

October—December, 2026

Newsletter



VAN WERT Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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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, and Van Wert City Schools, 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, TruLand

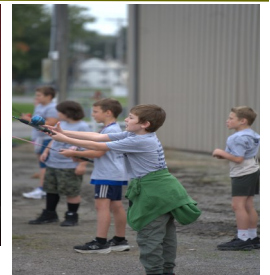
Equipment, Ohio State University Extension Office, Van Wert County Fair Board, Van Wert County Farm Bureau, Brookside Convenience Store (ice cream), Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Van Wert County Foundation.

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:

- ✧ *Cows and Plows Field Day*
- ✧ *Tire Recycling Day*
- ✧ *Annual Meeting*

Annual Meeting

The Van Wert SWCD held their 77th Annual Meeting by co-hosting with the Van Wert Farm Bureau at the Ag Banquet on Tuesday, August 4 at Life House Church, Van Wert, OH. A SWCD election was held for one supervisor position on the SWCD Board of Supervisors five-member Board. Tristin Miller was elected to serve a three-year term commencing January 1, 2027.

Dinner was provided by Lock 16 Catering. The speaker was Ty Higgins who delivered a great presentation.

Lilly Mount and Grace Linton were the SWCD Scholarship recipients. Craig Pohlman 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 recipients, Elyssa Renner, Maddie Gerdeman, Matthew Dealey, and Ryan Bowsher.

The Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame Award was presented to Dale Profit for his many agricultural accomplishments.

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

Scholarship recipient Grace Linton pictured with the SWCD Board



Speaker
Ty Higgins



Conservation Farmer of the year
Craig Pohlman pictured with the
SWCD Board



Ag Hall of Fame Recipient Dale Profit
pictured with the SWCD Board

Practice Soil Pits for FFA Students

On September 16th 2026 Van Wert SWCD organized practice soil pits for local FFA chapters to come do hands on learning before their soil judging competition.

The students were able to evaluate soil properties and landscape characteristics in a soil pit to determine appropriate land management, agricultural, and urban uses of the land.

We would like to thank Keysor Farms for providing a field, digging the pits, and being a fantastic host! Also, we would like to thank Kayla Miller from Northwest State Community College Ag Department for joining us and sharing her knowledge about soil judging.

Best of luck to both Crestview and Lincolnview FFA chapters in their Soil Judging CDE contests this year!



Tire Recycling Event a Huge Success

500+ TIRES COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING

The Van Wert SWCD hosted its first tire recycling event at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds on September 19, and it was a tremendous success! Thanks to the support of our community, we collected more than 500 tires that will now be recycled and kept out of local roadsides and disposal sites. We plan to host the event again next year around the same time, so watch for registration forms in late summer. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and helped make the event possible. We are especially grateful to the Van Wert County Fairgrounds for generously providing the space and supporting a successful day.



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

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Upcoming Dates and Events

October 12	<i>Columbus Day—Office Closed</i>
October 13	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
November 1	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 11	<i>Veteran's Day —Office Closed</i>
November 12	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
November 26/27	<i>Thanksgiving—Office Closed</i>
December 9	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
December 24/25	<i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>
December 31/January 1	<i>New Year's—Office Closed</i>

Like us on our 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.

