



ODA Updates

Calendar Overview

- March 2nd H2Ohio Training Madsion County
- March 2nd SWCD Cash Basis Reports Due to AOS
- March 3rd H2Ohio Training Reynoldsburg ODA
- March 4th ADP – Review Supervisor Election material, 1pm (Virtual)
- March 5th H2Ohio Training Portage Lakes, ODNR
- March 5th Area 1 New Supervisor Training (Findlay)
- March 10-11th Conservation Tillage Conference-Ohio Northern University-Ada, OH
- March 12th Micro Irrigation Webinar
- March 12th BOARD WORKS – SWCD Relevance
- March 20th OFSWCD Cover Crop Training Day- (Muskingum County)
- March 25th OASWCDE Virtual Leadership Training
- March 26th Area 5 New Supervisor Training (Piketon)
- March 30th Area 3 New Supervisor Training (Cambridge)
- April 2nd OFSWCD Cover Crop Training Day- (Wilmington College)
- April 16th TDP Intro to Agriculture (Horace Collins)
- April 16th Area 5 Envirothon (Highland County)
- April 22nd Area 1 Envirothon (Williams County)
- April 22nd Area 3 Envirothon (Coshocton County)
- April 22nd TDP Nutrient Management (Horace Collins)
- April 28th Area 4 Envirothon (Preble County)
- April 29th Area 2 Envirothon (Lake County)
- April 29th TDP Conservation Engineering (Horace Collins)
- May 5th ADP – Policies & Handbooks (Reynoldsburg)
- May 20th TDP Hydrology (Horace Collins)
- July 26th–28th SSS in Newark (Licking County)

Updates & Reminders

H2Ohio

SWCD Conservation Pilot Program

The SWCD Conservation Pilot Program application is open!

SWCDs across the 64 statewide counties can now apply for up to \$250K to support pasture and hay land water-quality projects. Applications are due **May 1st**.

More details available here: [SWCD Conservation Pilot Program](https://www.agri.ohio.gov/swcd-conservation-pilot-program). For questions or further discussion reach out to Levi.Arnold@agri.ohio.gov, (380) 223-8938.

WLEB – SWCDs and ODA staff continue to develop Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans. The deadline for signing these plans is March 31st, 2026, applicable to all 24 counties within the WLEB program.

Statewide - For those who participated in the Statewide H2Ohio program, there is an opportunity to extend their VNMP by one year and enroll in cover crops. Enrollment opens on March 16th and closes on April 17th.

Training sessions for SWCD staff will be offered three times during the first week of March:

- March 2nd: Madison County, 9am-Noon
- March 3rd: Reynoldsburg, ODA, 9am-Noon
- March 5th: Portage Lakes, ODNR, 9am-Noon

For more information, please contact your ODA - H2Ohio Staff.

SWCD Salary Summary – Annually a summary of SWCD employee salaries is developed as a resource for districts. This information is useful when considering employee compensation and budgeting. The information for this salary summary comes directly from Beehive and will be pulled in June for the 2026 Salary Summary. Please ensure employee salary information is current in Beehive before **May 31st**.

State Match – Any local funds to be considered matchable for the upcoming state fiscal year (SFY 27) must be deposited into the special fund on or after May 1, 2025 and no later than April 30, 2026. In accordance with match policy an approved copy of the district's annual plan of work reviewed quarterly is also required to be submitted. The form collecting this information is currently being revised as part of the state match policy review process and will be shared with SWCDs once available.

Cyber Security Requirements – Ohio HB 96, requires political subdivisions to establish and implement a cybersecurity program aligned with industry best practices. The program must ensure data availability, confidentiality, and integrity, including annual employee training, risk assessment, threat detection, and a cyber incident response plan. Additional information can be found by clicking [here](#)

Training and Development

ADP - 2026 Elections-This virtual ADP session will be held at 1:00 pm on March 4th and cover SWCD election forms and procedures. We will share tips to help you have a successful election season. Registration is not required for virtual trainings and you can join by clicking [here](#). To view a list of the trainings planned for 2026 or to register for upcoming trainings, please click [here](#), or visit the DSWC [Resources for SWCDs webpage](#) under the “Administrative Development Program” tab.

Board Works – Board Works is a virtual professional development series geared toward SWCD board members. The first session in 2026 will feature 7 SWCDs from across Ohio and focus on SWCD programs/initiatives and their impact on the relevance of the district. It will be held on Thursday, March 12th from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm. To join click [here](#).

2026 Technician Development Program (TDP) – Check out the included schedule to learn more! To register please visit the DSWC [Resources for SWCDs webpage](#) under the “Technician Development Program” tab. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Johnson by phone at (614) 581-5953 or by email at stephen.johnson@agri.ohio.gov.

Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference (CTTC) - CTTC will be March 10-11, 2026, (Tuesday-Wednesday) at Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio. Connect with farmers, CCAs, agriculture industry and other government agencies as you listen to the great line-up of presenters. Topics include soil health, nutrient management, water quality and conservation practices to name a few. The program and registration will be available in early February on CTTC webpage at <https://fabe.osu.edu/CTCon>.

OSU Story Maps – The OSU Water Quality Team has developed four virtual Story Maps of conservation practices. Take a tour of conservation practices including soil health, cover crops, wetlands, phosphorous filters, and two-stage ditches. The story maps create an interactive tour by combining videos, interviews, pictures, and data. You can check them out at <https://go.osu.edu/wqstory>.

Programs

Reminder to return signed APAP MOUs to ODA-DSWC by **March 31st**. They can be emailed to oswcc@agri.ohio.gov, or sent to your Program Specialist. Please reach out to your Program Specialist if you have any questions

Grazing Management Scout fields to evaluate winter damage from extreme temperatures and/or bad freeze-refreeze cycling weather, especially in areas prone to frost heaving. Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.

- Spring seeding of grasses can be started in March.
March 1st – April 20th for locations south of I-70.
March 15th – May 1st for locations north of I-70.
- Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Consider applying N at 75 lb/acre in mid- to late March on some pastures to promote early growth. Strategically select pastures so that you can utilize the increased spring growth following N application, and do not apply N to pastures with more than 35% legumes or pastures that were frost seeded.
- Soil test pastures now or in the fall to determine fertility needs. Consistently pull samples during the same month each time you soil sample so that results can be compared. Soil test each field every 3-4 years.
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth. Avoid potassium (K) fertilizer applications in the spring due to the potential to exacerbate magnesium (Mg) deficiencies (e.g., grass tetany).

Partnerships

OFSWCD

- Thanks to all who attended and helped out with the Annual Partnership Meeting. We had well over 500 district supervisors, staff, partners, and friends attend. Special thank you to all who offered a presentation and shared their knowledge with the rest of us. We can't wait until next year.
- Cover Crop Training Day is moving to spring (you know when there are more covers around). Dates are March 20th in Muskingum County and April 2nd at Wilmington College. Please see the attached flier and join us for a great day of education and networking. Registration is FREE, but is REQUIRED. And you will get a free lunch and a t-shirt.
- **Conservation Relevancy - A Closer Look at Conservation**-Several of you have reached out regarding legislative visits and sharing a "Closer look at Conservation". Copies of the materials shared were sent to administrators via Constant Contact. The flyer is also attached. Please let me know if you need additional assistance. Beyond sharing this with legislators, think about other partners your SWCD has that you could share this information with. To personalize it more, you could include your district's year-end review when sending it.
- Packets and squishy pencils were distributed during the partnership meeting to share the word on Envirothon and the teacher training sessions (copies of the materials were sent all Ohio). If you need additional materials please let me know.
- **Summer Supervisor School** will be held July 26–28, 2026, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Licking County. Guided by the theme "**Land of Legend: From Ancient Earthworks to Future Ecosystems,**" the event highlights the region's deep cultural history and its forward-looking conservation efforts. Attendees will participate in networking, leadership development, and hands-on learning sessions. Featured tours include **The Wilds, the Kokosing River, Buckeye Lake, the State of Ohio Tree Nursery, Dawes Arboretum,** and innovative **local farms using state-of-the-art agricultural technologies.** These experiences showcase how Ohio's landscapes have evolved from ancient earthworks to today's emerging ecosystem strategies. The program offers an engaging blend of history, ecology, and technology designed to strengthen district leadership and inspire collaboration.

OASWCDE

The Employees Association is partnering with WorkSpring to offer two virtual leadership series: Difficult Conversations and Maximizing Employee Engagement and Team Building. Each series will consist of two one-hour-long sessions that will be hosted via Zoom. Use the registration link to register

<https://www.oaswcde.org/2026-leadership-webinars.html> Note that registration is limited to the first 50 attendees. You must be an Employee Association member to attend. Not an OASWCDE Member? There is still time to join.