



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Winter Manure / Fertilizer Spreading Meeting Scheduled

The SWCD has scheduled a meeting to address Winter Manure / Fertilizer Spreading Guidelines through Senate Bill 1 for Tuesday, December 3. The meeting will begin with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Kenn Feld Group (John Deere) training center, 10305 Liberty Union Road, Van Wert. Call the office to pre-register.

Seth Owens, District Technician for the Van Wert SWCD will discuss the need to track the weather and winter manure and fertilizer spreading. Terry Mescher from the Ohio Department of Agriculture will discuss the value of manure and application recommendations.

If you have questions regarding ...

- applying manure to frozen or snow covered soil;
- what is considered a growing crop,
- what are the restrictions on surface application of manure,
- what is injection or incorporation,
- what are the set backs needed from a ditch or road,
- or civil penalties.

Plan to attend and get these questions answered. **Pre-register is needed by November 25.**

New PF Wildlife Biologist in Van Wert office

Hi, I'm Harlee Phillips the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. I am based out of the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation Office. I am originally from Nebraska, where I grew up on my parents' dairy farm. After graduating from high school I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife management. While I was still attending UNL I was able to get a job with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a Wildlife Conservation Technician on their wildlife management areas. I spent the past five seasons as a Conservation Tech with

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission learning how to properly manage habitat for the benefit and use of wildlife.

I moved to Defiance, Ohio at the beginning of August because my wife took a teaching job at St. John Lutheran. I am excited for this opportunity in Ohio and look forward to helping anyway I can.



Inside this issue:

	2
Help Save the Monarch's	2
Landowner Opportunities Available	2
2019 Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak	3
Posters advanced to National Contest	3
Calendar of Events	4

Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Help the Monarch Butterfly's by saving the milkweed plants*
- ✧ *New PF Wildlife Biologist in the office*
- ✧ *Special Field Windbreak Program available*

Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection Runs Sept 1 –Oct. 30



Due to the drastic decline in monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) populations, the Ohio Pollinator

Habitat Initiative (OPHI) and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts are again seeking public involvement to collect common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods from established plants September 1 through October 30. This is an annual event and we hope you can participate!

The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and additional habitat for the monarch butterfly throughout the buckeye state. These future plantings will increase the food source for the caterpillar stage.

Seed pods from common milkweed should be collected **ONLY WHEN THE PODS ARE DRY AND BROWN-GREY** in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. The seeds in green pods will not be viable and won't be able to be used. Be patient and don't collect too soon!

It is best to collect pods into paper bags. Avoid using plastic bags because they can allow mold to develop. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking the handling pods. Ideally, it is recommended to leave at least 50 percent of the seed crop at a given site to allow for natural recruitment and reeneration of the native

population the next growing season. There are situations where total collection can occur ie. If the field or area will be mowed completely or the area will be converted for crop or development. A collection container is located outside the door of the Van Wert SWCD, 1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert.

For more information on milkweeds refer to this video!

<http://u.osu.edu/beelab/milkweed-seed/>



Landowner Opportunities Available

SB299: Working Lands Buffer Program

This program encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to establish year-round vegetative cover on eligible cropland.

- ✧ Land must be located in the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed.
- ✧ Only cropland acres where sediment and nutrients have the potential to be transported from the field and enter environmentally sensitive areas are eligible.
- ✧ The maximum enrollment width is 300 feet average. The minimum eligible width is 50 feet.
- ✧ An annual payment of \$120 per acre, per year, over a 5-year period is available for establishment and maintenance.
- ✧ Practice must be maintained for a 5-year period.
- ✧ Areas can be harvested for hay and forage, stand must be 50% cool season grasses.

Working Lands Small Grain Program

This program promotes the planting of small grains not only for the conservation benefits, but to provide livestock producers with a longer time-period to land apply manure and nutrients.

- ✧ A small grain must be planted and harvested (Wheat, Barley, Oats, Cereal Rye and Spelt).
- ✧ The land must be used for manure application following harvest of the small grain.
- ✧ A cover crop must be planted following the manure application and maintained until March 1.
- ✧ Current soil tests and manure analysis are required.
- ✧ Cost-share incentive payments, \$75/acre allow producers to practice conservation with minimal out of pocket cost.

2020 Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program

Are you thinking about planting a windbreak in 2020? Now is the time to begin planning and design with our office. The Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program is available to establish windbreaks that provide protection against wind erosion and wind damage to crops. The windbreaks may also provide food and cover for wildlife. Plantings where the purpose is the protection of home sites or farmsteads, landscaping, ornamental use are not eligible for this program.

- A qualifying windbreak must be :
- planted in or adjacent to agricultural land. The field on which the windbreak is planted must be at least 10 acres in size.
 - One to six rows of trees and shrubs may be planted in the windbreak having a minimum total length of 1,000 row feet. The minimum length for each row is 250 feet.
 - Species available are: arborvitae, Norway spruce, blue spruce, eastern white pine, baldcypress,

austrian pine, silky dogwood, black chokeberry, American plum, sargent crabapple, pin oak, bur oak and swamp white oak.

- Design and planning of the windbreak will be done by the NRCS, SWCD or the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. The agencies will determine the location and number of row feet.
- Windbreaks must be located a minimum of 8 feet from property lines. Windbreaks must be planted outside of power line right-of-ways and other utility easements.
- After the windbreak has been planted in the spring, an invoice will be sent to the landowner. The cost is \$0.35 per row foot. For that cost the ODNR Division of Forestry will plant the windbreak and apply herbicide at the time of planting.

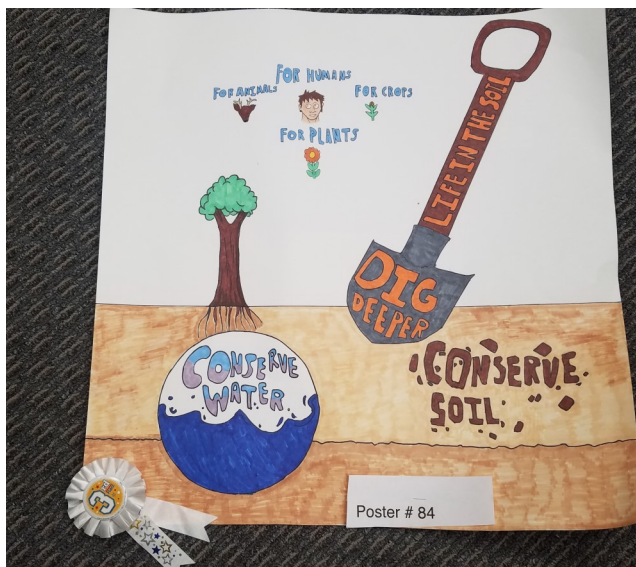
- A second herbicide application in the fall, winter or spring following the first growing season will be applied. A survival count in the fall following planting will be performed.
- Replacement seedlings will be provided during the first growing season on a one-time basis for the landowner to replant at no cost.

Order forms are available in the office. The deadline to place an order for trees through the Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program is December 6, 2019.



Education Info

by: Tammy Campbell, Education Coordinator



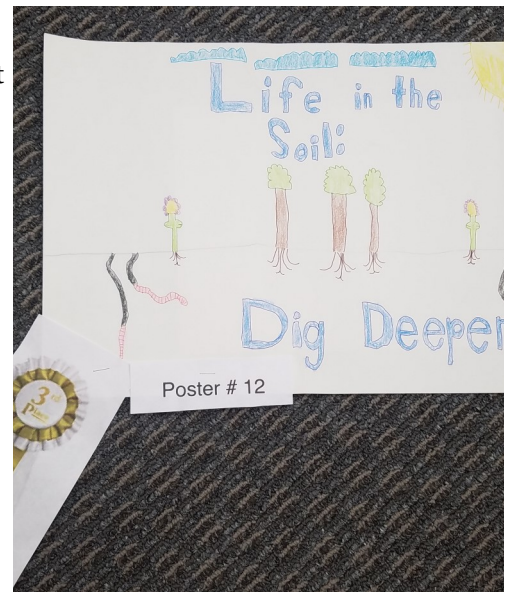
Two of the posters from the Van Wert County poster contest were voted 3rd place in the State! Winning posters were submitted by:

Ethan Best—9th grade Crestview

and

Joey Alvarado—1st grade St. Mary's

Congratulations !!!



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

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

NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock , District Conservationist
Tinina Hale—Civil Engineer
Noel Morris—Soil Conservation Tech
Harlee Phillips—PF Farm Bill Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

October 9	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
<i>October 14</i>	<i>Columbus Day—Office Closed</i>
October 16	Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm
November 3	Daylight Savings Time ends
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Veteran’s Day—Office Closed</i>
November 13	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
November 20	Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm
<i>November 28/29</i>	<i>Thanksgiving—Office Closed</i>
<i>December 3</i>	<i>Winter Manure / Fertilizer Meeting</i>
December 11	SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am
December 18	Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>New Year’s—Office Closed</i>

