Autumn 2026

Eye On Conservation

Wood Soil & Water Conservation District

Harvest = Autumn = Fall

Whether we officially call this season autumn or fall, it is harvest in Wood County. We look for the changing leaves, notice the change in sunrises and sunsets and the Harvest Moon is shining in all it's glory. Farmers have been looking forward to harvest for months. It's the moment of truth for dryness and yield. Equipment that sat idle for months is put to the test.

Backyard garden farmers are extending their growing season with second crop vegetables and covering their plants to protect the ripening produce from night time frost. Spent flowers are removed from the summer pots and some pots are refilled with mums or the trendy stacking pumpkins. Find time to enjoy the pleasant Ohio weather and take in the sights, smells, and sounds that come with harvest.

This summer, the district staff and supervisors spent the afternoon at the Wood County Fair Farm to Market. 1,141 little farmers put 183.8 miles on their battery powered tractors as they harvested their crops and sold them at the market.

Ditch work on private ditch cleanouts made progress with the good weather.

The district and Conservation Action Project hosted a cover crop field day to hear about the latest research on the benefits of cover crops.

The last voting day for the Wood SWCD Annual Board of Supervisors Election was held at the Fox-Shank Living Laboratory during the Wood County Ag-Venture: Self-Driving Farm Tour. Congratulations to Matt Davis and Logan Riker-Chamberlain as they were elected to serve another three year term.

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.

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

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

2026 Board of Supervisors
Front L to R: Terry Hoover and Matt Davis
Back L to R: Marc Schaller, Logan Riker-Chamberlain, and Kris Swartz

"Boots on the Ground" by Patrick Osinski, District Technician

Geology is an interesting topic to study while living in flat Northwest Ohio, given its lack of visible exposed bedrock or grand geologic structures. However, BGSU has both Undergraduate and Graduate Geology programs that are well-established and internationally recognized, interestingly enough. This program draws in a lot of students for its main capstone experience; Geology Field Camp.

Unintentionally captured the 'Colorful Colorado' welcome sign

I had the opportunity to attend this camp in the summer of 2025. The trip took place from May to mid-June, traveling west straight towards the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico and Colorado. This trip would focus on the significance of the Colorado Plateau where we would learn about its features, the type and age of the rock layers, and the economic and historical importance of the formations.

One place I found especially fascinating was the San Luis Valley. Covering over 8,000 square miles, this alpine desert is outlined by the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountain Ranges. The valley was once covered by an ocean known as the Western Interior Seaway. Spanning across North America, the seaway existed for nearly 34 million years, during the mid-late Cretaceous period (About when the T-rex first started to wander North America, to put that into perspective!). It is because of this seaway that agriculture and grazing are major industries in the region. The deposition of organic material over the course of 34 million years led to a nutrient rich seabed.

Medano Creek at Great Sand Dunes

My favorite memory from the entire trip was when we drove through the valley North on Colorado State Route 159, passing through the oldest inhabited town in the state, San Luis (Est. 1851); which has the same name as my favorite song by Gregory Alan Isakov. I still vividly remember the views from my window of the snowy mountain peaks in every direction. If you ever

have the chance to visit this area, take time to travel this scenic highway, especially if you plan to visit Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve!

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

Welcome, Patrick

Patrick joins Wood SWCD as our District Technician. He resides in Toledo and obtained his geology degree from Bowling Green State University.

Outside of work, Patrick enjoys longboarding at Sylvan Prairie, playing hockey whenever possible, and spending time with his loved ones. He looks forward to being a steward for Wood County's residents and resources.

Lake City, Colorado. The San Juan Mountains in the background

Wood County Ag-Ventures

The Wood SWCD supervisors and staff offer a sincere thank you to the host sites for the 2026 Wood County Ag–Venture. Nearly 400 visitors registered at the sites and enjoyed an educational and entertaining day. Thank you to Aaron & Stacey Creps Family Farm & Dusty Boots, LTD; Bowling Green Water Treatment Plant; Fox-Shank Living Laboratory on the Otsego School Campus; Luckey Farmers – Sugar Ridge Branch; National Construction Equipment Museum; and Power of Yesteryear.

We also thank the sponsors who financially supported and provided in-kind services for the event. AIF (Agricultural Incubator Foundation), Wood County Economic Development, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, CAP (Conservation Action Project), Hirzel Farms, Phipps, Shevlin, & Associates Family Dentistry, Wood County Farm Bureau, Northwestern Water & Sewer District, Wood County Soil Waste Management, Otsego FFA, OSU Water Quality Extension Associates from Wood, Henry, and Ottawa Counties, Northwest Tire Service.

As an America 250-Ohio and America 250-Wood County event, the Wood County Ag-Venture was promoted by the America 250-Ohio Commission and the Ohio Ag Venture guide presented by Nationwide. Wood County promoted the event through the website and social media. As noted by Bernie Scott, in the excitement of 250 years communities over planned the celebrations so there was so much to do on the same day. With that, make a note in your calendar for the next Ag-Venture in 2030.

woodswcd.com/ag-venture
Wood County Ag-Venture

Collector T-Shirts Available

A limited edition America 250-Ohio Wood County Ag-Venture collector edition t-shirt in adult sizes small—XXXL is available for a $20 donation. The traditional orange t-shirt, available in youth and adult sizes, is available for a $10 donation. Both t-shirts are heathered soft-style fabric.

The donations support the 2030 Wood County Ag-Venture and make great gifts and additions to your t-shirt collection. Visit the district office to get your shirts while supplies last!

Help with Habitat

Native Pollinator Habitat Mini Grant

The Wood SWCD Native Pollinator Habitat Mini Grant will provide financial assistance to Wood County residents who wish to establish a pollinator habitat. All grant recipients will work with a conservation professional to develop a seeding plan customized to their property. There are two different grant opportunities, the Backyard Conservation Grant and Pollinator Partner Grant. Acreage for the Backyard Conservation Grant is limited to one tenth of an acre for up to $300 in funding. The Pollinator Partner Grant is designed for seeding large plots between one tenth and five acres in size and awards funding at $400 per acre. Applications are open to individuals and organizations and are available on our website woodswcd.com or stop in the office to learn more.

Ohio Division of Wildlife Habitat Initiative

Wood County landowners, who have at least 5 acres or more to enroll and meet other eligibility requirements, can now apply for the Wildlife Habitat Initiative (WHI), a new conservation program which offers payments to those who improve habitat on their property to support pollinators and other wildlife.

Contact Matt Conner, ODNR Wildlife Management Consultant, to explore options.

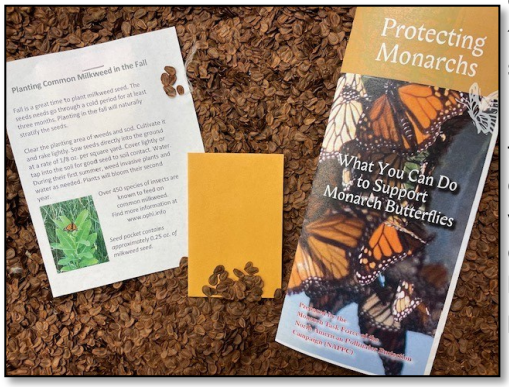
419-607-7446

Matthew.conner@dnr.ohio.gov

Pods on Pause

Milkweed pod collection for the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is on pause for this collection season. Due to changes in staff and the excess of seeds collected and cleaned, NO pods will be picked up and processed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife Consultants in 2026. This pause gives us an opportunity to focus on making sure the seed already collected is put to good use. OPHI is incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this collection over the past 10 years. Thanks to all of you, we have collected and shared enough milkweed seed to plant over 40 million stems.

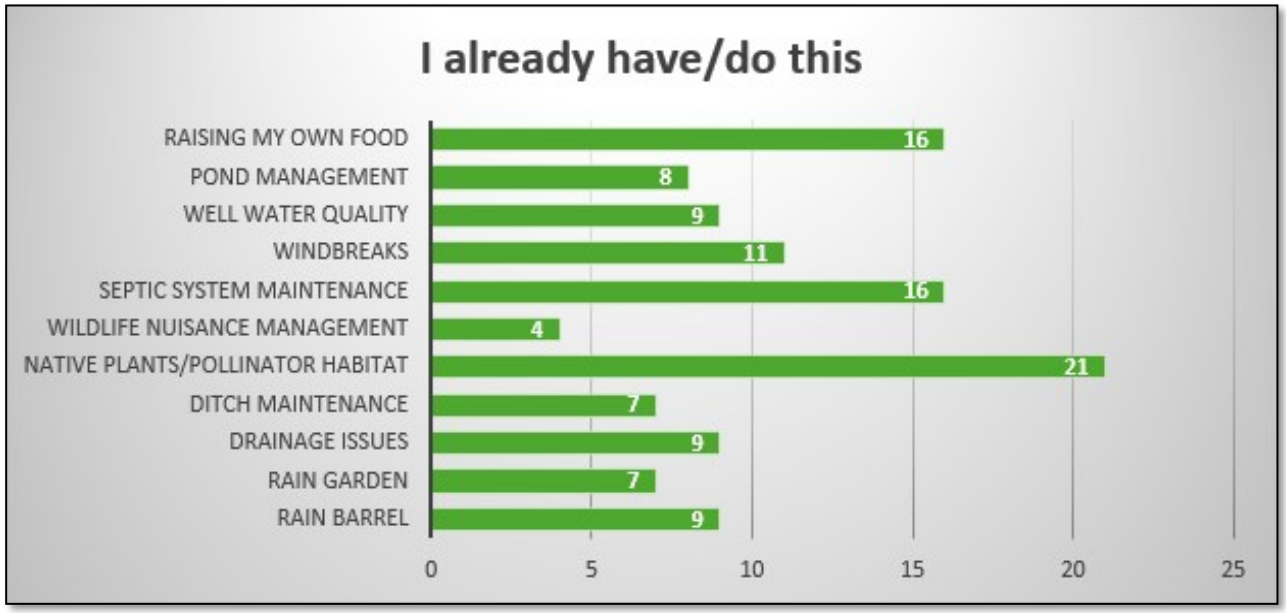
That being said, Nick to the rescue! Our pollinator partner, Nick, provides POUNDS of cleaned Common Milkweed seed to the Wood SWCD each fall. The district staff creates seeds packets for fellow pollinator partners to plant on their property. Stop by the district office to get as much seed as you need. Fall is the perfect time to plant as the seeds are stratified during the cold weather.



Fall is a good time, too, to begin preparations for a future pollinator plot. It can take a couple of seasons to remove unwanted vegetation and clean up the invasive species seed bank in the soil. Talk with a conservation consultant through the Wood SWCD to plan a pollinator and wildlife habitat plot in your landscape. Your project may be the perfect fit for the Wood SWCD pollinator mini-grant.

The Survey Says

Wood SWCD received 84 responses to our community survey between June 9 and Sept 12, 2026. Participants were asked about conservation efforts they had already undertaken or were very interested in undertaking. Practices that had already been adopted included planting native habitat, planting food gardens, and maintaining septic systems.



Keep an eye out for full survey results, and the programs and outreach that they inspire.

Great Giveaways for Gifts

Many times we hear "you guys have the neatest stuff.'

The conservationist, farmer, and gardener in your life will appreciate a new hat or stress ball to go with wildflower seeds and a soil test kit.

We have coloring books, activity sheets, and soy-based rock-shaped crayons for the kids.

Marking flags, tree protectors, nut wizards, drainage tile probes, deep water signs, and pond filter replacements make a unique and practical gifts for the person who has everything.

Visit the district office to pick up the giveaways and purchase a few times. While you are here, take a look at the award winning posters from the NACD coloring contest and get a close up look a hornet nest and a Red Fox pelt.

Items for Sale

Floating Pond Filter	$195.00
Pond Filter Float	$121.00
Replacement Filter	$ 48.00
Deep Water Sign	$ 14.00
Rope (per foot)	$ 0.25
Tile Probes 4', 41/2', 5'	$ 50-60
Soil Test Kit	$ 10.00
Soil Test Probe	$ 63.00
Flags	$ 0.15 ea
100 5x 8	$ 15.00
6' field flag	$ 10.00
Tree Protectors	$ 3.75
Nut Wizards®	$ 40-50
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

Cash, Check, or Credit Card (3% fee) 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

No-Til 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
$80 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

District Staff

Melanie Knapp, District Administrator
Jeremy Gerwin, Lead Technician
Beth Landers, Resource Technician
Julie Lause, Administrative & Outreach Coordinator
Patrick Osniski, District Technician
Jaylie Rollheiser, Nutrient Management Technician

NRCS Staff

Andrea Morehouse, District 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFFICE CLOSED
VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11
THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 26
DECEMBER 25
JANUARY 1

OHIO SOIL HEALTH WEEK
NOVEMBER 8-14

TREE SEEDLING SALE
JANUARY 3—MARCH 8

CONTACT US

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