

**ODA Updates**

**Calendar Overview**

- Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	OFSWCD Partnership Meeting (Columbus)
- February 11 <sup>th</sup>	OSWCC Meeting
- March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SWCD Cash Basis Reports Due to AOS
- March 4 <sup>th</sup>	ADP – Review Supervisor Election material, 1pm (Virtual)
- March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Area 1 New Supervisor Training (Findlay)
- March 10-11 <sup>th</sup>	Conservation Tillage Conference-Ohio Northern University-Ada, OH
- March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Area 5 New Supervisor Training (Piketon)
- March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Area 3 New Supervisor Training (Cambridge)
- April 16 <sup>th</sup>	TDP Intro to Agriculture (Horace Collins)
- April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Area 5 Envirothon (Highland County)
- April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Area 1 Envirothon (Williams County)
- April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Area 3 Envirothon (Coshocton County)
- April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TDP Nutrient Management (Horace Collins)
- April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Area 4 Envirothon (Preble County)
- April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Area 2 Envirothon (Lake County)
- April 29 <sup>th</sup>	TDP Conservation Engineering (Horace Collins)

**Updates & Reminders**

**Cash Basis Reports** - Cash Basis Reports are due to the Auditor of State by March 2, 2026 (March 1<sup>st</sup> in a Sunday). Follow guidance from Auditor of State to submit your Cash Basis Report electronically through the Hinkle Filing System. Please also email a copy of the cash basis document and the footnote shell to Lisa Syx at [Lisa.Syx@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Lisa.Syx@agri.ohio.gov) and your Program Specialist.

- As noted in ORC 117.38, at the time the report is filed with the Auditor of State, the fiscal officer must publish in the newspaper notice of the completion of the report and indicate that the report is available at the office of the fiscal officer for review.

**Conservation Relevancy, what does it mean to you?**

Relevance refers to the ability to remain meaningful and effective as conditions change. For districts change is inevitable! Ohio has seen a strong investment in SWCDs in recent years, looking ahead the coming year will bring a new governor, new budget, and new challenges and opportunities both local and state that could affect funding and priorities. While no one knows what the future holds, it's time to assess your SWCDs programs and consider what actions your district could take now to show your relevance.

Relevancy is a shared responsibility- board members, staff, partners, and cooperators all play a role through consistent everyday actions. It's not one thing you do, but rather a lot of little things everyone does along the way that can make a difference.

To help spark ideas about district relevance, the first **Board Works webinar** this year will focus on Conservation Relevancy, featuring examples from SWCDs across the state. The webinar will be in early March; additional details will be shared later this month.

Conservation Relevancy will be a focus throughout the year, and we want your input. If you have ideas, success stories, or suggestions, please share them with Cody Hacker, [cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov) or Rob Hamilton, [Robert.hamilton@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Robert.hamilton@agri.ohio.gov).

**Local Appropriations** – Each year program specialists collect estimated matchable appropriation amounts from each district in February. These estimates are used to help anticipate the state match percentage for the upcoming state fiscal year. Please plan to share your district's estimated matchable appropriation amounts with your program specialist this month.

**Beehive Deadline Extended**-We are extending the Beehive 2025 Annual Report deadline to February 28<sup>th</sup>. There have been several technical issues beyond our control preventing some districts from finalizing their data entries for 2025. Known technical issues include issues related to mapping and importing. If your district is currently unable to complete the requirements because of issues in Beehive, please contact Lindsey Douglas ([lindsey.douglas@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:lindsey.douglas@agri.ohio.gov)) as soon as possible.

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## Training and Development

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**ADP - 2026 Elections**-This virtual ADP session will be held at 1:00 pm on March 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2026 Technician Development Program (TDP)** - is pleased to announce the 2026 class schedule. 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](mailto: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>.

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## Programs

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**Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP)** -Reminder that the updated APAP MOU has been distributed. Signed MOUs should be returned to ODA-DSWC by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Signed MOUs can be emailed to: [OSWCC@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:OSWCC@agri.ohio.gov), or sent to your program specialist. There will be an APAP session at the Partnership meeting, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-11:45am.

**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.

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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**

We have been busy getting ready for the **Annual Partnership Meeting, February 9-11, 2026**, at the Hilton Columbus – Downtown and can't wait to see everyone there. registration will close on 2/2 at 2 pm. There are no options for late registration/cancellation - <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2026/02/10/2026-annual-partnership-meeting/548100>

- OFSWCD Director's Meeting February 9 @ 4pm
- Opening session February 10 @ 8:30 – In addition to the published speakers, Gary Blair, NACD President will be joining us for Opening Session
- First Term Supervisor Training February 10, 10am-12pm – This session is uniquely different from Area New Supervisor Training. Please encourage your first term supervisors to attend.
- General Sessions - This year's general sessions will offer the opportunity to hear from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio on their thoughts on the future of property taxes in Ohio, as well as a comprehensive update on recent legislation. Wednesday's session will include a discussion on energy in Ohio, with special emphasis on solar and data centers.
- Breakout sessions – The breakout sessions will provide a lot of opportunity to share success stories amongst district staff, and a couple of other topics, including, AI in Agriculture, Learning from Audits, Virtual Fencing, Being Salt Smart, Managing Stress in Difficult Situation an opportunity to “think outside the box” and so much more.
- Awards Luncheon -February 11 @ 12pm
- Envirothon Silent Auction -The auction is one of the Ohio Envirothon's most successful (and of course, FUN!) fundraising events. Be part of the excitement – and the bidding! The auction will be set up Tuesday, February 10th and Wednesday, February 11th during the Partnership meeting. We look forward to SWCD staff, supervisors, ODA, NRCS, and partners participating in this exciting event. All counties are encouraged to donate an item – or two, or three! Bring a bit of your local artisans' work, pack a basket of county goodies, share tickets to a hometown event, prepare that special treat...show us what makes your corner of the state – the very best! The silent auction not only provides sponsorship money in support of the Ohio Envirothon --- it also gives all of us a chance to take home a unique Ohio treasure!
- **Summer Supervisor School 2026 – July 26-28, 2026**, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark.

## **OASWCDE**

### **OASWCDE ELECTION**

- The OASWCDE Board is comprised of ten members, two from each of the five areas in the state. Each director serves a three-year term; there are no term limits. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am, via Microsoft Teams.
- Directors must be current dues-paying members of the OASWCDE. The Board of Directors is most effective when we have a strong board with members of diverse areas of expertise and a commitment to serve! While it is no secret that district activities can vary widely based on local needs, our goal is to represent and support all Ohio SWCD employees.
- Areas 1 and 5 Elections -The Directors in Areas 1 and 5 have reached the end of their current term. Any SWCD employee interested in running for the Board of Directors in Areas 1 or 5 should contact Board President Chad Stang by ASAP.
- If the election is contested, elections will be held at the OFSWCD Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting from February 10-11, 2026. 2026 Employees Association Membership forms can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org>