

## Ag. Tech Job Announcement

Unfortunately, our current Technician, Brent, will be moving out of the state in November, so we are looking for an Ag Technician to join our team!

The District Technician coordinates and provides assistance for the agriculture community and rural landowners regarding soil health, conservation practices, water quality initiatives, and forestry management. The position will offer technical assistance to put conservation practices on the ground by working with federal, state, and local government entities, farmers, and rural landowners. Must be customer service oriented, willing to work in the office and in the field, and be team-oriented.

[Click](#) for the full job description.



## Get Out and Vote!

### **2023 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.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024.

## Meet the Candidates

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



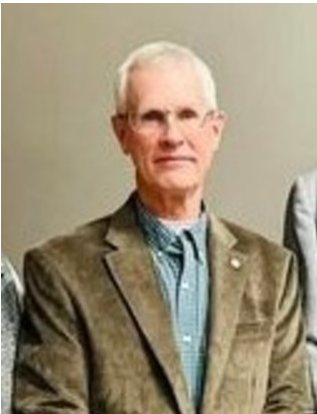
**Kevin Black:**

Licking County Planning Commission Board Member, small farm owner with previously owned cattle, chickens, and hay.



**Kimberly Byce (Incumbent):**

Permaculture Design Certificate holder, member of Denison Sustainability Committee, member of OEFFA, member of AASHE, member of Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Granville Parent Co-op Preschool, League of Women Voters, and Columbus Arts Festival.



**Bill Goodman (Incumbent):**

Current member of the Licking County Soil & Water Board. Also, currently a member of the State of Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Board. Served on the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board for ODA in the late 1980's. Member of the Highwater UCC north of Granville. Member of the Licking County Professional Agrarian Club. Member of Licking County Farm Bureau. Member of Bennington Township Board of Zoning Appeals.

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## Where to Vote

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 Supervisors.

Cast a ballot at the Soil & Water office from October 2, 2023, until October 31, 2023, during normal business hours.

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## Thank you River Round Up Volunteers and

## Sponsors!

The Licking County River Round Up is an annual, county-wide river cleanup event in September on the Saturday after Labor Day. This community event brings out hundreds of volunteers who pull tires, shopping carts, and mountains of trash from the Licking River and its tributaries.

Totals have been tallied:

**Trash to landfill: 25,320 pounds**

**Tires: 120**

**Scrap metal: 1,160 pounds**

A heartfelt Thank You goes out to everyone for your support in making the 2023 River Round Up a huge success! We couldn't have done this without the 240 wonderful volunteers at 13 locations across the county and dedicated committee members!



- A special Thank You to our sponsors, without them this event wouldn't be possible.-

**Presenting Sponsor: Shackleford Disposal**

**Platinum Sponsors:** Amazon Web Services, Newark Rotary Club

**Gold Sponsors:** Intel Corporation, Matesich Distributing, Open Roads Renewables, Leeward Energy, V3 Companies

**Silver Sponsors:** Granville Kiwanis, The Dawes Arboretum, Village of Granville, The Grove by the River/Goodwill Industries, City of Heath, Village of Hebron, Licking County Health Dept., Licking County Recycling, Soil & Water Conservation District, Licking Park District, City of Newark Stormwater Utility, City of Pataskala, Union Township, State Industrial, Grace Services, RES

**Bronze Sponsors:** The Safety Company, LLC, Verdantas, ms consultants, GT Tire, Pataskala Dari Hut, Zane State College, Affordable Portables, Licking County Planning, Licking County Engineer, JEO Consulting



## 2023 Award Winners!

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Banquet this past month. We recognize an educator and a cooperator of the year during our banquet. The educator of the year was The Works, and our cooperator was Learning 4 Life Farms!

**The Works Educator of the Year-** The Works provides nature-based programming for bird nests to solar power, pollinators, and introductions to animals. Their facilities are home to incredible nature-based opportunities. We collaborated with The Works on Curious Kids: Create, discover, and get hands-on with a different art or science-themed activity each week. The Works also held programming with us at the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area.



**Learning 4 Life Farms Cooperator of the Year-** Learning 4 Life Farm is a 7-acre job training farm in Johnstown, Ohio with gardens and therapy alpacas for teens and young adults on the autism spectrum and related disabilities. Licking County Soil & Water has collaborated with Learning 4 Life Farm from the beginning, providing assistance with a heated hoop house, high tunnel, pollinator habitat, rain garden design and installation, pasture fencing, watering facilities for the alpacas, a Conservation Stewardship program, and cover crops.



### **FFA Soil Judging Contest Winners**

The FFA Soil Judging Contest is designed to educate high school students on how to evaluate soil for both Urban and Rural use.

2023 Licking County District Winners:

Agricultural Individual: Gracie Cyphers (Utica)

Agricultural Team: Utica FFA

Urban Individual: Callie Baker (Utica)

Urban Team: Utica FFA

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## **Milkweed Pod Collection**

**Collection until November 12th!**

Once again Licking Soil & Water is participating in milkweed seed pod collection and we need your help. 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 this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts even better by following these simple tips!



Pods should be dry, gray, or brown in color.

It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS!

1. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, it can be harvested.
2. Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
3. Please put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
4. Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.

Drop off your Milkweed pods at our office! For drop off, please place pods in a paper bag and MARK bags with Licking County, date/time, and species of milkweed. The collection bin is located outside the front of our office. 771 East Main Street, Newark, OH 43055.

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**Leave the salt on food, not**



## sidewalks this winter

Using salt in the winter months of Ohio is necessary and prevents accidents and keeps us safe, but there's such a thing as too much salt. Salt can adversely affect our rivers and streams. If our freshwater sources have too much sodium it is harmful to people and high chloride levels are

toxic to fish and aquatic life. When excess salt runs off our roads it eventually ends up in our drinking water sources.

There are solutions! Here are some tips and tricks for using less salt this winter.

- **Shovel early & often-** Remove snow early and prevent ice from forming
- **Consider Green Alternatives-** Add biodegradable substances to the salt mixture like sand, beet juice, pickle juice, and molasses. These salt additives lower the freezing point of water, slowing down the formation of ice; they also aid in traction and make the solution stickier so less salt gets splashed off the roads and wasted.
- **Go easy!-** Scatter, use salt only where it's critical
- **Sweep-** At the end of a weather event, sweep and collect any sand, salt, or undissolved deicer.
- **Know when to treat-** Deicers and salt are not meant to replace the work of shoveling. They are meant to loosen ice so it can be shoveled away
  - **Check the temperature and weather conditions** – Let the sun be your friend! It can do the work for you. If temperatures are expected to rise, deicers or salt may not be needed.
  - **Choose wisely** – Weather conditions can change the effectiveness of certain deicers. Check that your deicer is designed to work for the current temperature and conditions. Only apply to surfaces that are already icy. When pavement temperatures drop below 15°, salt doesn't melt ice.

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## Important Dates

Oct 1-30: Soil & Water Board Election

Nov 10: Office closed- Veteran's Day

Nov 14: Soil & Water Board Meeting

Nov 23: Office closed- Thanksgiving Day

Nov 28: South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Directors Meeting

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