



Williams Soil & Water Conservation District



CALENDAR

July 13 - Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Meeting Room
August 10 - Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Meeting Room
Sept. 3 - Field Day at Denny Person Farm
Sept. 9 - Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Meeting Room
Sept. 12-19 - Barn Contest at Williams Co Fair
Sept. 12-19 - Gillette Building at Williams Co Fair

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; Reba Wicker, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician, and Josh Imber, District 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: September and October, which will be September 9 and October 13. 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Field Day at Denny Person's Farm on Thurs., September 3, at 5 p.m.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

Thank you to the 111 individuals and businesses for Your Support of the Conservation Efforts in Williams County in 2019! Please call the office for a listing of the 2019 Affiliates and to become a 2020 member.

Affiliate membership donations of \$25.00 help the Williams SWCD to carry on our information and education programs and allow us to reach more citizens in our community including our youth. Your name will be displayed at our booth during the Williams County Fair, SWCD Tree Sale, Pond Clinic, SWCD Field Technology Day and appear with the program at our Annual Open House/Meeting. You will also receive a membership certificate to display.

If you are interested in becoming an Affiliate Member of the Williams Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), please call the office for an affiliate form.

Consider following your wheat harvest with a cover crop

by Bert Brown

In recent years we have heard over and over from university studies, from independent study groups and from many farm operators how quickly they see the benefits of cover crops in their operations. The benefits of cover crop practices are many. As local farmers complete their wheat harvest, the Williams Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like to ask each of you to consider cover crops in your rotation. Cover crops can minimize erosion and keep your soils and valuable nutrients in place, as well as adding organic matter and many beneficial organisms to our soils.

The Williams SWCD has purchased a Salford RTS vertical tillage tool equipped with a Gandy air seeder. This tool will plant a wide range of seed mixtures. The Williams SWCD Board has invested in this tool in order to help you. We will come out to your farm with a tractor and seeder

and seed your fields with cover crops for a reasonable rental rate. The goals of this program are to give local farm operators the opportunity to get cover crops planted on a timely schedule and to demonstrate on local farms how effective this practice can be in reducing runoff, holding nutrients in place, and building soil health.

As we plan and prepare for this fall's harvest, let's also plan ahead for next year's crops. We should each plan far enough ahead so that we can make a positive impact on our soil health for years to come. The more no-till acres and cover crops we can put in place, the more soil erosion we can prevent. Less erosion means more nutrients staying put on our farms, healthier soils, and fewer concerns downstream. Every step towards better soil health improves your farm's return on investment. More bio-diversity from cover crops and extended crop rotations will help grow

healthier crops and increase your yields!

If you haven't tried cover crops, do some research or ask your neighbors who are having success with these practices. This fall may be a great time to start! Stop in at the Williams SWCD office, Williams County OSU Extension office, or ask your local seed supplier for information on the benefits of fall planted cover crops!

The Salford tool is available to all Williams County farmers and landowners. Call us about the details of scheduling the Salford on your farm. We can help you get started, answer your questions and concerns and start cover cropping on your farm this fall!

Rental charges for the Salford & Gandy seeder are \$18 per acre plus fuel with the operator being furnished by the Williams SWCD (\$300 minimum). These charges include delivery and setup. Call Bert Brown at 419-636-9395 Ext 3 for rental information, questions, and to get your name on the fall schedule.

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 Poster Contest Winners

The Williams SWCD sponsored the 2020 "Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?" Conservation Poster Contest for students in Grades K-12. Even with school cancelled, 65 posters were submitted from five schools: Bryan City, Edon Northwest, Millcreek West Unity, North Central Elementary, and St. Mary Catholic School. Thank you for all the wonderful posters!! Posters will be on display at the Williams County Fair, on the Williams SWCD Facebook page, and will be on display at our Open House. (HM =honorable mention)

Grades 4-6:

1st Place Tie: Tessa Reyome, North Central, 6th grade
 1st Place Tie: Hailey Johnson, Bryan Middle, 6th grade
 2nd Place: Brooklyn Kusmaul, Millcreek West Unity, 6th grade
 3rd Place Tie: Ava Neubig, Bryan Middle, 6th grade
 3rd Place Tie: Grace Slagle, Bryan Middle, 6th grade
 HM: Samantha Kellogg, Bryan Middle, 6th grade

Grades 7-9:

1st Place: Alexis Dulle, Edon Northwest, 7th Grade
 2nd Place: Georgia Howard, Edon Northwest, 7th Grade
 3rd Place: Grace Berry, Edon Northwest, 7th Grade
 HM: Dylan Buck, Edon Northwest, 7th Grade

Grades 10-12:

1st Place: Nathan Myers, Edon Northwest, 12th Grade
 2nd Place Tie: Drew Gallehue, Edon Northwest, 10th Grade
 2nd Place Tie: Olivia Mitchell, Edon Northwest, 10th Grade
 2nd Place Tie: Kerrin Towers, Edon Northwest, 10th Grade
 3rd Place Tie: Alea Brandt, Edon Northwest, 12th Grade
 3rd Place Tie: Keagen Romine, Edon Northwest, 12th Grade
 HM: Coleen Hoffman, Edon Northwest, 11th Grade
 HM: Tiara Mills, Edon Northwest, 10th Grade
 HM: Hayden Price, Edon Northwest, 11th Grade



Tessa Reyome Gr. 6



Hailey Johnson Gr. 6



Alexis Dulle Gr. 7



Nathan Myers Gr. 12

Become a Jr. Conservationist

The Northwest Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Districts are pleased to offer a free at-home 'Do-It-Yourself Jr. Conservationist' summer program. The program's hands-on activities and registration will be found online at <https://www.lucasswcd.org/jrcc.html>. The soon-to-be Jr. Conservationist will have fun learning about soil, water, plants, animals, community, and nature exploration by completing the required number of activities in each category and submitting photos of yourself doing the activities or photos of the completed projects by Friday, August 28th. Photos will be sent to amichaels@williamsswcd.org.

Upon completion of the program and received photos, we will send you a certificate for free; and if you would also like a Jr. Conservationist t-shirt for \$10.00, we can make arrangements for pick up at our office.

If you don't wish to register or receive a t-shirt and certificate, you can still have fun doing the activities on your own for free. The Williams SWCD will sponsor t-shirts for the first 10 Jr. Conservationists to complete the program. If you are interested, contact Anne Marie Michaels at the Williams SWCD at 419-636-9395 Ext. 3 or visit <https://www.lucasswcd.org/jrcc.html> to register online.

Why are pollinators important? Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere. In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually. *Did you know?...Facts About Pollinators:*

About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization. • About 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, small mammals and reptiles • Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and bees • An estimated 1/3 of all foods and beverages is delivered by pollinators – which means 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat was pollinated • Honeybees carry out more pollination than any other insect - they can visit 5,000 flowers in one day • North America is the home to approximately 4,000 species of native bees • Bananas are pollinated by fruit bats and birds • Cocoa trees, which gives us chocolate, are pollinated by midge (tiny) flies and stingless bees • Pineapple is pollinated by hummingbirds and bats • The Southeast blueberry bee can pollinate 50,000 flowers in one year; there are 115 species of bees which pollinate blueberries.

A DO-IT-YOURSELF CAMPI

Complete the activities for free and receive a certificate, plus the additional option to order a t-shirt for just \$10.00 (\$15.00 if shipped)

For details, visit the [website:](https://www.lucasswcd.org/jrcc.html)
<https://www.lucasswcd.org/jrcc.html>

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 SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF NORTHWEST OHIO

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