

H2Ohio Update

October—December, 2021

Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891

Telephone (419) 238-9591

Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Open Enrollment for new applications: H2Ohio will accept new applications starting September 15th through January 15th. In order to apply, you must provide a VNMP or CNMP. New practices under 2022 contract will not begin until March 15th. One exception is Small Grains. Your small grains crop must be harvested as a grain to be eligible for payment. (ONLY FOR NEW APPLICANTS)

Exciting Contracts: You may now add acreages to your existing contract. Any changes must be approved by a technician and the SWCD Board. If the dollar amount exceeds 10% of original payment amount agreed upon, the contract must be sent to ODA (Ohio Department of AG) for approval.

Contracts that had VNMP's only until 2021 or 2022 will need to contact Kady to get a Farm Summary update by Jan. 15th.

Fall Reminders!

Manure inc. and Cons. Crop Rotations Practices: To get payment for these practices, this program requires cover crops or double crops to be planted by **October 15th**. To receive overwintering cover crop payment, at least 50% of your seeding mix must be overwintering.

Remind App: Please join the remind text messages to receive important information, updates, deadlines, ect. for H2Ohio. To join, text @vwh2o to the number 81010. If you have trouble, try texting @vwh2o to (240) 428-2760.



New H2Ohio Technician in Van Wert Office

Kady Fuhrmann lives in Decatur, IN where she was born and raised on her family farm. Growing up, she was an active 4-H member showing livestock and FFA member involved with soil, crop, and poultry judging. Kady graduated from Ball State University in Dec. of 2020. She has spent the last couple summers as an intern for Purdue Extension in Adams County preparing for the 4-H fair and educating the Adams County community about Agriculture. Kady actively helps her dad and grandpa on their diversified livestock farm operation. She enjoys going to cattle shows with her family, hanging out at the lakes, and working on the farm. She is looking forward to meeting all the community members and learning about their farming practices.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Help save the Monarch Butterfly's by saving milkweed plants*
- ✧ *Cows and Plows*
- ✧ *H2Ohio Update*

Annual Meeting

The Van Wert SWCD held their 72nd Annual Meeting by co-hosting with the Van Wert Farm Bureau at the Ag Banquet on Tuesday, August 10 at the Council on Aging, Van Wert, OH. A SWCD election was held for two supervisor positions on the SWCD Board of Supervisors five member Board. Elliot Callow and Richard Rice were elected to serve a three year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Dinner was provided by Gibson's Barnyard BBQ.

Tristin Miller was honored as SWCD Scholarship recipient. Bob Gehres was recognized by the SWCD and received the Conservation Farm Award. This award is given to honor individuals for their conservation achievements. Farm Bureau honored their scholarship recipient.

Farm Bureau presented Farewell and Friend of Ag Awards. The Van Wert Ag Hall of Fame Award was presented to Ron Schumm for his many agricultural education accomplishments.

Van Wert County Foundation spoke on AG + Philanthropy, Farm Bureau, AG Credit and the Soil and

Water Conservation District all spoke on what each agency has been doing over the past year.

Sponsors for the evening were: Van Wert County Foundation, Farm Bureau, and the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting and are looking forward to next year's meeting.



Craig Pohlman
And Ron Schumm



Dave Kemler
and Bob Gehres

Education Update

As the new school year begins we very excited to be able to go into the schools once again. Education coordinator, Tammy Campbell, has a wide variety of educational programs that she teaches to students in Van Wert County. Our most recent event was Cows and Plows that is put on at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds for all area 4th graders.

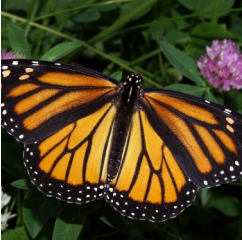
-The SWCD, in cooperation with Crestview Local Schools, Lincolnview Local Schools, St. Mary's Parochial and Van Wert City Schools presented a day-long session for students to acquaint them with the primary industry in the county, AGRICULTURE. While some of the students do live on farms, most of them do not have an opportunity to experience what modern-day farming is all about. More important is that the field trip reinforces the social studies and science state standards and curriculum for this age group.

-Local supporting agencies for the event include: Advanced Biological Marketing, Ag Credit, Cooper Farms Cooked Meats, D&D Ingredient, Earl J. Gerdeman Agricultural Scholarship, Farm Credit, 4-H Council, Gerdeman Land & Cattle LLC, Heritage Farm Equipment, Kenn-Feld Group, Lincolnview Young Farmers, Maumee Watershed Conservancy District, Ohio State University Extension Office, Save-A-Lot, Van Wert County Fair Board, Van Wert County Farm Bureau, Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District, Wrenco Trophy and the Van Wert County Foundation.

-The speakers cover a broad range of topics, including livestock, crops, marketing and production of agricultural products, soil basics, water, and equipment with an emphasis on how technology has changed the way we farm and how agriculture effects our daily lives.

Thank you to everyone who made this day successful!

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!

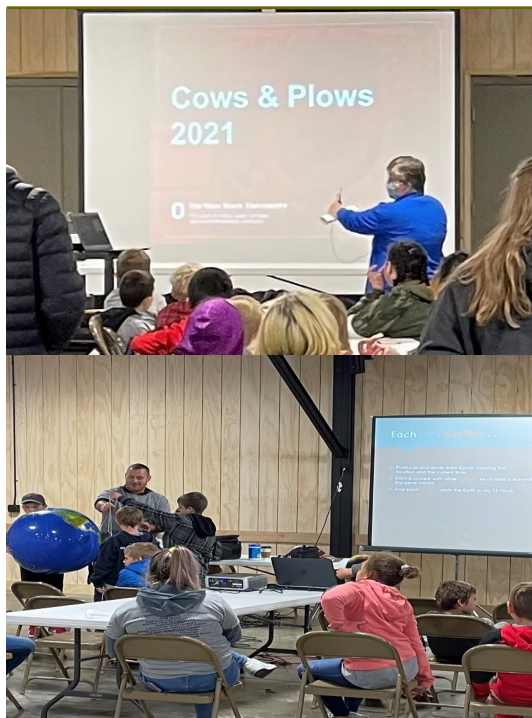
It is best to collect pods into paper bags. Avoid using plastic bags because they can allow mold to develop. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking the handling pods. Ideally, it is recommended to leave at least 50 percent of the seed crop at a given site to allow for natural regrowth of the native population the next growing season. There are situations where total collection can occur. For example: 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/>



Pictures from Cows and Plows



Wind Break

Applications are being accepted for the 2022 season of the Northwest Ohio Windbreak program. This is an easy and cost-effective method of planting potentially large windbreaks in a matter of hours. In order to be eligible for CREP cost share payments the potential windbreak must be on or adjacent to a field of at least 10 acres, and have a minimum row length of 250 feet. Typical species include Arborvitae, Norway Spruce, Eastern White Pine, several Oak species, and many others. Stop in the Van Wert SWCD for more information.

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #80004
Wapakoneta, OH

Board of Supervisors

Craig Pohlman, Chairman
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Dave Kemler, Secretary
Dick Rice, Fiscal Agent
Kris Young, Youth & Publicity

SWCD Staff

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

NRCS Staff

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

Upcoming Dates and Events

<i>October 11</i>	<i>Columbus Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>October 13</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>October 19</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 7</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Veteran’s Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>November 10</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting 8 am</i>
<i>November 16</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 25/26</i>	<i>Thanksgiving—Office Closed</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>December 14</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>December 24/25</i>	<i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>
<i>Dec. 31/January 1</i>	<i>New Year’s—Office Closed</i>

