

Eye On Conservation



Wood Soil & Water Conservation District

Springing Forward...quickly

For the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District, the spring season kicked off in January with the annual tree seedling sale followed by a Native Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat mini-grant opportunity and workshop and Ohio Ag Month, Ag Week, and Ag Day. Nearly 700 Wood County 4th grader received tree seedlings. 30 native plant and pollinator enthusiasts took home valuable information from the pollinator workshop and \$2,500 in grant funds were awarded in the first round of mini-grant applicants. Brown Bag Food Project received a bag of non-perishable foods and personal care products collected during the Ag Week food drive.

A surge in pond filter sales and hosting a pond clinic are also sure signs of spring at the district. Local pond consultants and fingerling fish sale companies stepped up to provide their information and expertise for local pond owners. We've experienced an increase of soil testing questions and requests. Knowing the pH of the soil is just as important, if not more, than knowing what and how much fertilizer to add. Building a healthy garden soil takes a little time to increase microbes and balance the nutrients. A list of pond consultants and soil test options available at the office can be found on the website at [Homeowners - woodswcd.com](http://Homeowners-woodswcd.com).

In March, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, through the Lake Erie Protection Fund, awarded the district \$20,000 in grant funding for Watershed Planning in Western Lake Erie. Focusing on the Portage and Maumee watersheds, the staff will reach out for community input throughout the year to determine the needs for future projects in the watersheds.

As a sponsor of the Wood County 4-H Hands to Larger Service Day, district staff helped youth pot 150 plants to be given to the residents at the local nursing care facilities. The afternoon was a buzz of activity as participants moved from one station to the next completing projects benefiting the community.

These few highlighted activities and events are a drop in bucket of the outreach, education, projects, and responsibilities so far this year. Stop by the district office to learn more about Wood County farmland preservation or get an update on the private ditch cleaning projects. We look forward to seeing you.



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.

Eye On Conservation

“Boots on the Ground” by Josh Gerwin, NRCS

Maple syrup time!

Tapping Maple trees and boiling down the sap to make maple syrup is a hobby a few people take part in, in Wood County. If you see bags or buckets hanging off trees in the late winter, that is what is going on. When the weather is alternating between freezing at night and warming up above freezing during the day, that is when the sap is flowing in the trees and maple season kicks off! It is a busy 3-4 weeks long season and ends when the trees bud out and the sap turns sour.

My family and I got involved in the maple syrup hobby in 2022. Retired NRCS employee Matt Duncan from Fremont sparked our interest, and we started by tapping about 15 trees in a woodland in Sandusky County owned by my dad and uncle, Dan and Ken Gerwin. Matt and I alternated collecting the sap. Matt boiled his share at home, and I boiled our share with my friend Kevin Brueggemeier. Kevin had experience making maple syrup when he lived in Mount Gilead and had recently moved back to the Pemberville area. Kevin and his family tap maple trees on their properties, and we started an informal “joint venture” for making syrup for our families.



The 2023 season started with Matt and I checking out a different woodland for Sugar Maple trees. This woodland is closer to my house, so easier for collecting and owned by Mrs. Williams, a landlord that we farm for. This woodland is unique to the area, as it has sand ridges running through it and on those ridges is where the Sugar Maple trees grow. She allows us to use the woodland, and in return we give her some of the syrup. We have been using this woodland from 2023 till present and every year we have increased how many taps we put out. This year we had about 50 taps in the woods. Kevin also has about 50 taps, so together we are collecting sap from about 100 taps and this year we boiled down just about 700 gallons of sap on Kevin’s wood fired evaporator.

One improvement we made before the 2024 maple season was building a mobile “Sugar Shack” to house the evaporator, other equipment, and most importantly the people doing the boiling. We started with the frame of an old livestock trailer and built a small barn-looking structure on it. The shack has a rear door that opens to create the “back porch” roof and the most important part, a pop-up cupola roof to let the steam out. The cupola was Kevin’s engineering design and can be raised and lowered from inside the shack. The

shack is a great improvement over being outside in the elements during hours of boiling and is a place for people to meet and hang out while we boil.

Making maple syrup is definitely a “labor of love” as it takes hours of boiling to make a gallon of syrup. Generally, the ratio is about 40-50 gallons of sap boiled to make a gallon of syrup. One of the reasons we do it is because our kids love getting together and helping with the process. Kevin and I’s kids are similar in age and go to school together at Eastwood. They help collect the sap, split wood, run the evaporator, and just have a good time together being outside and playing. My kids love going back to the woodland to collect the sap and run around and find “big stump” to stand on, and while driving back there you might see, a rabbit, squirrel, deer, fox, coyote, or if you ask my daughter a black bear! (We still don’t know what that was!) Maple season is a busy time with some late nights, but when it’s over you get to enjoy the fruits of your labor all year long.



For a laugh, check out the folk song “Maple Syrup Time” by Pete Seeger on YouTube. It’s a favorite to play at least once a day in the Sugar Shack!

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

Have you thought about being a Wood SWCD Board Supervisor?

If you have thought about running for a Wood SWCD Board Supervisor position now is the time. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking two eligible individuals interested in learning more about the role of a Wood SWCD Supervisor.


The Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members, elected to serve a three-year term. Each board member shares a genuine concern for the protection and conservation of our local soil and water resources. Each member considers this position an opportunity to share ideas, provide solutions, implement projects, and educate the community to benefit not only the county residents but the entire region.

Supervisor Qualifications and Primary Responsibilities

- Candidate must be over 18 and a Wood County Resident
- Voluntary position serving a 3-year term
- Attendance at monthly Board Meetings, the 3rd Friday each month at 8:00 am
- Provide guidance on district finances, personnel and policy development
- Click the link for more information: [SWCD Board of Supervisors](#)

**For more information and specific requirements
contact the Wood SWCD office at 419-354-5517 ext 4
or email wcdswcd@woodswcd.com**

Healthy Soil, Healthy Water, Healthy People



WOOD
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

HOMEOWNER SOIL TESTING

We are offering 2 different soil test options for Wood County homeowners. An in-house test for \$8 a sample and a mail in test for \$10 a sample. More details at: woodswcd.com/items-for-sale Call the office at 419-354-5517 ext 4 to learn more and set up a time for your soil test.

H2Ohio Update:

**150 contracts signed,
103,662.7 acres enrolled.**

We are working on verification and field checks. Certification in the software should begin soon. Please feel free to drop off cover crop and fertilizer documents to the office.



WOOD COUNTY

AG-VENTURE

A SELF-DRIVING FARM TOUR

Aaron & Stacey Creps Family Farm & Dusty Boots, LTD

Bowling Green Water Treatment Plant

Fox-Shank Living Laboratory

Luckey Farmers, Inc – Sugar Ridge Branch

National Construction Equipment Museum

Power of Yesteryear



Join us for a fun-filled day in Wood County, Ohio!



Saturday, September 12



10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



woodswcd.com

Free & Open to the Public

What is CAP?



Conservation Action Project (CAP) began nearly 40 years ago with the goal of studying and promoting new innovative concepts and agronomic production practices to farmers. Through local research and regional partnerships, farmers are able to implement cutting-edge conservation programs for sustainable land stewardship.

Managed by dedicated local landowners, ag-businesses, educators, and investors, CAP geographically encompasses Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Williams, and Wood Counties in the Maumee River Watershed.

Reach out to Alan Sundermeir, Executive Director, for information on membership. 419-261-0625 alansundermeier@gmail.com

First Friday Breakfast in June

On June 5th @ 8 AM @ Blue Ribbon Diner.

8198 OH-108, Wauseon, OH 43567

Speaker: Russ Rice - NW Ohio CAP

Objective: Sharing information on improving soil health and nutrient management with cover crop practices and improving the efficiencies and reduced nutrient rates to help support a profitable crop. Supported by Farmers For Soil Health grant.

Open to the Public, No Cost to Attend.

Local Collaborator:

Heather M. Torlina

Water Quality Extension Associate

Williams, Fulton and Lucas Counties

Ohio State University Extension

College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences

Ohio State University Extension - Fulton County

Robert Fulton Agriculture Center

8770 State Route 108 Ste. A, Wauseon, OH 43567

(419) 337-9210 Office

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www.capofohio.org



www.farmersforsoilhealth.com



The Nature Conservancy

www.nature.org



THE ATMOSPHERE COMPANY



SENECA
Conservation District
Our Community • Our Resources • Our Future

Farmers For Soil Health Seeing is Believing Field Day

June 23 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Margraf Family Farms, 7838 S. SR 587, McCutchenville, OH 44844

9 am- *Bret Margraf*, My Farms's Soil Health Journey

9:15 am- *David Kleinschmidt*, Progressive Agronomy Consulting, Vandalia, IL., Integrating cover crops, soil function, and fertility management

10:15 am- Break

10:30 am *Cody Beacom*, Bird Agnomics, Soil CPR – Cover Crop Mixes demo

11.00 am-*Pete Conkle*, Columbiana County SWCD, Warm Season Annuals & Grazing Production

Noon: Lunch

1 pm- Local Crop Issues, Bring your photos of crop problems to share (digital)

1:30 pm- *David Kleinschmidt*, In Field, Soil Health Observations **OR**

1:30 pm- *Pete Conkle*, In Field Pasture Walk

2:30 pm Wrap -Up Discussion: Barriers to Soil Health Adoption

Evening Session Alternative

5:30 pm meal

6:30 pm *Pete Conkle*, Pasture Walk, Warm Season Annuals **OR**

6:30 pm *David Kleinschmidt & Cody Beacom*, Cover Crops & Soil Health, in field

8:00 pm Wrap-up

No Cost to Attend Meal Included CCA credits **RSVP by June 18, 2026**, to:
Seneca SWCD Phone 419-447-7073 or email – bmargraf@senecaswcd.com

[www. capofohio.org/meetings](http://www.capofohio.org/meetings)

Supporters:



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'	\$ 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFFICE CLOSED

MAY 25, MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 19, JUNETEENTH

JULY 3, INDEPENDENCE DAY

(OBSERVED)

WOOD COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 2-9

WOOD SWCD ANNUAL ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS

AUGUST 14—SEPTEMBER 12

WOOD COUNTY AG-VENTURE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

[AG-VENTURE - WOODSWCD.COM](http://WOODSWCD.COM)

CONTACT US

Wood SWCD
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43402

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NRCS

567-366-0176

Andrea.Morehouse@usda.gov

www.nrcs.usda.gov



District Staff

Melanie Knapp, District Administrator

Jeremy Gerwin, Lead Technician

Beth Landers, Resource Technician

Julie Lause, Administrative & Outreach Coordinator

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.