



# 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/H2O-hio 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

- Mar 8** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
**April 9** — Red Cross Blood Drive 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**April 12** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
**April 16-17** — Tree Sale  
**April 19** — Pond Clinic, 4:30 p.m.  
**April 27** — Fish Pick Up

## Conservation Planting Options for Spring 2021

In many university studies and many on-farm trials, cover crops, filter strips, and no-till planting are proven to have a positive impact on soil health. All these things are great steps to protect your farm's natural resources.

Ready or not, it will be crop planting time soon and the time is now to be finalizing those spring cropping plans. The Williams Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like you to take a closer look at the benefits of conservation tillage options; and even better yet, take a close look at no-till crop planting for the 2020 cropping season. As many local producers have proven, no-till planting is a highly successful practice for



our area. If you have not already tried it, there is no time like the present to get started. Try a few acres this year and see what all the fuss is about.

Two 15-foot John Deere No-Till Drills:

- The Williams SWCD has available for rent this spring two well equipped 15-foot John Deere no-till drills
- These drills are ready for no-till planting of soybeans, hay crops, and/or pastures for this spring and summer
- Call now if you have

questions and we can get you on the spring schedule

Salford Vertical Tillage Tool:

- The Williams SWCD would also like to offer our Salford vertical tillage tool for rental use on your crop acres this spring.
- We can use the Salford to do vertical tillage on your acres to incorporate commercially applied fertilizers.
- Or we can do vertical tillage simply to help break up heavy crop residues from last year's crops prior to this

year's crop plantings.

- The Salford will help break up crop residues and still leave organic matter on the surface to protect our soils.
- This equipment is another option to give local operators the chance to try newer conservation practices on their farm.
- The Salford tool is available for rent for spring use at a cost of \$16 per acre plus fuel which includes the Williams SWCD providing the tractor and the operator.

Let us demonstrate this vertical tillage tool on your acres! Give Bert Brown a call at 419-636-9395. He can answer your questions about our equipment rentals and help get you signed up and get you started!



### CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Williams SWCD is in search of locally conservation-minded individuals or organizations who are implementing conservation practices. Those that are acknowledged are wild about conserving Williams County's natural resources!

If you, or someone you know, wants to be recognized, we would love to hear from you! Those selected will be highlighted for their outstanding accomplishments and for being stewards of the soil, water, plant, and animal resources in our 'Conservation Spotlight'. Please call Williams SWCD at 419-636-9395.

## Tree Seedlings for Sale

Tree seedlings can be ordered from the Williams SWCD. 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 pack' will also be available which will contain 2 each of the oak, maple, birch, and dogwood along with two evergreens. Call the office for a tree sale form. Trees will be ready for pick up April 16-17.



## Manure and Fertilizer Application Regulations

As spring season begins, a reminder to producers and nutrient applicators of the laws and regulations when applying manure and fertilizer in Williams County, which is part of the Western Lake Erie Basin.

After being signed into law in July 2015, Ohio Senate Bill 1 prohibits applications of MANURE

- 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 1/2 inch in the following 24-hour period

After being signed into

law in July 2015, Ohio Senate Bill 1 prohibits applications of FERTILIZER

- 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

Applicators are responsible for checking and keeping records of rain forecasts when applying. A good source of printable local forecast can be obtained from NOAA through the website <http://weather.gov>.

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.

An important thing to remember is that any discharge or pollution into the 'Waters of the State' will be in violation of the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program.

Taking precautions, such as utilizing setbacks and keeping records of applications could prevent accidents from happening. For information regarding setbacks please visit the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District Office (SWCD) or go to Table 4 at [https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/OH/11-01-2012\\_Ohio\\_590\\_Standard.pdf](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/OH/11-01-2012_Ohio_590_Standard.pdf)

Record keeping is an extremely important part of being a quality farm manager. Keeping records of forecasts, manure analyses, soil tests and application times, locations, and rates are especially useful if a discharge of nutrients is to occur. A reviewable record also allows producers to evaluate a system and make cost-effective improvements over time.

Contact the Williams SWCD with any questions or concerns regarding the application of manure or other nutrients at (419) 636-9395 and ask for Reba Wicker or Manuel Lay.

## NEW 2021 PLAT BOOKS & CONTEST



The 2021 Plat Book is here! Stop by our office and purchase the latest copy, \$22.00 each. A plat book is published as a guide to land-ownership in the unincorporated areas of the county. Congratulations to the Plat Book contest winners: Tom Saul from Bryan won the premium wall map and John Pape from Montpelier won the Smart Map. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest!

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.

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