



Farmland Preservation Pre-Application

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 Clean Ohio Fund celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025, marking a quarter-century since Ohio voters approved the \$400 million bond initiative that has strengthened conservation, revitalization, and outdoor recreation statewide. As a long-standing public-private partnership, the program has protected green space, preserved family farms, cleaned up polluted sites, expanded trails, and restored vital river corridors—leaving a lasting impact on both natural and urban communities across Ohio.

Four core programs:

- Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (brownfield cleanup)
- Agricultural Easement Purchase Program
- Green Space Conservation Program
- Trails Fund

Statewide impact:

- Nearly **400 brownfield sites** cleaned up
- Over **26,000 acres** of natural areas preserved
- More than **39,748 acres** of family farms protected
- Over **216 miles** of multi-use trails created
- **138,280+ acres** of land and **379,000+ linear feet** of rivers/streams protected

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.



Don't be Salty!



Winter is on its way and that means snow, ice, and, of course, salt! Road salt is used to keep our roads, sidewalks, and driveways ice-free for safety and easier transportation in the cold months. Road salt is not just good ole' table salt, but a blend of rock salt, heavy metals, and other contaminants that can be harmful to people, pets, and the environment when excessively applied. Learn more about road salt and what you can do to keep you and your family (including the furry ones) safe this winter.

What can excessive road salt application lead to?

- Entry into stormwater system or natural water bodies
- Wildlife feet can be injured, and ingestion for certain species may have a negative impact on their health.

- Runoff carries the salt into stream, which may negatively impact aquatic plants and animals.

What can you do about it?

- Be conscientious of the amount of salt used, or if application is necessary or if you can shovel
- Use alternatives that contain less harmful compounds and chemicals
- Protect your pets and personal items by cleaning them off after being outside

Congratulations to Jeff Baker for Being Re-elected to the Board of Supervisors

We are happy to announce this years elected Board Supervisor, Jeff Baker, who will serve for a 3-year term.

Jeff Baker is a Newark resident and retired Science Teacher at the Alpha School in Perry County. With degrees in biology, marketing, business management, and teaching, Jeff brings a strong blend of science and leadership to the role. He previously served on the Board from 2015–2017 and was appointed to fulfill an open seat in January 2025. Jeff is passionate about increasing community awareness of water pollution issues and building stronger public support for Licking Soil & Water's mission.

We look forward to seeing what he does this term, and congratulations!



Call Before You Cut

Are you interested in harvesting your woods? Creating a wildlife area? Designing a park-like feel on your own property? Local Foresters are able to help you create a plan that best fits your desires.

Keep these things in mind:

- Be aware of scams. Many people will attempt to offer you a low price and not the true value of your trees.

- Ensure your resource is reputable and check the call before you cut website.
- Know your objectives, why do you want to harvest? Forest health, profit, safety? A professional forester will help you reach your goals.
- Be knowledgeable about the value of your woods and have an inventory. It is important to work closely with your forester and logger on your plan.
- Contact a local forester for more information and start the harvest process.

To find a forester, go to www.callbeforeyoucut.com. The Licking County ODNR Service Forester is Adam Komar.

Contact him at Adam.Komar@dnr.ohio.gov or (740) 961-0194.



[Celebrate World Soils Day with a Soil Program!](#)

Join us in celebrating World Soil Day this December! World Soil Day occurs on December 5th every year to help raise awareness of the importance of soils and sustainable soil management practices.

Soil is a vital part of our ecosystem. It is estimated that 95% of our food is either directly or indirectly produced in our soils. Soil is also the foundation upon which we build infrastructure. It's kind of a big deal!



If we do not treat our soils properly, they can become eroded or degraded to the point where they are no longer able to support crops. Schedule a program now to help your students learn about the importance of soil for World Soil Day!

- [Soil Soup](#) - an introduction to the components of soil and soil's importance.
- [Soil Sampling](#) - a dive into the physical and chemical aspects of soil.
- [Erosion Simulator](#) - an introduction (or review) of the basic concepts of weathering, erosion, and deposition with an interactive demonstration to predict and observe the effects of soil erosion.

To schedule a soil program, please complete a [Program Request](#) or contact Deirdre Wise at DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com

Important Dates

Dec 3	Energy Efficiency Day
Dec 4	Wildlife Conservation Day
Dec 5	World Soil Day
Dec 14	National Energy Conservation Day
Dec 16	Soil & Water Monthly Board Meeting
Dec 19	South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Annual Meeting
Dec 25	Christmas Day - Offices Closed
Jan 1	New Year's Day - Offices Closed
Jan 5	Tree Sale catalog opens online
Jan 7	Energy Efficiency Day

*Events require an RSVP

Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!

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



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