



PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

75th ANNIVERSARY

1944-2019

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

Upcoming Events

April 28 - May 3
Stewardship Week

April 30
Area 5 Envirothon

May 21
Board Meeting - 7:30 am

May 27
Memorial Day
OFFICE CLOSED

June 11
Board Meeting - 7:30 am

June 15 - 22
Pickaway County Fair

July 4
Independence Day
OFFICE CLOSED

July 12
Friday in the Park

July 16
Board Meeting - 7:30 am

July 23 - 25
Experience Earth Day Camp

July 25
Pond Clinic

August 8
75 Year Banquet & Meeting

Tree & Fish Sale Updates

Our Annual Tree Seedling Sale and Fish Fingerling Sale both went off without a hitch! We sold 4,808 seedlings to 74 customers, and 8,184 fingerlings to 22 customers. Pickaway SWCD wants to thank everyone who purchased from our office and we look forward to next year. Please watch for our January 2020 newsletter for details. Information for next year's sale will also be posted to our website.



Affiliate Memberships

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be an affiliate member this year! We appreciate all of your support to our office and dedication to conservation. While we renew all memberships every January, anyone is welcome to send in a form at any time during the year. This year's affiliate members are:

Corporate Members

The Savings Bank, Richard & Judy Clifton, Honeyrun Farms, C. Randall & Cindy Metzger, Vickers Farms, Pickaway County Banking Center, Pickaway County Farm Bureau, Ruff Farm

Steward of the Land

Hartsock Ag, John & Curtis Drummond, Wiseheart Farms, John & Susie Dunlap, Arnold & Diane Gabriel, Gregg & Teresa Mayberry, Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr, Don Shaw

Soil and Water Protector

Pickaway County Visitors Bureau, Ashley Hansen, Laurina Harper, Doug & Vicki Kohli, Anita Kohn, Paul Marshall, Todd Millard, James Trimmer

Education & Outreach

NACD Poster Contest

Pickaway SWCD hosted our annual poster contest again this year, and what a success! This year's theme, chosen by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), was Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper. Participating students had the chance to learn about the importance of healthy soil, some common uses of soil, and ways to take good care of it. This also presented students with the opportunity to learn about some related careers. We had a total of 119 students from around Pickaway County compete in the contest. Posters were judged by grade category: 4th-6th grade and 7-9th grade. A first place, second place, and several honorable mentions were chosen from each category. The following students received top recognition.

4th –6th Grade

- 1st - Jude Palmer
- 2nd - Maggie Wilson
- HM - Hannah Rhoads
- HM - Savannah Conley
- HM - Emma Stonerock
- HM - Alivia Stephens
- HM - McKenna Perkins

7th-9th Grade

- 1st - Olivia Bright
- 2nd - Aurora O'Phelan
- HM - Kinley Whited
- HM - Brynn Bell
- HM - Brock Pugh
- HM - Hope Auers
- HM - Tayla Tootle



Salt Creek 6th Graders



McDowell 7th & 8th Graders



The 64th Annual Soil & Water Stewardship Week will be celebrated April 28th through May 4th. All winning posters will be displayed at the Pickaway County Library and copied into a placemat distributed at Captain D's and Bob Evans during Stewardship Week. Be sure to check them out if you are in the area! The top placing posters advance to the State Contest with a chance to advance to the National Contest. Wish these students good luck!



We are excited to announce that the winner of our contest in 2018, Haylea Knisley, went on to also win the national contest for her age category. The theme of last year's contest was Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home. Haylea and her art teacher, Robyn Helsel, are pictured above. This is a huge accomplishment! Congratulations, Haylea!



Circleville 6th Grade

Education & Outreach

District 8 Science Fair Results

The District 8 Science Fair is for students in grades 5-12 attending schools in Fairfield, Licking, Pickaway and Perry counties. The four SWCDs in those counties are responsible for judging the projects that have been entered into the Soil and Water Conservation area. This year's top three placing students and their project topics were:

1st - Cassidy Smith, Bloom Carroll, Using mealworms and wax moth larvae for Styrofoam biodegradation

2nd - Makayla Lerner, Bloom Carroll, Applying nitrogen to oil-eating microbes to help clean up oil spills quicker

3rd - Kalib Riddle, Liberty Union, Using basalt carbon capture to improve corn growth and fertility

Local Work Group Meeting

The Pickaway County Annual Plan of Work/Local Work Group Meeting met on Wednesday, March 20 at the Service Center. Representatives from SWCD, NRCS, Pheasants Forever, OSU Extension, County Engineers, Parks District, Solid Waste District, and Senior Fair Board were present. SWCD staff presented the District's vision, mission statement, administrative policy incentives, education and public information initiatives, agricultural conservation initiatives, water quality initiatives, and resource conservation initiatives. NRCS and Pheasants Forever staff reviewed the conservation programs offered and the forestry and wildlife conservation initiatives. High priority concerns for the county were identified as soil erosion, water quality degradation, soil quality degradation, and inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife.

School Programs Update

Our educator has been very busy visiting Pickaway County Schools! She has visited 128 classrooms this 2018-2019 school year, and she has many more programs scheduled for this school year that haven't happened yet! Some of the program favorites include: Composting, Worms, Pumpkin Patch, Recycling, Soil Tunnel, Soil Testing, Butterfly Life Cycle, Enviroscape and Paper Making.



Check out our website at www.pickawayswcd.org for resources such as:

- Office News and Events
- Rental Equipment
- Residential Resources
- Education Program Info
- Scholarships
- Newsletters
- Tree and Fish Sales
- Contractor and Vendor Lists
- Poster Contest
- Affiliate Members
- Lending Library Book List
- Photo Gallery!

Visit our Photo Gallery on our website to view more photos!

Upcoming Events

Area 5 Envirothon

Wish Logan Elm FFA good luck, as they have three teams traveling to Gallipolis the end of April for the Area 5 Envirothon competition! The Envirothon is a hands-on, academic, outdoor team competition for high school students. Teams are tested on their knowledge of forestry, soils, wildlife and aquatic ecology. Top teams at the Area 5 event advance to the state competition in June. More information can be found at www.area5envirothon.org.

Pickaway County Fair

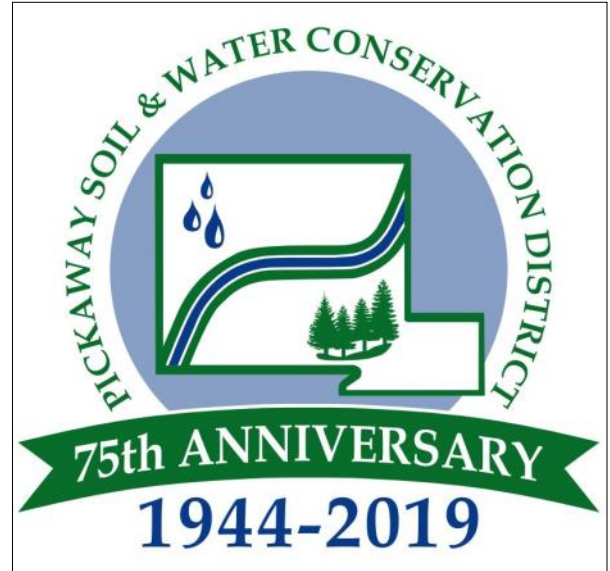
Come find us at the Pickaway County Fair! We are planning some really cool educational activities!

Friday in the Park

Ted Lewis Park will again be the home of the "Friday in the Park" program this summer. This activity is designed for youth from preschool through 6th grade. It offers 4 activity areas that are developed around a theme for that day. Pickaway SWCD, OSU Extension, Parks District, and Solid Waste District will be partnering up again this year to provide activities for our Friday, which will be July 12. Our theme is "Nature Around the World."

Experience Earth Day Camp

We are excited to announce that we are bringing our Experience Earth Camp back this summer, July 23-25! EE Camp is for students in Pickaway County who are about to enter 4th or 5th grade. Students will have the opportunity to learn about nature and wildlife while enjoying the beautiful outdoors. More detailed information will be available on our website soon!



Annual Meeting & Banquet

Please come and celebrate Pickaway SWCD's 75th anniversary on Thursday, August 8 at the Lightning Tree Barn, located at 28544 Kingston Pike. We are planning lots of fun and interactive activities for adults and youth alike! This will be a casual, family friendly event with food and fun. More details to come in our next newsletter!

Pond Clinic

Save the Date!

Hocking & Pickaway SWCDs are hosting a pond clinic on July 25. Additional details will be posted to our website and sent out in the next newsletter as plans are finalized. We hope to see you there!

Follow us on Facebook @Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District to keep up to date with what we are doing and to see photos we post from school programs and SWCD events!

Technical Corner

Construction Season is Here!

Along with the beautiful spring weather, construction season has arrived! Our technicians have been busy working on all sorts of projects, including field tile and waterways. Their work includes meeting with landowners, visiting sites, surveying land, designing plans, answering lots and lots of questions, working with contractors to develop projects, and much much more!

Erosion Prevention & Drainage Complaints

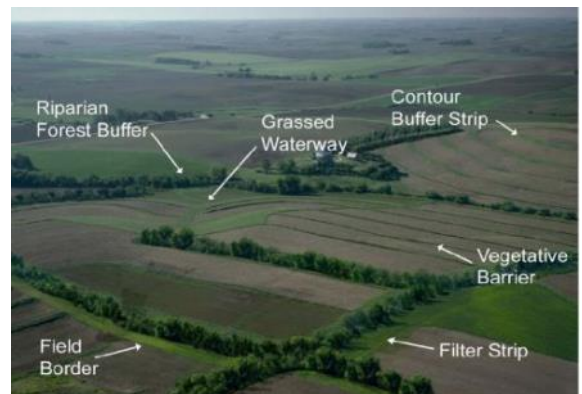
With all of last year's rain, we've had a lot more erosion challenges and drainage complaints than normal. We thought now would be a good time to think about some of the good conservation practices that can help prevent erosion.

Preventing Erosion:

- Keep all ground planted - roots help hold soil in place.
- Plant cover crops when you don't have your main seasonal crops growing in the field. This adds nutrients to your soil as well as keep it held in place.
- Keep waterways in good condition so that the water naturally flowing through the area has an outlet to leave. Without the waterway functioning properly, the water flow will cut through the soil, leaving large gullies and sediment misplaced.
- Leave buffer strips around the edge of fields intact so the vegetation can filter out the sediment leaving the field through runoff.

If you are considering making a drainage complaint, please keep the following things in mind:

- If your complaint is with your neighbor, please talk to your neighbor first!
- If you come to us with a drainage complaint, depending on the situation, these are a few of the questions we typically ask:
 1. Have you discussed the issue with your neighbor?
 2. How new is the property?
 3. Is there tile and is it in good condition? Are there blowholes in your yard?
 4. Is there a functioning outlet on your property?
- Our technicians can come out and look at the area, pin point potential issues, and advise a solution, but we have little legal room to enforce what happens next. That being said, we are here to help as best we can, so feel free to come talk to us!



NRCS Updates

USDA Announces Sign-Up Period for Updated Conservation Stewardship Program

COLUMBUS, April 8, 2019 – The next deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications to be considered for funding in fiscal year (FY) 2019 is May 10, 2019. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest up to \$700 million nationally for new enrollments and contract extensions in fiscal year 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill made several changes to this critical conservation program, which helps agricultural producers take the conservation activities on their farm or ranch to the next level.

“CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals,” said Terry Cosby, NRCS state conservationist in Ohio. “It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled.”

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by May 10, 2019, to ensure their applications are considered for 2019 funding.

Changes to the Program

The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes NRCS to accept new CSP enrollments from now until 2023, and it makes some important improvements to the program. These updates include:

- NRCS now enrolls eligible, high ranking applications based on dollars rather than acres. For fiscal 2019, NRCS can spend up to \$700 million in the program, which covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities and maintaining their existing activities.
- Higher payment rates are now available for certain conservation activities, including cover crops and resource conserving crop rotations.
- CSP now provides specific support for organic and for transitioning to organic production activities and a special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.

About the Program

CSP is offered in Ohio through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe. For additional information about CSP, contact Pickaway-Franklin NRCS, Circleville Field Office at 740-477-1691.

2018 Annual Report

Our Vision and Mission

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.

2018 Board of Supervisors

Matt Anderson, Chairman
Clyde Ohnewehr, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Martindale, Secretary
Steve Hawkins, Treasurer
Bill Black, Member/Fiscal Agent

NRCS Staff

Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Lindsey Shaffer, Civil Engineering Technician
Phil Roe, Agri. Conservation Experienced Service Enrollee
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist

Pickaway SWCD Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Cheyenne Jepsen, District Technician
Zachary Smith, District Technician
Rob Skidmore, District Technician
Aaron Mosley, District Tech (left March 2018)
Arista Hartzler, District Tech (left May 2018)
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Montana Seidel, Edu./Outreach Coordinator (left August 2018)

Pheasants/Quail Forever Staff

Hannah Mullally, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist
Will Newman, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (left 2018)

Thank You!

The Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to thank County Commissioners Harold Henson, Brian S. Stewart, 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.

Pickaway SWCD Operating Fund 2018

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.

- Pickaway County Commissioners \$184,000
- State Matching Funds \$122,839

2018 Annual Report

2018 Resource Concerns

- Soil Erosion
- Water Quality Degradation
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife

District Initiatives:

1. Agricultural Conservation and Water Quality

- No-till drill rentals: 14 customers for 176.9 total acres
- Grassed waterways: Built 8 waterways across 13.5 acres of land with 16 stabilization structures
- Conservation plans (EQIP, CRP, CSP): 63
- Pollution abatement projects reviewed: 5
- Signed up 2 new Cooperators

2. Forestry and Wildlife Conservation

- Tree Sale: sold 3,666 seedlings to 76 customers

3. Resource Conservation

- Urban and rural site evaluation for drainage: 44
- Pond assistance: 6

4. Education and Public Information

- Published quarterly newsletters (all four were emailed, two were mailed)
- Education programs: 49 programs, 3,715 students
 - ◊ Spring 2018: 21 programs (usually multiple classes), 1,973 students
 - ◊ Fall 2018: 28 program, 1,742 students (may have seen some students multiple times)
- Created & distributed brochures for PSWCD, Edu. & Outreach Programs, Affiliate Memberships, Tree & Fish Sales
- Redesign and update resource books: Pond Management, Land Ownership, Erosion Control
- Manage District Facebook page
- Manage District website and Area 5 Envirothon website
- NACD Poster Contest: 110 Pickaway County students participated
- \$500 college scholarships were given to 3 graduating high school students
- Signed up 15 affiliate members
- Sponsored 2 4-H Natural Resource project awards at the Pickaway County Fair
- Helped with the Area 5 and Ohio Envirothon contests
- Fish Sale – sold 18,846 fingerlings to 37 customers
- Worked with Annie's Project in conjunction with Pickaway County Farm Bureau
- Maintained a presence on the FFA Advisory Committee
- Other Education/Outreach events assisted with: Friday in the Park, Darby Creek Field Day, District 8 Science Fair Judging

5. Administrative Policy

- Held 12 board of supervisor meetings
- 5 staff attended total of 37 online and in class trainings, workshops, etc.
- Supervisors attended 3 trainings
- Held the 74th Annual Meeting and Banquet with 57 guests

2018 Annual Report

2018 Affiliate Members

Corporate Members

The Savings Bank
Honeyrun Farms
C. Randall & Cindy Metzger
Vickers Farms
Pickaway Farms - Jay & Marci Wippel
Gregg & Teresa Mayberry

Steward of the Land

Hartsock Ag
John & Curtis Drummond
Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr
Don Shaw

Soil and Water Protector

Wiseheart Farms
Ashley Hansen
Doug & Vicki Kohli
Anita Kohn

Student Member

Shelby Pennington

A PDF of our 2018 Annual Report can be found on our website.

Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 740-477-1693 Fax: 740-477-3327 Website: pickawayswcd.org

Office Staff

Tawn Seimer, District Administrator
Cheyenne Jepsen, District Technician
Zachary Smith, District Technician
Rob Skidmore, District Technician
Katerina Sharp, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Justin Armintrout, District Conservationist
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, Soil Conservationist
Phil Roe, Agriculture Conservation Experienced Service Enrollee
Lindsey Shaffer, Civil Engineering Technician
Hannah Mullally, Ohio Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants/Quail Forever

PSWCD Board

Clyde Ohnewehr, Chairman; Matt Anderson, Vice Chairman; Barbara Martindale, Secretary; Bill Black, Treasurer & Fiscal Agent; Steve Hawkins, Member

Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

Farm Service Agency	740-477-1691
Pickaway County Commissioners	740-474-6093
Mark Rickey-ODNR Service Forester	740-774-1596

Affiliate Members

Corporate Members

The Savings Bank, Richard & Judy Clifton, Honeyrun Farms, C. Randall & Cindy Metzger, Vickers Farms, Pickaway County Banking Center, Pickaway County Farm Bureau, Ruff Farm

Steward of the Land

Hartsock Ag, John & Curtis Drummond, Wiseheart Farms, John & Susie Dunlap, Arnold & Diane Gabriel, Gregg & Teresa Mayberry, Clyde & Leslie Ohnewehr, Don Shaw

Soil and Water Protector

Pickaway County Visitors Bureau, Ashley Hansen, Laurina Harper, Doug & Vicki Kohli, Anita Kohn, Paul Marshall, Todd Millard, James Trimmer



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