

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

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New H2Ohio Program Application Sign Up Announced

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture will be accepting H2Ohio Program applications from **July 15- August 31, 2021** for all Crawford County producers. Applications will be available at the Crawford SWCD office and online at the ODA website and Crawford SWCD website. The H2Ohio program was introduced by Gov. Dewine to help combat the algal bloom problems in Lake Erie. Even though the program is focused on improving Lake Erie, **ALL** Crawford County farmers are eligible to participate on farmland located anywhere in the county. The H2Ohio Program works closely with local farmers to enhance their conservation management techniques and reduce runoff by providing incentive payments for best management practices such as cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient management and manure management. Applications may be approved for up to 4 years of funding. For more information or to fill out an application contact the Crawford SWCD office.

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture has scheduled several rollout meetings announcing H2Ohio Program opportunities for ag producers interested in participating in the program. Informational meetings for producers will be available virtually on Microsoft Teams on the following dates and times listed below. Visit the Crawford SWCD website at www.crawfordswcd.org to access the webinar links.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Thursday, July 22, 2021 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday, July 29, 2021 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Matt Reese, Editor of Ohio's Country Journal will Speak at the 76th Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting



All are welcome to join the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District at the 76th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 24th. This event will be held at The Pickwick Place, 1875 N Sandusky Avenue, Bucyrus, Ohio. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner tickets cost \$14.00. They must be reserved by August 12th.

The Crawford SWCD supervisor election will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 6:45 p.m. All owners and occupiers of land at least 18 years of age or older within Crawford County are eligible to vote for SWCD board supervisors. Eligible voters can register at the door in order to receive a ballot. Voters may vote in the Crawford SWCD supervisor election and leave without purchasing an Annual Meeting ticket.

There are two ways for potential candidates seeking election to the board to get on the ballot. Any person 18 years of age or older who resides within Crawford county can seek election to the SWCD board of supervisors. Interested individuals can contact the SWCD office at 419-562-8280 ext 3 if interested. The nominating committee then nominates a minimum of two candidates for the upcoming election. This committee works

throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county.

Potential candidates may also stop at the SWCD office, 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio and pick up a self-nomination petition form. They will need to secure at least 10 qualifying signatures from Crawford County residents and/or landowners and submit the petition to the district. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election.

This year's events include the SWCD Supervisor Election 5:30 - 6:45 pm; dinner at 6:30 pm catered by Katering Kountry Style and Mark's Homemade Ice Cream for dessert, SWCD Conservation Slide Show, featured speaker Matt Reese, SWCD Outstanding Cooperator Award sponsored by Ag Credit, and affiliate members' recognition.

Featured speaker, Matt Reese, has worked for Ohio's Country Journal since 1999 and currently serves as the editor. He lives on a small farm in Fairfield County and is on the Fairfield SWCD Board. In addition, he continues to work on his family's Christmas tree farm in Hancock County.

Plan now to attend by contacting the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District office at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio at 419-562-8280 extension 3, or get your tickets from one of the ticket sellers in your neighborhood.

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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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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
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 PM.

Board of Supervisors:
Nathan Brause, Chairperson
Mike Hall, SWCD Staff
Adam Speigel, Vice-Chair
Larry Leonhardt, Treasurer
Diane Awbrey, Program Administrator
Ben Stuckey, Secretary
Mark Gwartz, Fiscal Agent

NRCS Staff:
Brad Van Voorhis, Administrative Assistant
Megan Brown, Technician
Derek Beat, District Conservationist

Soil Conservationist
Kelby Fetter
Nutrient Management Tech

Calendar of Events	
July 13th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
July 15th	H2Ohio Apps Accepted
July 19-24th	Crawford County Fair, Come see us in the Old Merchants Building
July 20th	H2Ohio Information Meeting @ 6:00 PM
July 22nd	H2Ohio Information Meeting @ 9:00 AM
July 28th	H2Ohio Information Meeting @ 6:00 PM
July 29th	H2Ohio Information Meeting @ 1:00 PM
August 10th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
August 24th	Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting – Pickwick Place @5:30
August 31st	H2Ohio Application Deadline
September 6th	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in Observance of Labor Day
September 14th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM
October 11th	Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
October 12th	Crawford SWCD Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM

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 2021. 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

CRP Sign-Up Now!

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up is going on now! The USDA has recently updated the rental payment rates and the payment rates for CRP in Crawford County have gone up! So whether you want to put in that strip along a woods that may not be yielding quite so well, install a filter strip along a ditch, or you want to construct a grassed waterway to fix a gully, now might be the best time to do it thru the CRP program. In addition, if you are in the Lake Erie Watershed and putting in a strip along a stream, you could also get a \$200/acre one-time payment from the SWCD. As well, you can apply for a possible \$2,000 on- time payment thru the ODNR if you are planting hardwood trees along streams/ditch, or for constructing new wetlands on cropland.



Countywide Spring Conservation Tillage Survey Results

The Crawford SWCD completed their annual cropland tillage survey for Crawford County. For this survey, each year a predetermined route is driven throughout the county. At known points along this route, crop and tillage information is recorded. Data collected at each point is compiled and compared to previous years to determine trends in crop, tillage and planting methods. This survey has been completed using the same points/fields since 1987, except for slight changes due to construction of US 30.

The 2021 figures show that 61% of all cropland (145,322 acres) were in conservation tillage (>30% residue after planting) this spring. This is an increase of 18% over the 2020 planted conservation acres. Soybeans were the crop most planted at 48.1% of cropland acres (114,590 acres), followed by corn at 36.9% (87,908 ac). Wheat acres accounted for 8.2% of cropland surveyed (19,535 acres).

Soybeans again topped the no tillage category with 40.4% of soybeans no tilled, a 7.8% increase over 2020. No till corn acres increased from 3.5% in 2020 to 9.3% in 2021.



Conservation tillage, crop fields with >30% residue left on the soil surface after tillage is completed, increased 18% on all cropland acres in Crawford County for 2021. Conservation tillage, like this no till corn field, protects valuable topsoil and improves water quality in our local streams and rivers.

For more information or more detailed survey data, contact the Crawford SWCD office at 419-562-8280 extension #3.

Watch The Weather!

Mid to late summer generally is a great time to clean out manure storage structures, barns, pits, and lagoons to make room for the coming fall and winter. Applying manure to wheat stubble or other summer harvested fields generally is the most ideal spot to spread manure. The trick is to watch the upcoming and past weather around your planned manure application. Dry soil is ideal for all manure applications, but excessively dry, cracked soil can lead to manure leaching down into tile and may cause a pollution event. If manure application cannot be held off until soil conditions improve, a tillage pass prior to liquid or loose dry manure can help prevent leaching down through the soil and into tile. On the flip side, excessive moisture can cause manure to run off due to the inability to soak into the soil.

1. Forecast: Do not apply if there is a >50% chance of ½” of precipitation within 24-hours of planned application.
2. Incorporate manure especially if there is a chance of precipitation even outside of the 24-hour window. If incorporating manure is not an option be sure to observe setback guidelines that would be included in your CNMP.
3. Consider split applying manure to help limit the risk of run off and or leaching into tile. It is not always the most ideal situation for soil compaction but can save time and prevent issues further down the road for your operation.
4. If you do not have a current CNMP (updated within the past 5 years) or if you need more advice on how to make your manure applications successful, give the Crawford Soil and Water a call or visit. Ask about getting your plan updated and about any programs that may help improve your operation through a conservation and economical approach.

Drain Art!

Local artist Kymberlee Wood and SWCD's Diane Awbrey have completed two stormwater drain art! You can see the finished projects at Aumiller and Schines Park. This is a collaboration with the City of Bucyrus to educate residents on the importance of stormwater management and the fact that only rainwater should go down the stormwater drains which will carry water to our local rivers! Keep an eye out for more to come!

