

April—May—June

2021 Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891

Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

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H2Ohio Update By Kate Myers

We have begun to make payments for the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development practice which is \$2 an acre. As soon as producer VNMPs are approved by the board, producers need to initial a verification sheet and then will be ready to receive payment. If you have not submitted your VNMP, please do so ASAP or reach out to Kate Myers to update her on the status of your VNMP (or CNMP). If you have submitted your VNMP and have not initialed and submitted a verification sheet, please also do this so we can process payment.

VNMPs need to be submitted and approved prior to application of nutrients this spring unless you have explicitly discussed your situation with Kate. This is to ensure your recommendation rates are compliant with Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations and will be eligible for all practices you are enrolled in.

Please continue to submit documentation of all practices. To find all supporting documentation needed, please review

both the BMP Specification Sheets and the Verification Sheets that are associated with each practice. By July, VRT and Subsurface Placement payments should start to be able to go out if all documentation (including the corresponding verification sheet) is submitted. You can find the verification sheets under the H2Ohio tab on our website or contact Kate for more details.

Year 2 Funding:

Funding for year 2 (FY21-22) of the H2Ohio Program has been secured. As of now it is expected that agreement extensions will be ready in July so be on the look out for more information/contact from Kate to sign the agreement extension.



Stewardship Week

The Van Wert SWCD wants to remind you that each of us has a connection to natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is celebrating the 66th year of Stewardship week April 25 – May 2, 2021. The 2021 Stewardship Week is themed “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities”.

NACD Stewardship Week is one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation. Celebrated annually since 1955 between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, NACD Stewardship Week reminds us of our individual responsibilities to care for natural resources.

During Stewardship Week, Van Wert SWCD will provide a Black Gum seedling and a presentation on the importance of trees to 4th grade students in the county and hand out bags with information and a fun craft that can be picked up at the Soil and Water Conservation District in Van Wert.



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Special points of interest:

- ✦ Soil & Water Stewardship Week April 25—May 2
- ✦ \$500 College Scholarship is being offered
- ✦ Need fish for your pond—order now!

College Scholarship Being Offered

The Van Wert SWCD is offering one \$500 scholarship to college students studying agriculture, natural resources, or closely related fields at an Ohio college or university during the 2020/21 academic year. Recipients of the scholarship must have completed their freshman year, and must be a Van Wert County resident.

Scholarship applications are due by May 7, 2021. The Scholarship Committee of the SWCD will review all applications and the recipient will be announced in June. Scholarship money will

be sent directly to the recipient's college or university at the beginning of the academic year.

Criteria for determining the recipient will be area of study, grades, activities, leadership, and commitment to conservation practices. The SWCD reserves the right to refuse any applications not meeting requirements.

Applications and two reference forms need to be completed and sent to the office by the deadline of May 7. The forms are available at the office or on the Van Wert SWCD website.



American Farmland Trust, in cooperation with Danone North America, NRCS, NFWF, and Sustainable Environmental Consultants, is looking for supply chain farmers in the dairy feed shed to receive a free Farm Report and Sustainable Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP). This report and plan will be used to benchmark farm practices and work to implement improved soil health management. Through participation in this program, farmers will receive one-on-one engagement with an American Farmland Trust representative for

continuous support and education. Farmers will also gain access to funding support channels to implement their personal SCIP. This project is a collaborative effort between many organizations designed to support farmers. Interested individuals should visit the [project page](#) for current updates as well as upcoming webinar information.

Or Contact: Julie Platz at jplatz@farmland.org
Or call: (614) 721-1631.

Fish Fingerling Orders / Delivery Scheduled

The SWCD is currently taking orders for fish fingerlings. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, shellcracker, black crappie, perch and white amur.

The fish sale is an opportunity for pond owners to stock or restock their ponds for a reasonable cost.

Orders will be accepted until Friday, April 23. Payment is expected when the order is placed. The fish will be delivered Thursday, April 29 at 3:00 p.m.

Stocking recommendations for a one acre pond are:

100 largemouth bass	500 blue gill
100 channel catfish	500-1000 minnow

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

www.vanwertswcd.org

Van Wert SWCD Seeking Posters for Contest

Calling on local young artists in grades K through 12 !! It's time to break out the paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers and paper for the Van Wert SWCD Poster Contest. The contest is open to all Van Wert County students. The creation may not be traced from other artists' work or from photographs. Each entry must have the completed form signed by the parent or guardian attached to the back of the poster. This form can be downloaded from the SWCD website at: www.vanwertswcd.org on the education tab. The topic "Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities" must appear on the front of the poster. The deadline to turn in posters to the Van Wert SWCD is Thursday, May 6 by 4 PM.

"Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities" is the 2021 theme, as selected by the National Association of Conservation Districts. The purpose of the poster contest is to provide students with an opportunity to share their thoughts about soil, wa-

ter, and related natural resource issues, and to express the importance of conservation.

Posters will be judged on grade divisions: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; and 10-12. First place entries from each level will receive a certificate from the Van Wert SWCD. Those first place entries will be submitted to the State Poster Contest which is held during the summer of 2021. Posters selected from the State Contest will be forwarded on to the National Poster Contest. Posters at this level will be judged on: Conservation message (50%); poster uses correct theme and visual effectiveness (30%); originality (10%); universal appeal (10%).

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/> or by calling the SWCD office at (419) 238-9591 x 4273.

Tree Sale

Thank you to everyone who participated in our tree sale this year. It was a huge success. We sold over 2,000 tree seedlings and were able to hand out a Black Gum tree seedling to all of the area 4th graders. Along with giving the students a tree they also had a class presentation and were given information on their new tree that they can plant at home.

Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe.

As trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees provide many benefits to us, every day.

The annual tree sale runs every year from January-March with different varieties each year. Be sure to check our website for more info.



Education

While this school year has brought many challenges to our education program, we have still been able to go into some schools following all the school guidelines. We have many programs that we offer to all of our local schools grades K-12. We have also been able to utilize Zoom and do virtual lessons with students. Pictured below is our education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, at Crestview local schools teaching 2nd grade students about rocks and minerals. The kids are always excited for these programs.



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

Nonprofit Organization
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Wapakoneta, OH

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Kate Myers, Special Program Technician
Tammy Campbell, Educ. Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech.
Jackson Martini, PF Wildlife Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

- April 14—SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- April 21—Park District Meeting 2:00 PM
- April 23 – Deadline to purchase fish fingerlings
- April 25- May 2 – Soil and Water Stewardship Week
- April 29— Fish delivery at 3 PM
- May 6—Poster Contest deadline to submit
- May 7 – College Scholarship Application Deadline
- May 12 - SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- May 19—Park District Meeting 2:00 PM
- May 31—Memorial Day (office closed)