

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

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Permit #80004  
 Wapakoneta, OH

**JANUARY – MARCH  
 2024**



**VAN WERT  
 Soil & Water Conservation District  
 1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891  
 Telephone (419) 238-9591  
 Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org**

## Tree Order Forms Are Now Available

The 2024 Tree Order Forms are now available in the office. The species available are: Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, White Pine, American Arborvitae, Sugar Maple, Black Chokeberry, Red Osier Dogwood, Black Walnut, Black Cherry, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, and Pin Oak. The seedlings are packaged in packets of ten.

Two seed packets are offered. America Wildflower and Butterfly/Hummingbird blend.

The Wildflower seed contains 12 different annual and 17 different perennial species adapted for this area. The Butterfly/Hummingbird blend contains 18 different annual and 5 different perennial varieties. Each 1

ounce packet will cover approximately 300 square feet.

This program is open to the public and orders will be accepted until March 28, 2024. Payment is required when orders are placed. There is no warranty or guarantee on the seedlings.



Orders will be available for pickup from the office the week of April 15th. An email will be sent with information on the specific pick up dates and time. Please be sure to include

your email address on your order form.

Stop in the office if you have questions or need help in developing a planting plan for a windbreak. Pictures and species information are available.

The Van Wert SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

## H2Ohio Update by Kady Fuhrmann H2Ohio Technician

This fall ODA and county SWCDs put forth an outreach to enroll and re-enroll producers into the H2Ohio Program. H2Ohio is offering a 2-year contract for 2024 and 2025 crop years. There have been a lot of updates and changes to the program that we are excited to implement into the next contract. You can learn more about the H2Ohio Program by going on our website <https://vanwertswcd.org/h2ohio> or contact Kady Fuhrmann the Van Wert H2Ohio Tech.

**Enrollment has extended their deadline until February 2, 2024.**

Van Wert Currently has a total of 90 contracts and 92,453 acres enrolled for 2024 – 2025 crop year.



## Upcoming 2024 Dates ~

- January 2 Tree Seedling/ Fish Sale Begins
- January 10 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- January 15 MLK Day– Holiday
- February 14 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- February 19 President’s Day– Holiday
- March 13 SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
- March 29 End of tree sale

### Board of Supervisors

- Craig Pohlman
- Darryl Ricketts
- Dave Kemler
- Elliot Callow
- Ryan Mohr

### SWCD Staff

- Becky Dowler, Office Manager
- Seth Owens, District Technician
- Kady Fuhrmann, Special Program Technician– H2Ohio
- Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator

### NRCS Staff

- Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist
- Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer
- Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech
- Jeff Carlson, PF Farm Bill Biologist

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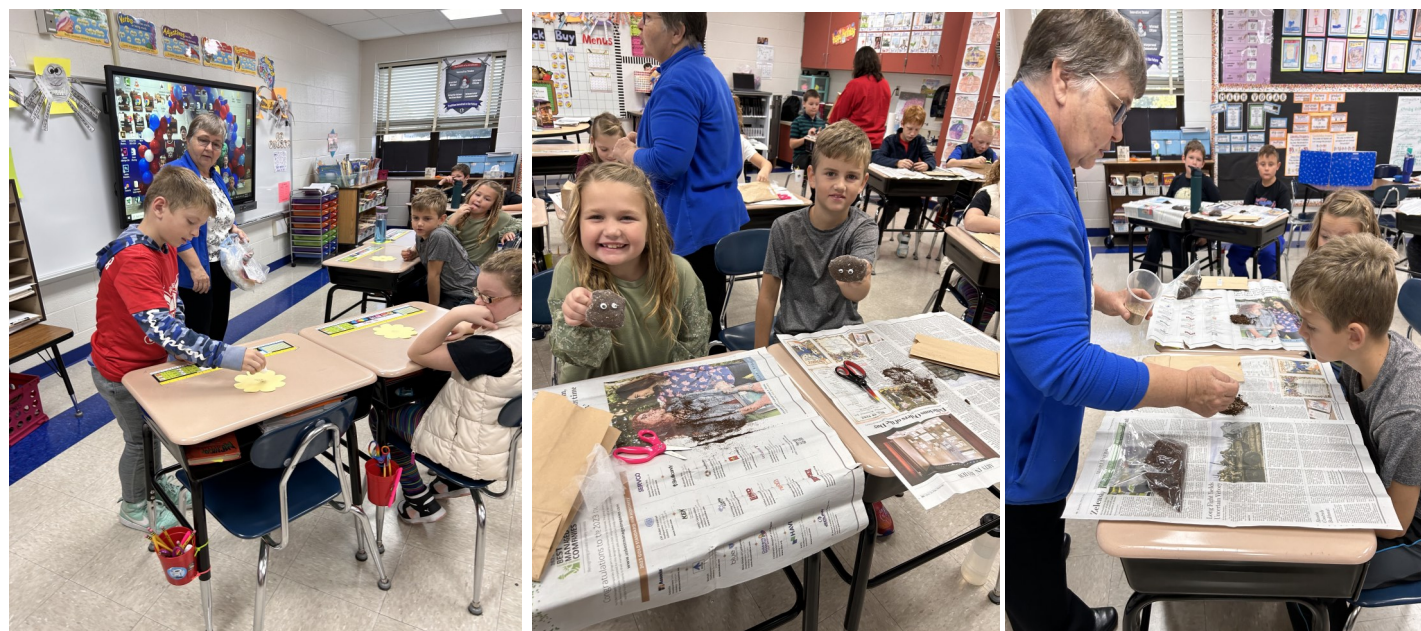
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- ❖ TREE ORDERS ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 29, 2024
- ❖ FISH ORDER FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE



# Education

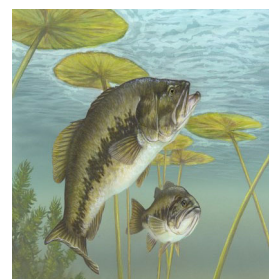
Our Education Coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visits schools in Van Wert County to educate children on many different topics. Below she is pictured teaching kids about soil while they are making garden monsters. Many of these programs are made possible by the generous grant we receive from the Van Wert County Foundation each year. Together we are helping children learn through hands on experiences.



## Fish Fingerlings for Sale

The SWCD is now taking orders for fish fingerlings. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, shellcracker, and white amur. The fish are available in lots of 10-25, as stated on the order form. The minnow is available in lots of 500 and the white amur are ordered in a lot of 2.

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



Orders will be accepted until April 25. Payment is expected when placing the order.

The fish will be delivered to the SWCD office on Thursday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Stocking recommendations for a one acre pond are:

- ✦ 100 largemouth bass
- ✦ 500 blue gill
- ✦ 100 channel catfish
- ✦ 500-1000 fat head minnow

White amur recommendations are based on the amount of weed cover in the pond. If the pond has 20-40% vegetation the recommendation is 10 amur; above 40% weed cover the recommendation is 15 amur.

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



## Winter Manure Application

With the winter season upon us, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation would like to remind producers and nutrient applicators of laws and restrictions on manure application.

Ohio Senate Bill 1 clarifies and enhances the restrictions on manure application within the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB).

Application restrictions in the WLEB include:

- On snow-covered or frozen soil;
- When the top 2 inches of the soil are saturated from precipitation;
- When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period. Applica-

tors are responsible for checking and keeping forecast information before application. Any source of weather prediction is acceptable.

Restrictions do not apply if:

- The manure is injected into the ground;
- Manure is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application, using a tillage tool operated at a minimum of 3-4 inches deep;
- The manure is applied onto a growing crop;
- The chief of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation has provided written consent for an emergency application. Contact the division in case of an emergency.

For those producers who are signed up for the H2Ohio ma-

nure incorporation practices, it is important to note that the program will not pay for winter manure application as stated in the program guidelines.

Producers are reminded to use best management practices when applying manure and follow USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standard 590.

For more information about manure application, producers and applicators can contact the ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation at 614-265-6610 or [dswc@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:dswc@agri.ohio.gov).



## Producers Encouraged to Apply Now for USDA Conservation Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging agricultural producers and forest landowners to participate in voluntary conservation programs. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which help a wide variety of producers, including urban and organic producers.

For fiscal year 2024, NRCS expanded the list of those activities as well as expanded priority areas for ACEP for grasslands, wetlands and farmlands at risk of conversion.

Additionally, for fiscal year 2024, NRCS has over \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding available to producers for priorities like organic and urban agriculture, soil health, water quality and quantity and wildlife habitat development. This extensive amount of funding will be used to meet producer demand for our over-subscribed programs, maximize climate benefits and help producers address their natural resource challenges.

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round. To apply for fiscal year 2024 funding, apply by your [2/16/2024](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov) by contacting your [local NRCS office](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov).