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

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BUCYRUS OH
PERMIT NO. #260

<<endorse>><<ctn_no>>.<<pkg_no_ctn>>.<<pc_no_pkg>>
<<fullname>>
<<company>>
<<address>>
<<city>>, <<state>> <<zip>>-<<zip4>>

Ag News & Views is published free of charge by the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District with contributions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 AM

Board of Supervisors:
Larry Leonhardt
Eric Hanes
Braxton James
Dave Paynter
Jenna Delarber-Brause

SWCD Staff:
Mike Hall
Program Administrator
Monica Finney
Financial Coordinator
Megan Brown
Technician
Derek Beat
H2Ohio/Ag Tech
Hannah Ziegler
Nutrient Management Technician/ Content Creator
Allison Brause
Education/Outreach Specialist

NRCS Staff:
Ella Weaver
Soil Conservationist

Crawford SWCD Facebook Page

Like, follow, and share our new Facebook page! Search **Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District** on Facebook to receive the latest updates regarding conservation news, events, & information!

Calendar of Events

October 9: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00am

October 12 : Columbus Day Holiday – office closed

November 10 & 11: Ohio No-Till Council Field Days
Refer to the Ohio No-Till website for more information

November 11: Veterans Day Holiday – office closed

November 13: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00am

November 26 & 27: Thanksgiving Holiday – office closed

December 2: Ohio No-Till Conference, Plain City

December 11: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00am

December 24 & 25: Christmas Holiday – office closed

Ag NEWS AND VIEWS
4th Quarter 2026
For Crawford County's Agricultural Producers and Stewards of the Land

Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting Election Results and Outstanding Cooperator Award Announced

The Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District recently held their 81st annual meeting at The Loft at Pickwick Place on August 26, 2026.

Pictured left to right: Braxton James, Dave Paynter, Jenna Delarber-Brause, Larry Leonhardt, Eric Hanes

Congratulations to Braxton James and Larry Leonhardt who were elected to the Crawford SWCD Board of Supervisors for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2027. Other board members are Dave Paynter, Eric Hanes and Jenna Delarber-Brause.

Dr. Jana Houser, PhD. from The Ohio State University was the evening's featured speaker. She had a very interesting presentation on the formation of thunderstorms and tornadoes in Ohio and discussed her experiences as a storm chaser.

This year's Outstanding Cooperator Award, pictured on the right, sponsored by Ag Credit, went to Schroeder Grain Farms - John, Angel, Anthony and Tara Schroeder of Crestline. Some of their conservation accomplishments include: 73 grassed waterways equaling 36.6 acres encompassing 7.75 miles, 13 rock pads and 3 rock chutes, 4.50 acres of CRP SAFE, 25.7 acres of Scioto CREP filter strips, 16.8 acres of Lake Erie CREP filter strips, participating in H2Ohio in the precision nutrient management, and subsurface phosphorous placement practices, and serving as an advocate for drainage and logjam removal projects.

Special recognition was given to the 39 affiliate members who assisted the district by donating $5,562 to the upcoming 2027 programs. Their donations help the district provide many outreach programs that educate current and future landowners about the importance and techniques of using conservation practices on the land.

The Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates all of the individuals who have cooperated with the district over the last 81 years by realizing the importance of conservation practices on the land and recognizing that our current generation must continue to work to protect all of our natural resources for future generations!

Thank You!

The Crawford SWCD staff and supervisors would like to thank the Crawford County Commissioners and landowners for their continued support of our conservation programs. Your support and participation are vital to our conservation success throughout the county!

Crawford County Land Judging Contest

This year's Crawford County Land Judging Contest was hosted by Greg and Evan Gwirtz on September 15th. We'd like to thank the Crawford County Highway Garage for digging the pits and closing them after the contest. Colonel Crawford, Buckeye Central, Wynford & Northmor Schools attended accounting for 230+ students! Buckeye Central won both rural and urban contests, as well as the middle school contest.













Windbreak Planting Opportunity for Landowners



Have you ever considered planting a windbreak on your property? Windbreaks help reduce wind velocities on the landscape, reduce soil erosion on cropland, control drifting snow, provide shelter for livestock and provide wildlife habitat. Local landowners have until **December 1, 2026** to apply for the Northwest Ohio Windbreak/Shrub/Riparian Program. This program, offered through ODNR's Division of Forestry, provides assistance with planning and planting riparian trees, wildlife shrubs and windbreaks. SWCD staff work with the landowner to plan the tree planting and determine the type and number of trees necessary. ODNR forestry staff will then provide and plant the trees in the spring of 2027. One of the unique aspects of this program is the survival guarantee. ODNR will provide landowners with replacement trees at no cost for those plantings that don't meet survivability standards in the first year. The cost for the program is $0.45/row foot which includes planning, planting, herbicide application, tree seedlings and the survival guarantee. Cost share is available for this program with eligible landowners receiving up to 90% reimbursement incentives. Certain land and landowner eligibility requirements do apply. Contact the Crawford SWCD office for more information, for eligibility requirements, and to apply.



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 the Crawford SWCD office.

Upcoming dates and deadlines for the H2Ohio Program:

- New soil samples on fields that are older than **2023** 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. Remember** to print out or screenshot the **24-hour weather forecast BEFORE** you apply manure. Turn in those records by **December 15th**.

Managing the Mud

As much as we hate to say it brisk, wet, fall weather is coming, and if you're a livestock producer, you know what that means, mud! Whether you rotationally graze small ruminants or have a cattle feeding operation, you've dealt with mud in one way or another. When it comes to grazing operations, there are a few different ways you can manage mud while keeping your herd health in check.

1. **Assign a pasture area to sacrifice** – designating a small, dry area to keep livestock during wet periods prevents widespread pasture damage. This area gives livestock the opportunity to get out and get fresh air without destroying all your established forage. This area should be determined in the spring and seeded as soon as possible for better chance of dense forage stand.
2. **Create a Heavy Use Protection Area (HUA)** – whether it's a concrete feeding pad or a geotextile lot, providing an area where livestock can consume supplemental feed or hay away from the pasture while having dry footing is a win for you and a win for them.
3. **Installing infrastructure** – be proactive when completing routine repairs. A simple gutter install or fixing a downspout can divert water away from outdoor lots creating a drier space and reducing loafing concerns. Don't forget to regularly check all automatic waterers and stationary tanks for leaks!
4. **Develop a Grazing Management Plan (GMP)** – a grazing management plan outlines your entire operation from start to finish with animal numbers, pasture acreage, sacrifice area options, and more.

If you have questions about rotational grazing or developing a GMP for your operation, we can help! In addition, we provide technical assistance with designing pasture practices such as HUA's, waterline, fence, and more. Contact the Crawford SWCD office today for more information, happy fall!

Fall Is A Great Time for Timber Stand Management





Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) is an important part of woodland management and fall is a great time to be active in your woodlands. TSI practices include removing undesirable trees - unwanted species, poorly formed trees, or trees that are in competition with more desirable trees. TSI also includes removing invasive species such as bush honeysuckle, grapevine or multiflora rose. Think of a garden scenario when planning TSI – the desirable trees are the "vegetables" and the undesirable trees are the "weeds," your goal is to remove the "weeds" to improve production of the "vegetables." When removing invasive grapevine or honeysuckle, cutting and treating with herbicide is the preferred method. For culling undesirable trees, girdling is a great method. Girdling is done by cutting into the cambium layer around the trunk and applying an approved herbicide to the cut area. Cost share programs are available for woodland owners to develop woodland management plans and to complete specific management practices like the ones mentioned above. TSI practices are most effective in the early fall, so get out and spend some time "weeding" your woodlot. For more information on cost share programs or assistance with these practices or woodland planning, contact the Crawford SWCD.

Education Updates





Our Educator, Allison Brause, is back to school! Students have been learning about butterflies by creating their own butterfly lifecycle with pasta and becoming a migrating Monarch butterfly through a game of survival, "Monarch Marathon to Mexico!" If you or someone you know would like to schedule educational visits like these, please contact our office for more information.