

JANUARY – MARCH
2026



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District
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Tree Order Forms Are Now Available

The 2026 Tree Order Forms are now available in the office. The species available are: Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, White Pine, American Arborvitae, Sugar Maple, Shag Bark Hickory, Black Cherry, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, and Pin Oak. The seedlings are packaged in packets of ten.

Two seed packets are offered. Northeast Wildflower mix and Butterfly/Hummingbird blend.

The Wildflower seed is a colorful mix that provides up to 5 years of color. The Butterfly/Hummingbird blend is a mix of naturalized wildflower and grasses. Each 1 ounce packet will cover approximately 300 square feet.



This program is open to the public and orders will be accepted until March 19, 2026. Payment is required when orders are placed. There is no warranty or guarantee on the seedlings.

Orders will be available for pickup from the office the week of April 20th. An email will be sent with information on the specific pick up dates and time. Please be sure to include your email address on your order form.

Stop in the office if you have questions or need help in developing a planting plan for a windbreak. Pictures and species information are available.

Fish Fingerlings for Sale

The SWCD is now taking orders for fish fingerlings. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, shell-cracker, and white amur. The fish are available in lots of 10-25, as stated on the order form. The minnow is available in lots of 500 and the white amur are ordered in a lot of 2.

The fish sale is an opportunity for pond owners to stock or re-stock the ponds at a reasonable cost.

Orders will be accepted until April 22, 2026. Payment is expected when placing the order. The fish will be delivered to the SWCD office and ready for pick up on Thursday, April 30 at 3:00.

Stocking recommendations for a one acre pond are:

- ◆ 100 largemouth bass
- ◆ 500 blue gill
- ◆ 100 channel catfish
- ◆ 500-1000 fat head minnow

White amur recommendations are based on the amount of weed cover in the pond. If the pond has 20-40% vegetation the recommendation is 10 amur; above 40% weed cover the recommendation is 15 amur.

Orders will be boxed and ready at the time of delivery. Order forms are available in the office or on the website.

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◆ FISH ORDER FORM IS NOW
AVAILABLE

◆ H2OHIO UPDATES

H2Ohio Updates

by: Kady Mohr

Van Wert County has officially completed another two-year H2Ohio contract for the 2024–2025 crop years. A total of 116 producers successfully completed their contracts, representing more than 100,000 acres managed under H2Ohio Best Management Practices.

This past summer, a new budget was approved allowing H2Ohio to continue for another two-year contract cycle. Land operators had the opportunity to enroll in the program this past fall. While incentive rates for Best Management Practices during the 2026–2027 contract period were lower than the previous cycle, Van Wert County still experienced a strong and successful sign-up.

Participation increased to 124 enrolled producers, with more than 120,000 acres committed to implementing Best Management Practices for the 2026–2027 crop years. It is exciting to see the continued growth of this program and the educational impact it is having on farmers across Van Wert County.

Enrollment for the 2026–2027 contract period is now closed. Over the coming winter and spring, we will be busy completing nutrient management plans and implementing conservation practices.

As always, anyone with questions about the H2Ohio program is encouraged to contact Kady Mohr:

Email: kady@vanwertswcd.com

Phone: 419-605-7203

Some of our 2025 accomplishments

300 4th Graders <i>Not Just Cows & Plows</i> <i>Field Day</i>	1,530 Tree Seedlings Sold	150 Annual Meeting Attendees
300 4th Graders Received Trees	754 Fish Fingerlings Distributed	5 Adult Education Programs
395 Students Reached Through Programs	110,000 H2Ohio Acres Enrolled	Long-Term Water Quality Study Provided for County Residents

Winter Manure Application

With the winter season upon us, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation would like to remind producers and nutrient applicators of laws and restrictions on manure application.

Ohio Senate Bill 1 clarifies and enhances the restrictions on manure application within the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB).

Application restrictions in the WLEB include:

- On snow-covered or frozen soil;
- When the top 2 inches of the soil are saturated from precipitation;
- When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period. Applica-

tors are responsible for checking and keeping forecast information before application. Any source of weather prediction is acceptable.

Restrictions do not apply if:

- The manure is injected into the ground;
- Manure is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application, using a tillage tool operated at a minimum of 3-4 inches deep;
- The manure is applied onto a growing crop;
- The chief of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation has provided written consent for an emergency application. Contact the division in case of an emergency.

For those producers who are signed up for the H2Ohio ma-

nure incorporation practices, it is important to note that the program will not pay for winter manure application as stated in the program guidelines.

Producers are reminded to use best management practices when applying manure and follow USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standard 590.

For more information about manure application, producers and applicators can contact the ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation at 614-265-6610 or dswc@agri.ohio.gov.



Education



Our Education Coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visits schools in Van Wert County to educate children on many different topics. Above she is pictured teaching kids about soil while they are making garden monsters. Many of these programs are made possible by the generous grant we receive from the Van Wert County Foundation each year. Together we are helping children learn through hands on experiences.

Van Wert SWCD
1185 Professional Drive
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Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist

Ben Kales, Soil Conservationist

Noel Morris, Civil Technician

Jeff Carlson, Ohio Senior Wildlife Biologist

Upcoming 2026 Dates ~

January 5	Tree Seedling/ Fish Sale Begins
January 14	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
January 19	MLK Day– Holiday
February 11	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
February 16	President's Day– Holiday
March 11	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
March 19	End of tree sale