

July, August, September

2026 Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 4, 2026

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 4 at Life House Church, 719 Fox Road, Van Wert. The Van Wert SWCD and Farm Bureau are co-hosting this event which replaces our separate annual meetings. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with registration and election for two SWCD supervisor's to the five member Board of Supervisors.

Dinner will be catered by Lock 16 and will begin at 6:00 pm.

Both offices will present awards followed by the "Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame" award!

This year's award is being awarded to Dale Profit.

There will be no charge for the dinner this year, however you will still need to RSVP to the SWCD office. Deadline to RSVP is **July 23**.

Call 419-238-9591 or email becky at: becky@vanwertswcd.com

Also, this year we are excited to have speaker Ty Higgins. Ty is a farm enthusiast who brings a wealth of knowledge. We are excited to have him!



Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, at Life House Church, 719 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

Two member's will be elected for a three year term of office. County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot.

1. Contact the office in writing requesting an absentee ballot.

2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:00 p.m. August 4.
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To be eligible to vote, you must be of legal voting age (18 years) and reside or own land within the District. Van Wert SWCD is a legal subdivision of state government that provides natural resource management assistance to county land-

owners and other units of local government. The District is funded by the Van Wert County Commissioners and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The District is governed by a five member board of county residents.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 4
- ✧ SWCD election candidates have been chosen!
- ✧ Water Testing

Meet the Candidates:

Tristin Miller

My name is Tristin Miller, currently 27 years old, and a resident of Jackson Township. My wife, Lauren, and I have been married for a little over a year, with two young dogs keeping us on our toes. I am a graduate of Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in ag business and agronomy. On my farming operation, I raise corn, beans, and wheat. I also help my dad on the side with some hay crops, as well as helping with his trucking company. I have enjoyed working with the H2Ohio program over the last several years. With a past of working in seed sales and agronomy, I hope to be able to continue helping farmers navigate their way to success with the Soil and Water Conservation District through programs like H2Ohio.

Dave Kemler

Dave Kemler and wife, Marla reside in Hoaglin Township. They have 2 sons, Ethan and Xavier. The Kemler's attend Lifehouse Church in Van Wert. Kemler farms with his father and son. He is also a member of Farm Bureau. He has served as a Supervisor for the SWCD Board for 4- three year terms.

SWCD Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Van Wert SWCD awards a scholarship to an individual furthering their education in an agricultural/environmental field of study. The amount given this year was \$1,000 to 2 recipients. This year the Board chose: Lilly Mount and Grace Linton.

Lilly is a 2024 graduate from Lincolnview High School. She is currently attending Findlay University studying Animal Science with the intention to become a Veterinarian. As a pre-vet student specializing in large animal medicine, Lilly plans to incorporate conservation into her career by researching the environmental impact of farming and developing more sustainable agricultural practices. Lilly has participated in many clubs and organizations throughout high school and college. We wish Lilly continued success throughout college and beyond!

Grace is a 2025 graduate from Lincolnview High School. She is currently attending Wright State Lake Campus studying Agricultural Business. Grace plans to promote sustainability by reducing waste, conserving resources and encouraging environmentally responsible solutions in the workplace. She wants her work to contribute to protecting natural resources for future generations. Grace has participated in many clubs and organizations throughout high school and college. We wish Grace continued success throughout college and beyond!

Congratulations to Lilly and Grace!

Water Testing

The Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District has partnered with Heidelberg University's National Center for Water Quality Research to offer residents the opportunity to have their well water tested.

If your drinking water comes from a private well, you are responsible for your water's safety. If you have never had your water supply tested, it is always a good idea to educate yourself on what is present in your drinking water and provide yourself with some baseline information in the event there are changes in the future that may impact the quality of your water supply.

Should you test your well water?

Your well has an increased likelihood of contamination if:

Your well is more than 20 years old

Your well was dug or driven rather than drilled

Your well is shallow

Your soil is sandy

A chemical spill is known to have happened nearby

Your well is near possible sources of contamination, such as: cropland, feedlots, landfills, industrial sites (active or abandoned).

Even if your well fits none of these categories, you cannot know the quality of your water without testing. Contaminants may have entered the ground without your knowledge or before you lived at the site.

Due to supply and testing equipment issues, the only test kit Heidelberg is offering at this time is the basic nitrate test, which includes testing for nitrates, nitrites, ammonia, chloride, sulfates, fluoride, soluble phosphorus, silica, and conductivity.

The cost of the kit is \$30.00 (which includes shipping), made payable to Van Wert SWCD.

The test kits will be for sale **Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, 2026**. The samples must be returned to the Van Wert SWCD on **Monday, July 27, 2026 between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.** Please take the sample right before dropping the kit back off to us so that it is as fresh as possible. Participants can expect their confidential results back in two to four weeks from Heidelberg University.

Tire Recycling Day

The Van Wert SWCD will be hosting a tire recycling day on **Sept. 19, 2026**. This will take place at the Van Wert County Fair Grounds from **8:30-10:30**. To register for this event fill out the registration form in this newsletter and return to the SWCD office by **September 11, 2026**. Forms are also available on our website at:

<https://vanwertswcd.org>

If you have questions regarding this event please call or email at: 419-238-9591 or becky@vanwertswcd.com or kady@vanwertswcd.com.

We hope to see you there!

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

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Board of Supervisors

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Dustin Schaadt, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Becky Dowler, Office Manager
Kady Fuhrmann, Special Program Tech.
Tammy Campbell, Education Coord.

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
Noel Morris, Civil Technician
Ben Kales, Soil Conservationist
Jeff Carlson, Ohio Senior Wildlife Biologist

Events Calendar

<i>July 4</i>	<i>Office Closed—Independence Day</i>
<i>July 8</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM</i>
<i>July 6-Aug. 4</i>	<i>Election Period</i>
<i>July 20-24</i>	<i>Pick up water testing kits</i>
<i>July 27</i>	<i>Drop off water testing kits by 3:00 pm</i>
<i>August 4</i>	<i>SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet</i>
<i>August 12</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM</i>
<i>Sept. 7</i>	<i>Office Closed—Labor Day</i>
<i>Sept 9</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM</i>
<i>Sept 19</i>	<i>Tire Recycling</i>
<i>Sept 29 & Oct 1</i>	<i>Cows and Plows field day</i>

The SWCD Board of Supervisors monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the SWCD office.