



Conservation Connection

Sandusky County Soil & Water Conservation District

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EXPLORING YOUR BACKYARD

The 22nd annual “Exploring Your Backyard - Sandusky County Natural Resources Day,” was held September 24 & 25, 2019. Over 800 fourth grade students from Sandusky County walked the fairgrounds to learn about different segments of agriculture and natural resources.

This educational program is organized by the Sandusky Soil and Water Conservation District and OSU Extension personnel and is made possible by numerous volunteers. 70 FFA students guided the fourth graders to various stations throughout the day. Each day 16 volunteer presenters engaged the students in learning and answering questions. We greatly appreciate all 90 volunteers that put in over 700 hours total to make Exploring Your Backyard.

SHOUT OUT to Sandusky County Fairgrounds, Sandusky County Dairy Service Unit, Ag Credit, Clyde, Fremont, and Lakota Young Farmers, and Sandusky County Farm Bureau for sponsoring Exploring Your Backyard and for their support in making sure the fourth graders in Sandusky County get the opportunity to have this experience.



How would you like to receive your newsletter in the future?

Call the office and let us know **419-334-6324**



Digital



Mail



Take me off list

Supervisors

Dave Warner
Chairman

Scott Chalfin
Vice-Chairman

Jacob Younker
Secretary/Treasurer

Lee Havens
Member

Dusten Watson
Member

Sandusky County SWCD Staff

Meagan Grammer
*District Program
Administrator*

Sandy Yohe
Administrative Assistant

Cobi Brough
District Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Rebecca Duncan
*District
Conservationist*

Chris Corgan
*Resource
Conservationist*



2019 OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

David Gutschalk was recently honored as the 2019 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year at the Sandusky County SWCD 71st Annual Meeting.

Here are some highlights that show his dedication to conservation on his farming operation include:

- ◆ He became a cooperators with the district in 1988
- ◆ David currently farms more than 600 acres in Sandusky County
- ◆ He utilizes subsurface drainage
- ◆ He has installed structures for water control, which he manages to improve yields and water quality.
- ◆ Strip tillage with deep placement of phosphorus, conservation tillage, and his crop rotation help him responsibly manage nutrients on the acres he operates.
- ◆ He utilizes cover crops.
- ◆ 12.8 acres of filters strips and field borders have been installed on the farms he owns and operates.



SANDUSKY COUNTY FARMERS ARE DETERMINED FOR SUCCESS IN THE WLEB

Sandusky SWCD and NRCS 2019 Projects

- ✓ Total of 269.8 acres of SB-299 Working Lands Buffers were established
- ✓ Total of 1401 acres signed up for SB-299 Working Lands Small Grains
- ✓ 111.5 new acres for CREP Filter Strips
- ✓ 2.8 new acres for CREP Riparian Buffer
- ✓ Sandusky County Prevent Plant Cover Crop Program 3568.9 acres
- ✓ CRP Mid-Contract Management Forb Sale sold 9800 plugs
- ✓ EQIP
- ✓ Disaster Recovery Cover Crops 3,066 acres
- ✓ EQIP Cover Crops 5,212 acres
- ✓ Nutrient Management Practices Applied 5,165 acres
- ✓ Land with conservation applied to improve water quality 9,872 acres



MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FORB ORDERS

The Sandusky SWCD is working with Heartland Farms in Gibsonburg to make your CRP Mid-Contract Management much easier. We are mailing out order forms to people defaulted to planting Forbs in their CRP fields. If anyone is interested in planting forbs for pollinator habitats or your backyard please contact the office or stop in. Deadline to order the forbs is **March 2, 2020.**

There will be a *Forb Workshop* on February 12 @ 6:00 pm at the office complex.

SIGN UP FOR 2020 PROGRAMS

WORKING LANDS BUFFER PROGRAM 2020

► Purpose

1. To encourage agricultural producers to establish vegetative cover on cropland that is near environmentally sensitive areas.
2. To allow harvest and removal of forage in established areas to reduce overall nutrient levels.
3. To reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff.
4. To reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff.

► Guidelines

1. Only acreage converted from cropland to perennial vegetative cover will be considered eligible for this program.
2. The maximum width eligible is 300 feet average. The minimum eligible width is 50 feet.
3. Cost-share funding is authorized at a rate of \$120 per acre per year for a 5-year period. Funding is for the establishment and maintenance of perennial forage and biomass.
4. Cost share funding is not authorized for:
 - a. Existing Meadows, Filter strips and field borders
 - b. Existing pasture and hayland.
 - c. Existing or required ditch maintenance right of ways.
5. Practice must be maintained for 5 years from the date of practice installation.
6. Forage plantings must include two species, including at least one cool season grass specie. Cool season grass specie(s) must be planted at 50% pure stand seeding rate minimum.
7. Residual forage height must be a minimum of 4" height by September 15th each year. Residual forage must be maintained during the non-growing season.
8. Soil tests are necessary for any phosphorus fertilizer application at the time of establishment. Applications of phosphorus are not allowed during the maintenance period unless approved by ODA. Applications of nutrients shall be limited to the Ohio Agronomy Guide 15th Ed. recommendations for legume-grass mixtures.
9. Limited grazing is allowed as incidental use when adjacent crop field residue is being grazed after harvest.

WORKING LANDS SMALL GRAIN PROGRAM

► Purpose

1. To encourage agricultural producers to establish small grains in a crop rotation that can be used for manure application following harvest.
2. To expand the application window for livestock producers to allow manure and nutrients to be applied.
3. To expand acres of manure utilization.
4. To promote cover crop plantings following small grains.
5. To minimize the risk of manure and nutrient runoff.

SIGN UP FOR 2020 PROGRAMS CONTINUED

► Guidelines

1. Only cropland acreage will be considered eligible for this program.
2. Practice size is limited to acres receiving a manure application. The land must be used for manure application following harvest of the small grain. Land planted to small grain and not used for manure application is **not eligible** for payments.
3. A small grain must be planted and harvested. Eligible small grains include Wheat, Barley, Oats, Cereal Rye, and Triticale Spelt. Small grains shall be planted with the intention to harvest the crop for grain and not for forage.
4. Baling straw is allowed following the harvest of small grains.
5. Manure applications shall follow setbacks and guidance in NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Practice Standard.
6. No manure applications are allowed on fields with soil tests above 50 ppm Phosphorus (Bray).
7. Guidelines for Manure Application must be created by SWCD prior to the application of any manure. Soil tests and manure analysis must be supplied and meet **Criteria for Working Lands Small Grains Program Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance**.
8. Records of manure application **are required** and must be turned in to the SWCD prior to any cost-share payment.
9. A cover crop or double crop must be established following small grain harvest and manure application.
10. Cover Crops residue must be maintained until March 1st of the following year.
11. No tillage may be done after September 15th
12. Cost-share funding to provide records, establish small grains, and to establish a cover crop following manure application is authorized at a rate of **\$75 per acre**.

WELCOME - NEW SUPERVISOR

At the District annual meeting in August an election for 2 new Board Supervisors took place to fill expiring terms for Scott Chalfin and Keith King. The Sandusky SWCD is governed by five board members that are elected by the people of Sandusky County. Each board member serves a three year term as public officials.

Dusten Watson was newly elected and Scott Chalfin was re-elected as Sandusky SWCD Supervisors. They started serving their three year term on January 1, 2020. Each board member takes pride in helping protect our natural resources and the WLEB. Thank you to Derek Hetrick for his interest in serving on the board.

We would like to thank Keith King for serving on the Sandusky SWCD Board of Supervisors for the past three years. His contribution to the District and his dedication to conservation are greatly appreciated.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM-CRP

CRP has reached its 35-year anniversary with high hopes to have a large sign up in 2020. This programs main focus is to help producers better manage their land while conserving "Natural Resources" USDA opened signup on December 9, 2019 and general CRP application signup will close February 28, 2020
If you are interested in CRP please call the Farm Service Agency for more information.

419-334-6330 EX 2

939.08 MANURE APPLICATION INFORMATION

Below is a friendly reminder to all livestock producers applying manure in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

No person in the Western Basin shall surface apply manure under any of the following circumstances:

On snow - covered or frozen soil

When the top two inches of the soil are saturated from precipitation

When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than **fifty percent** chance precipitation exceeding **one-half** inch a **twenty-four hour period**.

Senate Bill 1 **does not** apply if:

- The manure is **injected** into the ground
- The manure is **incorporated** within twenty-four hours of surface application
- The manure is **applied onto a growing crop**
- In the event of an emergency (written consent needed)

Reminder from Ohio Department of Agriculture

- **All** complaints require an investigation from O.D.A. or your local SWCD
- Senate Bill 1 **is** being enforced and fines can be issued
- Many complaints are anonymous
- Preliminary investigations require pictures to be taken
- The individual who conducts the initial investigation will need to speak to the land owner or the one responsible for the manure application

For more information or questions please contact the office at 419-334-6324

RAIN, RAIN, AND MORE RAIN Sandusky County 2019 Rainfall Tabulation

Township	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Ballville	5.05	2.15	5.25	2.75	2.50	2.40	20.10
Green Creek	5.80	3.13	6.08	2.18	5.12	2.20	24.52
Jackson	5.70	2.70	6.80	3.10	3.80	3.80	25.90
Madison	5.90	3.50	4.50	5.70	3.50	3.50	26.60
Rice	5.50	3.45	4.60	3.25	5.60	2.90	25.30
Riley	5.20	2.90	4.80	4.00	5.40	3.50	25.80
Sandusky	4.20	2.90	4.85	3.00	6.10	2.40	23.45
Scott	5.30	2.30	6.90	5.10	3.60	3.00	26.20
Townsend	5.10	3.20	5.20	2.60	6.40	2.50	25.00
Washington	5.11	4.87	3.69	3.79	5.24	3.27	25.97
Woodville	4.29	5.66	3.83	4.85	4.81	2.03	25.47
York	4.70	2.20	5.60	1.70	6.00	1.80	22.00
SWCD office	8.05	2.85	5.55	3.40	6.50	2.30	28.65

*Thank you to all of the Township Advisors for helping with these tabulations: Jack Bower; John Burmeister; Scott Chalfin; Jim Dauch; Ken Green; Keith King; Dave Pheifer; Phyllis Reed; Mark Root; Jay Stearns; Dave Wagner and Herb Wright Jr.



**Sandusky County
Soil & Water Conservation District**
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Fremont, OH 43420
(419) 334-6324

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 142A

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Thursday of the month the Board of Supervisors hold regular meetings at 7:00 a.m. May to November, 8:00 a.m., December to April, in the small conference room at the Ag Complex.

Sandusky Soil and Water Conservation Home page: www.sanduskycoswcd.org

- January 20 Martin Luther King Day-Office Closed
- February 6 Northern Ohio Crops Day
- February 7-13 NACD Meeting Las Vegas, NV
- February 12 6:00 am Forb Workshop
- February 13 8:00 am Board Meeting
- February 17 Presidents Day- Office Closed
- February 23-25 OFSWCD Meeting Columbus, OH
- March 2 Forb Orders Due
- March 3-4 Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference Ada, OH
- March 6 Chamber Ag Breakfast @ Ole Zims
- March 12 8:00 am Board Meeting
- April 4 Progressive Ag Safety Day
- April 9 8:00 am Board Meeting
- April 22 Area 1 Envirothon Ottawa, OH

*We would like to thank the Sandusky County Commissioners
for their dedication to the
Sandusky Soil and Water Conservation District.*

*Their financial support along with the State allows us to continue providing
assistance to Sandusky County Landowners.*



Follow us on FB at Sandusky County Soil & Water Conservation District
District website: <https://www.sanduskycoswcd.org/>