

## ODA Updates

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### Calendar Overview

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- January 6 <sup>th</sup>	ADP – Review 2026 Resources & Reminders, 1pm (Virtual)
- January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Area 4 Administrator’s Meeting (Troy)
- January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	APAP Office Hours, 1 pm (Virtual)
- January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Area 4 Administrative Assistants Meeting (Brookville)
- January 29 <sup>th</sup>	ADP – Cash Basis - Work Session, 9am (Reynoldsburg)
- Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	OFSWCD Partnership Meeting (Columbus)
- February 11 <sup>th</sup>	OSWCC Meeting
- March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Financial Cash Basis Report Due (Hinkle Filing)
- March 4 <sup>th</sup>	ADP – Review Supervisor Election material, 1pm (Virtual)
- March 10-11	Conservation Tillage Conference-Ohio Northern University-Ada, OH

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### Updates & Reminders

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**2026 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting Resources and Reminders-** In case you missed it in December, the 2026 Resources and Reminders for SWCDs is included as an attachment. It’s good to review this document at the first board meeting of the year to make sure SWCD duties and responsibilities are covered for 2026. The first board meeting is a busy one and includes several administrative items that should be accomplished during the meeting. Listed below are the minimum recommended items to be covered during the meeting:

1. [Review the Ohio Ethics Law and SWCD Policies](#). This is also a good time to think about any new policies that may be needed or removing any old policies that are no longer relevant.
2. [Re-organize the SWCD Board](#). At the beginning of each year SWCDs should re-organize and document in the minutes each board member’s position for the upcoming year.
3. [Nominating Committee](#). To ensure compliance with SWCD election timelines, appoint a SWCD Supervisor to chair the nominating committee for the 2026 SWCD supervisor election.
4. [2026 SWCD Plan of Work](#). The plan of work should be reviewed and approved by the SWCD Board at or before the beginning of each calendar year. The approved plan of work is required to be reviewed quarterly and submitted along with other information later in the year to be eligible to receive state match funding.

**Conflict of Interest** – Ohio’s ethics law prohibits public officials and employees from using their position to benefit themselves, their family or their business associates. The law aims to ensure that public servants act in the public interest, rather than their own. Having a conflict of interest is not illegal, but the response to conflict determines whether a violation occurs. Additional information can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Public Records Training** – All elected officials are required to attend a public records training by the Ohio Attorney General at least once per term or appoint a public records designee for their office. If appointing a public records designee, identify individuals with the training certificate, affirm at your January board meetings and document the designee in the minutes. A copy of all records training certificates should be maintained in the office. Upcoming training events can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Beehive 2025 “Completed Events” Queries** - A quick reminder to please run your Beehive 2025 “Completed” Events queries to confirm that you have entered all completed events for the year. All Calendar Year 2025 information should be entered in Beehive by January 31, 2026. Every SWCD and all staff members have access to the “2025 Completed BMPs List” and “2025 Completed Education Events List” queries. These are saved query “Layouts” which can be found in Beehive Query, in the “All BMP Events” and “All Education Events” datasets respectively. These queries pull/show the data that will be in your End of the Year Technical and Education Summary Reports and in your Beehive 2025 “Annual Report”. Additional information can be found in the Beehive Use and Guidance Document by clicking [here](#) or by contacting Lindsey Douglas, DSWC, [lindsey.douglas@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:lindsey.douglas@agri.ohio.gov).

**2025 Year End Review** – For calendar year 2024 all SWCDs in Ohio completed the Year End Review to highlight their conservation achievements. The Year End Reviews were used to showcase the work of districts at the local, area and state level. Again, this year we are asking districts to complete a Year End Review for 2025 before January 31, 2026, and share it with your program specialist in PowerPoint slide format (not pdf). This timeline will allow these to be available for viewing at the Partnership Meeting in February. The template is attached and if you have questions or want additional details don't hesitate to reach out to your program specialist.

**DSWC Staffing** – Please see the attached updated map with program specialist and APAP staff coverage areas and contact information.

**2025 ODA-DSWC Overview** – Please see the attached annual overview of accomplishments for 2025. The initiatives outlined in this overview would not have been achieved without the efforts of SWCDs across the state. Thank you for what you do!

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## Training and Development

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**ADP - 2026 Resources and Reminders-** Resources and Reminders for SWCDs is ***included as an attachment***. The 2026 Resources and Reminder contains important dates, deadlines, required trainings, and reporting requirements for SWCDs. Please keep this as a resource and checklist to make certain your district is up to date on completing these annual activities. An ADP webinar is scheduled for **January 6<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 pm to review these items in further detail. To join the webinar, click [here](#).

**ADP - Administrative Development Program** – January 29<sup>th</sup> an ADP training workday is planned in the Bromfield Auditorium in Reynoldsburg, focused on the annual cash basis report. Attendees should bring a laptop, if possible, with reconciled financial reports and the previous year's cash basis report. We will review how to fill out the report and assist in troubleshooting any issues. There is no charge for the session, but registration is required. To view a list of the trainings planned for 2026 or to register please click [here](#), or visit the DSWC [Resources for SWCDs webpage](#) under the "Administrative Development Program" tab.

**Forestry In-Service Trainings** - Join the Ohio Division of Forestry and their partners to improve and refine your forestry skills. Join other natural resources professionals to share knowledge and skills on a variety of forestry topics. All in-person training events run 9:30am to 2:30pm and are field-based. Please bring lunch, water, and dress for the weather. An outline of 2026 trainings is attached.

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## Programs

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**Agricultural Pollution Abatement** – In December ODA-DSWC sent out an updated MOU and Standard Operating Procedures for handling agriculture pollution complaints to all SWCDs. A second "Office Hours" meeting is scheduled virtually on January 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 p.m. to review the documents and answer questions.

**Conservation Ditch Program** - ODA's Conservation Ditch Program continues to accept applications for 2025-2026 in all 88 counties. The deadline for applications is **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed individually on a first-come-first-serve basis until the deadline or until funding runs out (whichever comes first). So, don't wait too long to apply if you have a good project! Contact [justin.mcbride@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:justin.mcbride@agri.ohio.gov) for more details. Application forms can be found at <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/soil-and-water-conservation/resources/ODA-Announces-Statewide-H2Ohio-Conservation-Ditch-Program>

**Grazing Management Workshops - Pre-Made Classes Now Available for SWCDs — Turnkey Content You Can Deliver This Season!** SWCDs can now access a set of **ready-to-deliver producer education programs**— complete with pre-made agendas, power-points, and speaker assistance— each program is designed for district-level outreach and topics reflect **common grazing challenges** that livestock producers face. These workshops offer actionable insights to improve pasture conditions, reduce environmental impact, and support livestock during winter months. For those interested in hosting a winter workshop please contact [jarrod.hittle@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:jarrod.hittle@agri.ohio.gov) for specific information.

Topics include:

- **Introduction to Grazing Management:** Learn strategies to optimize forage utilization and maintain soil health throughout the grazing season.
- **Alternative Forages:** Explore forage options that enhance resilience and provide nutritional benefits for livestock.
- **Winter Feeding & Mud Management:** Practical solutions to reduce mud-related issues and maintain animal welfare during winter feeding.

#### Monthly Forage Tips – January

- Continue strip-grazing of stockpiled tall fescue for maximum utilization.
- Remove animals from waterlogged pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs.
- Supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter.
- Consider “bale grazing” – set out hay throughout field when the ground is dry or frozen. Then use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed after that.
- Research improved seed varieties best suited to your operation for spring renovation seeding.
- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.
- Inspect planting and spraying equipment so that you have time to make repairs before Feb frost seeding or March weed control.

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### Partnerships

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#### OSWCC

The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026 at the Partnership Meeting. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner [emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov).

#### OFSWCD

The **Annual Partnership Meeting, February 9-11, 2026**, at the Hilton Columbus – Downtown.

- To register click [here](#).
- This is not a budget year so we will not have a delegate session.
- New Supervisor Training will be offered during the Partnership Meeting.
- **Summer Supervisor School 2026 – July 26-28, 2026**, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark.

#### OASWCDE

- 2026 Employees Association Membership forms can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org>