

July, August, September

2025 Newsletter



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Van Wert Ag Banquet to be held on August 5, 2025

The Van Wert Ag Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 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.

Dinner will be catered by Lock 16 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 Fred Pond.

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 **July 24**.

Call 419-238-9591 or email becky at: becky@vanwertswcd.com

Also, this year we are excited to have speaker Jolene Brown! Jolene Brown is a walking-talking spokesperson and champion for the people of agriculture. She's a farmer in Eastern Iowa, contributor to Successful Farming magazine's popular family business column, author of two great books and an inductee into the prestigious CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame. Her worldwide audiences appreciate her fun-filled spirit and valuable information. She's on a mission to share leading-edge best practices, appreciation, laughter and celebration to increase productivity, profitability and peace of mind. www.JoleneBrown.com

We hope to see you there!

Supervisor Election Notice

The Van Wert SWCD will hold an election for District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 5, at Life House Church, 719 Fox Road, Van Wert, OH.

Two member's 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 requesting an absentee ballot.

2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 4:00 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 land-

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.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ Mark your calendar and plan to attend the SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet Tuesday, August 5
- ✧ SWCD election candidates have been chosen!
- ✧ Lawn/Garden soil testing

Meet the Candidates:

Dustin Schaadt

Dustin Schaadt is the 6th generation to farm in York Twp. He is a 2001 graduate of Lincolnview High School and a 2005 graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Ag Systems Management. Dustin manages the Family Grain farm and has two contract hog barns. He and his Wife Jamie (of 18.5yrs) have been blessed with 3 wonderful children. They are members at First Baptist Church in Van Wert. Dustin believes that improving the soil health of our greatest asset (the land) is a benefit to the farmer and the community and would love to help promote these efforts in our county on the SWCD board.

Dustin Frey

My name is Dustin Frey. I am 38 years old and live in Hoaglin Township in Van Wert County. My wife, Heather and I have been married for 11 years and have 3 boys (Kasen 9, Branson 6, and Landon 3). I grew up on our family farm and have been engaged in the operation from a young boy to present. I farm alongside my father and brother in both Van Wert and Paulding counties. I graduated from Bowling Green State University in 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders and in 2012 with a Masters of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. I have been employed by Therapy Solutions, LLC since 2012 as a Speech-Language Pathologist for Vancrest Healthcare Centers in the Van Wert and Payne locations. Over the years, I have become more involved in the daily operation and management of our family farm. I made the decision to enroll our controlled acreage in the H2Ohio program in 2021. Since then, I have collaborated with Van Wert Soil and Water on different conservation programs that are available to farmers.

Phillip Young

Phillip Young was born and raised in Van Wert County. A resident of Harrison Township. He is married to Katlin Young and they have three children, Linley, Woody, and Shep. He works for AgCredit in Van Wert as a Senior Account Officer. He has been with AgCredit for almost 7 years. He enjoys helping farming operations make their next purchase and helping them understand their financials. He helps on his family's row crop operation and his father's sheep operation. Phil is a member of Praise Point Church in Willshire, OH. Phil enjoys spending time with his family and serving in his church. Phil wants to see farming operations in Van Wert County thrive and continue for generations to come.

Lawn & Garden Soil Testing

The Van Wert SWCD offers lawn and garden soil testing for Van Wert County and surrounding areas. Soil tests provide a snapshot of your soil's current nutrient levels and can help you make smart decisions about how much to apply or whether to apply compost, manure or fertilizer.

A soil test can help you:

- Understand important physical characteristics of your soil including the texture, pH (acidity) and percent of organic matter in your soil.
- Determine if your soil needs nutrients and choose the right fertilizer.
- Test for contaminants.

Add the right amount of compost or manure.

The three main nutrients that plants require for healthy growth are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Although they are already present in your soil to some degree, your N-P-K levels may not be optimal for plant growth. Your soil might lack potassium, for example, or you might have more than enough phosphorus. The goal is to make sure your plants are the most productive they can be without applying too many nutrients, which can lead to environmental issues.

The cost of each sample is \$20, for more information, contact the Van Wert County Soil & Water Conservation District at

(419) 238-9591

or by e-mail

seth.j.owens@oh.nacdnet.net

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 to 3 recipients. This year the Board chose: Claire Keysor, Emma Wells, and Luke Heffelfinger.

Claire is a 2024 Home Education graduate from Van Wert. She is currently attending Cedarville University pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology with a pre-veterinary science emphasis, as well as double minors in music and Bible. After graduating from Cedarville, she plans to attend veterinary school and hopes to incorporate conservative principles into her practice as a veterinarian. She is currently on the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville and has enjoyed taking advanced classes in biology, chemistry, and zoology so far. This summer, she has grown in her skills by working as a veterinary assistant at Metz Petz Veterinary Clinic in Shawnee.

Emma is a 3rd year student at Ohio State ATI studying Agriscience education and production agriculture. She graduated from Crestview High School in 2023, Emma hopes to continue her career as an Agricultural Educator and FFA advisor.

Luke is a 2023 graduate of Lincolnview High School, where he was involved in FFA, 4-H, and high school athletics. He is going into his junior year at Ohio State ATI, dual majoring in Livestock Production and Management, and Crop Management. His current plans are to start working more on the family farm with his dad and uncle, expanding into beef cattle production, as well as working in an ag-related industry.

Congratulations to all!

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
Brett Schumm, Secretary
Dave Kemler, Fiscal Agent

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, Ohio Senior Wildlife Biologist

Events Calendar

<i>July 4</i>	<i>Office Closed—Independence Day</i>
<i>July 9</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—10 AM</i>
<i>July 7-Aug. 5</i>	<i>Election Period</i>
<i>August 5</i>	<i>SWCD / Farm Bureau Ag Banquet</i>
<i>August 13</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM</i>
<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>Office Closed—Labor Day</i>
<i>Sept 10</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM</i>
<i>Sept 23 & 25</i>	<i>Cows and Plows field day</i>

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