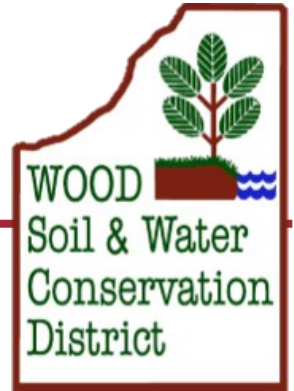


Eye On Conservation

Wood Soil & Water Conservation District



Open House & Election



Thank you to
Wood County
Commissioners Dr. Ted
Bowlus, Craig LaHote, and
Doris I. Herringshaw for
the continued support and
concern of your local
natural resources.

The Wood Soil & Water Conservation District held the 74th annual Election and Open House on Wednesday, September 13. Elected officials, past supervisors, and residents stopped in for a 'corny' snack and picked up some swag.

Landowners and residents entered some of their cornstalks in the tallest cornstalk contest. Congratulations to the winner of the tallest stalk contest, Josie G., at 10'6". The corn was grown in the eastern fields of Wood County.

Congratulations to Matt Davis and Logan Riker-Chamberlain on their re-election to the Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Thank you to
Terry
Hoover for
accepting the
nomination
and the
willingness to
serve.



OFFICE HOURS
7:30 AM —4:30 PM
MONDAY—FRIDAY

— • —

The Wood SWCD Board of Supervisors holds regular monthly meetings the third Friday of each month at 8:00 AM at the district office.

2023 Board of Supervisors

Front L to R: Matt Davis and Dylan Baer
Back L to R: Kris Swartz, Logan Riker-Chamberlain,
and Marc Schaller



“Boots on the Ground” by Garrett Caudill

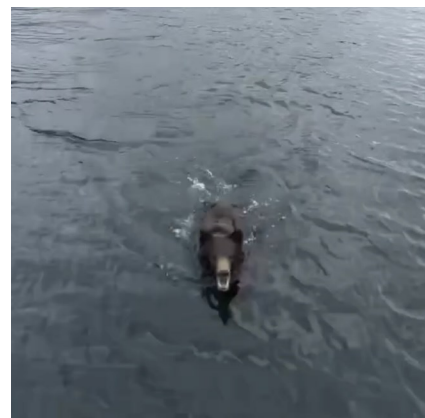


My name is Garrett Caudill. I am the new Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever working in Wood, Ottawa, Lucas East, and Sandusky counties. I was asked to share a story for the newsletter so I'd like to talk about a story I have from southeast Alaska.

I flew out to southeast Alaska in the summer of 2018. My best friend and I went together to visit his father who had been fishing for halibut in the area commercially. I was excited. Grizzlies, orcas, black bear, wolves, moose. What doesn't excite you about that?

We arrived in town on a plane so small you could see the eye color of the pilot flying the plane from the rear. After we landed, it didn't take long for us to get out and about. We took the fishing boat and the smaller skiff through inlets and rivers. Eventually, we stopped on a small island in the middle of a wide stretch of water that meandered through the land. The crew I was with worked on setting up a drone camera to take footage of the surrounding area. I decided to walk around the island. It was a small island. A mouse could traverse its circumference in a reasonable time, I imagine. So I didn't think for a second that any grizzlies would be held within it.

I separated from the group and got to a brushy section of the island. I peered through the brush like curtains and saw, what I thought would be, a phenomenal looking bear cave. “That would be a sweet bear cave. Too bad there's no bear on the island,” I thought to myself. As soon as I thought that, I heard a brush crash in front of me. I stepped back and saw the rear end of a grizzly jump out and back into the cloak of shrubs ahead. I was thrilled. At that time in my brain's development, danger didn't compute with me like it does now. I was excited by what had just happened. I came back to the group and told them what had occurred. They did not believe me. I took my friend and his camera and walked to the spot where I had spooked the bear. You could hear the bear within the shroud of brush ahead of us. We continued our walk around the island and were surprised to see the bear had jumped off a cliff, into the inlet, and was swimming towards the mainland. The others in the group were able to get some great footage of that bear. I often wonder what that bear is doing if it is still out there.



“Boots on the Ground” highlights experiences, quotes, quips, and commentary offered by the supervisors and staff of the district.

County and District Soil Judging



The Wood SWCD staff, Kelly Copeland with the Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS, Matt Tucker NRCS Soil Scientist, and Eastwood FFA partnered with local farmers in Freedom Township to prepare a site and host both the Wood County and District I FFA Soil Judging.



High School students from Wood County FFA Chapters (Penta-Bowling Green, Eastwood, Elmwood, and Otsego) used their skills to evaluate topsoil, subsoil, substrate, slope characteristics, permeability, restrictive layers, and depth to bedrock for rural and urban uses. Rural soil judging evaluates the land for agriculture use and best management practices. Urban soil judging evaluates the land for development for homes, septic systems, roads, and lawns.



Top FFA teams from Defiance, Henry, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Williams, and Wood Counties moved on to the District I competition.

With thousands of careers in agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources, opportunities and experiences through FFA and Career Development Events help develop skills for future biologists, chemists, soil scientists, water quality specialists, engineers, business owners, veterinarians, farmers, teachers, etc.

Holy Bat Box!



I can get paid to put up a bat box? Yep! You can get paid to put up a bat box and more through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP is a federal program that rewards producers for the good conservation they are already doing. If you do no-till, strip-till, conservation tillage, cover crops, nutrient management and more, *why not get paid for doing it!*

CSP works by paying you a per acre “base” \$7.50 payment to continue farming as you have been, keeping up the good work! Then CSP adds \$300 for each resource concern you meet at the time of application.

To qualify, you need to do one new practice on each land use. Land uses include cropland, farmstead, and associated ag land (such as woods and old pasture). These new practices include putting up a bat box on your farmstead, a brush pile in your woods, and planting a 0.1 ac pollinator habitat on one crop field (cannot be in CRP).

The program evaluates your farm operation by reviewing your crop rotation, tillage practices, average yields, fertilizer and fuel storage, water quality impacts and more. The resource concerns cover things like water quality, soil quality, fuel/fertilizer storage, wildlife habitat and much more.

When you apply, we will meet and review your farm operation going map by map to review the land and discuss your operation. This takes 30 to 60 minutes with a few follow-up questions are possible throughout the process.

Once all the applications are assessed and ranked statewide, the funding selections are made. The contracts are for 5 years and pay the per acre as well as per resource concern payments each year.

CSP partners wonderfully with H2Ohio if you are already enrolled in that program.

If you are interested in CSP, please call 419 807 8533 or email Kelly.copeland@usda.gov

I look forward to working with you!



Bats are critical to the health of natural ecosystems and human economies around the world, providing seed dispersal, pollination, and pest control services. Unfortunately, bats are often viewed in a negative light, stuck in a stigma that has been created and reinforced by literary and cinematic culture. In truth, bats are harmless and highly beneficial, and coexistence between bats and humans is critical to maintain the ecosystem services bats provide.

The Ohio Bat Working Group works to facilitate communication, information-sharing, and collaboration between people with an interest in bats throughout Ohio. u.osu.edu/obwg/ Stay up-to-date on what the working group is doing, receive bat-related information, updates on the annual meeting, and job/educational opportunities by joining the email list. lists.osu.edu/mailman/listinfo/ohiobwg

In 2019, **Ohio government recognized National Bat Week**. National Bat Week is every year from October 24th – October 31st. National Bat Week is an annual, international celebration of the role of bats in nature and raise awareness about the need for bat conservation. Visit the National Bat Week’s website at www.batweek.org for more information on bats and how to take action no matter where you are.

Find us on Facebook [@OhioBWG](https://www.facebook.com/OhioBWG) for more information on bats and upcoming events.





H2Ohio enrollment for 2024-2025 is now open in Wood County. The signup opened on September 1st and will run until the end of the calendar year. This will be a two-part process for producers; below is a rough timeline for how the signup will work.

Step 1a – Open now

Let us know you want to participate and provide your email address for MyFarms, the new H2Ohio management software

You, your ag retailer, or crop consultant can send us shapefiles to add your field boundaries in MyFarms, or upload them directly.

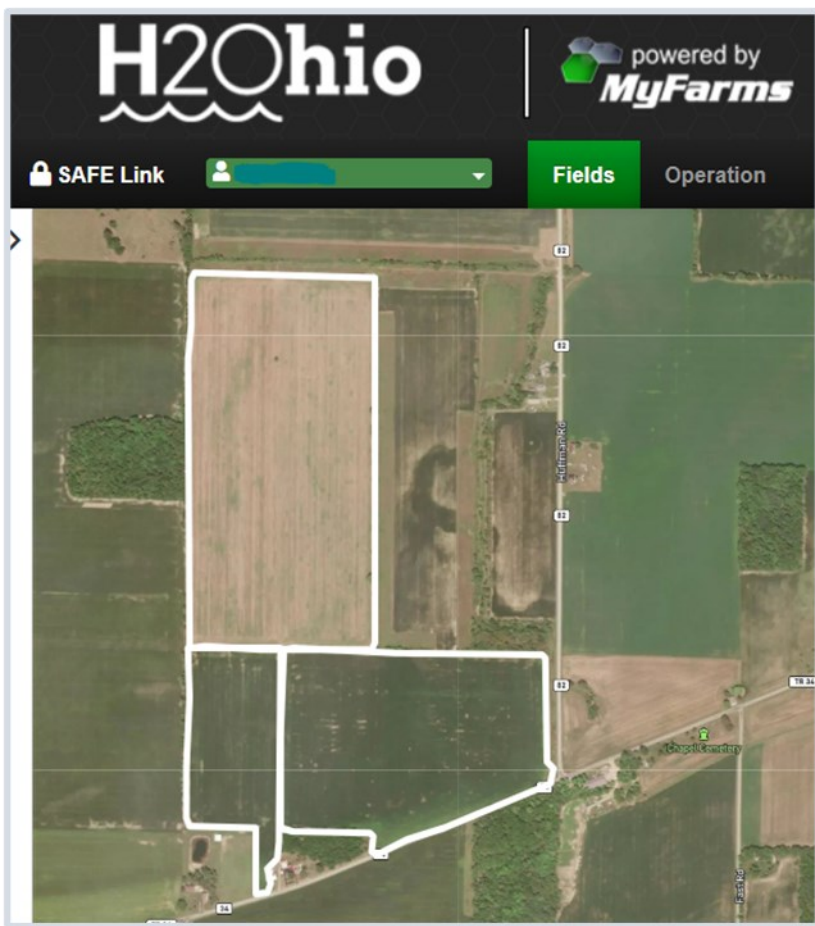
We'll email you a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development contract to sign with the total acres you wish to enroll in H2Ohio based on what you sent us

Step 1b – Open October 16th, 2023

You, your ag retailer, or crop consultant may begin uploading soil tests and nutrient recommendations in MyFarms to develop a VNMP. We can also enter your nutrient application plans for you.

Step 2 – Open January 2024

Once your nutrient management plan has been reviewed and approved, you can begin signing up for practices like Overwintering Cover, Subsurface Phosphorus Placement, and Manure Utilization.



For new participants who are planting small grains, forage, and overwintering cover crops, those acres are eligible to be paid as a 2024 H2Ohio practice. However, participants will need to sign a practice implementation waiver acknowledging that payments are contingent on practice approval in Step 2.

ODA is also allowing producers who are currently participating in H2Ohio to sign the same practice implementation waiver to move fall planted practices previously contracted under 2023 to their 2024 agreement. This may be financially beneficial in most cases for current participants.

As a reminder to current participants- if you have not turned in your 2023 nutrient applications for verification, please do so as soon as possible! Additionally, if you did not apply any fertilizer for 2023, you still qualify for a VNMP Implementation payment. Overwintering Cover Crops, Small Grains, and Forage payments cannot be made until your nutrient applications have been verified or a VNMP Implementation payment for 2023 has been made.

As always, please reach out to either Sarah St. John or Beth Landers with questions, concerns, or if you're interested in enrolling for cost-share payments on conservation practices in 2024 and 2025. Have a safe harvest!



H2Ohio Practice Overview

An approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) is required for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.



Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) Basic or Precision

\$10/Ac. for Basic VNMP - (<25 Composite Samples)

\$15/Ac. for Precision VNMP - (Grid <6ac. or Zone <12ac.)

- Soil tests must be no older than four years.
- Phosphorus rates shall not exceed more than a two-year recommendation, per Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations
- VNMP may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.



Overwintering Cover - \$40/Ac.

- Establish crops that provided overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
- The Overwinter Cover can be harvested as a grain or forage.
- Overwintering Cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
- 50% of the mixes must be overwintering species for cover crops.



Subsurface Phosphorus Placement - \$20/Ac.

- All phosphorus applied must be placed.
- Fields that receive broadcast applications of phosphorus fertilizer are not eligible for this practice until the applied nutrients are utilized through crop removal.
- Producers may be eligible for payment when recommendations are made for the field, but nutrients are not applied.



Manure Incorporation & Utilization

\$35/Ac. for dry manure or litter

\$60/Ac. for all liquid manure

\$15/Ac. Bonus - fields that have a field average of less than 25 ppm Mehlich-III

- All manure applications must be completed by November 1
- Manure application may be achieved through 9 different methods and timings of applications.

For More Information Visit:

<https://h2.ohio.gov/agriculture/>



**Department of
Agriculture**

A Fair Week



Wood County fair week was full of activities offered by the Wood SWCD and several county agencies located in a new space on the fairgrounds. The new location across from the Republican building and the kiddie rides was a good location for foot traffic and convenient for residents and fairgoers to visit with staff and volunteers from the Auditor, Developmental Disabilities, Emergency Management, Health Department, Park District, Soil & Water Conservation District, Treasurer, and Veteran's Service Office.



The Wood SWCD focused on pollinators and native plants with a pollinator game on Kids' Day and seed packets and H2Ohio water bottles on Senior Day. To our surprise, two Monarch butterfly caterpillars snuck in on a Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly Milkweed. Watching the caterpillars grow throughout the week was fun as well as educational. They were hungry little caterpillars and ate the Milkweed leaves until the plants were only stems. One caterpillar escaped, but the other was brought back to the district office to live out its life cycle. The staff and visitors to the office enjoyed watching the process. A few weeks later the butterfly was released to make its way to Mexico. Find more photos and time lapsed videos on Facebook at Wood Soil & Water Conservation District.



Throughout the week the Wood SWCD technicians answered questions on ditch drainage, windbreaks, the tree seedling sale, ponds, and the H2Ohio program. Max Schrimpf, ODNR Service Forester, brought tree cookies, talked with visitors about managing woodlots and handed out vintage Smokey Bear coloring pages.



Milkweed Seed Collection

In cooperation with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, soil and water conservation districts encourage everyone to collect common Milkweed pods from established plants from September 1st through November 15th. It is best to pick the seed pods when they appear dry, gray, or brown in color before they pop open. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure this indicates that they are ready to be picked. Seed pods can be stored in paper bags, labeled with the county from which they came, the date and species collected, if not common milkweed.

Mature pods can be dropped off at the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District 1616 E Wooster St Suite 32, Bowling Green, OH 43402, Monday-Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM.



Pond Management

ohiodnr.gov

Ohio farm ponds provide important recreational, domestic, and agricultural uses that range from fishing, swimming and wildlife viewing to water sources for humans and livestock, irrigation and erosion control. Ponds benefit wildlife by providing feeding and nesting habitat, resting areas and water sources. Ponds that are constructed, maintained and managed with these uses in mind are a valuable part of Ohio's natural resources.

The Ohio Pond Management Handbook is intended for owners of new ponds, owners of old ponds, or landowners who plan to build a pond. Managers of small private lakes will find useful information in this manual as will anglers who wish to be informed on pond management matters.

To stock pond fish, we recommend that you buy fish from a licensed fish propagator. This is the easiest, most economical method and you are guaranteed the correct size, numbers and species of fish(es) you request. The following is a list of propagators by county. The available fishes are included. Using these fish should ensure years of quality fishing with proper management.



PREVENTING WINTER FISH KILLS

The most common cause of winter kill is a lack of oxygen in the water. During the winter, an unfrozen pond has more than enough oxygen for fish to survive. However, when a pond freezes oxygen levels can fall to almost nothing which definitely causes stress and can potentially kill fish.

Oxygen in water can be acquired from two sources: the air and through photosynthesis (from aquatic plants). Ice cover on a pond effectively stops the pond from picking up oxygen from the air. Oxygen depletion is then made worse when a thick layer of snow covers the ice. Thick snow blocks sunlight from entering the water which prevents algae and other aquatic plants from photosynthesizing. Photosynthesis is the process in which plants make their own energy from sunlight and release oxygen into the water as a byproduct. When plants do not have enough sunlight they die and settle to the bottom of the pond. Once this happens bacteria begin to decompose the plant material which uses up more of the available oxygen in the pond. The longer and more severe the winter the more likely this will occur, which eventually leads to a fish kill.

There are several steps you can take to try and prevent a winter fish kill. First, when constructing a new pond the banks should be graded to a 3:1 ratio, or for every three feet of distance out into the pond the bank should drop one foot. Also, at least 25 percent of the pond should be dug to 10-12 feet if possible. This will deter the growth of rooted plants by limiting the total surface area in which these plants can grow. Second, a vegetation control program throughout the summer growing season is recommended. By managing and controlling plants during the summer you will limit the amount of dying and decomposing vegetation present in the winter. This can be done by using herbicides and adding pond dies to shade the water which will help limit plant growth. Good watershed management practices will also help limit plant growth. Watershed management includes preventing as many nutrients as possible from entering the pond. This could be as simple as making sure that grass clippings are not washed into the pond after mowing or, if you fertilize your lawn, by leaving an unfertilized buffer of at least 50 feet around the pond.

Finally, the single best step to promote the health of a pond is to add an aeration system. These systems add oxygen to the water, which speeds up plant decomposition while also keeping oxygen levels high enough to sustain fish. There are many types of aeration systems available on the market today but not all can be used through the winter. A diffused aeration system (also known as bubblers) will keep ice from forming in the areas of the pond where the diffusing heads are circulating the water. There are also systems marketed specifically to keep ice from forming. These use moving water to prevent freezing and usually work with a simple pump or propeller. However, they do not offer the additional benefits of a true aeration system that can be used in the summer as well.

Finally, if an aeration system is not an option you can simply shovel the snow off to help sunlight reach the water in the pond. By removing 25-50 percent of the snow you should allow enough sunlight in to permit sufficient photosynthesis to occur, which should sustain oxygen levels under the ice.

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	\$170.00
Pond Filter Float	\$105.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 45.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	\$ 0.25
Tile Probes 4', 4 1/2', 5'	\$ 40-50
Soil Test Kit	\$ 10
Soil Test Probe	\$ 63.00
Flags	\$ 0.15 ea
100 5x 8	\$ 15.00
6' field flag	\$ 10.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 3.00
Nut Wizards®	\$ 40-50
Compost Bin	\$ 65.00
Rat Guards	
4" stainless steel	\$ 8.00
6" stainless steel	\$ 10.00
8" stainless steel	\$ 12.00
10" stainless steel	\$ 18.00
12" stainless steel	\$ 28.00
15" mild steel	\$ 25.00
Wood County Plat Book	\$ 20.00

Cash or Check payable upon receipt.

Sales tax of 6.75% will be applied at purchase.

A completed tax exempt certificate is needed for tax exempt purchases.

Equipment for Rent

Great Plains Drill

(for CRP Practices only)

- 10' working width
- 7 1/2" row spacing
- Minimum 65 hp with live hydraulics

Rental Rate is \$10.00/acre

(\$50 minimum)

Delivery Charge \$20.00

Cleanout Charge \$25.00

(if applicable)

Dibble Bar

\$40 Refundable Deposit

Tree Planter

(for large planting projects)

\$25.00 First Day

\$45.00 Each Additional Day

For Use by Wood County Residents and Landowners

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFFICES CLOSED

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 10

NOVEMBER 23 AND 24

DECEMBER 25

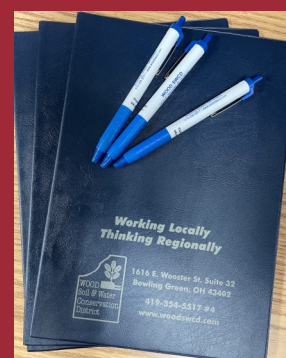
FROM THE FARM

MEETINGS TO RESUME IN JANUARY

TREE SEEDLING SALE

JANUARY - MARCH 1

**STOP BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE
TO PICK UP YOUR 2024 PLANNER**



CONTACT US

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Suite 32
Bowling Green, OH
43402

419-354-5517 #4
wcswwcd@woodswcd.com
www.woodswcd.com

NRCS
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kelly.copeland@usda.gov
www.nrcs.usda.gov



District Staff

Jim Carter, District Administrator/Drainage & Engineering Coordinator

Jeremy Gerwin, Lead Technician

Beth Landers, Resource Technician

Julie Lause, Administrative & Outreach Manager

Sarah St. John, District Technician

Beth Anne Hermes, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician

NRCS Staff

Andrea Morehouse, District Conservationist

Kelly Copeland, Resource Conservationist

Joe Rumschlag, Civil Engineering Technician

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Please contact the district office to update contact information or to be added to the email contact list. The majority of correspondence from the Wood SWCD is through email and social media.