

PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

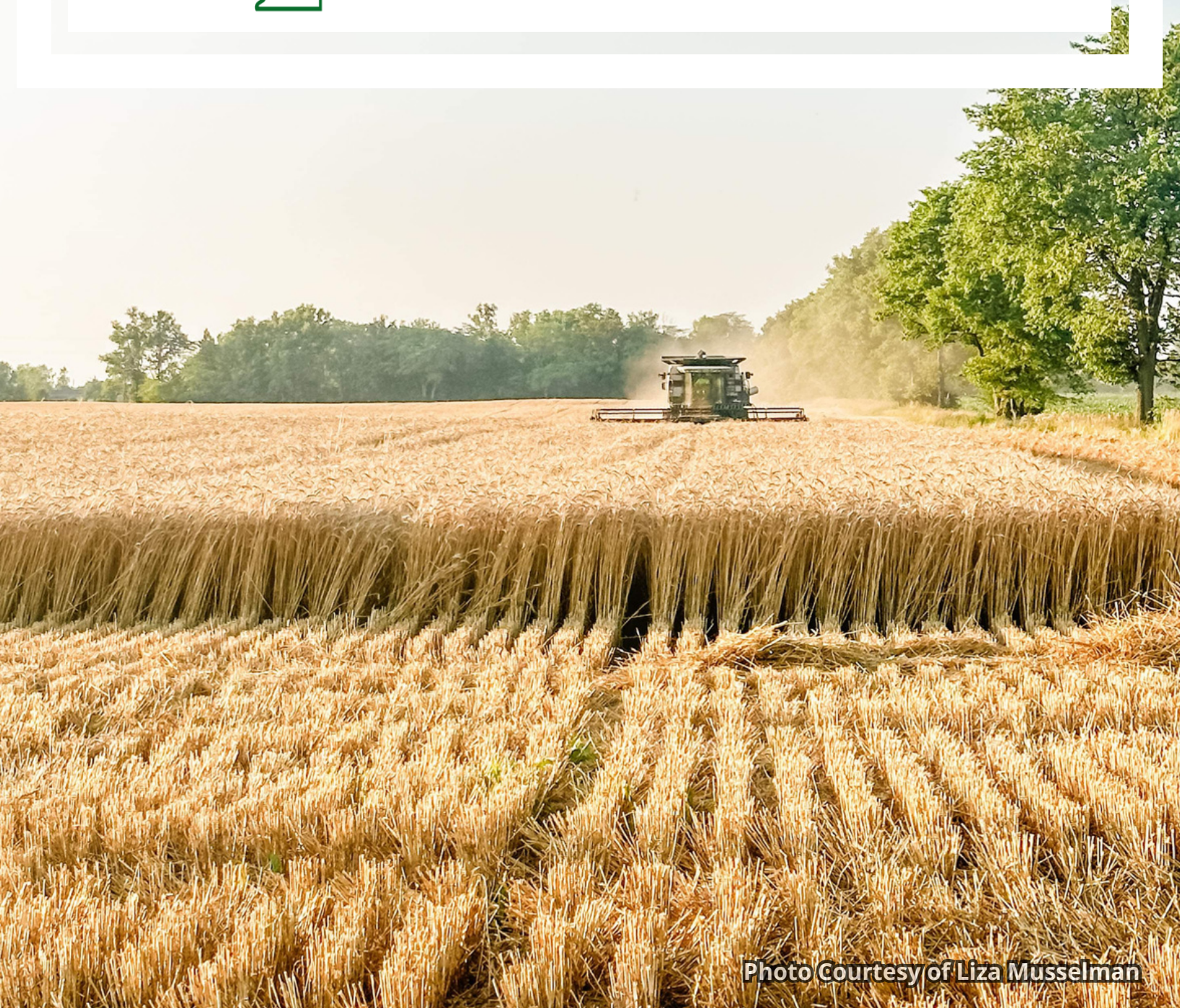


Photo Courtesy of Liza Musselman

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.



2023 Board of Supervisors

Board Members:	Position:	Current Terms:
Dewey Mann	Chairman	2023 through 2025
Matt Anderson	Vice-Chairman	2023 through 2025
Brian Reid	Secretary	2022 through 2024
Bill Black	Treasurer/Fiscal Agent	2024 through 2026
Jonathan Lohstroh	Member	2024 through 2026



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

Brad Hughes, District Technician

Nate Taylor, District Technician (resigned March 2023)

Adriahna Karr, District Technician (hired May 2023)

NRCS

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist

Matt Mauzy, Civil Engineering Technician

Megan Sweeney, Soil Conservationist

Melanie Cowell, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist



Katerina, Adriahna, Brad, Tawn, Megan, Justin, Matt, Melanie

2023 Affiliate Members

Corporate \$250

Columbus Turf Nursery, LTD.
Elite Construction Design Management
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 \$100

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

Soil & Water Protector \$30

Darren & Susan Metzger
Doug & Vicki Kohli
John & Kathy Ellis
Mark & Toni Schein
Todd Millard
Penelope LaRock
Thomas & Scarlett Ebenhack
Melanie Self
Anonymous (2)

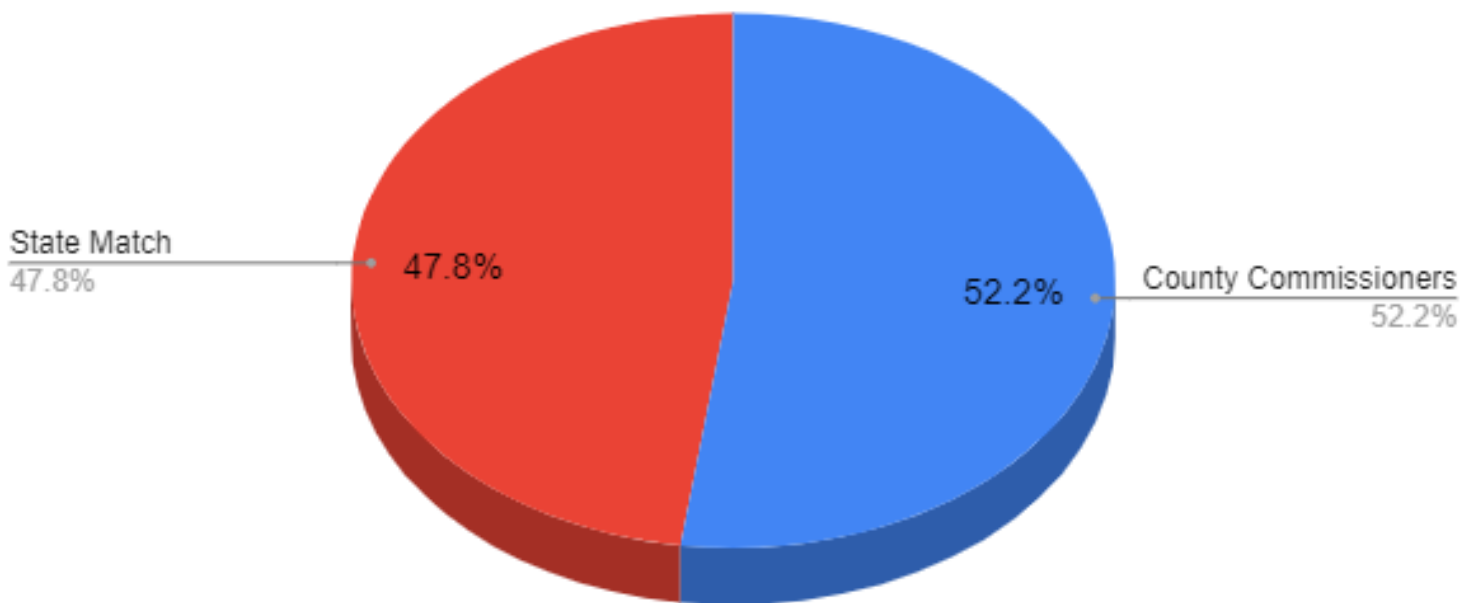
Future Conservationist (Students) \$10

Austin Clark
Trey Dille
Trenton Dille
Mackenzie Dille
Reese Moehl
Adrian Moehl
Lane Musselman
Levi Musselman
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 2 graduating seniors each a \$1,000 Donald E. Minor Memorial scholarship in spring of 2023.

Pickaway SWCD Operating Fund 2023

Pickaway County Commissioners \$190,000
State Matching Funds \$173,957



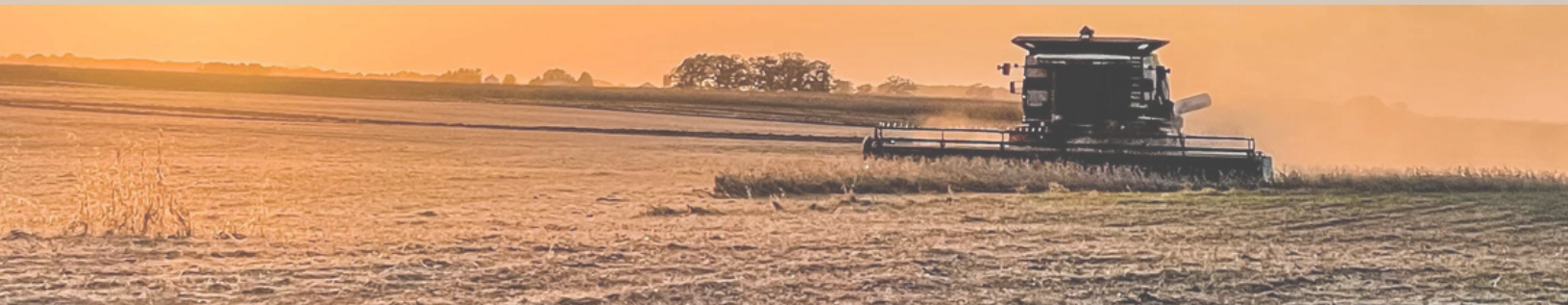
Pickaway SWCD operates on funding provided by the Pickaway County Commissioners and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Resources.

2023 Resource Concerns

- 1. Soil Erosion & Soil Quality**
- 2. Water Quality Degradation**
- 3. Human Resources**
(administration, staffing, training)
to implement programs
effectively and efficiently.

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.

Photo Courtesy of Liza Musselman

Ag Conservation & Water Quality

Grassed Waterways

- 3 WW Sign Ups
- 48 WW Re-Enrolls
- 10 WWs in Survey/Design Stage
- 18 WWs Designed
- 4 WWs Constructed

Assist to review, revise, assemble & approve conservation plans

- 119 conservation plans

Assisted 20+ people with additional drainage design & construction questions, issues, soil and watershed maps, etc.

Ag Pollution Abatement Program

- 0 Violations in 2023

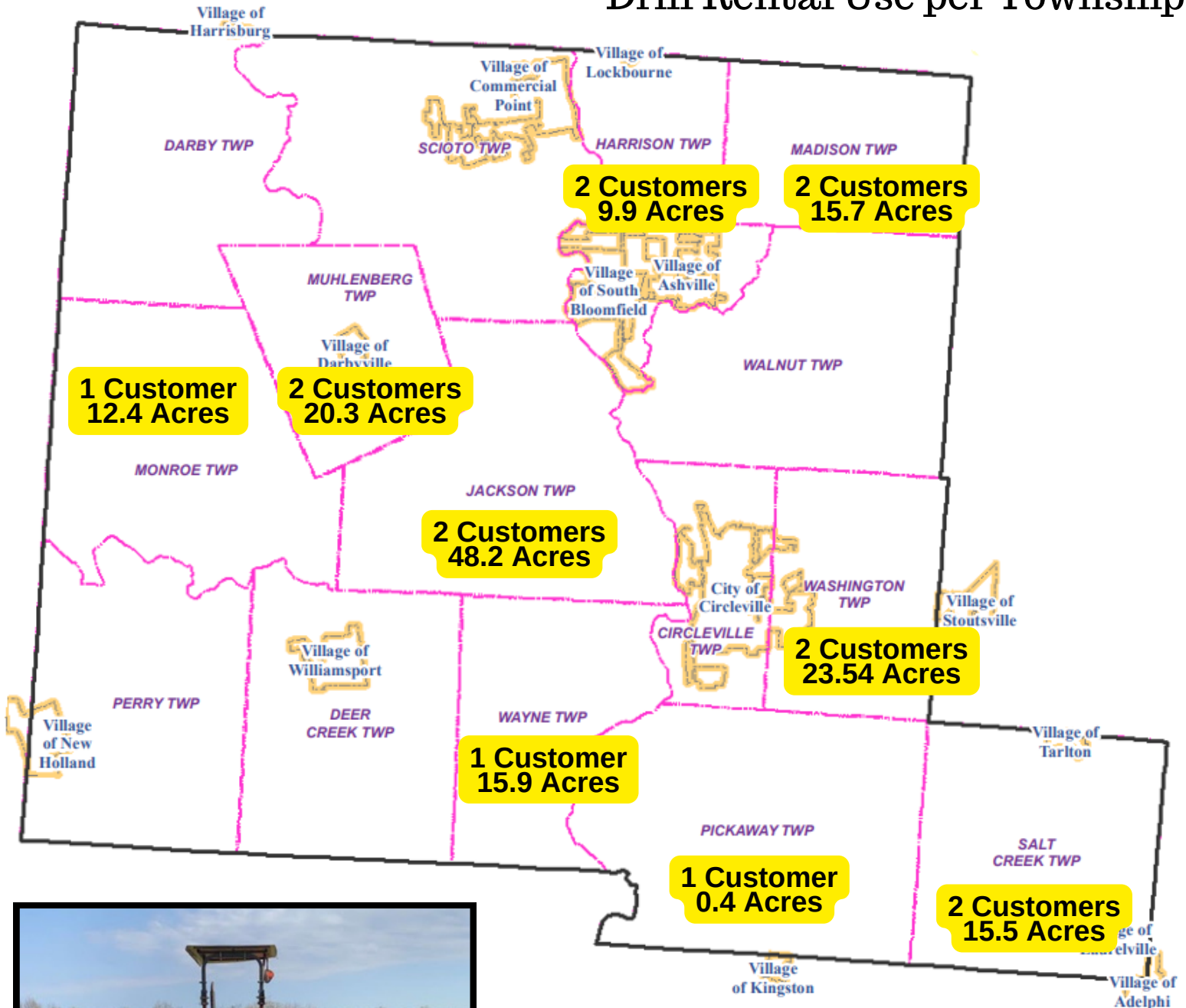
Other Projects

- Assisted with 2 ditch petitions
- 1 tile plan as-built
- 1 pasture/forage plan



Ag Conservation & Water Quality

Drill Rental Use per Township

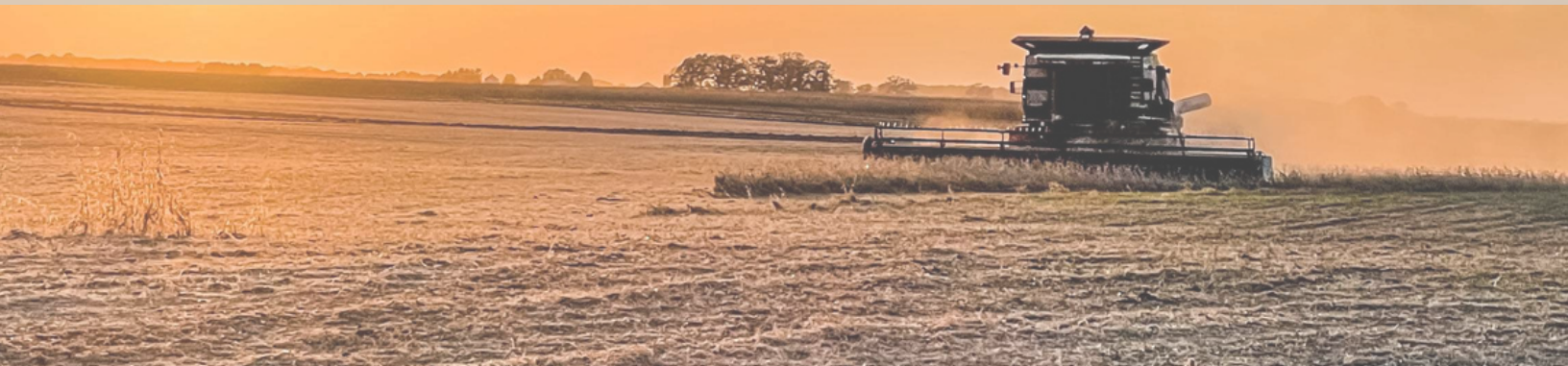


No-Till Drill Rental Totals

- 15 customers
- 161.84 acres seeded

District Initiatives

1. Agricultural Conservation & Water Quality
2. **Forestry & Wildlife Conservation**
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4. Education, Outreach & Public Information
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Forestry & Wildlife Conservation

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

Photo Courtesy of Liza Musselman

Forestry & Wildlife Conservation

Hold the Annual Tree Sale

- 122 customers
- 338 bundles = 7,403 trees planted
- 73 other items (ground cover, seed, etc.)
- Held in the spring



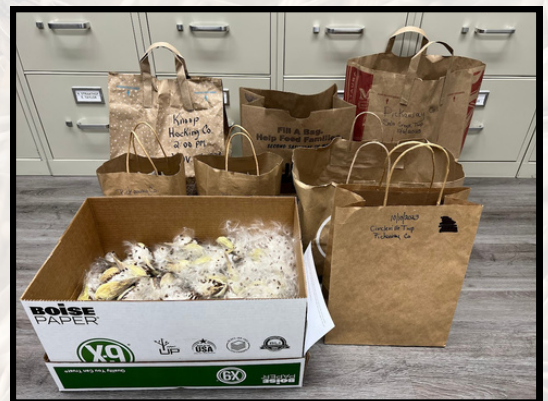
Hold & Distribute the Mid-Contract Management Plug Sale

- 9 customers
- 51 flats of plugs
- Held in the spring



Hold the Annual Fish Sale

- 41 customers
- 24,487 total fish sold
- 13 additional items
- Held in the spring



Milkweed Pod Collection

- Collected milkweed pods in office for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Assist NRCS with EQIP & CSP

- 4 EQIP contracts for 581.5 acres
- 2 CSP contracts for 2,890.4 acres
- 89 CREP & Wildlife contracts



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 3 ponds

Annual Evaluation & Report of Conservation Easements

- 3 easements held under the District

Assist Health Department with site investigations

- 1 site evaluation



District Initiatives

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

A photograph of a combine harvester working in a field during sunset. The sky is a warm orange color, and the field is filled with harvested crops. The harvester is in the middle ground, moving from right to left.

Education, Outreach & Public Information

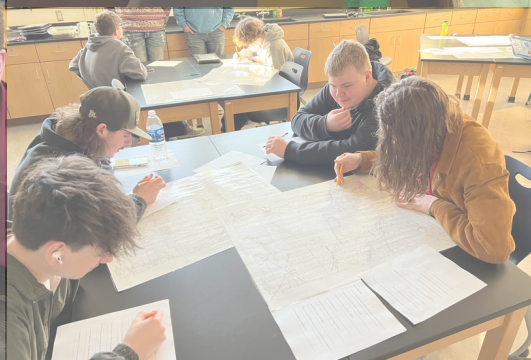
The Pickaway SWCD will use an effective educational and informational program to promote the wise use of our natural resources and agriculture.

Photo Courtesy of Liza Musselman

School Programs

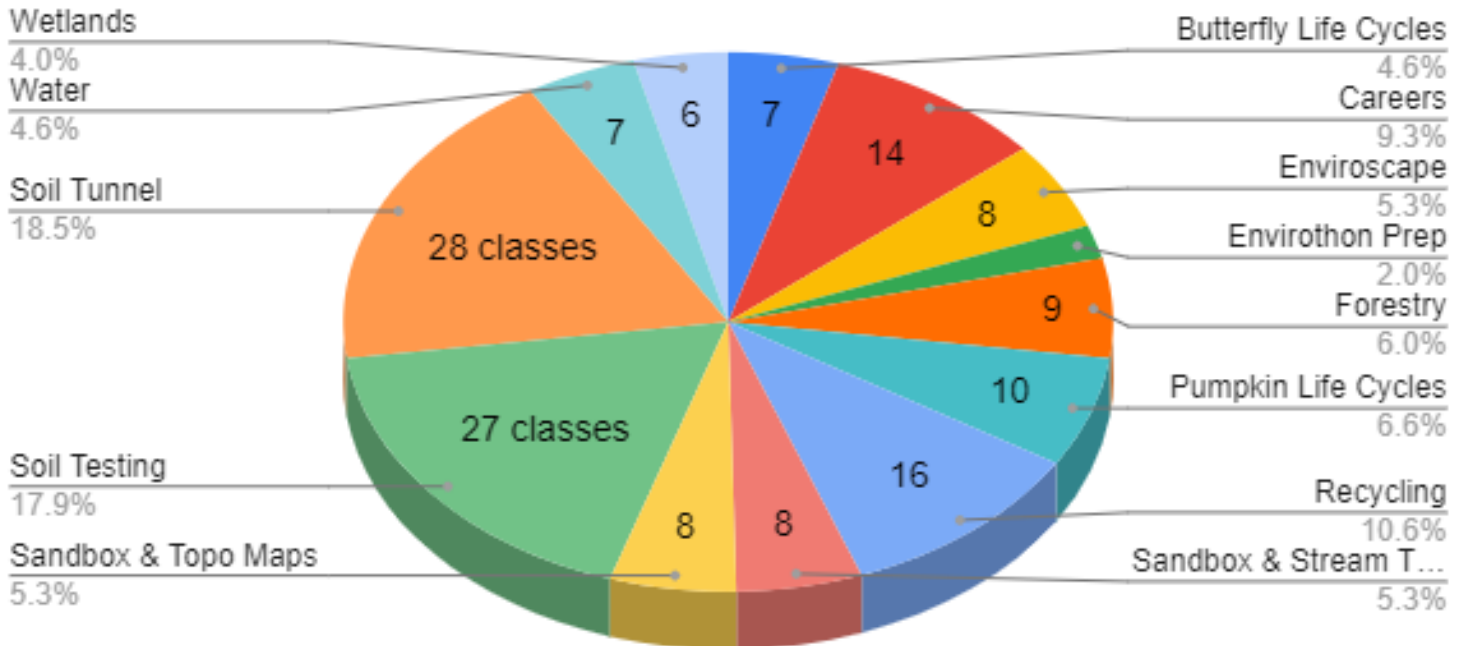


151 classroom programs
3,767 students
44 days in schools

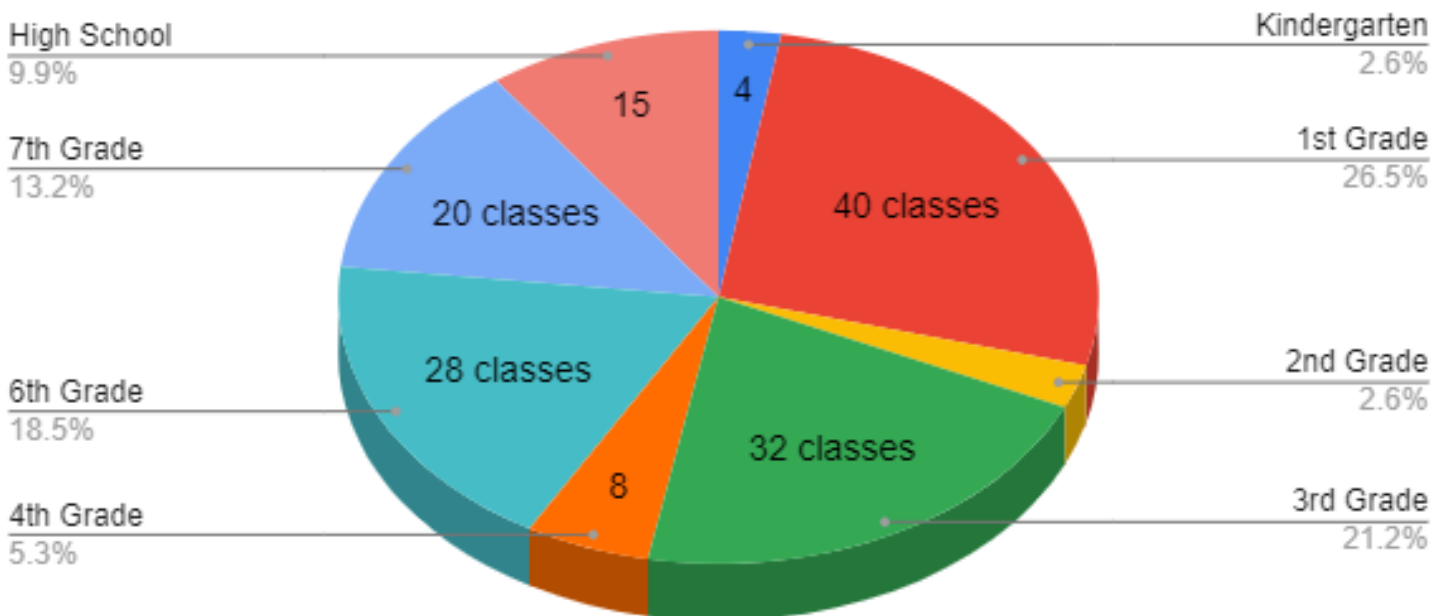


School Programs

School Programs Sorted by Program

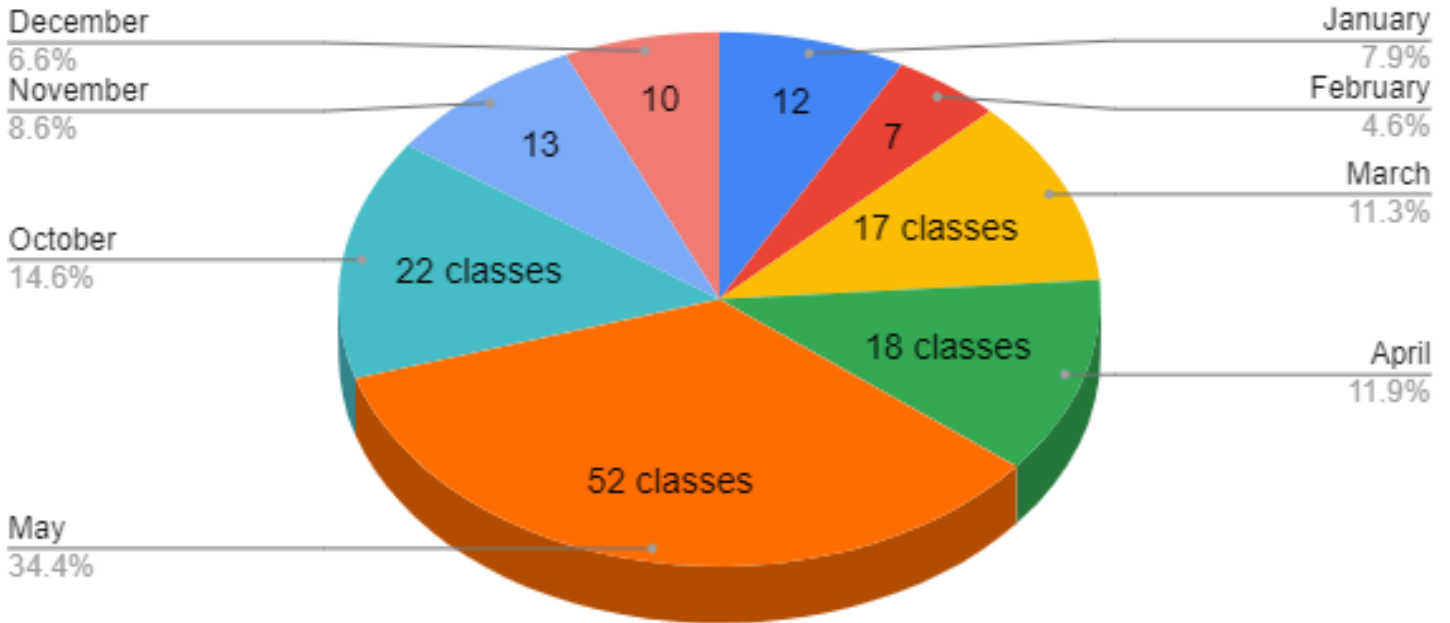


School Programs Sorted by Grade Level

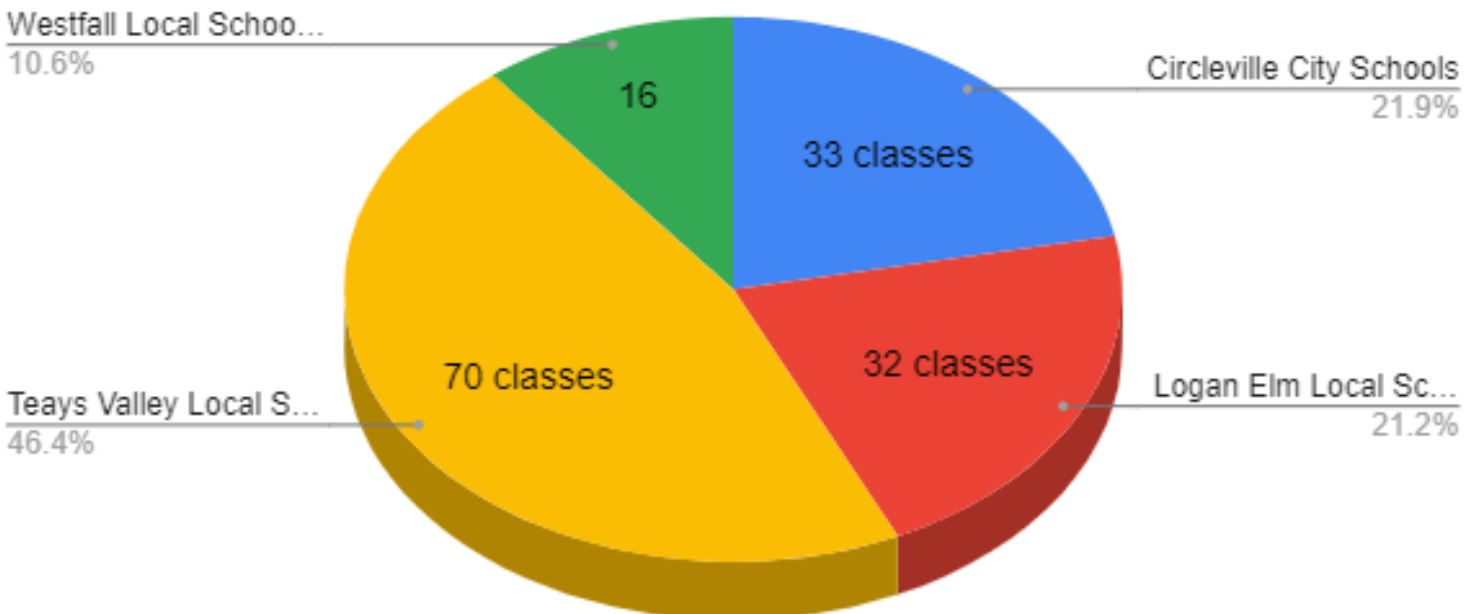


School Programs

School Programs Sorted by Month



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 2023 took place at the fairgrounds over two days; half the schools came on day 1 and half on day 2. We had approximately:

- 824 fourth grade students
- 180 FFA students
- 66 school staff, visitors, SWCD & Farm Bureau workers



Scholarships

Our 8th annual Donald E. Minor Memorial Scholarship was presented to two students in Pickaway County. Braeden Martin (Logan Elm) and Nathan Videkovich (Teays Valley) each received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Farm-to-Table Books

805 copies of “Right This Very Minute: a table-to-farm book about food and farming,” were delivered to 1st grade students across the county. This is the fourth year Pickaway SWCD

provided these books. FFA members from Circleville, Logan Elm & Westfall partnered to read the books to 1st graders from their schools.



Poster Contest

268 students participated in the Pickaway SWCD annual poster contest in spring 2023.

Theme: One Water

7th-9th Grade Category:

1st: Molly Miller

2nd: Laynie Ash

HM: Kymber Collier

HM: Natalie Brush

HM: Christian Cook

HM: Cameron Daniels

HM: Riley Fluhart

4th-6th Grade Category:

1st: Adalyn Brisker

2nd: Lucy Wolfe

HM: Sapphira Altermen

HM: Gracie Allison

HM: Aubree Holbrook

HM: Emma Hutchison

HM: Brody Scott

2nd-3rd Grade Category:

1st: Brooklyn Steward

K-1st Grade Category:

1st: Josie Willis

2nd: Kinsley Steward



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, Circleville FFA, and LE Science Class students for bundling the trees for us!



Area 5 Envirothon

The 2023 Area 5 Envirothon was hosted this year at Lake Hope State Park. There were 215 students in attendance. Our Logan Elm Braves team was 1 of 43 teams to compete. High school students work as a team to answer questions on soil, forestry, wildlife, aquatic wildlife, and a current environmental issue.



Pickaway County Fair

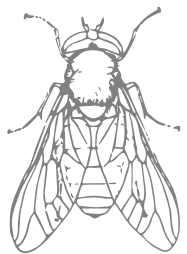
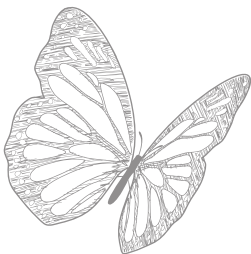
Pickaway SWCD shared a fair tent with the Park District and RPHF Solid Waste District. We shared District info, had educational activities and displays, and led the Cloverbud activity one morning. Roughly 1,075 people visited our tent!



Natural Resource Project Judging

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

Overall Natural Resource Project winners:
Ava Moyer and Cameron Clark.



Experience Earth Camp

Pickaway SWCD has been hosting EE Camp each summer for over 20 years. In 2023, we had 64 students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades register for EE Camp at Cooks Creek Nature Preserve (former golf course) on July 18, 19 and 20. 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 fourth year to host EE Camp.



Jr. Experience Earth Camp

2023 was our third year of offering our one-day Jr. Experience Earth Camp. Jr. EE Camp took place July 21 at Cooks Creek Nature Preserve for 30 incoming 1st and 2nd grade students in Pickaway County.



District 7 Soil Judging

Pickaway SWCD hosted the District 7 Soil Judging Career Development Event (CDE) for FFA students. We had 19 schools and 151 students in attendance. Special thanks to the Richards Family for allowing us to use their farm, to Brian Cooley for judging the soil pits, and to board member Bill Black for helping dig the pits.



We decided to take full advantage of this opportunity and spent the morning after the FFA contest teaching soil judging to Logan Elm's environmental and natural resources classes. We talked about texture, landforms, slope, soil structure, water, and looked at web soil survey maps of the area.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Pickaway SWCD and Pickaway County Park District hosted a rain barrel workshop in the spring, located at Canal Park. Attendees learned about rain barrels, had dinner, and then received a rain barrel to put together and take home.



There's a MAP for That Workshop

Pickaway SWCD and Pickaway Co. GIS hosted a map workshop in the spring. Attendees learned how to use the GIS and Web Soil Survey sites to look up property info such as soil types, drainage details, and parcels. Hosted at the Pickaway Co. Library.



Community Programs

Pickaway SWCD worked with roughly 1,000 youth and adults during these community outreach events and programs.



Friday in the Park
 Soil Program at Canal Park
 Derby Junior Garden Club
 Senior Center Program
 Farm Science Review
 Girl Scout Camp
 Rotary Programs
 4-H Club Program
 YMCA Healthy Kids Day
 Growing Up Wild (Head Start Event)
 Forestry Camp Sponsorship
 District 8 Science Fair Judging
 FFA Career Development Event Judging

Summer Internships

For the first time, Pickaway SWCD had two paid high school students interning with us over the summer:

Quincy Lowery (Logan Elm) and Emma Brown (Westfall).

These ladies did an excellent job all summer helping prep and run Experience Earth Camp, summer programs, and the fair booth. They helped prepare materials for Ag Day and school programs, ran the District Facebook page, labeled and sorted farm-to-table books, and helped with technical work. They were a huge asset to our District.



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.

Photo Courtesy of Liza Musselman

Board Meetings

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

January 16, 2023
February 20, 2023
March 19, 2023
April 16, 2023
May 21, 2023
June 11, 2023
July 16, 2023
August 20, 2023
September 10, 2023
October 15, 2023
November 19, 2023
December 10, 2023

Commissioner Meetings

Pickaway SWCD meets with county commissioners quarterly to review updates.

January 24, 2023
April 25, 2023
August 1, 2023
October 24, 2023

Local Workgroup Meeting

The 2023 Local Work Group meeting took place on March 21, 2023.

Agency representatives in attendance included SWCD, NRCS, FSA, OSU Extension, ODA, and the Park District.

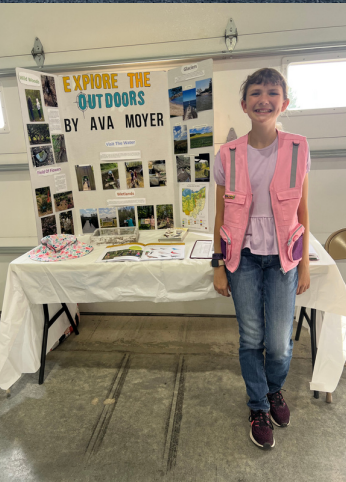
Joint Annual Meeting & Banquet



Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District and Pickaway County Farm Bureau held their Joint Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 16,



2023. There were 93 guests in attendance. The meeting was held at Justin Adams' shop as an OSU game watch event with a food truck.

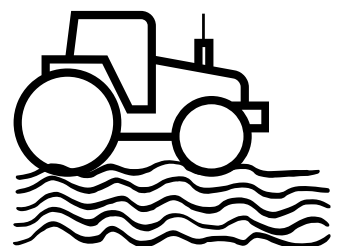


Conservationist of the Year

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer a huge congratulations to Richard Clifton and Family for being chosen as the Pickaway SWCD 2023 Cooperator of the Year!

Richard farms with his wife Judy, son Sam, and granddaughter Anna. They have been with our organization as a cooperator since 1979. Their operation consists of rotations of corn, soybeans, and wheat. Richard is in the Conservation Stewardship Program where he plants cover crops, as well as in the Conservation Reserve Program for waterways on the farm.

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





**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR PART IN
MAKING 2023 A SUCCESS!**