



CONSERVATION NEWS

PICKAWAY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Volume 77, Issue 3

Conservation News — Published Quarterly

October 2018

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

Upcoming Events



November 12
Veterans Day
OFFICE CLOSED

November 20
Board of Supervisors
Meeting
7:30 a.m.

November 22 & 23
Thanksgiving
OFFICE CLOSED



December 11
Board of Supervisors
Meeting
9:00 a.m.

December 24 & 25
Christmas
OFFICE CLOSED

January 1
New Years Day
OFFICE CLOSED



Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award T. Wayne Vickers

We are happy to congratulate Wayne Vickers on receiving the 2018 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award from Area 5 for his work restoring and conserving the lakes, grasslands, woodlands and farm fields on his properties in Pickaway County. This is a huge honor!

The Ohio Department of Agriculture recognizes five families each year who represent the five regions of the state. The awards were presented at the Farm Science Review in London. This was the 35th year of the awards program. Since 1984, the Conservation Farm Family Awards program has recognized 181 Ohio farm families for their exemplary efforts conserving soil, water, woodland, wildlife and other natural resources on the land they farm. Conservation farm families also host a variety of educational programs, opening their farms to schools, scout groups, farm organizations and others.





74th Annual Meeting and Banquet Highlights

2017 Conservationist of the Year Terry Wright

Terry Wright was named the 2017 Conservationist of the Year at our 74th Annual Meeting and Banquet. Terry has been a co-operator with our organization since 1983. Since his first commitment to establish conservation methods on his farm, Terry has installed over 6,500 feet of waterways with five grade stabilization structures. Terry's various methods of conservation include installing filter strips, utilizing conservation crop rotation, practicing integrated pest and residue management. He has also implemented wildlife habitat for upland birds and participated in the Pheasants Safe Wildlife Practice. Our office has enjoyed working with Terry for the past 34 years, and we are excited to continue working with him to conserve our natural resources here in Pickaway County. Congratulations Terry!



Supervisor Election Results

The Annual Meeting was also the setting for the election of a supervisor to the Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Ballots were cast in the hour prior to the meeting and through absentee voting by mail and in the PSWCD office in the weeks before the annual meeting. The election was presided over by Cody Hacker, Area 5 Program Specialist. Barbara A. Dudleson Martindale was re-elected to serve a third three-year term, beginning January 1, 2019. Congratulations!



74th Annual Meeting and Banquet Highlights

Speaker

We were happy to have Bill Wickerham from the Adams SWCD as our speaker to share photos and stories from the 1957 World Plowing Match.

Bill is a life-long resident of Adams County, Ohio, has served with the Adams SWCD for 15 years as a Wildlife Specialist. Conservation is not only his career but also his passion. Locally, he is known for the creek sweeps he has been involved with since its inception 27 years ago. He now organizes these canoe based clean-ups of the local streams.

In addition, he and his two brothers produce grass fed beef and utilize rotational grazing on over 200 acres. About the only thing Bill enjoys more than his cows is spending time with his 12-year-old daughter, Mary Grace, at home on the farm.

Bill comes from a long line of farmers, historians and educators. Although Bill was not around at the time of the 1957 World Plowing Match, his parents and grandparents were. As with most people living in that location at the time, they were also directly involved in the event. Bill's family did a wonderful job of preserving the information and passing it along to the next generation. Due to this, we got to enjoy many fabulous photos from the event!



1957 World Plowing Match





74th Annual Meeting and Banquet Highlights

4-H Natural Resource Awards

Each year, a representative from our office judges the natural resource projects at the Pickaway County Fair. Our overall natural resource project winner this year was Kieran Shaw. Kieran is a 4-year member from Walnut Wonder Workers 4-H club. He completed his project in Ohio Birds and went on to compete at the Ohio State Fair, where he earned an honorable mention.

Our runner-up natural resource project winner this year was Jacob Hawkes. Jacob is a 7-year member from Future Farmers of Monroe 4-H club and completed his project in Insect Adventures level 1. He also got to go on to compete at the Ohio State Fair and earned an honorable mention.

We were lucky to have both Kieran and Jacob present at our annual meeting to speak about their project experiences.



Sponsors

A big thank you to the following businesses for helping sponsor the 74th Annual Meeting and Banquet!

- ADM
- Anderson Equipment
- Cargill Inc
- Ink My Logo
- JD Equipment Inc
- Seed Consultants
- Seed Genetics Direct LLC
- Two Old Broads and A Geezer LLC



Milkweed Pod Collection

Through October 30th

Pollinator species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the Monarch butterfly has drastically declined in Ohio, the Eastern U.S., and in their wintering grounds of Mexico. Experts estimate that over the past 20 years, the eastern population of Monarchs has decreased by 90%.

To help foster habitats for the Monarch butterflies, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is organizing a statewide milkweed pod collection, which began on September 1st and will run until October 30th.

Everyone is encouraged to collect Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) pods. Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch butterflies. It is where they lay their eggs and, once the eggs have hatched, caterpillars depend on the milkweed leaves as their main source of food.

This collection is taking place in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts, where milkweed pods can be dropped off through the 30th. Simply stop into the SWCD office during regular business hours (Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.), to drop off your milkweed pods.

All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by 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.

Helpful Hints for Milkweed Collection



- ✿ **Pick pods when they are dry and when they are grey or brown in color. Green seedpods are NOT ready for collection.**
- ✿ **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.**
- ✿ **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 SWCD office.**
- ✿ **Harvesting milkweed pods does not destroy or have any lasting impact on the milkweed in an established area.**

Technical Corner

FALL MANURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FROM ODA

For manure applications, the following considerations are the most important to reduce the potential of manure leaving the application site and causing pollution:

- Proper manure application rates.
 - ◊ Manure application rates should be determined by existing soil fertility levels, manure nutrient content, crop nutrient needs and field conditions.
 - ◊ Planned nutrient application rates for phosphorus and potassium should not exceed the Tri-State Fertility Guide recommendations.
 - ◊ The application rate of liquid manure should be determined by measuring the Available Water Capacity in the soil prior to application. The application rate should be adjusted to avoid ponding, surface runoff and subsurface drainage discharge. In a field with tile drainage, the application rate should not exceed 13,000 gallons per acre.

- Manure application setback requirements from sensitive features, such as ditches, streams, grassed waterways, ponds and private wells.
 - ◊ For example, for ditches, streams and surface inlets, manure application needs to be set back 100 feet, 35 feet with a buffer of permanent vegetation, or 35 feet if the manure application area has at least 50% vegetation & residue cover.
 - ◊ These distances may need to be increased due to local conditions.
 - ◊ Setback distances from water and drainageways etc. is measured from the top of the edge of the bank at field level.

- Monitor fields during and after manure application for runoff or subsurface drainage discharge.

Manure must not be surface-applied if conditions make nutrient loss likely. This precludes spreading:

- On frozen and/or snow-covered soils,
- When the top 2 inches of soil are saturated from rainfall or snow melt, and
- When there is a greater than 50% chance of rainfall of more than ½ inch within 24 hours. Local weather forecasts and hourly weather graph information is available at www.noaa.gov.

When fields are not suited for manure application due to weather, crop or soil conditions, then field stock piling of solid manure may provide an option to move manure to fields for later application. Then manure can be applied under more suitable and lower risk situations.

If liquid manure application becomes necessary on frozen or snow-covered soils, only limited quantities of manure shall be applied to address manure storage limitations until non-frozen soils are available for manure application. In these cases:

- Applications are to be made on land with at least 90% surface residue cover (cover crop, good quality hay or pasture field, all corn grain residue remaining after harvest, all wheat residue cover remaining after harvest).
- Manure shall not be applied on more than 20 contiguous acres.
- Increase the application setback distance to 200 feet minimum from all grassed waterways, surface drainage ditches, streams, surface inlets, water bodies. This distance may need to be further increased due to local conditions.

Education Update

Our educator has been busy visiting our Pickaway County Schools to do different environmental and agricultural programs with students, Pre-K through 12th grade. Whether soil testing, learning about the life cycle of pumpkins, or doing one of our other educational programs, the students have had a lot of fun learning! To learn about and sign up for our education programs, please visit our website.



Enviroscope



Worms



Pumpkins



Soil Testing

NRCS Updates

Beef and ‘Bobs’ – Maximize Cattle Production and Help Bobwhites on Your Land

The northern bobwhite, or quail, has seen its population dip by more than 80 percent during the past 60 years. Did you know you can help the bobwhite on your cattle operation?

Bobwhites are in decline because they are an “edge” species, meaning they seek brushy habitat where crop fields intersect with woodlands, pastures, and old fields. But this type of habitat is tough to find. To help reconnect cattle and quail, USDA’s NRCS is working with cattle producers to replace non-native forage grasses, like fescue, with native warm-season grasses that create productive and palatable grazing options for livestock while benefitting quail and other wildlife species.

By replacing non-native forages with native ones, producers can benefit from pastures that are more resilient to drought and more resistant to endophyte, a fungus found in fescue that impacts herd health. Operations that rely only on common cool-season forages, such as fescue and orchardgrass, may find it increasingly difficult to stay above the bottom line. We’re recommending that you go “old school” by grazing on native forages.

In addition to establishing native forages, NRCS assists producers to plan and implement a variety of conservation practices, like establishing field borders and planting trees, shrubs and hedgerows. NRCS also helps producers improve grazing systems and manage plant growth by offering assistance with prescribed grazing, installing cross fencing, prescribed burning, and herbaceous weed control. All these practices enable you to manage for good habitat for bobwhite and forage for cattle – at the same time.



To learn more about these practices, download our new “Working Lands for Northern Bobwhite” fact sheet.

If you’re interested in getting assistance, contact the NRCS/Pickaway SWCD office. USDA NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs on a continuous basis.

PICKAWAY SWCD
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Affiliate Annual Membership

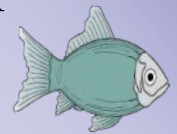
Future Conservationist (Student)	\$10.00
Soil & Water Protector	\$30.00
Steward of the Land	\$100.00
Corporate Member	\$250.00

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. Stewards of the Land receive a Certificate and a complimentary ticket to the Annual Meeting. Corporate Members will receive two complimentary tickets to the Annual Meeting and a Certificate.

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 Next Issue of Conservation News

Information on
ordering tree
seedlings
and fish
fingerlings from
the PSWCD!



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

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

Pickaway County Agencies-Phone Numbers

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

Affiliate Members

Corporate Members

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

Steward of The Land

John & Curtis Drummond,
Hartssock Ag., Clyde Ohnewehr

Soil and Water Protector

Doug & Vicki Kohli, Wiseheart Farms,
Ashley Hansen, Anita Kohn

Student Member

Shelby Pennington



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

All programs, services and assistance provided by the Pickaway SWCD are available to everyone without regard to race, creed, color, handicap, sex, age, or national origin. *An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*