

CRAWFORD SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
3111 STATE ROUTE 98  
BUCYRUS OH 44820-9601

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## Crawford SWCD Pond Analysis Program

Ponds provide many local landowners with hours of enjoyment whether they love to swim, fish, birdwatch or all of the above! Whatever your fancy, determining the what, when, where and how of building a pond can be a monumental task for most landowners. Will my soils support a pond? What size of pond can I build? How deep can or should my pond be? What type of pond can or should I build? Crawford SWCD staff can assist you with these important questions. Knowledgeable staff will do a site visit to your property and walk you through the construction process and answer your questions for the best pond for your site. We can assist landowners with existing ponds as well. Do you have a weed, plant or fish question...we can help! Maybe your pond is not holding water like it used to...we can help determine what the cause may be. The SWCD pond program is a free service provided to landowners in Crawford County. If you would like us to visit your property for a pond site assessment, contact the SWCD office to set up an appointment.



## Spring Applied Manure

Applying manure in the spring can provide a clean dry environment for livestock from a cold wet winter, and it can also help to reduce fertilizer costs, especially if applied before corn planting. Applying manure ahead of corn can help provide more than just Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. It also provides biological activity to the soil. Manure can also provide low amounts of micronutrients depending on the diet of the animals that produced the manure.

Direct injection or incorporating manure in the spring can help to limit the loss of nitrogen and can be better utilized as opposed to fall applied manure. Liquid manure or composted manure is better applied in the spring than fresh pen pack because it does not require as much nitrogen to break down. Manure can also aid in increasing soil organic matter, soil tilth, and soil moisture retention especially for the summer months, and most importantly it can lead to an increase in yield.

Ag News & Views is published free of charge by the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District with contributions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.  
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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**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.  
2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM.

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

**Board of Supervisors:**  
Nathan Brause, Chairperson  
Adam Speigel, Vice-Chair  
Larry Leonhardt, Treasurer  
Ben Stuckey, Secretary  
Mark Gwartz, Fiscal Agent

**NRCS Staff:**  
Brad Van Voorhis  
Megan Brown  
Diane Awbrey  
Monica Finney

**Administrative Assistant**  
Megan Brown  
Derek Beat  
Nutrient Management Tech

Calendar of Events	
April 9th	Crawford SWCD 2021 Tree Sale Orders Due
April 13th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
April 21st	Crawford SWCD 2021 Tree Sale Pick-Up @ 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
April 22nd	Crawford SWCD 2021 Tree Sale Pick-Up @ 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
April 22nd	Crawford SWCD 2021 Spring Fingering Fish Sale Orders Due
April 23rd	Crawford SWCD 2021 Spring Fingering Fish Sale @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
May 11th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
May 31st	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 8th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
June 25th	OF&G Pasture Tour, Crawford County 11AM-2PM
July 5th	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in Observance of Independence Day
July 13th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
July 19-24th	Crawford County Fair, Come see us in the Old Merchants Building

## Crawford SWCD Affiliate Membership

Ever wondered how you can help your SWCD with conservation and education? Easy- time and money. But really, becoming an affiliate member, with your sponsorship, you can help fund us with supplies for education in the classrooms and/or workshops in the field on various topics. The funds from the affiliate memberships go directly toward educating our county residents on how to utilize our natural resources and protect them. We have many education opportunities in the schools and several workshops each year, along with the annual meeting that honors our affiliate members. We have had some members for 66+ years, and we are thankful for their loyalty! If you feel like affiliate membership is not for you, but would still like to donate or help, let us know! We have several opportunities throughout the year where we can use volunteers. Our office is here for the good of the county and how best we can serve your natural resource needs. We hope you will consider being an affiliate member in 2020. Member prices are:

- Conservation Program Sponsor: (\$251.00 & up)
- Conservation Field Day Events: (\$151.00 - \$250.00)
- Conservation Advocate: (\$50.00 - \$150.00)

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and payment to: Crawford SWCD, 3111 SR 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

## 2021 Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting

Plan now to attend this year’s annual meeting. Our office is looking forward to hosting this event on August 24th, 2021 at The Loft at Pickwick Place in Bucyrus. Dinner will be catered by Katering Kountry Style and Mark’s Ice Cream will be served for dessert. Featured speaker will be Matt Reese from Ohio Country Journal. As done in years past, the election of supervisors will be held and we will also announce this year’s SWCD Outstanding Cooperator Award sponsored by Ag Credit. It will be an evening to gather with old friends and possibly make some new ones, so come join us on August 24th. Tickets will go on sale in June so watch for more information as it becomes available!

## Manure Storage Facilities

Manure storage facilities aren’t just for pen pack manure. They can also be constructed as a concrete or steel tank designed to hold liquid manure as well. Having a place to store excess manure until field conditions are optimal for application, or being able to clean barns out in a timely manner are almost priceless. They are not only a conservation practice but also a great nutrient management tool and livestock health management tool. Being able to store manure until a field that is in need of the nutrients can be harvested is a great way to reduce fertilizer costs as opposed to applying manure to the same couple fields that have historically received the manure. Being able to store manure can also be a great emergency plan. If you have a pit for liquid and it is close to running over, you could transfer



manure into the extra tank, to avoid having to haul it off, or applying it to someone else’s fields.

If you have livestock and find yourself struggling to handle manure in a desirable way or want to maximize the opportunity of the valuable resource at your hands give the Crawford SWCD office a call. We can help determine what type or size of manure storage facility would best fit your operation, and needs, to conserve both the environment and your bottom line. Cost share is available through the NRCS. Crawford SWCD and NRCS 419-562-8280 ext 3.

## Crawford County to Host Ohio Forage & Grass Land Counsel Summer Field Day

Ohio Forage and Grassland Counsel will be hosting 3 drive-it-yourself field days this summer with the first field day taking place in Crawford County June on 25th from 11-2pm. The program will feature a tour in the morning of grazing goat operation at H&M Family Farm, Mike & Angie Hall with a discussion on finishing sheep, goats, and steers on forage. After lunch, we travel to Kalb Farms for a discussion of what to do when hay will not dry properly. We will be touring a hay drying barn and discussing

various options for wet wrapping hay as baleage. The program will cost \$10 to cover the cost of lunch with a \$5 discount for Crawford County residents and members of Ohio Forage and Grassland Council. More details will be available in May through OSU Extension Crawford County 419-562-8731 including program registration which will be required. OFGC will be hosting another field day in Knox and Licking county on August 28th focusing on using summer annuals and warm-season grasses.

## Spring is the Time for Pond Weed Management

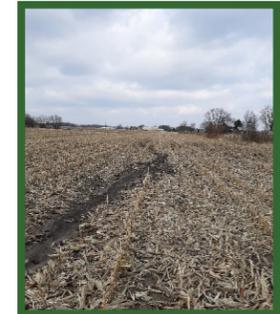
Pond plants, or “weeds”, are an important component of a pond ecosystem. However, excessive plant growth can hinder the recreational value of a pond. At the point that pond vegetation becomes a nuisance, controlling the “weeds” becomes essential. If your control method of choice is chemical, here are a few important items to keep in mind.



- 1) Plant identification – match the plant specie with the correct chemical. Know what your trying to control.
- 2) Timing – most chemicals will list an effective water temperature, wait for this temp. Do not wait until the pond is covered, 20% plant coverage is a good rule of thumb to begin treatment.
- 3) Know the volume (acre-feet) of water in your pond for proper chemical dosing.
  - Rectangle Pond (in feet) = L x W/43,560 = surface acres
  - Circular Pond (in feet) = (distance around pond)<sup>2</sup> / 547,390 = surface acres
 then: surface acres x average depth = pond water volume in acre-feet. and more management strategies.

## WATERWAYS

As you begin to start on field work, keep an eye out for areas of erosion concern. Would a waterway be beneficial to construct where you have concerns? Stop by or call the SWCD/ NRCS office to set up a time to look at the possible site. Once we have visited the site, we will complete a survey and design for the landowner’s specific needs. Average waterways are a 30-foot-wide grass strip and are 1 foot deep with side- slopes designed to allow equipment to cross; however, there are instances when a larger waterway is necessary.



Through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), you can receive approximately 50% of the installation cost. Eligibility is determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In addition to covering installation costs, there will also be an annual rental payment based on soil type for the acres taken out of production. CRP is a 10-year program and the acres will remain as part of your cropland.

Let’s be good stewards of our land, and best utilize conservation practices. Stop in or give the office a call. We will be more than happy to assist you with planning a grassed waterway.

## TREE/ FISH SALES

The Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District annual **tree sale** orders can be picked up April 21st, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and April 22nd from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm. We do not deliver or mail packets.

We are also having the annual **fish sale**. The district is taking orders until April 22nd. Fish pick up will be on April 23rd from 2:00 – 3:00PM. On pick up day, please bring heavy duty plastic liners filled ½ full with your own pond water to transport the fish. Ten gallons of water per 100 fish ordered is sufficient. We are selling Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Channel Catfish, Whit Amur, Koi, and Fathead Minnows. Also, for sale this year is pond conditioner.

Printable order forms for both sales and tree descriptions are available on the Crawford SWCD website at [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org) or at the office, 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820. Please call the office at 419-562-8280 ext. 3 for more information. Make checks payable to Crawford SWCD. Please mail order form along with the check, or hand deliver payment and form to the office.