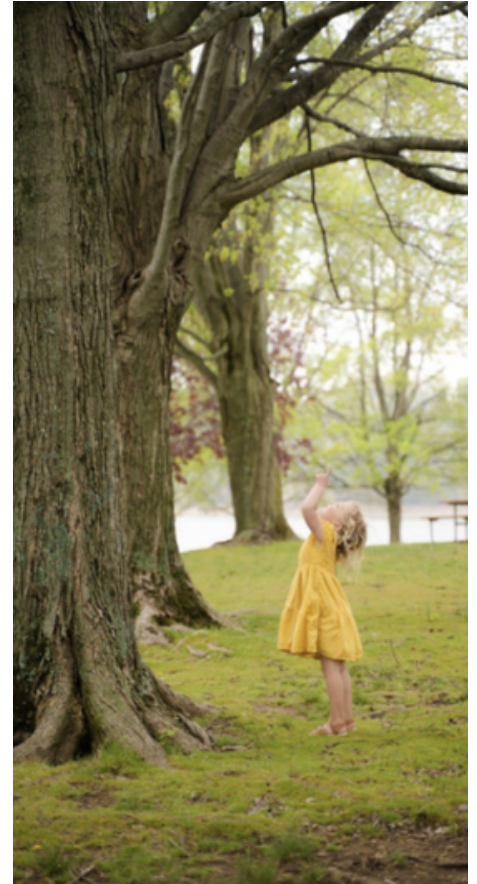
Friday in the Park is a free event geared towards children in grades pre-k to 5th grade held throughout the summer at Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park. Pickaway SWCD, Park District, and RPHF Solid Waste District hosted the July 1st Friday for 65 people. The SWCD activity included learning about the ratio of water to land on Earth, and we also made seed necklaces. SWCD also loaned the Enviroscape out for the July 8 Friday in the Park for 105 people.



Jr. Conservationist Program

The Jr. Conservationist Program is a do-it-yourself conservation program hosted by Pickaway SWCD, the Pickaway County Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Kids/families share photos of them completing outdoor activities during the warm months and receive a free hat and button if youth complete the required number of activities from each topic category: Animals, Plants, Soil, Water, Exploration and Community. 27 kids/ families participated in 2022.

Details and the activity list are on website: www.pickawayswcd.org/jr-conservationist-program.



Plants

Animals

Water

Soil

Community

Exploration



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.

Board Meetings

Monthly board meetings take place in the Service Center Conference Room the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m.

January 18, 2022
February 15, 2022
March 15, 2022
April 19, 2022
May 17, 2022
June 14, 2022
July 19, 2022
August 16, 2022
September 20, 2022
October 18, 2022
November 15, 2022
December 13, 2022

Commissioner Meetings

Pickaway SWCD meets with county commissioners quarterly to review updates.

January 25, 2022
April 26, 2022
July 26, 2022
October 25, 2022



Photo courtesy of Julie Metzger



Joint Annual Meeting & Banquet



Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District and Pickaway County Farm Bureau held their Joint Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2022. There were 126 guests in attendance. The meeting was held at Flora & Field near Deer Creek.

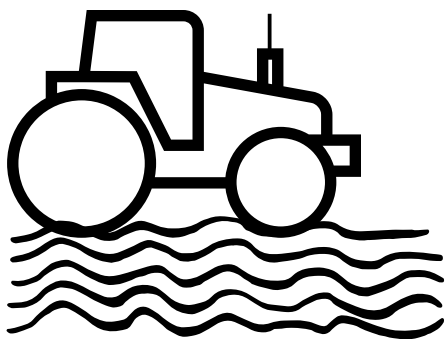


Conservationist of the Year

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.



2021 award recipient Keith Peters and Pickaway SWCD Board President Jonathan Lohstroh presented the award to the Gifford Family.