

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

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New Conservation District Education & Outreach Specialist - Allison Brause

Hello everyone! My name is Allison Brause, and I am pleased to be the new Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District Education and Outreach Specialist. Up to this point, I have been studying agriculture education through The Ohio State University. I graduated in the spring of 2024 from the University of Findlay with a bachelor's degree in animal science with an emphasis of industry (livestock integration into agriculture). In 2020, I graduated from Colonel Crawford, where I participated in FFA, excelling in livestock judging. In 4-H, I showed alpacas (we still have them and exhibit at the fair) along with goats and hogs. Born and raised on my family's grain farm, we utilize a variety of conservation practices. I am excited to work with a skilled team and create effective ways to educate people of all ages about what we do in conservation in Crawford County. I am blessed to be here, in my hometown, to bring conservation practices and information to everyone. If you interested in conservation education programming, please contact the office for more information.



Shawk Brothers Awarded 2025 Outstanding Cooperator

Shawk Brothers LLC was recognized as the 2025 Crawford SWCD Outstanding Cooperator during this year's Annual Banquet. The SWCD Outstanding Cooperator award, sponsored by Ag Credit of Bucyrus, recognizes individuals or operations who promote the importance of conservation while maintaining the productivity of the land and improving soil and water quality.

Shawk Brothers LLC's conservation efforts include a host of conservation best management practices including crop rotation, no-till, strip till, cover crops, nutrient management planning, grassed waterways, subsurface drainage tile and CRP grass filter strips. They have participated in the H2Ohio Program, USDA EQIP, USDA CRP, and USDA CSP Programs. They have graciously hosted many educational workshops and tours on their farm over the years promoting conservation and education to adults and youth in the community.

Congratulations to Duane, Dwight and the entire Shawk Family for being selected as the 2025 Crawford SWCD Outstanding Cooperator!



Calendar of Events

October 13: Columbus Day - Office Closed

October 17: Special SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 a.m.

November 11: Veterans Day - Office Closed

November 14: SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 a.m.

November 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed

December 3: Ohio No-Till Conference, Plain City, OH

December 4: Livestock Mortality Compost Training, OSUE 5:30 p.m.

December 12: SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 a.m.

December 24-25: Christmas Eve / Christmas Day - Office Closed

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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 AM – 4:00 PM
Board Meeting Dates: (Public Welcome)
2nd Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m.
SWCD Staff:
Mike Hall
Larry Leonhardt, Chairperson
Eric Hanes, Vice-Chair
Braxton James, Secretary
Dave Paynter, Treasurer
Ben Stuckey, Fiscal Agent
Board of Supervisors:
SWCD Staff:
Mike Hall
Monica Finney
Program Administrator
Megan Brown
Financial Coordinator
Derek Beat
Hannah Ziegler
Nutrient Management Technician
Allison Brause
Education/Outreach Specialist

Upcoming Events

Livestock Mortality Compost Certification

Thursday, December 11, 2025

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (5:30 – Catered Meal, 6:00 – Program Begins)
OSU Extension Office, 808 Whetstone St., Bucyrus, OH 44820

Manure Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2026

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (5:30 – Catered Meal, 6:30 – Program Begins)
Whetstone Township Hall, 1820 State Route 19, Bucyrus, OH 44820



Windbreak Program Available to Landowners

The Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program (NOWP) is a great opportunity for landowners to establish tree windbreaks in the county to help reduce soil erosion, control drifting snow, and/or improve wildlife habitat. The program is offered through ODNR Division of Forestry and provides assistance with planting windbreaks. SWCD/NRCS staff will work with the landowner to design the windbreak and determine the type and number of trees necessary. ODNR Forestry staff will then plant the trees in Spring 2026. One of the unique aspects of this program is the Survival Guarantee. ODNR will provide the landowners replacement trees at no cost for any that do not survive the first year. The cost for the 2026 Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program is \$0.45 per row foot, cost share is available for the program through the Lake Erie CREP Program, if eligible. Certain eligibility requirements do apply for the NOWP program. Applications will be accepted until December 1, 2025. Contact the Crawford SWCD/NRCS office for more information or for eligibility requirements at 419-562-8280 ext. 3.

Windbreak along field edge protects soil from erosive winds in Liberty Township



30+ year old windbreak in Cranberry Township

Soils Judging

The Crawford County FFA Land Judging Contest took place on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025! FFA students from Buckeye Central, Colonel Crawford, and Wynford competed. Congratulations Buckeye Central FFA for winning the high school rural and urban contests, as well as the middle school contest! Land judging teaches students about soil science, the importance of land management, and soil suitability for agricultural land use and urban development. Thank you to the County Highway Department for digging the soil pits and to Marvin and Braxton James (James Farms) for allowing us to host the contest on their property!

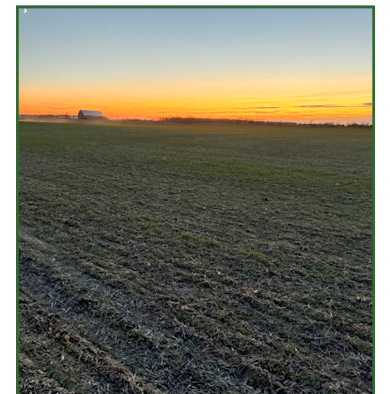


H2Ohio Program Reminders

As the dust settles from this harvest season, keep in mind the following dates for the 2026-2027 H2Ohio program to ensure you are meeting the requirements for any practices you may be enrolled in. If you have any questions about the H2Ohio program, contact our office at 419 562-8280 ext. 3.

Upcoming dates and deadlines to remember:

- New soil samples on any fields that are older than **2022** are required for your **Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP)**.
- **2026 Wheat and Small Grains Plantings** – Turn in planting records by **December 15th**.
- **Overwintering Cover Crops** – Overwintering cover crops must be planted by **November 1st**. Turn in planting records including maps, seed tags, and weight slips by **December 15th**.
- **Manure Incorporation** – Incorporate manure and plant a cover crop by **November 1st**. Turn in records by **December 15th**. **Remember** to print out or screenshot the **24 hour weather forecast BEFORE** you apply manure.



CSWCD Facebook Page

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