



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 2020 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; 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 the following: February, September, and October, which will be February 3, September 9, 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

Feb 3 — Williams SWCD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Feb 27 — H2Ohio Meeting Kissell Bldg., WU, 6:00 p.m.

March 9 — Williams SWCD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

H2OHIO INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Governor Mike DeWine’s H2Ohio plan will span all areas of water quality with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) leading efforts to reduce phosphorus runoff through the widespread adoption of best practices that are cost-effective and proven to work: Soil Testing, Variable Rate Fertilization, Subsurface Nutrient Application, Manure Incorporation, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crops, and Drainage Water Management.

Learn about H2Ohio best practices and applying for H2Ohio funds at informational meetings held throughout the 14 counties in the Maumee Basin. Representatives from the ODA and Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI) will explain the application process and answer questions. Eligible farmers are welcome to attend any of the meetings, which will be held through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

H2Ohio will provide funding directly to farmers to supplement the cost of implementing these best practices. Farmers will receive guidance to determine which practices will be most effective for their land. The application process for receiving H2Ohio funds will begin February 2020.

The informational meeting for Williams and Fulton County landowners will be held Thursday, February 27, at the Kissell Community Building in West Unity, Ohio, at 6:00 p.m.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Bring your family and friends to the Williams County Fairgrounds in Montpelier on Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. - noon for a fun-filled morning while enjoying “real” maple syrup, pancakes and sausage, seeing how maple syrup is made, plus loads of woodland and wildlife fun! There is no charge for the events or entry to the fairgrounds. There is only a charge for the breakfast.

ON SALE NOW

2018 Plat Books include aerial view maps! The books can be purchased from the Williams SWCD office or the Williams County Auditor’s office for \$20.00 each.

SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

The second annual Tri-county ‘Soil Health Workshop’ will be held Friday, March 13, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Kissell Building in West Unity, Ohio. This year the presenters will be: Hans Kok, Dr. Jeff Andresen and Clint Nester along with a farmer panel. Cost is \$20. Contact the Williams SWCD for registration information or register online at www.hillsdalecd.org.

Dr. Hans Kok is an independent agricultural conservation consultant based out of Indianapolis. He currently is the lead agronomist for the Indiana In-Field Advantage Network, a project director with the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) in West-Lafayette, Indiana, and provides educational events for Conservation Districts and private industry throughout the Midwest.

Hans was one of the founding members of the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, and helped launch the Soil Health Partnership. He received the 2017 No-till Innovator Award for Research and Extension, and was the 2016 Top Speaker at the National No-till Conference,

Dr. Jeffrey Andresen is associate professor of Meteorology/Climatology with Michigan State University’s Department of Geography, Extension Specialist with Michigan State University Extension and the state climatologist for Michigan.

Clint Nester has worked with Nester Ag as a consultant since March, 2010. Prior to joining Nester Ag, Clint worked for an environmental engineering and consulting firm. Clint oversees the Nutrient Management Plans required for EQIP programs.

WLEB Nutrient Application Restrictions

By: REBA WICKER, WLEB NUTRIENT SPECIALIST

With winter season creeping up on us, Reba and the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) just wanted to remind producers and nutrient applicators of laws and regulations when applying manure or fertilizer in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) which includes Williams County.

After being signed into law in July 2015, the Ohio Revised Code 939.08 or commonly known as Ohio Senate Bill 1, prohibits fertilizer applications:

- to frozen or snow-covered

ground

- when the top 2 inches of soil is saturated from precipitation
- if the forecast calls for a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding 1 inch in the following 12-hour period

This also prohibits manure applications:

- to frozen or snow-covered ground
- when the top 2 inches of soil is saturated from precipitation

- if the forecast calls for a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding ½ inch in the following 24-hour period

*Applicators are responsible for

checking and keeping records of rain forecasts when applying. *

Restrictions do not apply if the application is injected into the ground, is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application, or is applied to a successful growing crop.

*Discharge or pollution into Waters of the State will be in violation of the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program, Ohio Revised Code, and Ohio Administrative Code. *

For more information or questions and concerns about these regulations, please call the Williams SWCD office at 419-636-9395 Ext 3.

Hay Buffer & Small Grains Programs

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), in partnership with Williams Soil and Water Conservation District, continues to provide funding for assistance programs for farmers to help protect water quality in the western basin of Lake Erie.

The **Ohio Working Lands Hay Buffer Program** encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) to establish year-round vegetative cover on eligible cropland. The program promotes the conversion, establishment, and maintenance of forage/hay land on certain cropland acres. These buffers act as another line of defense to filter surface water while allowing participants to harvest forage from the established areas. This program pays \$120 per acre and must be at least 50 percent grasses.

The **Ohio Working Lands Small Grains Program** encourages producers in the WLEB to plant small grains such as wheat, barley, oats or cereal rye on eligible crop-

land. Participants must plant and harvest small grains, land apply manure, and plant a cover crop to receive a cost-share payment to help offset operating costs. The program supports the planting of small grains and cover crops for the conservation benefits. This program pays \$75 per acre.

The goal of these programs is to reduce nutrients entering Ohio waterways to lessen harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Funding is available to farmers installing conservation practices that benefit water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Farmers will be able to sign up for the program at their local soil and water conservation district. Local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) will manage the program sign-up and verification of eligibility and crop establishment.

For more information please contact Manuel Lay at the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District at 419-636-9395 Ext. 3.

Tree/Shrub 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, Flame Maple, Northern Red Oak, American Arborvitae, and American Red Bud. A backyard packet will also be available which will contain 2 each of the hardwood and flowering seedlings along with 2 select evergreens. This year the District will once again offer a limited supply of the following 4-foot root bag trees: October Glory Maple, Canada Red Chokecherry and ‘Princeton’ American Elm.

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 is the key to 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, during the first summer 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 Ext 3 to request a tree sale form.

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