



# Ag NEWS AND VIEWS

2nd Quarter  
2018

*For Crawford County's Agricultural Producers and Stewards of the Land*

## Pond maintenance – Start early for success

Now is the time of year to begin maintenance on your pond before warm weather arrives and it becomes overcome with unwanted vegetation and algae. The following tips will help you manage and maintain your pond throughout the season to have a clean and healthy pond.

First thing you should do is know the size and depth of your pond to accurately apply the right amount of chemicals that will be needed. Always refer to the label for proper handling instructions and application dosages. Also consider an aerator for your pond to ensure constant oxygen to reduce fish kills and algae blooms. If feasible, remove any excess leaves and plant matter. Organic content, dead or alive is constantly using oxygen, competing with the fish and any extra supplied oxygen can help keep your pond in balance.

A healthy vegetation level for a balanced pond should be 25% of your pond surface. Including emergent, submergent, and floating plants. Be mindful of invasive plants and remove as necessary to ensure natural flora is present around your pond. Feel free to stop in with plant id questions.

Finally, consider the fish you have in your pond and restock if more are needed. Crawford SWCD has a fish sale until April 27th, and the order form (in this newsletter) has a handy stocking rate chart.

For more information on pond management or to accurately size pond volumes, please call our office at 419-562-8280 ext. 3 or stop in at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, OH 44820.

Don't miss the opportunity to get your pond questions answered on construction, maintenance, and upkeep at our Pond Clinic on June 6th, 5:45-8:00 PM. We will have Wildlife Officer - Greg Wasilewski, OSU Program Director for Aquatic Ecosystems - Eugene Braig, and Crawford SWCD staff to answer your questions. If you would like plants identified, bring a fresh sample to the clinic. This will be at the Schroeder Pond at 7042 Crestline Rd. This event is free, but we ask that you please register with our office by June 4th.



## 2018 Photo Contest

Crawford SWCD is once again having a photo contest to showcase our county. "Crawford's Charm" has five categories: Backyard Conservation, Farm/ Rural Life, Wildlife, Forestry, and Crops. You do not have to be a Crawford County resident to enter, but the photo must take place in Crawford County.

We will only accept printed photos (no digital files) sized between 4" x 6" and 8" x 10". There will be winners for each category and a grand prize winner! For rules and more information please call 419-562-8280 ext. 3, or visit our webpage – [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org). Last day for entries is July 27th!





## Blind Inlets: a drainage option for your farm.

Blind inlets are a new cost share practice available to landowners and producers in Crawford County. An alternative to traditional tile risers or inlets, blind inlets look like a French drain, but function like a home leach system to drain water more effectively and efficiently from low pockets in crop fields. Blind inlets are sized and designed to quickly drain field lows, reducing crop damage due to flooding while at the same time improving infiltration and absorption of soluble nutrients in the soil.

A recent study conducted by the USDA/ARS in Indiana concluded that using blind inlets instead of traditional surface tile inlets significantly reduced Nitrogen, Phosphorous, sediment and herbicides from entering tile systems, and consequently our streams and rivers.

If you would like more information on this new practice or would like information on cost share please contact the Crawford SWCD office at 419-562-8280.



**Crawford Soil and  
Water Conservation District**

## Keep Storm Water Clean for Our Streams!

Spring is beginning to unfold and along with it are the “oh so familiar” spring rain showers. As we prepare for the spring and summer months, remember to maintain “clean” storm water practices on your property. Storm water issues can originate when rain first begins falling, especially on impervious surfaces like rooftops, streets, driveways and sidewalks. Rain water cannot soak into these surfaces and therefore runs off and is quickly directed to streams and rivers through a network of drains and underground pipes. At times, runoff can become polluted as it travels across the landscape, carrying harmful materials to our streams and rivers. So what can you do on your property to help keep our streams clean?

Ensure that your gutters are clean and free of debris from winter. Whenever possible, direct downspouts onto porous surfaces, like lawns or flower beds, to allow runoff to soak into the ground. It is also a good idea to inspect any storm water grates or inlets around your property to ensure that they are free of trash and debris; this will help with flooding or ponding issues.

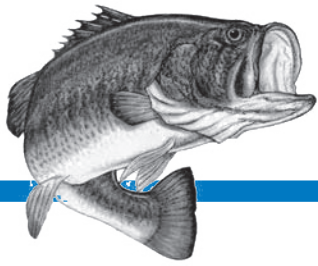
Recycle those semi composted leaves on your lawn. Place them on your garden or in a compost pile to be used later on your garden. Compost is a great amendment for your soil and garden. You can also mulch these leaves into your lawn with a mower, recycling nutrients into your lawn.

Remember to clean and inspect your rain barrels to insure that they will function properly for your upcoming landscaping and gardening activities. If you don't have a rain barrel, consider getting one to use around your home.

As you plan your flower beds and landscape this spring, consider installing a rain garden. Rain gardens pull double duty around the home – they are full of colorful, flowering plants that add beauty to the landscape and they capture and recycle storm water. Rain gardens are a great way to filter runoff and keep pollutants out of our rivers and streams.

Last but not least is to soil test your lawn before fertilizing this spring. Do not waste time and money fertilizing when it is not necessary. Excess fertilizer, especially nitrogen and phosphorous, can become water soluble at high levels in the soil and become pollutants in storm water. Soil test and target specific nutrients that are needed to ensure a healthy lawn.

For more information on these tips or on other backyard conservation practices, contact the Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District at 419-562-8280 or visit online at [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org)



# Crawford SWCD Fish Sale

## 2018 Spring Fingerling Fish Sale

**Deadline for ordering is Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Pick up April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Crawford SWCD office**  
**3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820**

You need to bring suitable containers with heavy duty plastic liners (ex: five gallon bucket lined with a heavy duty trash bag) filled  $\frac{1}{2}$  full **WITH YOUR OWN POND WATER** to transport your fish. Ten gallons of water per 100 fish ordered is sufficient. If you ordered Amur's, bring a separate container and plan only 2 Amur's per five gallon container. For more information please phone Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District at (419)562-8280 ext 3.

Recommended stocking rates of fingerling fish for new or renovated ponds.

**Number of fish to stock per acre:**

<u>Combination of 300</u>	<u>100 of each</u>	<u>50 of each</u>	<u>1000 of each</u>
Bluegill	Bass	Catfish	Minnows
Perch	Crappie		
Redear Sunfish			

New this year  
6-8" Koi are being  
offered to help  
control  
duckweed.

**White Amur Stocking Recommendations:**

% of Submerged Plants in Pond	# of Amur's Needed Per Acre of Pond
0-20 %	None *
20-40 %	5
40-60 %	10

### 2018 SPRING FINGERLING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Name Please Print \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:  
Crawford SWCD

Mail to:  
Crawford SWCD  
3111 State Route 98  
Bucyrus, OH 44820

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	PRICE EACH	QTY	TOTAL
2-4" Bluegill	\$0.85	x	=
2-3" Largemouth Bass	\$0.90	x	=
2-3" Yellow Perch	\$0.85	x	=
2-4" Hybrid Bluegill	\$0.85	X	=
2-4" Redear Sunfish	\$0.85	x	=
4-5" Channel Catfish	\$0.80	x	
9-11" White Amur	\$14.00	x	=
6-8" Koi	\$12.00	x	=
Fathead Minnows \$5.50 per 100 100 Minimum Order – Orders in Multiples of 100	\$5.50	x	=
Minimum Order is \$20.00		TOTAL	

All sales are final with no guarantee of survival.

We will accept special orders for larger fish - subject to availability

## Calendar of Events

April 10th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

April 21st: Earth Day

April 25th: Area 1 Envirothon

April 27th: Fish Sale Pick-Up 2:00 P.M.

May 8th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

May 15th: 5th Grade Conservation Days

May 28th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in  
Observance of Memorial Day

June 6: Pond Clinic, Schroder Pond at 5:45 P.M.

June 12th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

July 4th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in  
Observance of Independence Day

July 10th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.

### Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service

3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, OH 44820-9601

Phone: 419-562-8280

Website: [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### Board Meeting Dates: (Public Welcome)

2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 P.M.

#### Board of Supervisors:

**Nathan Brause**, *Chairperson*

**Paul Hartschuh**, *Vice-Chair*

**Zach Stuckey**, *Treasurer*

**Adam Spiegel**, *Secretary*

**Larry Leonhardt**, *Fiscal Agent*

#### NRCS Staff:

**Brad Van Voorhis**

*District Conservationist*

#### SWCD Staff:

**Mike Hall**

*Program Administrator*

**Liz Miller**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Megan Brown**

*Technician*

**Diane Sand**

*Education Information Coordinator*

**Morgan Scheffler**

*MNM Specialist*

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To subscribe, contact the Crawford SWCD office at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820-9601; phone 419-562-8280 or 419-562-2203 extension 3.

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