



Jefferson Soil & Water
Conservation District
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The County Cooperator

A PUBLICATION OF
THE JEFFERSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March
2024



Did You Know?

There are many positives to staying out of the garden, especially for wildlife.

Reasons Not to Rush Spring Garden Cleanup:

- Snow Could Return
- Stuff is Sleeping Out There
- You Will Help Bird Families
- You Will Preserve the Soil Structure



Photo submission by Gary Bush

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Morris & Wetherell take Oath

Andrew Morris and Duayne Wetherell took the oath of office for Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District's board of supervisors this January. They are elected to a three-year term to represent Jefferson County and to direct the district programs and ensure proper oversight of the districts' operations.

The five-member Board of Supervisors is the governing body of Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District. Together they direct the staff of the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to carry out the conservation of the natural resources through Jefferson County by assisting landowners, both urban and rural. Their dedication to the conservation of our soil and water resources make our community a better place to live.

The newly organized board consists of Mark Nelson, Board Chair; Duayne Wetherell, Board Vice-Chair; Ken Perkins, Board Treasurer; Shawn Dougherty, Board Secretary and Andrew Morris, Board Public Relations Chair.

Taking part in the ceremony in were, from left, Andrew Morris, Duayne Wetherell, and Commissioners Eric Timmons, Tony Morelli and Dave Maple.



JSWCD Mission Statement

“Promoting Conservation of Our Lands and Waters”

JSWCD BOARD:

Mark Nelson, Chair
Duayne Wetherell, Vice Chair
Shawn Dougherty, Secretary
Ken Perkins, Treasurer
Andrew Morris, Public Relations

JSWCD STAFF:

Irene Moore, District Administrator
Wendee Dodds, Operations Manager/Natural Resources Specialist
Mark Petho, Stormwater Resources Coordinator
Aaron Dodds, Projects Manager
Aidan Sammut, Cross Creek/Yellow Creek Watershed Program Manager
Crystal Conaway, Ag & Natural Resources Technician
Amy Browning, Bookkeeping Manager/Program Assistant

JSWCD ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Eric Haenni, Jodee Verhovec, Kam Pendleton & Paul Sweeney

We are online and on Facebook
www.jeffersonswcd.org



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If you would like to stop receiving printed newsletters and would prefer to receive electronic versions via email, please instruct us by contacting us at 740-264-9790 or abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com

We appreciate your help in minimizing unwanted printed mail.

If you still want the print issue, no action is required.

JSWCD Board Meeting · March 18	JSWCD Board Meeting · August 19
Deadline to Order Fish · March 20	Labor Day (Office Closed) · September 2
Fish Sale Pick-up · March 28	JSWCD Board Meeting · September 16
JSWCD Board Meeting · April 15	Farm Science Review · September 17-19
Native Tree Sale Orders Due -May 3	Columbus Day (Office Closed) · October 14
Native Tree Pick-up -May 9 & 10	JSWCD Board Meeting · October 21
JSWCD Board Meeting · May 20	Veterans Day (Office Closed) · November 11
Memorial Day (Office Closed) · May 27	Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed) · November 28
JSWCD Board Meeting · June 17	JSWCD Board Meeting · November 18
Juneteenth (Office Closed) · June 19	JSWCD Board Meeting · December 16
Independence Day (Office Closed) · July 4	Christmas (Office Closed) · December 25
JSWCD Board Meeting · July 15	
Jefferson County Fair · August 12-18	



"Spring is nature's way of saying let's party!"
~Robin Williams

ANNUAL MEETING

Since 1962, the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District has maintained the tradition of honoring county landowners practicing agricultural and natural resources conservation on their properties. The annual recipients of the Conservation Cooperator of the Year award are examples of land stewards who personify dedication and enthusiasm; and enjoy sharing their knowledge and experiences with others.

The Sadowski's are still in the early stages of their conservation journey, but they have come a long way in only a short time. When they acquired the property in 2018, it needed some work and tending to in order to restore it, so they immediately got to work. An orchard was planted, the barn was repaired, and the property was cleaned up. Soon after, they called the District to request conservation planning and technical assistance.

District staff completed an inventory of the farm and its resources, talked with the owners about their ideas and plans for the future, and connected them with partners such as the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Ohio State University Extension to put a team together to help them meet their goals for the farm.

They have made many conservation improvements since purchasing the farm, which, along with a great deal of time, hard work and dedication have helped transform the operation and the 31-acre property. The farm consists of an apple and fruit orchard, as well as vegetables, pumpkins, and flowers. With the technical assistance of NRCS, they have installed a high tunnel and irrigation system on the farm, as well as pollinator strips. They also constructed a greenhouse at their home to get a jump-

start on the growing season; and participated in a Local Foods Initiative workshop and online course to help brand and market their farm and products. For the past two years, they have hosted the OSU Extension Master Gardener classes for training opportunities at the orchard. In summer, they are a staple vendor at District's Farmers gateway Market. They are constantly researching and

implementing new things to improve the operation, including crop-rotation, cover cropping, and strategies to grow the most flavorful and healthy produce.

And all of this was done in just four short years.

The exceptional quality of their produce, their teamwork, and their friendly and social personalities have helped their operation grow quickly, allowing them to expand to restaurant sales this year and on-farm sales by next year. There are already plans to construct an additional high tunnel and irrigation system.

Congratulations to Wally and Mary Sadowski of Kolb Orchard the recipients of the 2023 Conservation Cooperator of the Year award.



Pictured left to right: Wendee Dodds-JSWCD staff, Mary & Wally Sadowski, Award Recipients

Wally and Mary Sadowski Conservation Cooperator of the Year

Governor DeWine Announces Statewide H2Ohio Expansion Plans

ODA News Release | <https://agri.ohio.gov/>

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Brian Baldrige announced the statewide expansion of H2Ohio's incentive program for agriculture producers.

The program, led by ODA, provides funding to producers to help offset the financial risk associated with implementing H2Ohio's proven agricultural best management practices (BMPs) that work to improve Ohio's water quality. Currently available only to farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin, producers anywhere in the state will be eligible to participate in H2Ohio beginning in 2024.

"Northwest Ohio agricultural producers have stepped up to put H2Ohio practices in place that are scientifically proven to reduce the nutrient runoff that contributes to algal blooms on Lake Erie," said Governor DeWine. "With the expansion of this program statewide, we can now tackle the issue of nutrient runoff in other parts of the state and improve the quality of even more Ohio waterways."

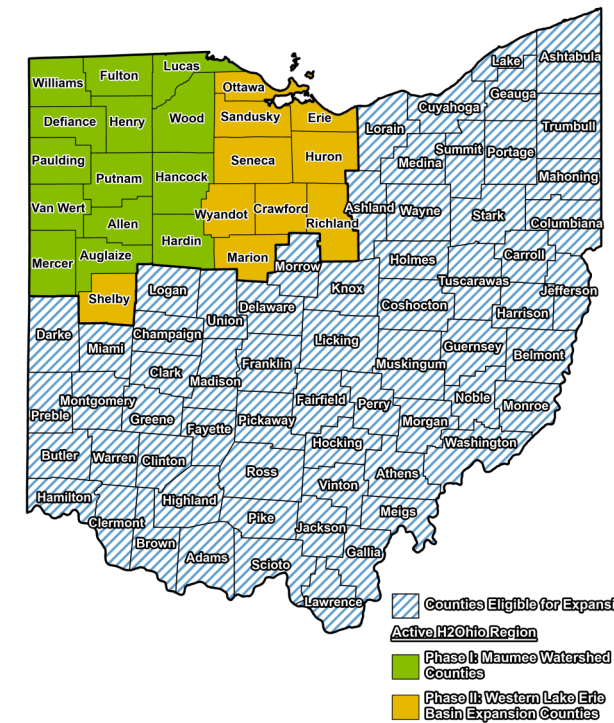
Enrollment for farmers outside of the Western Lake Erie Basin will open in early 2024, but enrollment is limited to a total of 500,000 new acres statewide. Incentives for new H2Ohio participants will be offered for the completion and implementation of Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMPs), H2Ohio's cornerstone practice that reduces the risk of the over-application of nutrients while also allowing producers to use practices that best fit their farming operations. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) work directly with each producer to approve VNMPs, assess the compatibility of implementing additional BMPs, and provide conservation education.

"The agricultural community continues to be engaged and dedicated to Ohio's water quality," said ODA Director Brian Baldrige. "We must continue H2Ohio's progress to reach more farmers and encourage them to implement these best practices on their farm operations. Healthy soil makes clean water."

Governor DeWine launched H2Ohio in 2019. Since then, producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin have enrolled 1.4 million acres into the program, reducing phosphorus runoff by an estimated 317,000 pounds.

Producers in the original H2Ohio project area (Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood counties) are currently eligible to enroll or re-enroll acreage into VNMPs and other BMPs including overwintering crop cover and subsurface phosphorus placement.

H2Ohio is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving water quality over the long term. H2Ohio focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring wetlands, and replacing home septic systems to reduce nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit h2.ohio.gov.



Are You Interested in Learning More About H2Ohio Expansion Funding?

H2Ohio funding will be focused on cropland acres only in the expanded counties, with the primary purpose of reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and groundwater resources through Voluntary Nutrient Management

Plan (VNMP) or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) development and implementation. The goal of the program is to increase producer use of soil test results to develop nutrient recommendations and accurately apply commercial fertilizer, manure and/or organic by-products according to those recommendations. Producers will need to have recent soil tests (within the last four years) on eligible crop fields to be able to enroll in the program.

For more information, please contact Wendee Dodds.

NATIVE TREE & WILDFLOWER SALE

We will be taking orders by March 25th. Color catalogs will be available by request and ordering information and unique tree descriptions will be available online about each species.

This year we will be adding native wildflowers in quart and one gallon pots.

Orders will be taken until Friday, May 3rd on a first come first serve basis. If the species you order is sold out you will be notified prior to the pick-up date. Pick-up will be on Thursday, May 9, and Friday, May 10, in the Market Street parking lot across from the Towers Building (JSWCD Office).

Orders can be placed online and be paid by credit card or order forms accompanied with a check can be mailed to our office.



Watch our website and Facebook page for catalog availability.

SHOW OF INTEREST SURVEY

Would you be interested in a seat on a JSWCD chartered bus to the

Farm Science Review in

London, Ohio?

Thursday, September 19th

Please call our office at

740-264-9790 or email

abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com.

Price will vary based on interest.

Welcome



My name is Aidan Sammut and I am the new Cross Creek / Yellow Creek Watershed Program Coordinator for JSWCD.

Before joining the JCSWD team, I worked in the construction and maintenance trades as a plumber and carpenter in residential and commercial settings throughout Jefferson County. I have always had an interest in natural resources, especially concerning lakes, rivers and streams. I am very excited to make this interest, now my focus, and to help facilitate JCSWD mission to promote conservation of our land and waters.

Outside of work, I enjoy being outdoors with my wife, Zanea, and our 14-month old son, Patrick, whether it be hiking, or just working on projects around our homestead. I am currently completing building a woodshop from scratch, where my wife and I hope to be able to work in our spare time building and crafting custom and unique designed projects.

I look forward to assisting the residents of Jefferson County in my new role, through our programs and services and look forward to meeting you all throughout my duties as watershed coordinator!

Soil Test Kits are available at the District office and Ohio State University Extension office. The price for the kit is \$10 which also covers the cost of the standard analysis and report.

Testing is performed at the Pennsylvania State University laboratory. The standard fertility report includes results for pH, Mehlich3 phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium and lime. Fertilizer recommendations are based on the needs of your particular crop.

For an additional fee, optional tests are available.

Don't Guess- SOIL TEST!



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year and for over 40 years the District takes the opportunity to acknowledge an outstanding friend who shares the District's mission - "To promote Conservation of Our Lands and Waters."

The Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District's Distinguished Service Award recognition celebrates leaders whose achievements have resulted in significant impact in the county. These accomplishments have been realized over a sustained period of time in the field of conservation in partnership with the District.

Fred and Bob Posgai are two brothers who have lived with their families along Short Creek all of their lives. Both have served the Buckeye Local School District as educators and both have retired from that profession following many years of teaching.

Fred has supported the District programs for many years as he has been a District Cooperator since 1987. He has participated in many of our Big Tree contests and helps with the coordination of our annual stream monitoring activities at Buckeye Local. Fred takes pride in his acres of woodlots and can talk for hours about his love of trees and knowledge of forest management. He is dedicated to protecting water quality and takes pride in his awareness of the stream changes and dynamics.

Bob was the very first teacher in the county to volunteer to be an Envirothon advisor when Ohio was just establishing an Envirothon program in the state. He was a dedicated advisor and mentor to many high school students; staying after school with the students to hike on trails and coordinating canoe trips to best prepare the students for the competition. The program

during his tenure at Buckeye was so popular that he needed to test the students to qualify for the 10 positions on the 2 teams. His teams succeeded in competing at several state competitions.

Bob has been a District Cooperator since 1978.



Pictured left to right: JSWCD Board Members, Duayne Wetherell & Mark Nelson and Award Recipients, Fred & Bob Posgai



Pictured left to right: JSWCD Board Member, Duayne Wetherell and Award Winners, Fred & Bob Posgai

Their dedication to water quality, forestry and soil conservation is obvious and their commitment to improving our natural resources is ingrained in their spirit

Congratulations to brothers Fred and Bob Posgai as they received the 2023 Distinguished Service award.

Bob & Fred Posgai

Distinguished Service Award



Pond Stocking

Stocking and restocking a pond each year is essential if the plan is to harvest for years to come. Bass and bluegill are two types that will most likely be able to reproduce on their own, although they reproduce on their own if harvesting quite a few each year is taking place stocking should as well.

When stocking a newly developed pond, it is recommended to stock 100 bass and 200 bluegill per surface acre to keep a healthy balance. Perch and crappie are a variety that spawn once only in the spring each year. The perch will not make a bed for spawning but rather lay eggs in brushy or weedy area. Perch and crappie will not reproduce as fast as bass and bluegill and should be stocked at a rate of 100 per surface acre. Hybrid bluegill do not reproduce much at all. They should be stocked at the same rate that they are being harvested each year. These are a fast-growing bluegill variety; they are fun to catch and pretty in color.

Weed control is always a concern with ponds. Chemicals are expensive and can be dangerous if they are not used properly. White amur's can be an alternative to using expensive chemicals to help control weed growth. For each surface acre it is

recommended to have 8-10 amurs. These fish do not reproduce, grow amazingly fast and they eat a lot. There is a myth that as they grow, they stop eating, and a myth it certainly is. Amurs will grow to be 40-100 pounds (dependent on their environment). Being that big they need to continue to eat until they die. Amurs will double their size within the first year. They will be fully effective at weed control within three years and stocking will not be necessary again for 10-12 years according to Steve Fender, co-owner of Fenders Fish Hatchery and author of Pond Management book.

Orders can be placed online at jeffersonswcd.com, by mailing a check along with your order form included in this newsletter or stop and see us at the office to place an order.

Deadline to order is March 20th and pick-up will be at our office on Thursday, March 28th from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Be sure to read the specific directions for a successful transfer of the fish to your pond.



Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District

2024 Pond Stocking

MAKE ORDERS PAYABLE & MAIL TO:

Jefferson SWCD
500 Market Street, Suite 4
Steubenville, Ohio 43952
740-264-9790
OR

ORDER & PAY ONLINE:

www.jeffersonswcd.org

ORDER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH

PICK-UP: THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH between 1-2 p.m.

PICK-UP LOCATION: JSWCD Office, Towers Building Parking Lot

IMPORTANT: MUST bring container lined with plastic (unscented) bag & 1/3 filled with your pond water.

No refund on orders not picked-up.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Species	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
Large Mouth Bass	2-3"		\$1.00	
Bluegill	2-4"		\$1.00	
Channel Catfish	4-5"		\$1.00	
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"		\$1.00	
Red Ear Shellcracker	2-4"		\$1.00	
Flathead Minnows (feeder fish) *quantities of 100	1-3"		\$10.00	
Japanese Koi	6-8"		\$12.00	
White Amur	8-10"		\$14.00	
Perch	2-3"		\$1.00	
Black Crappies	2-4"		\$1.00	
Natures Pond Conditioner (1 gal. does 1/4 acre)	1 gal.		\$90.00	
Optimal Fish Food	40#		\$47.00	
Fenders Pond Management Book			\$20.00	
ORDER TOTAL				
SALES TAX (7.25%)				
TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT				

For guidance on species selection or managing your pond contact our office or download the Ohio Pond Management Handbook at <https://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov>.

OFFICE USE ONLY				
Date Rcvd _____	Check # _____	Cash Rcvd _____	Receipt # _____	Reminder Call _____

Thinking About Soil Testing Your Pasture, Hay, or Crop Fields? We Can Help!

The District will continue to offer limited soil testing as a service to agricultural producers and growers in Jefferson County.

We will send out staff to collect soil samples on up to 100 acres of crop or pasture fields per producer per year, at a cost \$20 per sample. Fields over 20 acres or with differing management or landforms will require multiple samples and will be determined with you prior to sampling. A & L Great Lakes Laboratories will be used for sample analysis. In addition to soil test results, lime and fertilizer recommendations will be provided.

If soil testing through the District seems like the solution for you, we would like you to be there! It's a great opportunity to catch up and talk about your farm. Although we would love for you to walk with us as we collect samples over all of the acreage, that isn't a requirement; however, we would like you to

meet with us on site either ahead of time or on the morning of sampling to go over any pertinent items such as field maps, cropping history, yield goals, etc. If we will be testing pasture fields, we ask that you please remove livestock from the fields to be tested during sampling.

If you wish to test more than the 100-acre limit, or if you would like to take the samples yourself, the District can provide a soil sampling probe and empty sample bags. The sampling probe can be checked-out for a maximum of 10 days, and requires a \$100 deposit, which will be returned to you when you bring the probe and filled sample bags back to the office. The cost of each sample taken yourself is \$10.

To find out more, or to schedule soil sampling, please call the District office at (740)264-9790.