

Van Wert S.W.C.D.
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

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Upcoming Dates and Events

October 9	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
October 14	Columbus Day—Office Closed
November 3	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 11	Veteran’s Day Observed—Closed
November 13	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
November 28/29	Thanksgiving—Office Closed
December 11	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
December 24/25	Christmas—Office Closed
December 31/January 1	New Year’s—Office Closed

Like us on our new Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/www.vanwertswcd.org>
The SWCD Board of Supervisors monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the SWCD office.



October—December, 2024
Newsletter



VAN WERT
Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891

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Cows and Plows

As the new school year begins we are very excited to be in the schools once again. Education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, has a wide variety of educational programs that she teaches to students in Van Wert County. Our most recent event was “Not Just Cows and Plows” that is put on at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds for all area 4th graders. The SWCD, in cooperation with Crestview Local Schools, Lincolnview Local Schools, St. Mary’s Parochial, Van Wert City Schools and local home school students, presented a day-long session for students to acquaint them with the primary industry in the county, AGRICULTURE. While some of the students do live on farms, most of them do not have an opportunity to experience what modern-day farming is all about. More important is that the field trip reinforces the social studies and science state standards and curriculum for this age group. Local supporting agencies for the

event include: Ag Credit, Cooper Farms Cooked Meats, TruLand Equipment, Ohio State University Extension Office, Save-A-Lot, Van Wert County Fair Board , Van Wert County Farm Bureau, Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Van Wert County Foundation. The speakers cover a broad range of topics, including livestock, crops, marketing and production of agricultural products, soil basics, water, and equipment with an emphasis on how technology has changed the way we farm and how agriculture effects our daily lives. A huge thank you to the presenters for taking time out of their busy schedules to teach our local students. Also, to the sponsors for supporting this event and understanding the importance of teaching our youth.

Thank you to everyone who made this day successful!

Pictures from Cows and Plows



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- Special points of interest:
- ✧ Help save the Monarch Butterfly’s by saving milkweed plants
 - ✧ Cows and Plows
 - ✧ 75 years of Conservation

Annual Meeting

The Van Wert SWCD held their 75th Annual Meeting by co-hosting with the Van Wert Farm Bureau at the Ag Banquet on Tuesday, August 13 at Life House Church, Van Wert, OH. A SWCD election was held for two supervisor positions on the SWCD Board of Supervisors five member Board. Elliot Callow and Brett Schumm were elected to serve a three year term commencing January 1, 2025. Dinner was provided by Streetlight Catering.

Wyatt Friedrich was the SWCD Scholarship recipient.

Dustin Schaadt was recognized by the SWCD and received the Conservation Farmer Award. This award is given to honor individuals for their conservation achievements. Farm Bureau honored their scholarship recipient.

Farm Bureau presented Membership Ag Awards. The Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame Award was presented to Farm Focus for their many agricultural accomplishments.

Sponsors for the evening were: Farm Bureau, the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District and Ag Credit.

We would like to thank everyone that attended the meeting and are looking forward to next year!



Dustin Schaadt

Conservation Farmer

Farm Focus
Ag Hall of Fame Recipient

Farm Focus members pictured with the
SWCD board



Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection Runs Oct. 1 –Oct. 31

Due to the drastic decline in monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) populations, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts are again seeking public involvement to collect common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods from established plants September 1 through October 31. This is an annual event and we hope you can participate !

The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and additional habitat for the monarch butterfly throughout the buckeye state. These future plantings will increase the food source for the caterpillar stage. Seed pods from common milkweed should be collected **ONLY**

WHEN THE PODS ARE DRY AND BROWN-GREY in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. The seeds in green pods will not be viable and won't be able to be used. Be patient and don't collect too soon !

It is best to collect pods into paper bags. Avoid using plastic bags because they can allow mold to develop. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking the handling pods. Ideally, it is recommended to leave at least 50 percent of the seed crop at a given site to allow for natural regrowth of the native population the next growing season. There are situations where total collection can occur. For example: If the field or area will be mowed completely or the area will be converted for crop or development. A collection container is located outside the door of the Van Wert SWCD, 1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert.



Celebrating 75 Years of Van Wert SWCD Services and Programs

The Van Wert SWCD has been serving Van Wert County residents for the last 75 years. The Van Wert SWCD was the 82nd district created in Ohio on February 15, 1949. Although many things have changed over the past 75 years we have always continued to work with many local agencies and landowners.

The mission of the SWCD is to protect and conserve the natural resources for all residents by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance. Our vision is to preserve the environment by helping citizens implement sound natural resource management, for themselves and future generations.

Our biggest program right now is the H2Ohio program. This program is a comprehensive water quality initiative that is working to strategically address serious water issues that have been building in Ohio for decades. Such problems include harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie caused by phosphorus runoff from farm fertilizer, failing drinking water, wastewater, and home sewage treatment systems due to aging infrastructure, and lead contamination from old water pipes and fixtures. We are so glad to be a part of this and hope that one day all of our efforts, along with the producers who are enrolled, will see big improvements in Ohio's water quality.

Education is also a huge part of what we do. We offer many education programs for students and adults. Our education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visits schools, assisted living facilities, libraries, and many more places!

NACD History

Reference: <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/nacd-history/>

Following the devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors. This act gave states a step-by-step guide to create conservation districts and listing their powers and responsibilities. The first conservation district, Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), was established in North Carolina on August 4, 1937. Arkansas became the first state to enact legislation regarding conservation districts. By July 1, 1945, all 48 states had passed district-enabling acts.

Conservation districts grew stronger during the 1940s thanks in part to the transfer of heavy-duty WWII military equipment to peacetime uses in protecting and developing soil and water resources. In January 1946, district representatives met in Washington, D.C., to support surplus equipment transfer legislation. The failure of this legislative effort was a clear indication that district officials needed to band together to speak with one, unified voice.

On July 25, 1946 at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, 18 representatives from 17 states created the National Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials. NACD's first executive officer was a woman named Ellen Cobb. She was an SCS employee in South Carolina who served as executive secretary from 1946-48.