



# Van Wert Ag Banquet

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been postponed from the normal August date due to the covid-19 meeting regulations that were put into place by the Governor.

We will keep you posted on a potential date later this year.

An election will be held in 2020 for one Board of Supervisor position.

## H2Ohio Update

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has notified the SWCD that the H2Ohio program will be moving forward with \$50 million in incentive funds available to producers for implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio Program.

H2Ohio funding for BMP’s will begin in crop year 2021. The SWCD staff will contact current H2Ohio applicants and work with producers to update all applications to reflect BMPs for crop years 2021, 2022, and 2023, with future year incentives contingent on the availability of funds.

### H2Ohio Program Timeline

June 1 to August 14—SWCD will revise program applications to reflect BMP’s for crop year 2021 with projections for years two and three. All applications must be complete by August 14.

September 1 to October 31—ODA will evaluate program applications and notify program participants of approval of Voluntary Management Plans (VNMP)

for 2020 and 2021 practices.

June 1 to Year End—Participants develop and submit VNMPs. Final plans must be approved by December 31, 2020. VNMP’s must be approved prior to implementation of an H2Ohio eligible practice.

### Fall 2020 BMPs

- Conservation Crop Rotation (both small grains and forages)
- Phosphorus Placement
- Variable Rate Phosphorus Application
- Drainage Water Management structures can be installed if the required surveys and engineering plans have been completed. Payments will be completed for crop years 2022 and 2023.

All H2Ohio BMP’s can be implemented beginning Spring 2021, practices will continue to be implemented through summer and must be completed no later than fall of 2021.

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### Special points of interest:

- \* SWCD Scholarship Awarded
- \* CREP Program Bonus Payment

## 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 Micala Ashbaugh as the recipient of the 2019-20 SWCD Scholarship.

She is the daughter of Rick and Dianna Ashbaugh and a 2017 graduate of Lincolnview High

School. Micala is currently enrolled at Wright State University Lake Campus studying Agriculture and Business.

Upon graduation she wants to work for a company that practices good conservation methods and wants to continue to be good stewards to the land.

Congratulations Micala!



## Bonus Payment Highlight of 2020 Lake Erie CREP

Do you have a ditch or stream running through your farm that needs a filter strip? How about that one area that's hard to farm because it's always wet? The Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District is ready to help you evaluate how your bottom line and Lake Erie's water quality can benefit by signing up for this program.

CREP is a federal conservation partnership with the state of Ohio designed to address agriculture-related environmental concerns.

Participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the state of Ohio to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive cropland or pastureland in contracts for a period of 15 years. In return for annual rental payments and financial incentives, participants convert the land to native grasses, trees and other conservation vegetation. New for 2020 is the \$200 bonus offered by the state of Ohio for all newly-enrolled filter strip and riparian area practices. The sign-up

period for newly acres goes from Jan 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2020. For current CREP participants with expiring contracts, re-enrolling and expanding the width of filter strips or riparian areas will earn you the bonus dollars on those new added acres all the while expanding the environmental protection of these practices. Landowners who want to extend their LE CREP contracts, have until August 21, 2020.

## Vacancy Announcement for Office Manager

Due to the retirement of Julie Buggle, current Office Manager, the SWCD Board is accepting applications until July 6, 2020.

This is a full-time position and will be directly responsible to the Van Wert SWCD Board of Supervisors. The duties include day-to-day office administration, finances and budget. Also to ensure the Long Range Plan and Annual Plan of Work items are being achieved by staff. Approve and track personnel time reporting,

conduct evaluations, and recommend training.

The applicant must have a high school diploma, but an associate or higher degree is preferred in business or agribusiness. Applicant should have knowledge of computers and maintaining files, proficient in Microsoft Office, Word and Excel also Sage Accounting or QuickBooks. Strong verbal and written communication, and organizational skills is a must. Applicant must successful-

ly pass a background check and demonstrate an ability work well with others, possess a positive attitude and be self-motivated.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. There is a 6-month probationary period. A full benefit package is offered.

Applications can be obtained at the office or on the SWCD website at: [www.vanwertswcd.org](http://www.vanwertswcd.org). ion and resume must be received by July 6, 2020.

## Students Ask A Lot of Questions By: Tammy Campbell, Ed. Coord.

I often have students ask questions that I do not have time to answer in the classroom but always do my very best to answer. The latest questions have been coming in the form of plastic and our environment. I have worked on a new presentation called Plastic and OUR Water. This presentation shows students how plastics get in our water and has a short lab to go with the presentation on how hard it can be to get plastic out of beach sand. We will then talk about how they think you would be able to get plastic out of our water. This topic gives the students a chance to think about our water and brainstorm ideas. I always try to adjust to the students and current events.

One of my favorite presentations has always been **Don't Pass the Germs** and how very appropriate this talk is in the face of COVID-19. This presentation has a short story with the

introduction of correct hand washing. The students are then given "GERMS" which really is a glow in the dark hand lotion. They rub the lotion on their hands and look at the "GERMS" under a black light. Off the students go to wash their hands and then back to see if all the "GERMS" went down the drain. This is a great lesson and fun for the students.

I am also working on a presentation called **What Happens When You Flush?** I have realized most students do not understand that you must have two sets of pipes in your home. This presentation talks about clean water in and used water out of their home. We talk about the differences of this water in and out depending on if you live in a village/city and if you live in the country. This topic is one the students find interesting because they have never thought about it and it

pertains to them every day. This presentation goes well with other presentations for Jr. High such as Erosion and the Enviroscape.

**Wetlands** presentation and lab is new for next year. I have a short presentation on wetlands and a wetland lab for the students. Students will make their own wetland and add animals. We will add different amounts of water and they will watch their wetland and observe what happens. If time allows the class will also do a quick lab on watersheds and how a watershed works. This presentation would go well with the Enviroscape presentation.

My new 2020-2021 presentation book is available and will also be on our web site for everyone to look at. If you need a printed copy you may email me or pick one up at the office.

## Classroom Presentations and Summer Overview

This summer is very different than every other summer just like our whole world. I am working on Take Home Packets full of conservation education for the students of our county. Education packets have been taken to the Delphos Public Library and The YWCA Summer Food Program.

I am also working on preparation for school. Cleaning and replacing used items from last year and working on ideas for

virtual school. This is a whole new world for all of us. Waiting until the school decisions are made and working on how to best serve our community.

These photos are what I am hoping will happen again this year .



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Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer  
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech  
Jackson Martini, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

**Events Calendar**

- July 3*      *Office Closed—Independence Day*
- July 8*      *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- July 9*      *Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM*
- August 12*      *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- August 19*      *Van Wert Park District Mtg. 2:00 PM*
- Sept. 7*      *Office Closed—Labor Day*
- Sept 9*      *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*
- Sept 16*      *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.*