



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District
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Tree Order Forms Are Now Available

The 2020 Tree Order Forms are now available in the office. The species available are: American Arborvitae, Austrian Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, Norway Spruce, Eastern Red Cedar. Also American Cranberry, Black Cherry, Black Walnut, Common Lilac, Pin Oak, Pond Cypress, Red Bud, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, and Sweet Gum. 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 con-

tains 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 27, 2020. 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 middle of April. Post cards or email will be sent with information on the specific delivery dates and time.

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.



CREP Sign Up Has Begun

Signup has begun on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) as of December 9. The deadline for general CRP is February 28, 2020.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a federal and state conservation partnership designed to address agriculture-related environmental concerns. Participants receive financial incentives from USDA to voluntarily enroll environmentally-sensitive cropland or

pastureland in contracts for a period of 15 years. In return for annual rental payments, landowners can convert the land to native grasses, trees and other conservation vegetation.

Practices that are available through the CREP program are:

Hardwood Plantings, Wildlife Habitat, Filter Strips, and Riparian Forest Buffer. The State Bonus payment is \$200 per acre.

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JANUARY – MARCH, 2020 ISSUE

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- ◇ FISH ORDER FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE
- ◇ SIGN UP FOR NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Education Update

By: Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator

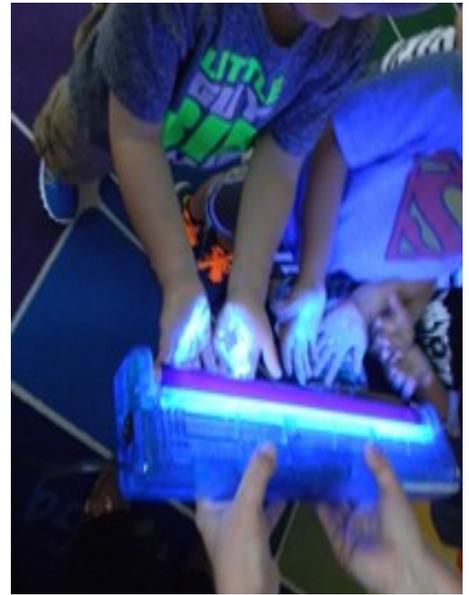
The 2019-2020 school year is flying. The students have been very busy with the presentations this year. 2019 has been a very busy year we have completed 409 presentations for 8643 students involved. I am hoping to do even more in this next year. We are beginning work



on next years' Cows and Plows. 2019 Cows and Plows saw about 323 students participate and a big thank you to all who helped make this event possible.

I am also working on the 4th grade tree presentation for the 2020 school year. I was happy to see a tree from 1995 in a student's parent's yard. It was a great looking Bald Cypress. We are hoping that will be the tree for 2020 4th graders. If the order works out the trees will be a little bigger than in past years. Julie found a great buy for the year 2020 trees.

Don't Pass the Germs Presentation has been one of the most used presentations so far this school year. This presentation is great for many reasons. It teaches the importance of clean water for use in a healthy life and how important hand wash-



ing is for us to stay healthy. The students get a small amount of pretend germs on their hands and look at them with a black light and then wash their hands and see if those pretend germs went down the drain. A short story and lesson on hand washing go with this activity.

Fish Fingerlings for Sale

The SWCD will be taking orders for fish fingerlings soon. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, and white amur. The bass, blue gill, and channel catfish are available in lots of 25, the minnow in lots of 100 (500 min) and the white amur are ordered individually (2 min).

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 24. Payment is expected when placing the order. The fish will be delivered to the SWCD office on Monday, 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 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. Applicators 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.

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.

Applications Being Accepted for SB299 Programs

By: Seth Owens, D.T.

Van Wert SWCD, along with the rest of the counties that drain into the Western Lake Erie Basin, are currently accepting new sign-ups for two exciting new programs. As a result of Gov. Dewine's efforts to reduce the algal blooms in the WLEB, Senate Bill 299 provides needed funds to these counties to attempt to treat or eliminate runoff from the productive farmland in our region.

The Working Lands Hay Buffer program offers a payment of \$120 per acre to plant and harvest forage in areas adjacent to bodies of water. Essentially, this is a filter strip that a producer can harvest the hay from. The primary requirement of this program is that half of the forage planted be a cool season grass species (Bluegrass, Orchardgrass, Timothy, etc.). The remainder of the

seed is at the discretion of the producer, with Alfalfa being the most popular option. The forage is required to be at least 4 inches tall on September 15th and left alone over winter, but this can provide much needed filtration in critical drainage areas, as well as a payment for growing forage for livestock.

The Working Lands Small Grains program offers a payment of \$75 per acre to:

- a) work small grains back in to the typical operation, and
- b) apply manure to the stubble of that small grain in the summer months when drainage should be at a minimum.

After the small grain (Wheat, Rye, Oats, Triticale, Spelt, Barley) is harvested, the producer is free

to bale the straw. Following that, an application of manure followed by a cover crop or double crop beans. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has set the date of September 15th for all manure applications to be complete and the cover crop to be planted. The acres are then required to be left alone until March (unless double crop beans were planted, in which case the beans will be harvested and the stubble left alone until March).

There is no end date for either of these sign-ups, but I would encourage producers to stop in sooner rather than later. If you wish to sign-up, contact Seth Owens at the Van Wert SWCD at 419-238-9591, ext. 4261 or stop in to the office.

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Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator

NRCS Staff

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

Upcoming 2020 Dates ~

January 1	New Year's Day—Holiday
January 2	Tree Seedling Sale Begins
January 8	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
January 15	Park District Board Meeting—2 PM
January 20	MLK Day—Holiday
February 12	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
February 17	President's Day—Holiday
February 19	Park District Meeting—2 PM
March 11	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
March 18	Park District Meeting—2 PM
March 27	End of tree sale