



# CONSERVATION NOTES

## GET OUT AND VOTE! 2020 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District has a five-member Board of Supervisors elected by landowners and residents of Licking County. As unpaid Public Officials, the Board members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and administrative rules that govern LCSWCD. Board members also help guide Soil & Water's mission with professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness.

**T**wo Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021.

### Meet the Candidates:

Each candidate provided their thoughts on why Soil & Water's mission was meaningful and explained what they saw as the three biggest natural resource challenges facing Licking County.

**Kim Byce** lives in Granville Township and is the Homestead Coordinator at Denison University. As a mom of three, she knows she is borrowing the earth from her children and theirs. Licking Soil & Water empowers her and other sustainability-minded residents of the county with knowledge and resources to ensure a viable, abundant future for all.

1. Making Licking Soil & Water's resources and opportunities more accessible and engaging to a larger population of county residents, homeowners and consumers.
2. Finding financial incentives or other assistance to help landowners make environmentally conscious (but sometimes expensive) choices.
3. Strengthen and publicize connections among like-minded entities and organizations to create a county-wide culture of conservation.

**Bill Goodman** (Incumbent) is completing his first term on the Licking County Board of Supervisors and currently serves as a Director for the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Soil & Water offers assistance in many areas – land preservation, mini-grants, stormwater management, etc. – to promote conservation in this diverse county.

1. Logjams: Almost every creek or stream has developed logjams in the past few years. Working on removing them will be challenging.
2. Cover Crops: Continue to encourage the cover crop program by offering as much cost-share as possible.
3. Continue to work with developers in urban settings by stressing the needs for conservation in all areas of construction.

**Rhonda Reda** lives in Pataskala and has been recognized with numerous awards for STEM-related education programs related to natural resources.

Rhonda has been involved in natural resources for almost 35 years. Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District is very meaningful to her because she has seen first-hand how working with local leadership and creating educational programs can be very useful.

1. Education on water quality and healthy soils for agriculture production. Encourage development of additional public outreach programs to educate the general public. Review and help execute established Strategic Plans.
2. Establish more partnerships with various community groups, community leaders and educators to provide additional outreach within Licking County and help create special programs that could be adopted by other Soil & Water Districts.
3. Lack of information about natural resources to youth. Need to create better social media and electronic platforms to reach millennials, GEN X, GEN Y and GEN Z. Become a permanent resource for conservation information. Create additional programs that will engage young children and adults. 

**Individuals who own or occupy land within the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.**

### Cast a ballot:

1. At the Soil & Water office from November 4, 2020 until November 18, 2020 during normal business hours; or
2. At the Soil & Water Drive Thru voting event, which will take place at Soil & Water office on November 12, 2020 and from 4:30–6:30 PM; or
3. By Voting absentee from October 5, 2020 until November 3, 2020, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from Soil & Water by calling 740-670-5330, or email [Information@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:Information@LickingSWCD.com).

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Promoting conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education and technical assistance.

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LickingSWCD.com

**SOIL & WATER STAFF**

- Brent Dennis
- Kristy Hawthorne
- Briana Hodgson
- Kyle Seitz
- Josh Troyer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Seth Dobbelaer
- Bill Goodman
- Mamie Hollenback
- Ron Thompson
- John Wagy

**ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS**

- Jeff Baker
- Jeff Bates
- Jackie Bruns
- Dee Hammel

**USDA NRCS STAFF**

- Joe Koehler
- Carlton Howard

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Monday – Friday  
Closed Federal Holidays

The office is open by appointment only. Please call 740-670-5330 to set up an appointment.

The Soil & Water Board meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Brent Dennis has joined the Soil & Water team as the Agriculture District Technician. He is excited to be here and looks forward to meeting the agricultural community

of Licking County.

Brent grew up on a 650 acre grain farm in northern Perry County where his passion for agriculture began. His family raises corn and soybeans, and in 2011, his father began using cover crops and continues to plant them today. Growing up on the farm has given Brent a strong work ethic and a passion for agricultural conservation.

An Ohio State University ATI graduate, Brent started his career in agronomy and crop services. He is looking forward to helping the producers, landowners and stakeholders address resource concerns by conducting field surveys, evaluations, written conservation plans and nutrient management plans.

Contact Brent at 740-670-5329 or email [BrentDennis@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:BrentDennis@LickingSWCD.com).



Kyle Seitz is Soil & Water's newest Urban District Technician. Originally from Delaware County, Kyle was raised around agriculture and was a member of both the Big

Walnut FFA and 4-H groups during his youth. He grew up loving nature, frequently hunting, fishing and creeking whenever he could.

An Ohio State University graduate with a BA in political science, Kyle also completed a Masters in Environment and Natural Resources. Past positions in a wide range of natural resources related fields provided Kyle a strong background of data collection, water quality and sediment and erosion control measures. Most recently he was a Biological Science Technician for the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

Kyle will be assisting with urbanized communities' stormwater requirements, inspecting erosion and sediment control measures on construction sites, helping landowners with questions or concerns on their land and working with various committees, and partnering organizations.

Welcome Kyle to the team by contacting him at 740-670-5337 or email [KyleSeitz@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:KyleSeitz@LickingSWCD.com).

## JOIN THE SOIL & WATER TEAM

### Stormwater Program Manager

The Stormwater Program Manager oversees and manages all aspects of the Licking County and Others small MS4 permit, additional NPDES related contracts, memorandums of understandings, and agreements. The incumbent will serve as coordinator and facilitator between the co-permittees that consist of seven townships and three villages, other agencies, policymakers, developers, professional/technical staff and the public.

### Conservation Educator

The Conservation Educator will promote, schedule and present

conservation education programs to diverse audiences including schools PK-12, youth groups, families and adults. Educational topics will be mission-based and fulfill stormwater education contract requirements. Venues may be in-person and/or via virtual teaching methods in both traditional and non-traditional settings. Responsibilities include maintaining education equipment, educational rental items, and providing content for newsletters, websites and social media.

Find the full job announcements and application process here: [lickingswcd.com/who-we-are/staff](http://lickingswcd.com/who-we-are/staff).

Find job announcements and application process  
[www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)

# LICKING RIVER ROUND UP 2020

To accommodate social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, River Round Up was held from September 11 – 18, 2020. During that time period, individuals and groups were able to sign up for public cleanups, group cleanups and self-guided cleanups.

**Total cleanups – 19**



Total participants ~225



Northernmost cleanup  
North Fork Licking River  
in St. Louisville



Tires collected ~175  
Mostly passenger and small truck  
tires, but some larger tires too



Westernmost cleanup  
South Fork Licking River in Pataskala



Scrap metal was recycled and proceeds were deposited into the River Round Up account to help fund future River Round Ups



Easternmost cleanup  
Rocky Fork in Hanover/Madison Township



Total scrap metal collected – over 15 cubic yards (bicycles, tire rims, shopping carts)



Southernmost cleanup  
Hebron's stormwater ditch system



The majority of trash disposal was provided by Presenting Sponsor Shackleford's Disposal, with other local trash disposal contractors assisting



Total trash collected – due to the spread-out nature of the cleanup, all trash was not collected at one location and weighed. Items included toys, lawn furniture, plastic bags, disposable food & drink items



# SOIL SAMPLING DO'S AND DON'TS

It is that time of year again to be thinking about taking soil samples on your farm.

Remember a soil analysis is only as good as the sample on which it is based. Soil samples should be taken approximately six months prior to when you want to plant the crop. That gives you time to get the results back and get a plan established as to what fertilization program you want to apply. There is no magic number for how many cores you should take to form a good sample for the lab; the more cores you take the better representation you will get for the field you are sampling. A good suggestion is to take 10 to 15 cores for fields under 20 acres, removing any vegetation or crop residue from the surface of the sampling site.

You want to sample to plow layer depth, usually six to eight inches. You should also take different samples for areas of different soil type and different terrain in the same field. Mix cores thoroughly, breaking

up any clods and discarding stones and debris. Be sure to label soil samples in a way that, at a later date, you will be able to link the analysis with the correct field. A good time of year to sample is during the fall after harvest has been completed. You don't have the pressure of spring time planting, no standing crops to deal with, and fields are usually dry enough to support a four-wheeler or pickup truck. You should sample each field at least once every three years more often if you're trying to correct serious pH or nutrient deficiencies.

When you send your samples to the lab, you should use the same lab every time, because different labs use different methods, which can give you different results for the samples you had taken. When you get the results back from the lab, you can go over them with our Soil & Water Agriculture District Technician, your local crop consultant, or the OSU Extension Agriculture Educator to come up with a plan that will work on your farm.



You can also come up with a Variable Rate plan that most fertilizer Co-Ops can do with the new Variable Rate technology equipment they have. The new program lets farmers apply the fertilizers to the areas of the field that are deficient and not have an over abundance on other areas of the fields. The technology will also be more cost effective and also make you better stewards of the soils that you farm. 🌍

**Soil & Water has Soil Probes to borrow to take the soil samples. Contact us to reserve yours today! 740-670-5330 or [Information@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:Information@LickingSWCD.com)**

## 2020 COVER CROP PROGRAM

Long-term use of cover crops can increase crop yields, reduce fertilizer inputs, improve soil health and decrease water runoff.

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Cover Crop Cost Share Program encourages farmers to use cover crops in the watershed.

In 2020:

- 13 Licking County farmers participated
- 2,000 acres qualify for the program, and of those acres
- 628 acres were seeded using an aerial application.



# OHIO'S HISTORIC FAMILY FARMS PROGRAM

## Ohio's Agricultural Heritage

The Ohio Department of Agriculture recognizes the social, economic and historic contributions of Ohio's family farms through its Ohio Historic Family Farms program, which recognizes farms that have remained in the same family for at least 100 years. Nearly 1,700 farms are registered as century, sesquicentennial or bicentennial farms, with at least two farms represented in all of the state's 88 counties. Gallia County currently has six farms registered in the program.

## Program History

In 1993, the department began collaborating with Ohio's Country Journal and the Ohio Historical Society to administer the Outstanding Ohio Century Farm Program. In 2003, the department became the sole sponsor of the program, and the Outstanding Ohio Century Farm program evolved into the Ohio Century Farm program. The program



Angus cattle with home in background, 1920s (Vale' Vue Farms - Crawmer)

became the Ohio Historic Farms Program when it was expanded in 2013 to include a designation for Bicentennial Farms. Sesquicentennial Farms were added in 2016.



Elijah Cartwright, farm hand, basket weaver and painter of signs, 1930s (Koontz)

## 2008 Bicentennial Book

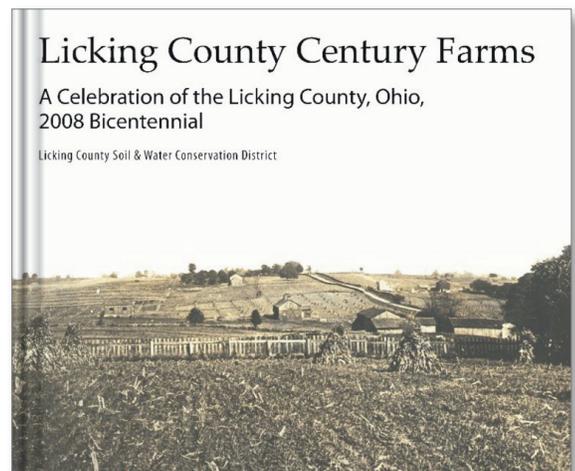
Former staff member, Pat Deering, created *Licking County Century Farms, A Celebration of the Licking County, Ohio, 2008 Bicentennial*.

This book is a celebration of Licking County, Ohio century farms and their owners. As a part of the 2008 Licking County, Ohio, Bicentennial, the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District recognized families who owned farms for 100 years or more as of 2008. These families have taken great pride in farming, conserving natural resources and keeping farmland in their families.

The book is available for purchase at [www.blurb.com/b/356363-licking-county-century-farms-book](http://www.blurb.com/b/356363-licking-county-century-farms-book).

## Additional Information

For more information about the program, including a list of current century, sesquicentennial and bicentennial farms, as well as a downloadable registration form, visit [www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/cent\\_farms/](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/cent_farms/). For additional information on how to apply for Ohio's Historic Family Farms Program, contact program manager Erin Dillon at 614-752-4505 or email [centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov).



# STORMWATER RUNOFF: SLOW IT, SPREAD IT, SINK IT!

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snow-melt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

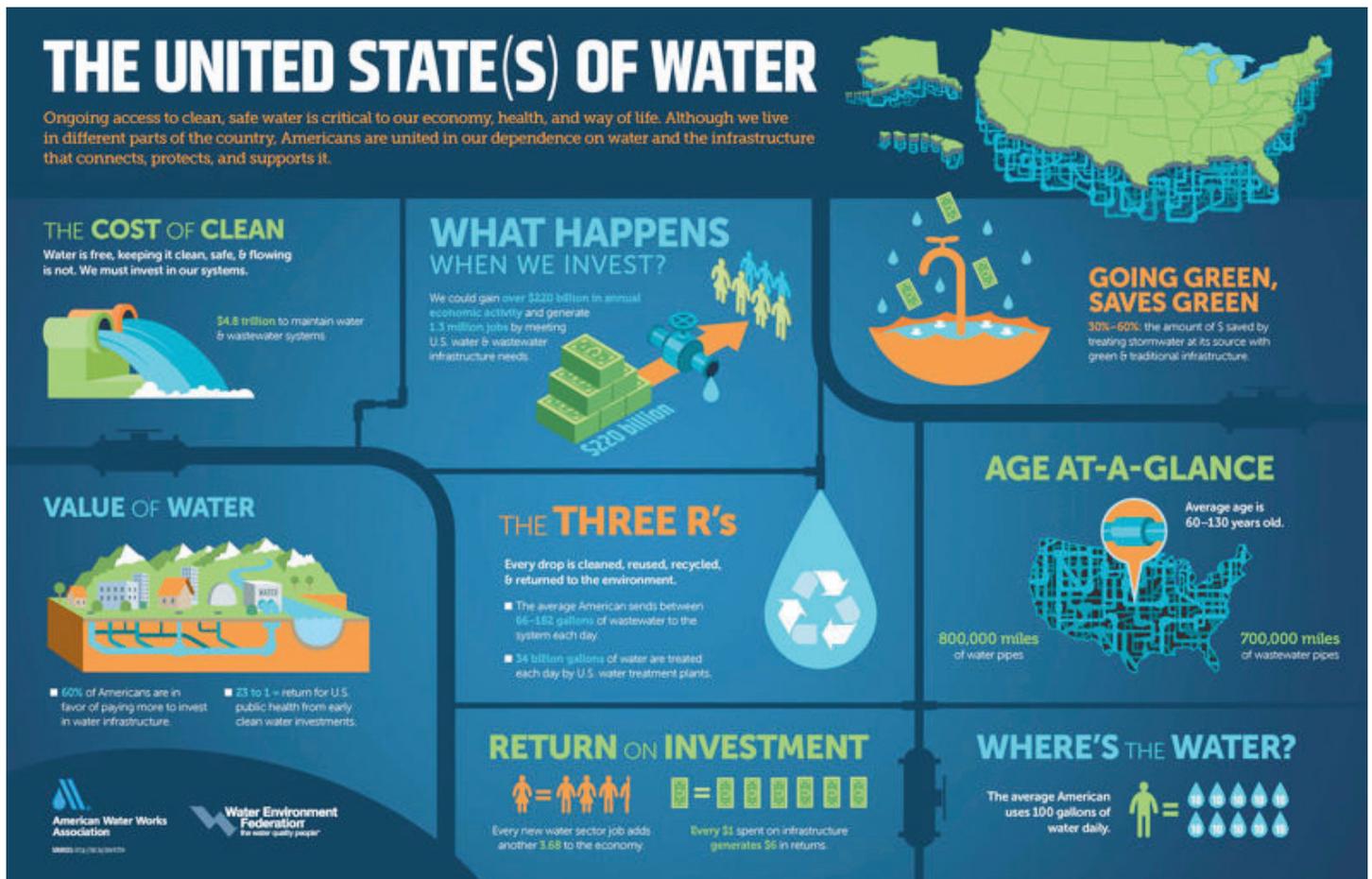
## Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

## How Can YOU Help to Slow It, Spread It and Sink It?

Green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels are designed to minimize the effects of impervious surfaces by mimicking the natural way water moves through an area. By capturing (Slow It!), distributing (Spread It!), and infiltrating (Sink It!) stormwater, you can help reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and the pollutants it carries. Visit [www.BetheChange-forcleanwater.org](http://www.BetheChange-forcleanwater.org) and [www.Licking-SWCD.com](http://www.Licking-SWCD.com) for more homeowner resources for sustainable stormwater management.

*Adapted from Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and Sonoma Resource Conservation District publications.*



The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) partnered with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to develop public outreach materials that communicate the value of water and wastewater services. WEF photo.

# Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

Deadline extended to November 13th

*It's that time again!*

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is calling on all Ohioans for another year of milkweed pod collection! The project started in 2015 as a seven county pilot, and since that time, hundreds of Ohioans have worked together, collecting thousands of pods across the state. Volunteers have collected approximately 5,000 gallons of common milkweed seed pods, totaling over 22 million seeds! Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for Monarchs as well as many other pollinator species. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the Eastern Monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard in Ohio to change that, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts even better by following these simple tips!

Make sure that before you collect a seed, you become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.

- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, gray, or brown. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THAT.**
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.



**Ohio Pollinator  
Habitat Initiative**

**Annual Milkweed Pod Collection**  
September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District  
for more information

- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.
- You can drop your pods off at Licking County Soil & Water Conservation Office, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055. Questions? Contact us at 740-670-5330.

We thank you for your help!



## OFFICE OPERATIONS

There have been adjustments to our daily operations as precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19. The health, well-being and safety of our community and staff is of the utmost importance.

The Soil & Water office is closed to the public, but we are still serving our customers via phone, email and scheduled appointments.

If you have business with Soil & Water, please call 740-670-5330 to set up an appointment or talk to a staff member over the phone.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to do what's best for our community.



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# CONSERVATION NOTES

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## IMPORTANT DATES

\* All dates are tentative due to CDC recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus. Please visit our website or call our office to confirm before attending.

Nov. 4–18	Soil & Water Board of Supervisors Election
Nov. 11	Veterans Day – Office closed
Nov. 18	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Nov. 26	Office closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 16	Board Meeting
Dec. 25	Office closed for Christmas
Jan. 1	Office closed for New Year's

### No Annual Meeting

Due to COVID-19,  
Soil & Water will not  
host an Annual  
Meeting in 2020.