



# Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 13, 2024

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 13 at Life House Church, 719 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 supervisor's to the five member Board of Supervisors.

There will be no charge for the dinner this year, however you will still need to RSVP to the SWCD office. Deadline to RSVP is **August 1**. Call 419-238-9591 or email becky at: [becky@vanwertswcd.com](mailto:becky@vanwertswcd.com)

Dinner will be catered by Street-light Catering and will begin at 6:00 pm.

Both offices will present awards followed by the "Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame" award! This year's award is being awarded to Farm Focus.



## Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

VAN WERT

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Web site: [www.vanwertswcd.org](http://www.vanwertswcd.org)

### Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, at Life House Church, 719 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:00 p.m. August 13.
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

owners 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.

Two member's will be elected for a three year term of office. County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot.

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 land-

1. Contact the office in writing requesting an absentee ballot.

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#### Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 13
- ✧ SWCD election candidates have been chosen!
- ✧ Conservation Poker Run- August 9

## Meet the Candidates:

### Travis Owens, Brett Schumm and Elliot Callow

#### Travis Owens

Travis Owens is a lifelong resident of Van Wert County, where he works on his family's generational grain and livestock farm. Travis believes it is crucial to our community's future to continuously develop our local agriculture and natural resources through education and preservation. Travis is an active member of the Farm Bureau Board (5 years), works at Central Mutual Insurance (16 years), and volunteers at Life House Church in Van Wert. In his free time, Travis can be found enjoying quality time with his wife and three children.



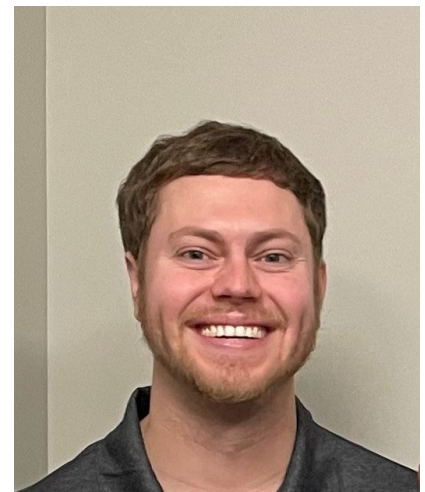
#### Brett Schumm

Brett Schumm is a 7th generation farmer on his family farm in Wilshire Twp. He is a graduate of Crestview High School and the Ohio State Fire Academy. Along with working full time on his family farm, he is employed full time as a Firefighter/Paramedic on the Van Wert Fire Department and volunteers on the Wren Fire Department. He attends Zion Lutheran Church, is a member of the Van Wert Farm Bureau and an adviser on the Van Wert Co. Jr. Fair Board. Working with his family, he helps grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He also helps with the contract swine finishing barn, and the farrow to finish operation and has his own beef cattle operation. He would be pleased to be a part of the SWCD, in order to learn more about the conservation efforts in the county as one of his goals is to help his family's farm move forward in this area and leave the land in good condition for the next generation.



#### Elliot Callow

Elliot Callow, wife, Katelyn and two daughters Bailey and Dottie reside in Wilshire Township. Elliot Callow is a Farm Insurance Agent at Leland Smith Insurance and also Farms. They attend Pleasant View Church. Elliot is seeking re-election for a 3 year term.



# Conservation Poker Run– August 9 7:30-1:00

This year the Van Wert SWCD is offering a fun event! We have teamed up with local farmers and businesses to explain and tour agricultural practices being implemented in Van Wert County. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter. This is a free event and anyone is welcome to attend. We do ask that you RSVP to the office by **August 2** so we can have a good number for our caterer. After touring around the County we will be meeting back at the Fairgrounds for lunch and a chance to win a Black Stone Grill. The person with the best poker hand will win the prize. We will have a complete set of rules that will be handed out at the beginning of the day. This is our first year of doing this event and we do hope that you will help make it a success!

## Stewardship Week

The Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of natural resources during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 28 – May 5, 2024 as Stewardship Week, marking the 69<sup>th</sup> year of the national event. The 2024 Stewardship Week is themed “May the Forest Be with You, Always”, which signifies our commitment to responsible forest stewardship, emphasizing their enduring strength and adaptability.

The Van Wert SWCD was formed to assist people in Van Wert County to protect and conserve the natural resources for all residents by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance. During Stewardship Week, the Van Wert SWCD provided an Ohio Buckeye tree seedling to each fourth grade student in the county along with a presentation regarding the importance of planting trees. Also, our education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visited schools to give presentations on the importance of being a good steward in their community. Through the generous grant we have received from the Van Wert County Foundation we have been able to provide these tree seedlings and provide classrooms with the book “In the Forest” along with other supplies for our area students.

Van Wert SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts ([www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

Additional information about Stewardship Week is available on the NACD website at [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org).

### SWCD Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Van Wert SWCD awards a scholarship to an individual furthering their education in an agricultural/environmental field of study. The amount given this year was \$1,000. This year the Board chose Wyatt Friedrich as the recipient of the 2023-24 SWCD Scholarship. Next year Wyatt will be in his second year at Ohio State ATI studying Landscape Horticulture. His plans after college are to take over the family lawn care business. Wyatt has been in the business all his life and it is something that he enjoys doing. So far in college he has taken turf, plant, and landscape design classes. He has learned a lot so far and hopes to learn so much more to understand how to manage and take care of lawns.

### Congratulations Wyatt!

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

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### **Board of Supervisors**

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

### **SWCD Staff**

Becky Dowler, Office Manager  
Seth Owens, District Technician  
Kady Fuhrmann, Special Program Tech.  
Tammy Campbell, Education Coord.

### **NRCS Staff**

Ken Kottenbrock, District Conservationist  
Noel Morris, Civil Technician  
Ben Kales, Soil Conservationist  
Jeff Carlson, PF Farm Bill Biologist

### **Events Calendar**

*July 4 & 5*      *Office Closed—Independence Day*  
*July 10*        *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*  
*July 15-Aug. 13* *Election Period*  
*August 9*       *Conservation Poker Run*  
*August 13*      *SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet*  
*August 14*      *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*  
*Sept. 2*         *Office Closed—Labor Day*  
*Sept 11*        *SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM*  
*Sept 24 & 26*   *Cows and Plows*

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