



Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 6

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 6 at the Council on Aging, 220 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 supervisors to the five member Board of Supervisors.

Dinner will be catered by Gibson's Barnyard BBQ and will begin at 6:00 pm.

The speaker for the evening is Matt Reese, editor of *Ohio's Country Journal*, a statewide agricultural publication. He has worked there since 1999. He lives on a small Fairfield County farm, serves on the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District Board and is very active in his family

Christmas tree farm in Hancock County.

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



Matt Reese

This year's honoree is being posthumously awarded to Earl Gerdeman.

Tickets are \$5 and are available from the SWCD and Farm Bureau offices. Deadline to purchase tickets is **July 30**.

And the SWCD Election Candidates Are...



Bob Gehres and wife Deb reside in Willshire township. Bob is a retired grain farmer. They attend St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Bob is a member of Farm Bureau and the Farm Focus committee. Bob has served as Supervisor for the Van Wert SWCD for 7 three year terms and is seeking re-election.



Craig Pohlman and wife Sheila reside in York Township. He is part of a family farming operation with his father. They attend St. John's Catholic Church. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and is a volunteer for 4-H. He has served as a Supervisor for the SWCD Board for 4 three year terms and is seeking re-election.



Kris Young and wife, Michele, reside in Harrison Township. They have 4 children. He is part of a family farming / sheep operation with his father. The Young's attend Praise Point Church in Willshire. He is a Farm Bureau Board Trustee for Van Wert County and works for William-son Crop Insurance.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 6
- ✧ New programs to participate in at the SWCD. Check them out!

SWCD Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Van Wert SWCD awards a \$500 scholarship to an individual furthering their education in an agricultural/environmental field of study.

This year the Board chose Tanner Matthews as the recipient of the 2018-19 SWCD Scholarship.

He is the son of Todd and Brenda Matthews and a 2016 graduate of Parkway High School. Tanner is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University studying Agricultural Sys-

tems Management.

Upon graduation he wants his career to have a focus on profitable production with the reduction of impact on the surrounding ecosystems. He wants to implement precision agriculture to recommend and apply fertilizers only where they are needed and when they will not destroy local waters with pollution.

Congratulations Tanner!



Senate Bill 299 Cover Crop Program Available

Producers interested in planting cover crops are invited to check into the Senate Bill 299 Cover Crop Program. Producers with eligible cropland acreage, can sign up for the cover crop program and will receive \$25 per acre with a maximum of 80 acres for 3 years.

Van Wert SWCD will manage the program sign-up, verifica-

tion of eligibility and cover crop establishment. Producer must agree to install a cover crop on the same field for 3 consecutive years. Seeding must be established by November 1. SWCD will verify cover crop has been established and maintained until March 15, 2020 at which time the producer will receive payment.

The land cannot be currently enrolled in a USDA Farm Bill program for cover crops. The sign up is from now until September 1. This program is available on a first-come first-serve basis until program funds are no longer available.

For more information....stop in the office!

Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the 70th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 6, at Council on Aging, 220 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

Two members 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 21 days prior to the election

requesting an absentee ballot.

2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 3:30 p.m. August 5.
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 landowners 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.

SWCD Poster Contest Winners

The District recently held a poster contest for students K-12. The topic for 2019 was titled “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper!” Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator congratulated the winners and presented certificates.



Joey Alvarado
K to 1 (St. Mary's)



Annabel Horstman
2nd to 3rd (St. Mary's)



Harper Reindel
4th to 6th (St. Mary's)



Ethan Best
7th to 9th (Crestview)

These entries will be forwarded on to the State Poster Contest which is held during the summer of 2019. Posters selected from the State Contest will be forwarded on to the National Poster Contest.

Working Lands—Hay Buffer & Small Grain Programs

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District continues to provide funding for assistance programs for farmers to help protect water quality in the western basin of Lake Erie. The sign-up period for these programs began June 17th. The funding for the program is through the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 299 which provided \$23.5 million for SWCD's for nutrient management programs.

Two programs being offered are the Ohio Working Lands Hay Buffer Program and the Ohio Working Lands Small Grains Program. The Ohio

Working Lands Hay Buffer program established year-round vegetative cover on eligible cropland. The program promotes conversion, establishment, and maintenance of forage/hay land on certain cropland acres. These buffers act as another line of defense to filter surface water while allowing participants to harvest forage from the established areas. Payment is \$120 per acre per year for a 5 year period.

Also available is the Small Grains Program which is a voluntary program that will encourage producers to plant small grains such as wheat, barley, oats, or cereal rye on eligible

cropland. Participants must plant and harvest small grains, land apply manure, and plant a cover crop to receive a cost-share payment to help offset operating costs. The program benefits the planting of small grains not only for the conservation benefits, but to provide livestock producers with a longer application window to land apply manure and nutrients. Payment is \$75 per acre cost share.

The goal of these programs is to reduce nutrients entering Ohio waterways to lessen harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Sign up for the program here at the SWCD !

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

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Van Wert, OH



Board of Supervisors

Dave Kemler, Chairman
Craig Pohlman, Vice-Chair
Dick Rice , Secretary
Bob Gehres, Fiscal Agent
Darryl Ricketts , Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

Julie Buggle, Office Manager
Seth Owens, District Technician
Tammy Campbell, Education Coord.

NRCS Staff

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

Events Calendar

- July 4* *Office Closed—Independence Day*
- July 10* *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- July 17* *Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM*
- July 28-30* *Summer Supervisor School, Cleveland*
- August 6* *SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet*
- August 14* *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- August 21* *Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM*
- Sept. 2* *Office Closed—Labor Day*
- Sept 11* *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- Sept 18* *Park District Meeting 2:00*

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