

April—May—June

2022 Newsletter



VAN WERT

# Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891  
Telephone (419) 238-9591  
Web site: [www.vanwertswcd.org](http://www.vanwertswcd.org)

## College Scholarship Being Offered

The Van Wert SWCD is offering one, \$1,000 scholarship to college students studying agriculture, natural resources, or closely related fields at an Ohio college or university during the 2021/22 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 5, 2022. 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 5. The forms are available at the office or on the Van Wert SWCD website. You may email your completed form to Becky at [rebekkah.dowler@nacdnet.net](mailto:rebekkah.dowler@nacdnet.net), or send it in the mail to 1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

## 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 67th year of Stewardship week April 24 – May 1, 2022. The 2022 Stewardship Week is themed “Healthy Soil : Healthy Life”.

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 Swamp White Oak tree seedling and a presentation on the importance of trees to 4th grade students in the county. There will also be other information and materials passed out to students at schools in the county.



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### Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Soil & Water Stewardship Week April 24–May 1*
- ✧ *\$1,000 College Scholarship is being offered*
- ✧ *Need fish for your pond—order now!*

# H2Ohio Update By Kady Fuhrmann

Happy Spring Everyone! I wish everyone a safe, successful planting season. **Please contact me with any questions or concerns about your farming practices and H2Ohio.** My goal going into this planting season was for both producers and ag consultants to have a better understanding of H2Ohio and their guidelines so producers can reach the programs full potential. I will continue sending letters in the mail, making phone calls, and sending remind texts to help everyone as well as myself stay organized and on top of things.

## 2021 Crop Year Wrap Up

The goal is to completely have 2021 crop year practices completed by the beginning of summer. If you have not yet turned in records for ANY 2021 practices and/or gotten a payment for a practice you were enrolled in please contact Kady.

## Implementation/VRT/Subsurface Practices:

Planting season is here so please review your Nutrient Management Plans! If you are doing anything different than what is in your plan (different fertilizer or different rate of application) than please review the H2Ohio guidelines and call/email Kady with any questions or concerns. Understand that over applying recommended nutrients or not applying at least 20 lbs of P2O5 will result in forfeiting payment (VRT/Subsurface Practices).

Payments for the 2022 practices (Implementation, VRT, and Subsurface) can be distributed after the side dress of corn is complete (June-July) and all required records/documentation are reviewed.



## 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 29. Payment is expected when the order is placed. The fish will be available for pick up Thursday, May 5 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](http://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](http://www.vanwertswcd.org) on the education tab. The topic "Healthy Soil : Healthy Life " must appear on the front of the poster. The deadline to turn in posters to the Van Wert SWCD is Thursday, May 5 by 4 PM.

"Healthy Soil : Healthy Life" is the 2022 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, water, and relat-

ed 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 2022. 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 Swamp White Oak 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.

\*\*\*Tree order pick up will be the week of April 25th. An email will go out with more details.



## Education

Education Coordinator, Tammy Campbell, pictured below with preschool students from Crestview. The students enjoy learning about the different species of birds. Tammy visits all the Van Wert County schools and provides education programs to the students. The kids are always excited to see her and learn new things. Thank you to the Van Wert County Foundation for helping to make these presentations possible.



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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #2  
Wapakoneta, OH

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### **Board of Supervisors**

Craig Pohlman, Chairman  
Kris Young, Vice-Chair  
Darryl Ricketts, Secretary  
Dave Kemler, Fiscal Agent  
Elliot Callow, Youth & Publicity

### **SWCD Staff**

Becky Dowler, Office Manager  
Seth Owens, District Technician  
Kady Fuhrmann, Special Program Technician  
Tammy Campbell, Educ. Coordinator

### **NRCS Staff**

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist  
Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer  
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech.

### **Upcoming Dates and Events**

- April 13—SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- April 25-April 29– Tree pick up this week
- April 29 – Deadline to purchase fish fingerlings
- April 24- May 1 – Soil and Water Stewardship Week
- May 5– Fish delivery at 3 PM
- May 5—Poster Contest deadline to submit
- May 5 – College Scholarship Application Deadline
- May 11 - SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- May 30—Memorial Day (office closed)