



Highlights from the Soil & Water Annual Banquet



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Licking County Soil & Water Annual Banquet. It was a great night of celebrating the conservation efforts in our community.

We got to show off our new Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox sponsored by Amazon, tour the Octagon Earthworks Mounds, and present awards to very deserving individuals!

- Cooperator of the Year - Bill Hoskinson

- Educator of the Year - Caleb Hickman
- Volunteer of the Year - Amy Vohsing
- FFA 1st Place Urban Team - Utica High School
- FFA 1st Place Rural Team - Utica High School
- FFA 1st Place Urban Individual - Austin Atherton
- FFA 1st Place Rural Individual - Benjamin Rudolph

Thank you all for helping to conserve natural resources and inspire others!

[Learn more about our award winners.](#)

2025 Soil Health Week

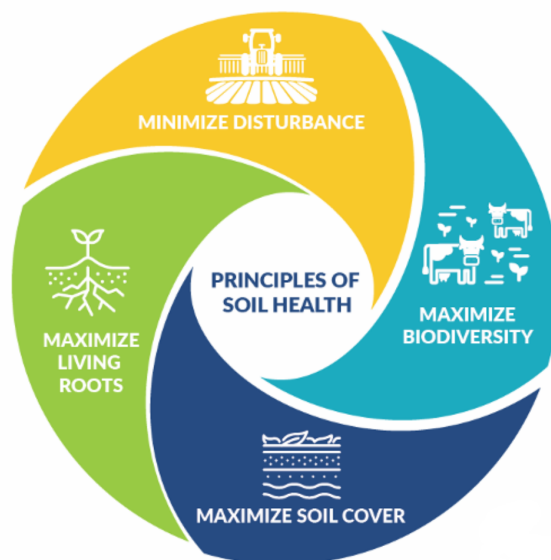
Please come join Licking SWCD and OSU Ext soil health event this Nov. 13 th at 8am. If you are interested in learning more about soil health, different ideas on how to protect soil, and hear from local producers this is the event for you. There will be 3-4 Licking Co farmers coming to share their thoughts on soil health, different farming methods used, programs they're involved in, and their overall operation.

The main principles for managing soil health are:

- Maximize presence of living roots
- Minimize disturbance
- Maximize soil cover
- Maximize biodiversity

Free Breakfast will be included, and will fulfill recertification credits for Certified Ohio Fertilizer Applicators!

[RSVP Here!](#)



How to Winterize Your Rain Barrel



It is so important to winterize your rain barrels! If you do not, that could inevitably lead to you damaging or destroying your barrel.

These easy steps ensure your rain barrel will last.

1. Drain your barrel. Try to utilize the water that is remaining on things such as indoor plants!
2. Detach barrel from downspout.
3. Remove lid, spigot, hose, and tubing. This prevents damage to attachments!
4. Reattach gutter. Water will continue to drain through the gutter like normal!

You will want to store your barrel inside where it will be protected from the elements.

Milkweed Seed Pod Collection

The monarch butterfly population has decreased 33% since 2009. They are now proposed to be added to the threatened species list under the Endangered Species Act. What can you do to help?

Collecting milkweed seed pods, to then pass out to the community is a great way to start. Milkweed is the main host plant for monarch butterflies, which is why having the plants available is important.

Creating small pockets of natural areas, especially with milkweed plants, ensures that monarchs have landing spots to refuel during their long migration.



- Make sure you put them in paper bags only!
- Do not put them in the collection bin free-floating!
- Do not put them in a plastic bag!

We will be collecting milkweed seed pods through November 7th this year, so make sure to drop off soon!



Biggest Find this Year at the 30th River Roundup

What's the craziest thing we found during the 30th [River Roundup](#)? A Truck!

At Riverview Reserve, some community members found an abandoned truck. Some may not think of the environmental effects that could come from abandoning a car near a water source... but there are plenty!

Cars and trucks contain many **dangerous contaminants** such as:

- Gas
- Oil
- Broken glass
- Battery acid.

In fact, this specific truck left behind a visible oil spill in the river after being pulled out.

River Roundup is such an important event to the community for these reasons! By picking up trash, tires, and even trucks, we are helping to remove contaminants from ecosystems and our community.

Want to Have Color in your Rain Gardens for Fall?



Big Bluestem

Burgundy color

Full-Sun

4-8' tall; 2-3' wide

Dry/Medium moisture



Tickseed Sunflower

Yellow

Full-Sun/Part-Shade

2-4' tall; 1-2' wide

Medium wet/Wet moisture



Smooth Aster

Lavender/Light Blue

Full-Sun/Part-Shade

2-4' tall; 1-2' wide

Dry/Medium/Moist



Obedient Plant

Pink

Full-Sun/Part-Shade

2-3' tall; 18" wide

Dry/Medium/Moist

- Nov 5 Energy Efficiency Day**
- Nov 9-15 Soil Health Week**
- Nov 11 Veterans Day - Offices Closed**
- Nov 13 Soil Health Week Event ***
- Nov 15 America Recycles Day**
- Nov 18 Soil & Water Board Meeting**
- Nov 25 South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Meeting**
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day - Offices Closed**
- Dec 3 Energy Efficiency Day**
- Dec 4 Wildlife Conservation Day**
- Dec 5 World Soil Day**
- Dec 10 Soil & Water Board Meeting**

*Events require an RSVP

Due to the FEDERAL government shut down, our USDA partners and NRCS are currently CLOSED until further notice. FSA is now open to the public. Soil & Water is a local government agency and will remain open during our regular office hours, 8 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday. We are closed for federal holidays.

[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



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