

Calendar Overview

Date	Event	Location
- April 2 nd	OFSWCD Cover Crop Training Day	Wilmington College
- April 16 th	TDP Intro to Agriculture	Horace Collins
- April 16 th	Area 5 Envirothon	Highland County
- April 21 st	TDP Urban Stormwater MCM 6	Franklin SWCD
- April 21 st	Area 4 Envirothon Work Day	Preble County
- April 22 nd	Area 1 Envirothon	Williams County
- April 22 nd	Area 3 Envirothon	Coshocton County
- April 22 nd	TDP Nutrient Management	Horace Collins
- April 23 rd	Area 4 Administrative Assistant's Meeting	Montgomery SWCD
- April 28 th	OSWCC Meeting	Reynoldsburg
- April 28 th	Area 4 Envirothon	Preble County
- April 29 th	Area 2 Envirothon	Lake County
- April 29 th	TDP Conservation Engineering	Horace Collins
- May 5 th	ADP – Policies & Handbooks	Reynoldsburg
- May 20 th	TDP Hydrology	Horace Collins
- June 1 st -3 rd	State Envirothon	Franciscan University
- June 10 th	TDP Surveying	Horace Collins
- June 18 th	TDP Grazing 101	Malabar Farms
- June 24 th	ADP – Outreach/Marketing	Reynoldsburg
- June 25 th	TDP I&E	OSU-ATI
- July 26 th -28 th	SSS in Newark	Licking County

New Updates & Friendly Reminders

SWCD Salary Summary – Review before May 31st. Data for the 2026 Salary Summary will be pulled from Beehive in June. Please review and update employee salary information in Beehive before May 31st.

Administrative Handbook Updates – A review of the SWCD Administrative Handbook for 2026 is complete. Each updated chapter is available by reaching out to your program specialist.

State Match – Any local funds to be considered matchable for the upcoming state fiscal year (SFY 27) must be deposited into the special fund 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](#).

2026 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Awards – Entry deadline May 8, 2026. Now featuring a new statewide Small Farm category, expanding recognition of conservation efforts across Ohio. Six finalists will each receive a \$400 check, be featured in the September issue of Ohio Farmer magazine, and be honored with their families at a special awards luncheon during the 2026 Farm Science Review, where an engraved brick with their name will be added to the Farm Science landscape. For more details, contact Darcy Griffin-Kamerer at Darcy.Griffin-Kamerer@agri.ohio.gov.

Training and Development

ADP – Policies and Handbooks: May 5th, Bromfield Auditorium Reynoldsburg. 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 – Thank you to all who joined us for the last Board Works about SWCD programs/initiatives and their impact on the relevance of the district. To view a recording of the Board Works training click [here](#).

2026 Technician Development Program (TDP) –To register please visit the DSWC [Resources for SWCDs webpage](#) under the “Technician Development Program” tab. Urban and Grazing TDP classes are open for registration. 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.

Programs

H2Ohio

- **SWCD Conservation Pilot Program – Application due May 1st.** 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. More details available here: [SWCD Conservation Pilot Program](#). For questions or further discussion reach out to Levi.Arnold@agri.ohio.gov, (380) 223-8938.
- **Statewide – Extension Enrollment deadline April 17th.** 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.

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

Partnerships

OFSWCD

- **Cover Crop Field Days** - Thanks to the folks at Muskingum SWCD who helped put on the east version of cover crop training day. We had about 80 people come and learn about covers on what turned out to be a not bad day. Cover Crop Training Day West will be on April 2.
- **NACD Fly In**-Jeff, Jason and Janelle headed out to Washington DC as a part of the NACD Fly-In. We were able to visit both Senators and dropped packets off at each congressional office if we didn't meet with the legislators/staff. Our feet are tired, but the visits were great. The items we included in the packets were: 88 county year-end reviews (selected for the congressional area), H2Ohio county statistics (as applicable), “a closer look at conservation”, data sheets from NRCS, and of course, the magnifying glass. We were told our “closer look” was an epic dad joke (and well received). We will take it. We are also thankful that Rob Hamilton was able to represent NASCA on the trip.
- **Earth Day April 22nd**- As we blast into April, please think about work the districts are doing to share on Earth Day.
- **Conservation Relevancy - A Closer Look at Conservation**- Copies of the shared materials were distributed to administrators via Constant Contact. In addition to legislators, consider other partners your SWCD works with who may benefit from this information. To make your outreach more personalized, you might include your district's year-end review when sharing these materials. For assistance or additional information, please contact Janelle Mead.

- **Envirothon Promotion** - 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, contact Janelle Mead.
- **Summer Supervisor School- 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

- **WorkSpring Training – Difficult Conversations June 17th @ 1 pm and Maximizing Employee Engagement and Team Building October 7th & December 16th @ 1 pm** 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.

Tips and Resources

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>.

Grazing Management - Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.

- Spring seeding of grasses
 - March 1st – April 20th for locations south of I-70.
 - March 15th – May 1st for locations north of I-70.
- Graze cover crops using temporary fencing.
- As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with the fast growth of spring.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses. Pull livestock off before they graze new clover plants.
- Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest-quality pasture.
- Finish re-seeding winter feeding sites where soil disturbance and sod damage occurred.
- As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to manage competition.

Midwest Cover Crops Council Factsheets - The Midwest Cover Crops Council and OSU Extension have created a series of 23 fact sheets focused on different cover crop species. These fact sheets describe planting date and seeding rate information, termination information, and important tips and tricks for management. They can be accessed at www.midwestcovercrops.org/ohio-cover-crop-factsheets/.

Board Member Tip of the Month-

Governance: Executive Sessions- As a board member, it’s critical to understand when your board can legally meet in executive session under Ohio law (ORC §121.22). Executive sessions are closed to the public and meant to protect sensitive matters, not avoid transparency.

Best Practices:

- **Vote in Public, Talk in Private:** Always vote in open session to enter and exit executive session, specifying the reason. Do not vote or take official action during an executive session.
- **Minutes Matter:** Record topics, not private details. Protect confidentiality without hiding accountability.
- **Stay on Topic:** Executive sessions aren't a free-for-all, keep discussions relevant.

Primary Reasons for Executive Session (Ohio Open Meetings Act):

- **Personnel Matters (R.C. 121.22(G)(1)):** To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.
- **Property Acquisition (R.C. 121.22(G)(2)):** To discuss the purchase or sale of property (e.g., land for conservation, easements).
- **Pending/Imminent Court Action (R.C. 121.22(G)(3)):** To confer with counsel regarding disputes, such as drainage conflicts or legal action taken by or against the board.
- **Collective Bargaining (R.C. 121.22(G)(4)):** To prepare for negotiations with public employees.
- **Confidential Business Information (R.C. 121.22(G)(8)):** To review confidential, specialized, or trade secret information of an applicant for financial assistance or other programs.