



### **☐ Holiday Greetings from the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District**

As the year draws to a close, we extend our sincere appreciation to the residents, landowners, agricultural producers, community partners, and organizations who have supported conservation efforts throughout Licking County. Your dedication to protecting our natural resources strengthens the health and resilience of our landscapes and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.

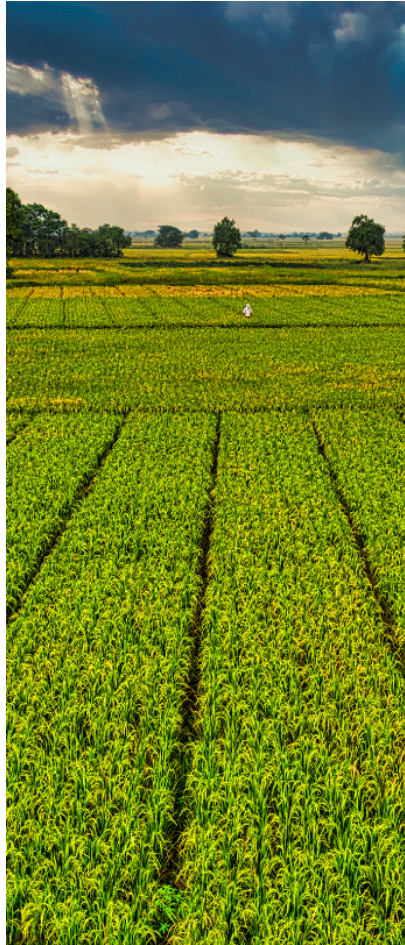
During this season of reflection and gratitude, we are reminded that meaningful conservation begins with small, steady actions—each one helping our county remain vibrant and productive. Whether you implemented conservation practices, participated in educational programs, enhanced wildlife habitat, or simply took steps to care for the land and water around you, your contributions are deeply valued.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving the community and advancing responsible stewardship across the county. May this holiday season bring you peace, joy, and renewed appreciation for the natural resources that sustain us all.

**☐ Wishing you a prosperous New Year from the team at Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District.**

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# Farmland Preservation Applications



## Do you want to protect your farmland?

It is so important to protect farmland for its scenic views & open space, family or historical heritage, prime agricultural soils, local food & water sources, and wildlife habitat.

Soil & Water receives funds from Clean Ohio as the local sponsor to preserve farmland under the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). An agricultural easement is a voluntary and legally binding restriction placed on a farm. The easement limits the use of the land to predominantly agricultural activity. The land remains under private ownership. The farmland can be sold or passed along as a gift to others at any time, but the restriction prohibiting non-agricultural development stays with the land.

The pre-application deadline for the 2026 program is Friday, January 23, 2026. For additional information or the application, contact Briana Hodgson at (740) 670-5330 or [BrianaHodgson@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:BrianaHodgson@LickingSWCD.com).

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## Tree Sale

The 2026 Tree Sale will open January 5th! We have 16 species ranging from native fruit trees to large broadleaf species. Check out what we have and be on the lookout for updates!

**Native Large Broadleaf Trees**

- Bitternut Hickory
- Black Walnut
- Bur Oak
- Sassafras
- Swamp White Oak
- Sugar Maple

### Confer Trees

- Dawn Redwood
- White Pine



### Native Shrubs, Small and/or Fruit Trees

- American Hazelnut
- American Plum
- Pussy Willow
- Red Mulberry
- Red Bud
- Sweet Shrub
- Strawberry
- Blueberry

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## Winter Nutrient Management: Reducing Runoff Risks



### Can I spread manure over winter? What Licking County producers need to know:

Winter manure application is a common question this time of year, and the answer for Licking County is yes—but with important considerations. While winter spreading is not prohibited, it does come with elevated risks that every producer should understand before heading out with the spreader.

#### If You Must Spread, Spread Smart

Winter application may be unavoidable when storage is limited or weather conditions shift quickly. If spreading is necessary, consider the following best practices from USDA-NRCS Nutrient Management Standard :

- 200-foot setback from waterways and streams (300 from developed springs)
- At least 90% surface residue cover
- Limit application rates – Solid Manure; 10 wet tons if less than 50% solids, 5 wet tons if greater than 50%
- Liquid Manure 5,000 gallons or, next crop need/removal for P2O5.
- Do not apply on more than 20 contiguous acres.
- There are additional criteria that apply for fields with slopes greater than six percent.

Contact Tayler Coy for specific field by field recommendations or to explore long term solutions at [740-670-5329](tel:740-670-5329).

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## Winter Salt Week

Winter salt, road salt, or de-icing salt- whatever you call it- plays an important role in preventing ice and snow on roadways. However, all the salt that is applied to streets and sidewalks eventually ends up in our freshwater resources. Salt pollution is harmful to aquatic life and it increases the salinity levels in rivers, lakes, and streams.

Granville township is working to make a step forward in salt awareness through creating their own brine!



Brine is a solution of salt (sodium chloride) and water. Dry rock salt only begins to work after absorbing moisture and forming its own brine. By pre-wetting rock salt with brine as it is spread, the melting process is accelerated, and salt crystals adhere better to the road rather than bouncing off.

Modern Brine making systems allows you to make a purer more consistent brine solution versus getting it from a well. The brine making process is as simple as dumping the rock salt into the hopper, adding water to circulate through the salt to dissolve it. Most modern brine making machines are automated, so as long as it is calibrated properly getting the correct salinity level is effortless.

Basically, salt brine is a proactive and efficient solution for winter road maintenance. It allows crews to pre-treat roads well before a storm, helping to improve response times and reduce emergency overtime. Brine uses significantly less salt than traditional de-icing methods, minimizing environmental impact and reducing harm to local ecosystems. The liquid form adheres better to road surfaces than dry salt, ensuring greater effectiveness. Overall, brine offers a modern, sustainable approach to managing snow and ice while promoting safer travel conditions.

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## Important Dates

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|---------------|--|
| <b>Dec 31</b> | <b>New Year's Eve - Office closing at noon</b>                         |
| <b>Jan 1</b>  | <b>New Year's Day - Office Closed</b>                                  |
| <b>Jan 5</b>  | <b>Tree Sale catalog opens online</b>                                  |
| <b>Jan 4</b>  | <b>Energy Efficiency Day</b>   |
| <b>Jan 13</b> | <b>SWCD Monthly Board Meeting</b>                                      |
| <b>Jan 15</b> | <a href="#"><u>Licking Park District Yard ReWild Intro Program</u></a> |
| <b>Jan 19</b> | <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed</b>                      |

**Jan 23**      **Farmland Preservation Pre-Application Deadline**

**Jan 24**      [Licking Park District Yard ReWild Intro Program](#)

**Jan 26-30**   **Winter Salt Awareness Week**

**Jan 27**      **South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Director meeting**

**Jan 31**      [Pollinator Pathway Summit](#)

**Feb 2**      **World Wetlands Day**

\*Events require an RSVP

[Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!](#)

[www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)

## Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District

771 East Main Street Newark, OH 43055

Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)



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