



Williams Soil & Water Conservation District



Mission Statement

Provide education and services that will improve the stewardship and management of our soil, air, water, plant, and animal resources.

About us

The Williams Soil and Water Conservation District was established in 1947 and is locally led by a volunteer, elected 5-member board who serve three-year terms. The 2021 Board of Supervisor members are Bob Short, Kevin Miller, Jon Hake, Otis Sloan, and Adam Perry. The overall mission of Williams SWCD is to promote the use of local natural resources for economic purposes, including agriculture, in a sustainable manner that also protects the environment. The Williams SWCD helps residents, landowners, businesses, and communities use, conserve, and protect the county’s soil, water, and land resources. The staff includes Chris Dancer, District Administrator; Bert Brown, District Technician; Anne Marie Michaels, Outreach & Education Coordinator; Manuel Lay, District Technician; Mary McCann, Administrative Assistant; Josh Imber, District Technician/H2Ohio Program, and Reba Wicker, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician.

The Williams SWCD each year assists landowners in placing conservation practices onto their land, renting tillage equipment, educating adults and children by holding workshops and teaching in the schools, holding the annual tree seedling and fish sale, hosting a pond clinic and annual Field Technology Day, helping with the Maple Syrup Festival, along with many other services. Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. except for September and October to be held September 8 and October 12. If you would like to attend a meeting, please call ahead to be placed on the agenda.

Vision Statement

A leader in the community providing assistance to improve our land and water resources through educational programs, technical services, and innovative practices to promote harmony among a diverse population.

CALENDAR

- Jan 11** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Jan 22 – Food Bank Distribution 10:30 – 12:30
Feb 3 – Red Cross Blood Drive
Feb 8 — Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.



Tree Seedlings Available for Establishment

Trees have many uses. Besides being used for landscaping, trees can be planted to act as a wind barrier for a home, livestock or field, can benefit or attract wildlife, be used for a riparian corridor, can help as a snow fence or sound barrier, or be planted to help with erosion control.

Tree seedlings may be ordered from the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District. This year the District will be offering Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, white

pine, pin oak, red maple, river birch, and Kousa dogwood. A backyard packet will also be available which will contain 2 each of the oak, maple, birch, and dogwood along with two evergreens.

The District is equipped with a tree planter for large tree plantings and tree planting bars.

Proper planting and maintenance over the first three years will help with your success. Tree survival and health over the years depends on proper

species selection for soil type. Varying species or diversity in species is also beneficial. Roots should be moist when planted. Cultivate, mow, mulch, and/or use herbicides to control weeds, grass, and other encroaching plants for at least three growing seasons. Water seedlings, as needed, especially during the first couple summers and drought years. Replace trees and shrubs as needed. Ordering 10 to 20 percent more seedlings than needed will serve as replacement stock. In



future years, periodic checking and treatment for diseases and insects will help maintain trees for their lifetime. Call the office at 419-636-9395 to request a tree sale form.

New H2Ohio Incentive Program Helps Improve Water Quality

As part of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine’s H2Ohio initiative, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is offering a new incentive program to encourage farmers to aid in conservation and improve water quality. ODNR will be accepting applications for its Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) through January 29, 2021.

The new program is being offered in combination with the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a USDA conservation program that offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for taking cropland out of production and establishing conservation practices. The H2Ohio WQIP will offer a one-time payment of \$2,000 per acre for new Lake Erie CREP wetlands and forested riparian buffers (buffer strip with trees) to help improve water quality in the Lake Erie watershed. Wetlands and riparian buffers act as filters to reduce nutrient loading into waterways and help reduce flooding. Riparian buffers also stabilize streambanks to reduce soil erosion.

To qualify for the H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program, interested farmers and landowners must be eligible for CREP and submit an H2Ohio WQIP application during the announced sign-up period prior to their CREP contract approval. Applicants do not have to sign up for CREP prior to applying for the H2Ohio WQIP. However, if the applicant is approved for the WQIP, an approved CREP contract will be required to receive the WQIP payment. Applications will be scored and selected based on criteria to prioritize the best projects to improve water quality. For qualifying criteria in Williams County, contact Josh Imber, Williams Soil & Water Conservation District, at 419-636-9395.

For Lake Erie CREP Wetlands in Williams County contact Mark Witt, ODNR Division of Wildlife, at 419-889-3706. For Lake Erie CREP Riparian Buffers in Williams County, contact Daniel Bartlett, ODNR Division of Forestry, at 419-379-8171. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit h2.ohio.gov.

Overlooked benefits of wetland ecosystems



Josh Imber
H2Ohio Coordinator/
District Technician

Although sometimes seen as an eyesore or even a wasteland to many in Northwest Ohio, wetlands are in fact incredibly beneficial to not only the health of your properties but also this entire region of Ohio. Following are just a few examples of how these diverse ecosystems can benefit and improve your property.

With the rising concern of phosphorus levels in Lake Erie and in turn the increasing pressure on local farmers and other landowners to change their management practices, now is more important than ever to have wetlands on your ground. Wetlands essentially act as a sponge and filter. As rain waters flow into a wetland either through tile or surface drainage, the wetland allows for the water to slow down and in turn release the nutrient rich sediment it is holding. Picture shaking up a jar of muddy water (this is the water running across the surface or through an open tile), then

you allow for that jar to settle for an extended period (this is the water slowing as it reaches and travels through the wetland). When you return, the jar will be separated out into water on top and sediment on the bottom. These wetlands, when correctly designed, take in muddy, sediment-filled water while returning clean water back to the stream or river. Then when you add that these wetlands are filled with aquatic plants that in turn use those deposited nutrients to grow, you are effectively keeping those lost nutrients from ever leaving your property.

The second overlooked benefit of wetlands is floodwater storage. With the current high-water levels in the Great Lakes and more tile going into the ground yearly, we continually find ways to expedite the transfer of water from rainfall directly to ditches without absorption into the ground. Wetlands create a place for water to soak in and be stored rather than being dumped into streams or rivers directly. Therefore, wetlands create traps for water to be held and, in turn, minimize the effects of heavy rainfall and flooding events.

Lastly, and probably the most obvious of the benefits are to the wildlife and plant communities. Acre for acre, wetlands produce more wildlife and plant species than any other habitat known. This simply means that if you are someone who likes to see wildlife on your property or simply enjoys a beautiful variety of plants on your property, no other habitat can make as big of an impact on your land than installing a wetland can.

With the current need for wetlands on our landscape, there are many cost-effective ways to get these biologically diverse ecosystems installed on your property. In some cases, if the land conditions are right and management steps are followed, the landowner can even expect to make money in the process. If you are interested in learning more about wetlands, wetland management or the installation of wetlands, please feel free to reach out to Josh Imber, District Technician, at the Williams SWCD office at 419-636-9395. (See related article on ‘New H2Ohio Incentive Program Helps Improve Water Quality’ on helping to fund a wetland.)

NEW 2021 PLAT BOOKS & CONTEST

The 2021 Plat Book is here! Stop by our office and purchase the latest copy, \$22.00 each, and enter a contest to win either a Williams County Premium Wall Map or a Williams County SmartMap for your phone! The contest ends January 29, 2021. A plat book is published as a guide to landownership in the unincorporated areas of the county. It contains county, city, and township maps. There is a road and aerial view map of each township in color along with the names of landowners who own 5 or more acres. Also included is a municipal map street index for each town along with a road and landowner index.



All Williams SWCD, ODA, USDA & OSU programs, services, and assistance are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, handicap, or veteran status.

Reminder: We’ve Moved!

Just a reminder that the Williams SWCD has moved from Bryan to our new location at 11246 State Route 15 in Montpelier. Our phone number is the same: 419-636-9395.

<div><div>OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION</div><div>1425 East High Street Suite 112 Bryan, OH 43506</div><div>Williams County 419-636-5608 williams.osu.edu</div><div>Serving farms and families for more than 100 years.</div><div>THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY</div><div>COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</div></div>	<div><div>Williams Soil & Water Conservation District</div><div>11246 State Route 15, Montpelier, Ohio 43543</div><div>419-636-9395 • www.williamsswcd.org</div></div>	<div><div>Daavlin®</div><div>Let's Be Clear</div><div>205 West Bement Street, PO Box 626, Bryan, OH</div><div>419-636-6304</div><div>Visit us online at www.daavlin.com</div></div>
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