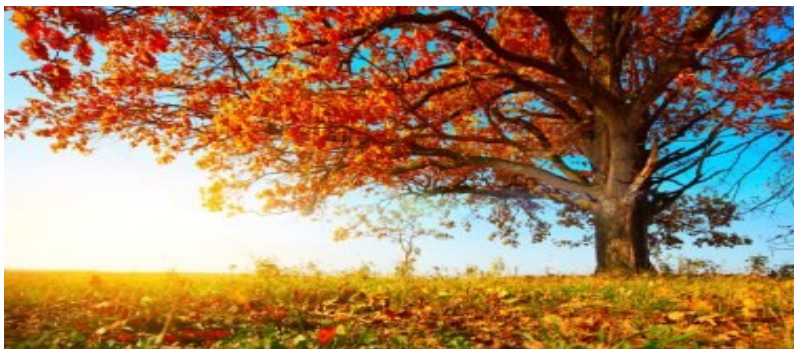




Appreciation Luncheon News

We held an Appreciation Luncheon instead of our normal Annual Meeting at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds, honoring Nate Carmean with the Conservation Award, along with awarding three scholarships to Sarah Carney, Kayla Myers and Leanne Wendeln. A PowerPoint highlighting the SWCD office was shown and a meal was catered by Everyone Cooks. Thanks to everyone who attended!



Best things about FALL y'all

Harvesting crops ~ beautiful foliage ~ cooler weather ~ sunsets ~ sweater weather ~ crackling fires ~ soups & chili ~ smells of cozy scents like cinnamon and cloves ~ pumpkin flavored drinks or food ~ apple cider ~ caramel apples ~ going to a pumpkin patch or apple orchard ~ fall sports like football and soccer ~ Thanksgiving is around the corner ~ kids going back to school ~ cozy blankets ~ fall decorating ~ hot cocoa ~ baking fall desserts or breads.

Did you know Autumn is called "fall" because leaves fall off the trees OR "harvest season" since we harvest crops?



Practice Overview

An approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) is **required** for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.



Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) - \$10/Ac.

- Soil tests must be no older than 4 years.
- Phosphorus rates shall not exceed more than a two-year recommendation, per 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations
- VNMP may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.



Overwintering Cover - \$ 20/Ac.

- Establish crops that provided overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
- Overwintering cover can be harvested as a grain or forage.
- Overwintering cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
- 50% of the mixes must contain overwintering species for cover crops.



Subsurface Phosphorus Placement - \$15/Ac.

- All phosphorus applied must be placed.
- Fields that receive broadcast applications of phosphorus fertilizer are not eligible for this practice until the applied nutrients are utilized through crop removal.
- Producers may be eligible for payment when recommendations are made for the field, but nutrients are not applied.



Manure Incorporation & Utilization - \$15/Ac.

- All manure applications must be completed by November 1.
- Manure application may be achieved through 9 different methods and timings of applications.

Incentive rates may vary by project area. Check with your local SWCD for the most accurate information.

Disclaimer: This document is intended as a high-level overview only and should not be used as a substitute for reviewing detailed practice standards. It does not provide comprehensive guidance on best management practices. For complete and accurate information, please refer to the relevant practice standards and guidelines.



For more information,
visit **h2.ohio.gov**.



PIPELINE SAFETY FOR FARMING OPERATIONS

Pipelines are near you

No one is involved in dirt-moving activity more than America's farmers and ranchers. This may involve you working in proximity to pipelines in your area. These pipelines are part of the network of over 2.6 million miles of gathering, transmission, and distribution pipelines in the United States, transporting two-thirds of the energy we use each year.



How you can help keep pipelines safe

While no other method of transporting natural gas and petroleum products is as safe as pipelines, you can help by:

- Becoming familiar with the operators of pipelines and pipeline facilities in your area and keeping the fact sheets for future reference.
- Understanding the One-Call requirements and damage prevention laws in your area by utilizing the following site.
 - <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/DamagePreventionSummary.htm>
- Reporting any suspicious activity or unauthorized excavation taking place near pipelines or facilities by calling 911 and the pipeline company.

Call before you dig

99% of all incidents involving injury, damage to property and the environment, or utility service outages can be avoided by making a FREE CALL to 811 at least two to three business days prior to excavating. Examples of activities that may require a call to 811 include:

- Plowing or tiling • Post-hole digging • Installing/repairing drain tile • Burying a septic tank • Digging a pond or well • Building a lagoon

Once the lines have been marked, you will know their approximate location and can safely begin your dig, following safe excavation practices.

~~ Continued on pg 5

OFFICE NEWS:

Molly is now a full time District Tech and the H2Ohio contact person. She is working Monday thru Thursday!

Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Application



If you are interested in applying for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for 2026, sponsored locally by our office, we ask you contact us to start filling out the application by February 27th, 2026. 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.

HELP THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Common Milkweed is the sole host plant for Monarch butterflies. This particular plant is lacking on the landscape and has a direct effect on Monarch populations. **Our office is collecting milkweed pods till Nov 7th.** It is best to pick them when they are dry, gray or brown in color. If the seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. Collect the pods in paper bags. Harvesting pods from milkweed plants do not have any effect on the population of the established milkweed areas.



Tree and Fish Sales start in January. Information will be on our website and in the January newsletter! Stay tuned!

Oct 13th—Holiday—office closed
Nov 2nd—Time Change
Nov 11th—Holiday—thank you Veterans
Nov 27th-28th—Holiday—office closed
Dec 24th-25th—holiday—office closed
Jan 1st—holiday—office closed
Jan 19th—holiday—office closed

Soil Judging 2025

Around 250 students from Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, St Marys, Wapak and Waynesfield FFA were hosted by Randal Springer with Colin Schneider digging the soil pits. Lunch was catered by Graze On Catering for the students! BIG THANKS to these individuals ~ the students had a great time! Congratulations to the winners!

Rural Winning Teams are:

1st place—Wapak team 7— Sofia Hume, Spencer Mercham, Carmin Wibley, Bolden Brandehoff

2nd place—Wapak team 5—Bryce Burkard, Ashtyn Kohler, Angel Mayle, Logan Schuman

3rd place—St Marys team 1—Maddie Albright, Hannah Brackman, Lauren Schloemer

Urban Winning Teams are:

1st place—Knoxville team 1—Hunter Wellman, Cole Wellman, Addison Albers, Parker Jones

2nd place—Wapak team 7—Braydon Wireman, Aiden Kesler, Gus Presar, Deegan Kah

3rd place— Minster team 5—Sara Dwenger, Kali Schmiesing, Carmen Holthaus



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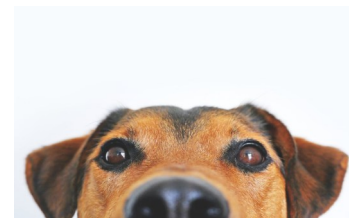
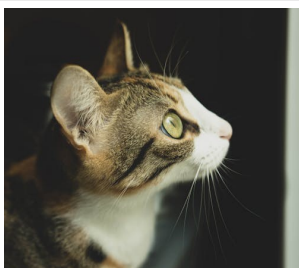

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~~ continued from pg 3

How to recognize the location of a pipeline

Markers are located in the pipeline right-of-way and indicate the approximate location, but not the depth, of a buried pipeline. Although not present in certain areas, these can be found at road crossings, fence lines, and street intersections. The markers display the product transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency.

Digging safely around pipelines

State laws require you to maintain minimum clearance, or tolerance zone, between the point of excavation and a marked pipeline. Even the most minor damage to a pipeline can have serious consequences. If you cause or witness even minor damage to a pipeline or its protective coating, do not cover up or attempt to repair the pipeline. Evacuate the area, call 911 and the pipeline company immediately. The Tolerance Zone is a defined horizontal space from the outside wall or edge of an underground line or pipe. The size or width varies by state and is defined in the individual state One-Call legislation.

If you suspect a pipeline leak

Do: • Make sure gas appliances are turned all the way OFF. • Leave the area • Telephone 911 and the pipeline company from a safe location upwind, well away from the location of the leak. • If it is safe to do so, warn others against entering the leak area and/or creating ignition sparks.

Do not: • Start an engine of any kind. • Strike matches or create a flame of any kind. • Use a telephone or cell phone, unless from a safe location upwind, well away from the location of the leak. • Turn on or off any light switches, garage door openers or other electrical switches. • Touch, breathe or make contact with leaking product. • Drive into a leak or vapor cloud area.

