

ODA Updates

Calendar Overview

- November 4 th	Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) Meeting
- Nov. 5 th & 6 th	TDP – Livestock Watering Facilities
- November 6 th	ADA Website Compliance Virtual Training (10 am)
- Nov. 12 th & 13 th	Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) Annual Conference
- November 19 th	OASWCDE Leadership Training
- November 20 th	Board Works – Partnerships, 6 pm (Virtual)
- December 2 nd	Area 1 Winter Meeting-Old Mill Stream Center (Hancock Co.)
- December 3 rd	Area 2 Winter Meeting-Williams on the Lake (Medina Co.)
- December 8 th	Area 4 Winter Meeting-Der Dutchman (Union Co.)
- December 9 th	Area 3 Winter Meeting-Pritchard Laughlin Center (Guernsey Co.)
- December 10 th	Area 5 Winter Meeting-Emmett Chapel (Pickaway Co.)
- January 6 th	ADP – Review 2026 Resources & Reminders, 1pm (Virtual)
- January 29 th	ADP – Cash Basis - Work Session, 9am (Reynoldsburg)
- March 4 th	ADP – Review Supervisor Election material, 1pm (Virtual)
- Feb. 9 th -11 th	OFSWCD Partnership Meeting (Columbus)

Updates & Reminders

Soil Health Week House bill 65, the Agriculture Appreciation Act passed the Ohio legislature and was signed into law July 1, 2025. This legislation codifies several important agriculture days into state law, including **Ohio Soil Health Week**, which is celebrated during the second full week of November 10-16th 2025, with the Wednesday of that week designated as Ohio Soil Health Day.

This designation also honors the late Dave Brandt whose birthday falls within that week. The week will feature various events and activities around Ohio, raising awareness about the importance of healthy soil and its impacts on agriculture, water, and natural resources. Be on the lookout for ODA social media posts during soil health week. Throughout the week we hope to feature why soil health is important for all Ohioans.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Website Compliance - In April 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice published a rule that sets technical requirements for state and local governments to follow making sure their websites, social media accounts, and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities. Working with OSU Extension a virtual training has been scheduled for **November 6th at 10:00 am** to provide an overview of the rule and what it means regarding website management. The following link provides additional insight into the rule <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/> or to join the training on November 6th at 10:00 am click the following link. [ADA Website Compliance Overview](#)

Drought Impacts- While much of the state has received some much-needed rain, dry weather is still in the forecast. As drought conditions persist across the NW part of the state, you can contribute real time conditions and data through a national database. Citizen science contributions for current drought conditions in your area are very helpful and can be made by utilizing the [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\) System](#). This can be a helpful tool to help capture the real-time conditions that are occurring locally in your area.

1099's - If you do not utilize an accountant, and you have not yet ordered forms, make sure to visit <https://apps.irs.gov/app/taxmat/information-employer-returns/>. Don't forget to also order form 1096 which is required for submission of the 1099 forms to the IRS. If you are a District that participated in the drought program, those 1099's have already been completed by an outside accounting firm.

There are three primary types that you may need:

- 1). 1099-G - For all landowners that received payments for MWCD, H2Ohio, 299, or any other conservation related type of government payments issued by the SWCD.
- 2). 1099-NEC - Issued for non-employee compensation. This would be for services provided to your district. For example: subcontractor, potentially a no till drill contract employee, caterer, or attorney fees.

3). 1099-Misc This should be used for payments such as rent and prizes/awards.

Auditor of State Bulletins – The Auditor of State’s office recently released a few bulletins that may affect your district. Bulletin 2025-012 addresses an Ohio Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion 2025-02 addressing frequent flyer miles, other rewards, and discount programs. Bulletin 2025-013 addresses reimbursement of sales tax by tax exempt public offices. Click on these the following links to view the bulletins: [2025-012](#) [2025-013](#). Bulletin 2025-007 addresses requirements for cybersecurity <https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/bulletins/2025/2025-007.pdf>

New Staff – Please welcome Jeff Giesige to our ODA-DSWC Staff. Jeff started this past Monday and will be working in NW Ohio on H2Ohio as a H2Ohio Nutrient Management Specialist. Jeff is a familiar face to many and spent the last 20 years as a District Technician with Putnam SWCD. He lives in Putnam County with his wife Kimberly and three children. He has a small grain farm, raises beef cattle and keeps honeybees. He enjoys working outdoors, spending time in nature and attending his children’s sporting events

Training and Development

Board Works Training Series – As a continuation of the state-wide initiative to provide virtual training opportunities to Supervisors, the final training in the 2025 series will be on **November 20th** – at 6pm (Virtual) focusing on Partnerships. The link to join will be sent to board members and administrators prior to the training or you can join by clicking this link: [Board Works - Partnerships | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)
Plans are underway to continue the Board Works Training Series in 2026.

Ohio Educator Workshop – Seventy-five people attended the 4th annual Ohio SWCD Educator’s workshop on October 22nd and 23rd at Mohican State Park Lodge and Conference Center. Educators participated in a variety of workshops that included classroom presentations, in-field and hands-on learning opportunities along with idea sharing and information on current topics. On the afternoon before the workshop, B.J. Price from Preble County presented an excellent soils training for over forty district staff. The 2026 Educator’s Workshop will be moving to Salt Fork State Park in Area 3 on October 21-22, 2026.

Technician Development Program (TDP)-: The 2026 TDP courses will be announced in January, and registration will be available through the normal TDP website at that time.

Administrative Development Program (ADP) – The following topics and dates are planned for ADP in 2026.

Date	Topic	Location		Date	Topic	Location
Jan. 6 th	Resources & Reminders	Virtual		August 4 th	Intro to Grant Seeking & Management	Reynoldsburg
Jan. 29 th	Cash Basis - Work Session	Reynoldsburg		TBD	Urban Administration and Programming	Reynoldsburg
March 4 th	SWCD Supervisor Elections	Virtual		Sept. 29 th	Cyber Security & AI	Reynoldsburg
May 7 th	Policies/Handbooks	Reynoldsburg		Oct. 22 nd	Hiring Smart & Employee Onboarding	Reynoldsburg
June 24 th	Outreach/Marketing	Reynoldsburg		Nov. 4 th	AOS Updates & Budget Planning/Management	Reynoldsburg

The link to register for the ADP training opportunities will be in the December Monthly Update.

End-of-Year Friendly Reminders:

- As you finish District staff and Board Supervisor evaluations, sample documents and tools can be found in the HR toolkit on the OFSWCD website. User Name: **member-resources** Password: **S0il-W4ter-Fed**
- Please start reviewing Beehive technical and education events to ensure all information is entered for end of year queries, due January 30, 2026.
- Please review and update policy manuals and annual plans of work for 2026 Board approval.
- Please submit necessary Notice of Exemptions from CPIM Training if you have done so in this calendar year. Additional information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Programs

Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) Conference November 12-13th

Location: Marriot Columbus NW, 5605 Blazer Pkwy Dublin, Ohio

Description: The WMAO Annual Conference is a two-day conference of plenary sessions, contributed papers, poster presentations, and networking events focused on all aspects of Ohio's water resources. The conference brings professionals from across the state and is an excellent opportunity to learn, connect, and share information. Registration link:

https://wmao.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=259593&module_id=350265

Watershed Program - Reminder to check the [Funding Opportunities Page](#) which is frequently updated as new information about grants becomes available.

Conservation Ditch Program- Now accepting applications for 2025 in all 88 counties. The deadline for applications is **June 1st, 2026**. This year's rules are identical to 2024 with one major exception: applications will be reviewed individually on a first-come-first-serve basis until the deadline or until funding runs out (whichever comes first). So, don't wait too long to apply if you have a good project! We are not hosting a rollout webinar this year, but you can view the 2024 rollout webinar at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2pXayxvNy8>. Or, contact justin.mcbride@agri.ohio.gov for more details. Application forms can be found at <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/soil-and-water-conservation/resources/ODA-Announces-Statewide-H2Ohio-Conservation-Ditch-Program>.

Statewide H2Ohio Program - We are working on the details of an extension opportunity for currently enrolled participants in the statewide H2Ohio program. Please note that if your soil tests are older than 4 years, they will need to be updated before signing an extension. More information will be provided in the coming months. We extend our gratitude to all the SWCDs and Boards for their continued support of the H2Ohio initiative.

WLEB Field Enrollments - Field enrollments in the 24-county Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) project area have surpassed 2 million acres. Specifically, the 10-county WLEB project area has reached just below 800,000 acres in enrollments, which concluded in September. The 14-county Maumee project area is on track to finish by October 31, 2025. As of the time of this publication, we have enrolled 1.4 million acres toward our goal of 1.5 million acres. In the coming months and into winter, SWCD's will focus on verifying Best Management Practices (BMP) for previous contracts and developing Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMP).

Partnerships

OSWCC

The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2025. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov.

OFSWCD

- **Area Winter meetings** are coming up soon. Please use the links below or log onto the OFSWCD.org website to register, we hope to see you there! (if you register more than 5-times, you could receive an error, so contact Janelle Mead at jtmead@ofswcd.org if you encounter these issues)
- Districts paying by check should choose the "Pay Later" option, and either mail the check to the OFSWCD office at 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 or bring it with you to the meeting.
 - December 2nd – Area 1 Winter Meeting – Old Mill Stream Center (Hancock Co.)
- <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/02/area-1-winter-meeting/540674>
 - December 3rd – Area 2 Winter Meeting – Williams on the Lake (Medina Co.)
- <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/03/area-2-winter-meeting/540680>
 - December 8th – Area 4 Winter Meeting – Der Dutchman (Union Co.)
- <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/08/area-4-winter-meeting/540682>
 - December 9th – Area 3 Winter Meeting – Pritchard Laughlin Center (Guernsey Co.)
- <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/09/area-3-winter-meeting/541206>
 - December 10th – Area 5 Winter Meeting – Emmett Chapel (Pickaway Co.)
- <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/10/area-5-winter-meeting/540683>
- **Annual Partnership Meeting, February 9-11, 2026**, at the Hilton Columbus – Downtown. This is not a budget year so we will not have a delegate session.
 - Award Applications for Urban, Teacher, District of the Year and Supervisor Hall of Fame are due to Janelle by December 19th to be considered.
 - The OFSWCD will honor supervisors and staff for years of service in 10-year increments – 10, 20, 30, 40 etc. Please contact Janelle with names of those that qualify by December 19th.
- **Summer Supervisor School 2026 – July 26-28, 2026**, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark.

OASWCDE

- The next OASWCDE Leadership Training will be held on November 19th. If you are a member of OASWCDE, there is no cost to attend. Registration and information can be found on the OASWCDE website; <https://www.oaswcde.org/leadership-webinars.html>.
- Nominations for SWCD employee and SWCD Board Member of the Year are due to OASWCDE by November 21st.
- Sherry West Memorial Scholarship Applications are due November 21st, <https://www.oaswcde.org/scholarships.html>
- The **National Conservation Outstanding District Professional and District Board Member awards** are sponsored by NCDEA. They are awarded annually to recognize professionalism and dedication in the people behind the nation's conservation district programs. Please contact one of your Ohio Employee Association Reps for the Application.