



Important reminders for H2Ohio Participants

- ODA has permanently extended the cover crop seeding deadline from October 15th to November 1st to align with NRCS's Ohio Cover Crop Standard. You'll now have until Nov 1st to plant cover crops for the Small Grains, Cover Crop and Manure Incorporation Practices.
- Once cover crops are planted, please send us the following information: field maps where cover crop was established with planting dates, seed tags or seed tests and bills for the cover crop, a completed verification form for appropriate practice. **Cover crops must be maintained until March 15th.**
- If you have not been paid for 2022 VNMP Implementation or other practices like 2022 VRT and/or Subsurface Placement, contact our office, so we can get you caught up. Other practices will be paid after March 15th.
- If you have not turned in your paperwork for other completed 2022 practices please do so by February 1st, so we can do field checks in February and March or you will not get paid for those practices.
- Please remember the BMP sheets, Verification forms, and other info can be found on our website at www.auglaizeswcd.org

2021– 2022 Information

Auglaize County farmers devote a lot of extra time and effort towards conservation, in addition to fall harvest and spring planting. Kudos to the H2Ohio producers for the practices that were accomplished.

Totals for 2021

38,174 acres = \$76,345
5,601 acres = \$11,202
8905 acres = \$71,237
3690 acres = \$110,693
60 acres = \$3,600
71 acres = \$142

2021 Totals = 56,500 acres = \$273,220

Totals for 2022

NMP Development
NMP Implementation
Variable Rate
Subsurface
Manure Incorporation
Forage
Cover Crop

none
48,687 acres = \$97,374
4,626 acres = \$37,009
3,204 acres = \$96,131
1,789 acres = \$101,078
128 acres = \$4,480
5,891 acres = \$147,276

2022 Totals = 66,6704 acres = \$566,619

Other H2Ohio News

If you use bin run seed, the seed must be tested for purity, germination, weed seed and Ohio noxious weeds prior to seeding the cover crop. ODA will test any cover crop seed for noxious weeds free of charge anytime of the year, for germination and purity testing the dates are June 1st thru Dec 31st. Call 614-728-6410 for more info!

TREE SALES end March 3, 2023
see page 3 for order form



FISH SALES end April 21, 2023
See page 5 for order form

Jan 16th—Holiday—office closed

Feb 20th—Holiday—office closed
Feb 17th—Business sponsor due
Feb 24th —Scholarship Deadline

Mar 3rd —Tree order deadline
Mar 12th—Time Change

April 4th & 5th - Tree pickup
April 21st—Fish order deadline

May 2nd — Fish pickup 1:30-4:00 pm
May 14th—Mother's Day
May 29th—Holiday—office closed

June 18th—Father's Day
June 19th—Holiday—office closed

July 4th—Holiday—office closed
July 30th thru Aug 5th — County Fair

August—TBD—Annual Meeting

2023 Board Meetings—first Wednesday of month @ 8:30 am

Jan 4th, Feb 1st, Mar 1st, Apr 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st, Dec 6th

BECOME A BUSINESS SPONSOR!

Our office is offering a yearly business sponsor opportunity to anyone who would like to advertise their business. There are 3 ways to place a business ad, proceeds go towards the annual meeting.

Tier 1—\$50 —placemat for annual meeting
Tier 2—\$75—placemat and 2x in our newsletters
Tier 3—\$100—placement and 4x in our newsletters
If you would like to become a business sponsor or have questions please call our office @ 419-738-4016 and ask for Chris or email cdavis@auglaizecounty.org. Deadline is February 17th, 2023.

The Auglaize SWCD Newsletter is a publication to keep county residents informed on our SWCD program. If your address needs corrected, if you wish to be removed from our mailing list or receive your newsletter via e-mail. Contact cdavis@auglaizecounty.org or call the office at 419-738-4016.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Deadline: Feb 24, 2023

Our office is offering a \$500 scholarship to any high school senior or student currently enrolled in a college or university for the fall of 2023 who resides in Auglaize County. The applicant should be pursuing a degree in a natural resource or an agricultural related field. Applications can be requested from our office or found on line at www.auglaizeswcd.org. The completed application and a copy of transcript are due no later than 4:30 pm on Friday February 24th.



Thanks to our County Commissioners/ Administrator

John Bergman/Dave Bambauer/Doug Spencer
Erica Preston

The Auglaize SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff would like to Thank the Commissioners/Administrator for their continuing support and dedication to conservation in our county; the financial assistance at the county level draws matching funds from the state that enables the District to continue to provide assistance to all Auglaize County residents.

2023 Tree Order Form

Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____	
Phone _____			

Office Use Only	
Order No.	
Check / Cash	
Amount \$	
Receipt #	

Species (10 Seedlings per Packet)	<u>Seedling Size</u>	<u>Number of Packets Ordered</u>	<u>Price per Packet</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
10 Trees per Packet	Bald Cypress (1 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Balsam Fir (transplant)	6-12"		\$15.00
	Douglas Fir (2 yr seedling)	18-24"		\$15.00
	Norway Spruce (2 yr seedling)	18-24"		\$15.00
	White Pine (2yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Highbush Cranberry (1 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Red Oak (1 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Sugar Maple (2 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Swamp White Oak (2 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
	Sycamore (1 yr seedling)	12-18"		\$15.00
Wildlife Pack (includes 2 ea listed below)		6-12"		\$15.00
Swamp White Oak, American Hazel Nut, Ninebark, American Plum, Red Osier Dogwood				
Pollinator Pack (includes 2 ea listed below)		12-18"		\$25.00
Red Osier Dogwood, Choke Cherry, American Plum, Meadowsweet, Pasture Rose				
Evergreen Transplant (includes 2 ea listed below)		8-16"		\$27.50
White Pine, White Spruce, White Cedar, Balsam Fir, Red Pine				
DIY Rain Barrel Connector Kit		each		\$35.00
Deadline for ordering seedlings is March 3rd, 2023			Subtotal \$	 +TAX @ 7.25%
			Total Amount Due \$	

Check payable to Auglaize SWCD, 110 Industrial Dr #G, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 must accompany order form.

Pick up dates are April 4th - 1pm to 4:30pm AND April 5th - 7am to 1pm
Postcards will be sent with location of pickup



Grassland Habitat Misconceptions

What comes to your mind when you hear the term “Wildlife Habitat”? Do you think of a mature hardwood stand of oaks and hickories? Or a brushy creek bottom? Maybe a prairie or wetland? Or even the backyard where squirrels, birds, and the occasional deer pass through? When we see wildlife using these areas, our first thought is often “That must be great habitat for _____!”. However, use of habitats does not always mean those animals are selecting for, or prefer, that habitat type. Many factors play into an animal’s use and selection of habitat, and quality habitat is not always what we might picture immediately. There are many misconceptions around quality wildlife habitats. I would like to discuss some common habitat quality misconceptions I hear from landowners in my role, especially in their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

This article will focus on grassland habitat, as grasslands habitat types make up a lot of the acreage of CRP in our area, and most of the contracts I am tasked with assessing. I am going to break down a few common misconceptions about how these grasslands should be managed and maintained.

“The thicker these grasses are, the better. I don’t understand why we need flowers out here”

I hear this quite often from producers who have Native Warm Season Grass Plantings, and although these grasses are very important to wildlife, they can become problematic if left unchecked. When grasses become too thick, they will out compete other species of native forbs and legumes, which are important for insect and pollinator habitat and food sources. The thatch that is created from the grasses can build up at the ground level, making it difficult for grassland birds, turkey pouls, and young mammals to move through it effectively to find food and evade predators. A more desirable habitat will have a “patchier” structure. A mixture of Native warm season grass for thermal cover, nesting cover, and roosting cover, as well as native forbs, and legumes to create bare ground and food resources for pollinators and wildlife, specifically grassland birds and turkeys. The best way to keep grasses thinned out is regular disturbance. Disking, prescribed grazing, and prescribed fire are all good tools in the toolbox to keep the desired diversity of these covers.

“Why would I disk this stand? I thought we didn’t want to expose bare soil in CRP. Couldn’t I create the same benefits with mowing?”

This question comes up quite a bit when we discuss things like Mid-contract management and enhancements for re-enrollment. The concerns of creating an erosion problem by using tillage to thin grasses and promote forbs is warranted, especially if on slopes or near streams and ditches. In most of those cases, disking should be done with great caution, or other options should be considered. However, if a flat stand that is not adjacent to a water course, disking is very effective, as stated in the explanation above. It thins the grasses and promotes forbs, which is a benefit to our pollinator and wildlife species. When disking, we implement them in blocks or strips, to allow some cover to stay standing for wildlife benefit and hold soil in place in case of any rain that causes overland flow. Mowing is useful for suppressing woody vegetation and weeds when used correctly, but it increases the thatch layer that inhibits young wildlife movement, and thickens grasses overall, which is why disking is often a more appropriate practice when it comes to re-setting succession in these grasslands.

“Why can’t we leave this field go and let nature take its course?”

Although I wholeheartedly wish this were possible, quality habitat requires management. There are two main reasons behind this. The first reason is that we must control for noxious weeds and invasive vegetation. Unfortunately, here in Ohio we have a plethora of species that are undesirable. Canada Thistle, Common and Cut-leaved Teasel, Bush Honeysuckle, and autumn-olive are just a few of many species that plague our land in this area. These species have the tendency to overtake out ground and out-compete native species, and generally have a lower value for soil health, wildlife habitat and food sources. The second reason is that there are no longer the natural disturbances that historically happened to these habitats. Prior to European Settlement, Ohio was home to large herbivores such as elk and bison, which would have disturbed the landscape as they moved through areas and grazed, which would reset succession through this grazing pressure. Wildfire also played a part in resetting succession. Lightning strikes, indigenous farming practices, and other factors allowed for fire to run through the landscape occasionally, which things back to early successional habitat and grasslands. We have suppressed fire on our landscapes to protect our property and families, but it is important to remember that controlled, prescribed fires are a great tool in our conservation toolbox. Many other things also worked to create disturbance historically, that do not happen as often today, which is why we need to play an active role in managing these habitats for the benefit of our native plants and wildlife species.

2023 Fish Sale

The fish offered are intended for stocking ponds and lakes; with the minimum pond size suggested for stocking is 1/4 acre with a minimum depth of 8 feet. The following are suggested stocking rates per acre for a new or un-stocked pond. These rates apply to surface area and should be adjusted to fit your pond size: Largemouth Bass 100, Bluegill 500, Yellow Perch 100, Channel Catfish 200, Minnows 1,000 and White Amur 10.

The District is working with Remlinger Fish Farm this year. The fish will be delivered to our office in cardboard boxes. Inside the box the fish will be contained in a sealed bag with water and oxygen. All fish are sold by the box.

**Please return the order form and payment by Friday April 21, 2023 to
Auglaize SWCD ~ 110 Industrial Dr #G ~ Wapakoneta, OH 45895**

Fish can be picked up on **TUESDAY May 2nd 2023 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.** at the SWCD Office.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Boxes	Species	Size	Quantity per Box	Price per Box	Total
_____	Bluegill	2" - 4"	25	\$29.00	\$_____
_____	Bluegill	4" - 6"	20	\$47.00	\$_____
_____	Hybrid Bluegill	2" - 4"	25	\$29.00	\$_____
_____	Hybrid Bluegill	4" - 6"	20	\$47.00	\$_____
_____	Redear Shellcracker	2" - 4"	25	\$38.00	\$_____
_____	Redear Shellcracker	4" - 6"	20	\$51.00	\$_____
_____	Black Crappie	2" - 4"	25	\$46.00	\$_____
_____	Channel Catfish	4" - 6"	25	\$29.00	\$_____
_____	Jumbo Yellow Perch	4" - 6"	25	\$55.00	\$_____
_____	Jumbo Yellow Perch	6" - 8"	10	\$43.00	\$_____
_____	Large Mouth Bass	2" - 4"	25	\$48.00	\$_____
_____	Large Mouth Bass	4" - 6"	20	\$57.00	\$_____
_____	Large Mouth Bass	6" - 8"	10	\$53.00	\$_____
_____	White Amur	8" - 12"	2	\$37.00	\$_____
_____	Black Fathead Minnow	1" - 3"	500	\$48.00	\$_____
_____	Pond Maid Sludge Remover	4#		\$ 63.00	\$_____
_____	Pond Maid Sludge Remover	10#		\$168.00	\$_____
_____	Pond Maid Sludge Remover	25#		\$349.00	\$_____
_____	Pond Maid Pond Bacteria	10#		\$168.00	\$_____
_____	Pond Maid Pond Bacteria	25#		\$349.00	\$_____

Subtotal \$_____
+TAX @ 7.25% \$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$_____

INTERESTED IN A GRASSED WATERWAY?

The Conservation Reserve Program is a cost-share program for grassed waterways based on component rates. To be eligible for the CRP Program; Farm Service Agency (FSA) will check cropping history, land ownership eligibility, when you would like to construct the waterway and if a contractor is lined up. Check with FSA at 419-738-3918 for the current cost-share percentage.

After the above information is determined and you are still interested in a CRP Grassed waterway, here are the additional steps needed:

1. SWCD/NRCS staff will visit the site to verify needs and feasibility. If there is no erosion present, a waterway cannot move forward at this time – see additional info at the bottom.
2. Once erosion is verified, SWCD/NRCS staff will survey and start design on the waterway(s). This may involve several visits, especially if underground utilities are present.
3. Upon finishing the waterway engineering plan, the landowner will be given two copies. Additional copies may be purchased.
4. The Conservation Plan and contract will be written by NRCS and FSA based on the components of the engineering plan. FSA will contact the landowner to schedule an appointment to have the conservation plan and other applicable papers reviewed and signed if the waterway is considered eligible for the CRP Program and the landowner has agreed to the cost estimate and sign an application with FSA.
5. Once the contract is signed and the site passes an archaeological study, SWCD/NRCS will schedule to meet with the contractor/landowner to review the plan, usually on site. Contractor or landowner will need to contact SWCD/NRCS a few days prior to construction to request construction layout points.
6. SWCD/NRCS will follow-up on construction and approve the waterway(s) to be seeded when all standards have been met. After completion, the appropriate NRCS or SWCD technician will approve the construction.
7. Your contract will have a deadline for completion, one year from time you sign. Tile can be installed any time of year; most opt to do it over winter in advance of any grading to allow tile trenches to settle. Seeding dates are March 15 to May 31 and August 1 to September 15.
8. Landowner submits bills to FSA and signs the FSA-848A (Cost Share Performance Certification). Bills are compared to construction quantities and reviewed by FSA, SWCD and NRCS. Payment is then issued by FSA
9. Landowner is responsible for maintaining the waterway(s) for the contracted life of 10 years to receive annual rental payments, with potential to renew at expiration depending on program changes and the waterway condition.

If the area is not eligible for CRP, you can apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with NRCS or the SWCD staff could design a plan for you without cost-share.

OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE ~ SHAWN ROSE

Shawn has been employed in our office since November as District Technician. Growing up in Coldwater on a farrow to finish hog farm, and showed hogs at the Mercer Co Fair. He graduated from Wright State Lake Campus where he received a Bachelors Degree in Ag Business. Before becoming employed at SWCD, Shawn was an applicator at Mercer Landmark, where he applied around 20,000 acres his last year.

Our office is glad to have him aboard!

Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Application



If you are interested in applying for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2023, sponsored locally by our office, we ask you contact us to start filling out the application by February 17th, 2023. We may not know the results of the application for six months. The biggest decision you need to make prior to application is how much money you require to have an ag easement on your property. The program will never pay more than \$2,000 an acre per applicant farm and maximums are based on funding distribution for Auglaize County. Please contact our office if you have an interest in applying or questions about the program.

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~~ continued from Pg 4

"I'm supposed to mow my grassed waterways multiple times per year, and my filter strips once a year, why am I not allowed to mow the rest of my CRP?"

When it comes to this, it's important to keep in mind that CRP is an overarching, umbrella term that covers a wide variety of practices that address many different resource concerns. Think of it like the word "food". Sure, all food is edible, and meant to give us nutrition, but cannot all be treated and prepared the same way. If you cook your chicken the same way you cook steak, you are probably going to get sick (unless you like your steak well done, then your chicken could be cooked the same). Grassed Waterways protect soil from erosion by carrying water off the field and stopping gullies from forming. Keeping the grass mowed short helps these waterways work as designed. Filter strips filter sediments and nutrients out of overland flow for water quality and soil retention purposes. We don't mow them as often as waterways, but we do mow them to control weeds and woody vegetation. Wildlife focused practices, like upland buffers, field borders, prairie strips, and wetlands, are focused on creating quality wildlife habitat. For these practices to work as designed, the correct species of native grasses and forbs should be maintained, and vegetation on most of the stand should always be standing and tall. Management and maintenance activities should be done in spots or small areas, but never the whole field. Focus on the bad areas, or put the field on a treatment rotation, so weeds and trees can be controlled while allowing adequate habitat to always be present. Be sure the weeds you're controlling are in fact undesirable weeds, and not native wildflowers and legumes that are supposed to be in the seed mix. Contact your local Soil and Water and USDA Service Center if you aren't sure.

These are just a few of the many misconceptions that exist around wildlife habitat, but these are likely the most common and important ones to address. To actively manage our habitats benefits our natural resources, plants, and wildlife, and ultimately makes us better stewards of the land.

By Matt Gardner—Farm Bill Biologist



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Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.auglaizeswcd.org and www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov

Auglaize SWCD Mission:
Provide leadership, technical assistance, education and conservation of natural resources in Auglaize County.

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 to 4:30 Mon thru Fri

**Board Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 am.
Please call or check our website to verify date and time.**



NRCS / SWCD STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Jenelle Ott, NRCS District Conservationist
Christine Davis, District Administrator
Doug Schmerge, District Technician 3

Dan Braden, Design Technician
Shawn Rose, District Technician 2
Molly Hamp, Special Program Technician

Board Supervisors: Lou Brown, Debbie Brown, Denver Davis, Doug Fisher, Lee Turner

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