
Calendar Overview

Date	Event	Location
- 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 23 rd	Farmers For Soil Health <i>Seeing is Believing</i> Field Day (Click here for more info)	Seneca County
- 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
- August 6 th	Handling Livestock & Your Pasture (Click here for more info)	Wyandot County
- August 25 th	Area 1 HR Training	Hancock County
- September 1 st	Area 4 HR Training	Montgomery County
- September 3 rd	Area 2 HR Training	Medina County
- October 1 st	Area 5 HR Training	Jackson County
- October 29 th	Area 3 HR Training	Guernsey County

New Updates & Friendly Reminders

State Match – Just a Reminder: State Match Verification Worksheets and required documentation for local appropriations must be submitted to the OSWCC via your program specialist no later than June 5th to be eligible for match.

OSWCC State Match Fund Policy- One of the three accountability requirements for SWCD in receiving state match on local eligible appropriations is for SWCDs to document the review of the Annual Plan of Work (APW) on a quarterly basis to evaluate progress towards implementing the plan. As you develop your June board meeting agenda don't forget to include APW review as a topic of discussion!

2026 SWCD Election Materials- Program Specialists have the updated 2026 election forms and resources. They are currently not available on the website, so please work directly with your Program Specialist to obtain everything you need for this year's election. If you have questions or would like additional information don't hesitate to reach out to them. Once you establish your election timeframe, please complete the 2026 SWCD Election Calculator and send it to both your Program Specialist and Nominating Committee! To view a recording of the ADP training held on March 4th focused on SWCD Supervisor Elections click [here](#).

2026 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Awards- Thank you to all SWCDs that submitted applications for the 2026 Conservation Farm Family Awards. We received 32 applications statewide, including 16 new submissions and 16 resubmittals from 2025. From these, six farm families were selected as the 2026 award recipients. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 24, during the Farm Science Review.

Area 1 – Bill and Shane Kellogg, Kellogg Farms, Hardin County
 Area 2 – Neil and Pamela McKown, Watershed Ranch, Richland County
 Area 3 – Jim and Susan Braddock, Knox County
 Area 4 – Pam Simmons and Robert Fischer, Turpin Farms, Hamilton County
 Area 5 – Mike Wolfe, Wolfe Family Farms, Fairfield County
 Small Farm Category (New for 2026) – Don Hammersmith, Hammersmith Family Farm, Defiance County

ODA-DSWC Staffing Update- Congratulations to Jason Tyrell, who has accepted the position of Grazing Specialist! We're excited for Jason as he steps into this new role, where he'll work with Jarrod Hittle to support districts and assist NRCS with grazing management efforts. Jason has great experience and a passion for grazing and supporting districts, which will serve us well in his new role. He'll also continue to help with APAP as needed while we work to backfill the position.

Jessica Adine-Kuchta has recently joined our engineering team. Jessica has previous experience serving as an engineer with NRCS and, more recently, with the City of Athens. She will be based in the Athens field office and will provide engineering assistance with a focus in Southern Ohio. Her tentative start date is the end of June. Farewell and best wishes to John Timmons, who has served as Regional Watershed Manager in Northeast Ohio. John recently accepted a position with ODNR.

Auditor of State Mailing List – The Auditor of State’s office makes available timely resources and guidance through their email list serve. To be added to the Ohio Auditor of State mailing list to receive press releases, advisories, bulletins, or training information click [here](#).

Training and Development

ADP – Outreach & Marketing: June 24th, Bromfield Auditorium Reynoldsburg- At this meeting we plan to explore why communication matters, identify primary and secondary audiences, developing a strong SWCD story, practical social media strategies, simple ways to generate content and communicate consistently. **The registration deadline for this training is June 17th.** 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)– 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.

2026 Area HR Meetings – Save the Date – As a continuation of the HR Initiative and in cooperation with WorkSpring each area has scheduled a training focused on topics related to human resources management. SWCD board members and administrators are encouraged to attend. Registration information for these upcoming trainings will open in July and be shared in the July Monthly Update. Area 1-August 25th (Hancock County), Area 2-September 3rd (Medina County), Area 3-October 29th (Guernsey County), Area 4-September 1st (Montgomery County) and Area 5-October 1st (Jackson County)

2026 Ohio Educator’s Conference – Save the Date - the 2026 Ohio Educator’s Conference is scheduled for October 21-22, 2026, at Salt Fork State Park. Come share ideas and join us for two days of informational sessions, hands-on activities, and tours. More details to come this summer.

Programs

H2Ohio-WLEB 24 County Project Area- SWCD staff have successfully contracted a remarkable 2,152,200 acres of VNMPs through 3,100 contracts for 26/27. Over the next several months, SWCD staff will be focusing on verification for the 2026 crop year to keep our momentum going. To celebrate the dedication and achievements from the past eight months, we hosted an appreciation meeting on May 21st for the 24 WLEB counties.

H2Ohio-Statewide 64 County Project Area- Thank you to all the SWCDs that completed Field Enrollment for new and existing producers for the 2027-2028 H2Ohio Enrollment! Due to your efforts, 559 producers and 558,338 acres were enrolled for a 2-year contract. In addition to VNMP/CNMP Implementation, Overwintering Cover Crops are also being offered for producers who may be interested. Looking ahead, the next step for SWCDs is to begin completing the Nutrient Management Plans. VNMPs and CNMPs must be completed by August 31st. As you begin this process, please reach out to your H2Ohio Nutrient Management Specialists if you have any questions or need assistance.

SWCD Pilot Conservation Program: There were 28 applications for the H2Ohio SWCD Conservation Pilot Program. Applications submitted totaled nearly \$5.8 million. For Non-Row Crop producers-g geared towards Pasture and Hayland producers or production. May 15th was the award due date however due to the extensive interest in this program from around the state, we anticipate selections to be made soon and applicants being notified in June. Thanks to all the SWCDs that applied and we appreciate your patience.

Partnerships

Have you checked the pulse on partnerships?

Determining our SWCD relevance frequently depends on honestly evaluating our activities. Are we talking to the right people? Are we addressing the right topics? Is our communication resonating with our land users? It's the answers to these questions that have helped our District's to evolve to meet the challenges of our resources and communities. But we all know Districts don't operate alone: and our partnerships are what make us effective at delivering conservation! But how many of us are checking on our partnerships? Like us, our partners are evolving too. They may have new staff, initiatives, and different capacity needs than before. When change begins to happen with us or with our partners, it may be a good time to reinvest in partnership development. Relationships can take time, so even with employee changes we should not assume our partnerships will be the same without a little maintenance. This can be as simple as a update/planning meeting or finding new ways to address a new capacity need. The risk we run from not engaging in our partners in meaningful ways is growing apart and becoming mere acquaintances on the same conservation Team.

OFSWCD

Summer Supervisor School- July 26–28, 2026, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Licking County.

Discover some of Southeast Ohio's most inspiring conservation stories with the Summer Supervisor School 2026 tour lineup—where restoration, innovation, and hands-on learning come alive.

An opportunity to journey on **Buckeye Lake**, where you'll see watershed projects in action from the water or explore the future of agriculture with precision-farming technology in **Coshocton County**. You can hop on an open-air safari at **The Wilds** for unforgettable close-up views of giraffes, rhinos, zebras, and other incredible species. The adventures can take a step back in time at **Black Hand Gorge**, the **Flint Ridge Quarries**, and the **Newark Earthworks**, followed by a tour through **Newark's** revitalized urban core—featuring innovative stormwater projects, community redevelopment, and a blend of history and modern infrastructure.

If you're drawn to immersive outdoor experiences, explore evolving ecosystems and active research at **Dawes Arboretum**, or enjoy a conservation-focused agriculture tour on the **Livestock, Land & Lunch** route (complete with a sweet stop at Velvet Ice Cream).

Forest and reforestation fans will get a behind-the-scenes look at **Universal Veneer**, the state-run **Buckeye State Tree Nursery**, and an active timber harvest. Those interested in sustainability can visit the **Granville Land Lab**, **Denison University Solar Array**, **L4L Farm**, the **Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area**, and the **Harvey Solar Project**.

Every tour offers compelling stories, expert insight, and plenty of photo-worthy moments. Tours are reaching **capacity**, so please reserve your seat **ASAP!** and be part of Ohio's next chapter in stewardship and innovation. Follow this link to register for SSS: <https://cvent.me/xxYAq3>

The Partnership Meeting- Save the date- January 26-28, 2027 at the Columbus Hilton Downtown.

Ohio Envirothon will be held June 1-3 at Franciscan University. Please reach out to Wendee Dodds (wzadanski@jeffersoncountyoh.com) or Janelle Mead (jtmead@ofswcd.org) if you would like to volunteer.

Our second annual Envirothon Teacher Workshop will be held June 4-5 at the Gwynne Conservation area (Near FSR). Registration is open on the events page of the Federation website.

Poster Contest if you have submissions for the poster contest, please send them to nicole@ofswcd.org by July 1.

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.

The Employee Association (OASWCDE) is hosting a golf outing on July 26th as the opening networking event for Summer Supervisor School in Newark, OH. The outing is taking place at Kyber Run Golf Course in Johnstown, OH with the first group going off at 8:30am. We have 5 back-to-back tee times reserved for scramble teams of four and the cap at 20 golfers for 18 holes and cart at a rate of \$60 per golfer. There will be one hole with a little surprise to make things interesting. Our main goal at the employee association is to use this scramble as a way to get together and enjoy some laughs. If anyone is interested, please register through the OASWCDE website and try and show up at the course by at least 8am. We will gather around the clubhouse in the morning to decide teams and then enjoy the day.

Tips and Resources

2026 SWCD Elections

For some Districts their elections are in full swing, especially those with early elections in July and August. These nominating committees are or soon completing EL-3s and if running unopposed election, their due diligence check list. Those Districts with elections in the fall (September, October and November) what is your nominating doing to find qualified board member candidates now? Below is a list of resources for the nominating committee to have and consider when meeting with potential SWCD board member candidates:

- Election Calculator Printable Reminders, important dates to remember.
- Due Diligence Checklist regardless if contested or unopposed election, follow the steps.
- Promote on District Website, Social Media, in Newsletter.
- Board Member Job Description, responsibilities and benefits.
- Year End Review Templates, achievements, programs, goals and conservation by numbers.
- Invite them to a board meeting.

If you have questions or would like additional information don't hesitate to reach out to your program specialist.

Summer Grazing Maintenance

Forage tips for June: Provided by NRCS and OSU-E

- Continue hay harvests. Minimize storage losses by storing hay under cover.
- Clip pastures for weeds and seedheads as needed.
- Slow rotation allowing for a longer recovery period.
- Do NOT graze below the minimum desired residual height.
- Crabgrass, a warm season annual grass, can provide high quality summer grazing in southern Ohio and is highly preferred by livestock. If desired, remember crabgrass needs some annual soil disturbance to keep coming back. Research needs conducted to determine its effectiveness in northern Ohio.
- Begin grazing native warm season grasses. Start at 18-20 inches and stop at 8-10 inches.
- Begin grazing introduced warm season grasses.
- Select varieties to plant in August/September and order seed.

Native Warm Season Grass workshops

June 23, 6:00 pm

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park
16062 SR 104, Chillicothe, OH 45601

For more information click [here](#).

June 26, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

480 Price Road, Patriot, OH 45658

For more information click [here](#).