

Press Release

Licking County Soil and Water is Ecstatic to Celebrate the Communities Conservation Efforts!

Licking County Soil and Water hosted the 81st Annual Banquet on October 14th, 2025, at Newark Earthworks new Octagon Earthworks. At this event we got to show off our new Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox, tour the Octagon Earthworks Mounds, and present awards to very deserving individuals and soil judging winners!

Caleb Hickman is awarded educator of the year. He is an instrumental part in shaping the young agricultural minds of Utica High School. Caleb is a mentor, leader, and advocate for not only his students, but his community. He is the kind of educator who leaves a lasting legacy, not just through lessons taught, but through lives changed.

Volunteer of the Year was presented to Amy Vohsing. Amy's dedication to education, science, and community service shines through in everything she does. Over the years, she has volunteered her time, her knowledge, and her heart to support our programs and events. Her resilience, positivity, and dedication to service truly embody the spirit of volunteerism.

Bill Hoskinson is a truly deserving Cooperator of the Year. Bill has not only been a leader in conservation but also a shining example of what it means to be a steward of the land and a partner in our community. Over the past year, Bill and his family have gone above and beyond by volunteering their time and effort in both the H2Ohio Program and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Cover Crop Program.

The winners of the FFA Soil Judging competition were all from Utica High School. The first place Urban and Rural team winners were both Utica teams. Austin Atherton won first in the Urban Individual division, while Benjamin Rudolph won first place in the Rural Individual division.

The Licking County Soil and Water staff and community want to congratulate these deserving winners on their accomplishments!