

# Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News August 2021

## Apply for H2Ohio by August 31, 2021

### About H2Ohio

**H2Ohio** is a new, state-wide **water quality program** that offers monetary incentives to farmers/producers for implementing **conservation-focused best management practices (BMPs)**. The aim is to encourage producers within the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) to adopt practices that will help decrease phosphorus runoff from agricultural land. Lake Erie has been the focus of this project due to the **harmful algal blooms** that have occurred there. In 2020, the H2Ohio program was rolled out to fourteen counties within the WLEB. This year, Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Agriculture is rolling out H2Ohio to the remaining ten counties within the WLEB. **Richland County is one of them!**



### What is H2Ohio?

A suite of data driven **BMPs** make up the program, **three of which are available** for you to enroll in through **August 31, 2021** (Phase 1) and they focus on **developing a nutrient management plan, establishing cover crops, and rotating crops**. The additional practices will be available in 2022 (Phase 2) and focus on **the implementation of the nutrient management plan, manure/fertilizer placement and rate, and drainage water management**.

### Why it Matters

H2Ohio is a **voluntary program** that offers incentives to farmers who meet the requirements for the specific BMPs. In addition to the incentives, producers have the opportunity through H2Ohio to participate in the **stewardship of their natural resources**, as well as the resources of Ohioans next door or downstream. Again, the goal of the program to **decrease nutrient runoff from farmland**. Additionally, the H2Ohio practices may assist in increasing soil health, conserving soil nutrients, and providing opportunities to try things a little differently.

Learn more about the incentives and details of H2Ohio at the following in-person meetings:

### **H2Ohio Informational Meeting for Farmers at the Fair**

Thursday, August 12 at 7:30 a.m.

Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park Stage

Meet with [Jordan Keller](#) and [Evan Stern](#) of Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and a representative from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Coffee and donuts will be available. Admission to the Fair is not included.

**H2Ohio Informational Meeting for Agriculture Service Providers, 4R Certified Providers, CCAs and Agronomists**

Tuesday, August 17 at 8:00 a.m.

The Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield

Meet with Richland, Crawford and Huron Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives

**During the Richland County Fair**

Monday thru Friday, August 9 to 13, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Nature Park Exhibit Area

Contact Jordan or Evan anytime to set up a personal meeting!

Jordan: 419-747-8688 or [keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net](mailto:keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net)

Evan: 419-774-7890 or [stern.evan@richlandswcd.net](mailto:stern.evan@richlandswcd.net)

## Richland County Fair



Stop and see us at the Richland County Fair Monday through Friday, August 9 to 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Nature Park.

Enter the Only Rain Down the Drain Contest for a chance to win a Coleman Cooler and Hydro Cups, Bird Feeder and Bird Seed or a Tree Sling all

donated by Meijer, the contest sponsor.

Kids will have fun making and wearing a farm animal headband. On Wednesday, Kid's Day, are invited to join in the scavenger hunt at the Nature park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a chance to win great prizes. Entries will be put into a drawing for three different prizes drawn at 12 noon, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Stop by the informational displays on Only Rain Down the Drain, H2Ohio and Cover Crops.

On Tuesday, August 10 at 3:00 p.m. stop by the Nature Park stage to hear Matt Wallace, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District Technician's program on Cover Crops - What They are and Their Benefits.

While at the Nature Park, stop by our partner's booths for information about gardening, recycling, litter prevention, turtles, snakes and bees.

Every night at 7:00 p.m. there will be live music at the Nature Park Stage and Monday through Friday, there will be programs about conservation, wildlife, agriculture and the environment. [Click here](#) for a schedule of Nature Park Stage events.

## Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshop



Join Richland Soil and Water Conservation District for a Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshop Tuesday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m. at The Cove Coffee Shop and Pizza Company. The workshop is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, though, so we ask you to make a [reservation](#) by August 29. The workshop flyer is available [here](#).

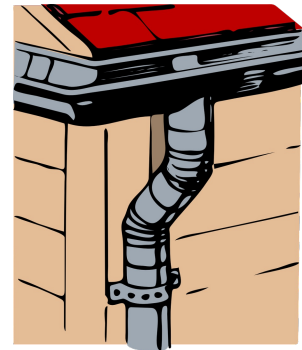
Workshop participants will learn about rain barrels, rain gardens and the benefits of each. Information on how to purchase a rain barrel through Richland Soil and Water Conservation District will be available.

Thanks to The Cove for providing the workshop space.

## Only Rain Down the Drain: Directing Downspouts

This month's [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) tip is about how to direct downspouts.

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes, Lake Erie or the Ohio River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico so we want to do everything we can to keep them clear of debris, litter, and pollutants.



Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.

1. When the pavement is hot this will help to decrease the water temperature. The decreased water temperature will be better for the fish, wildlife and other organisms that live in our waterways. Cooler water also has more oxygen in it.
2. Auto chemicals that are sitting on your driveway, roads or sidewalk can find its way to our local waterways and be potentially fatal to fish and wildlife.
3. Road salt that is applied during the winter months can increase the salinity of freshwater streams. Once this salt is on your vehicle you should take it to a carwash where the wastewater is treated rather than going directly into a storm drain.
4. Downspouts without a proper outlet like a splash blocks or rip rap could cause major erosion concerns.
5. Chloride can contaminate drinking water in which there is no treatment for this chemical.
6. Check cars for leaks and recycle motor oil.

To find out more about Only Rain Down the Drain and the MS4 program, contact [Dan](#) or visit the MS4 page on the [website](#).

## Volunteers



Volunteers have been helping at events, continue to monitor precipitation, streams and lakes. Thanks to Dennis and Denise Tenison, lake monitor volunteers, for coordinating putting up a lake level measure stick at Clear Fork Reservoir. Since the United States Geological Service is no longer operating a gauge at Clear Fork, volunteers needed a way to measure the lake level. The Tenison's purchased a metal stake and yard stick and helped get it installed. We were grateful for their help! To look at volunteer data, please visit

the [Water Data Map](#).

## Farm Science Review Bus Trip

Join Richland Soil and Water Conservation District on a bus trip to Farm Science Review and leave the driving and parking to someone else! The Farm Science Review is the premier agriculture, conservation and educational event of the year. The cost is \$20.00 per person and seating is limited to 40 people. More details and a registration form may be found [here](#).



## Intern Update from Mary



My name is Mary Thomas and I am the 2021 Summer Intern for Richland Soil and Water Conservation District.

I have had a blast working for this district and I've gotten to do so many cool things.

Being a communications intern, my work mainly consists of helping manage social media, planning and

setting up for events as well as attending them, working with our technicians to share the programs they're working on and their updates, and connecting with the community to get more involved. I work under Theresa Sutter, our



Community Relations Coordinator, and she has been an awesome advisor. I have learned so much from her about working with other businesses and districts. I've also been able to be a part of so many events and activities that have not only been fun but have allowed me to connect with the community too.

One of my favorite events I've helped plan and attend so far was the Pollinator Festival at Gorman Nature Center that just happened on July 31 and August 1. I loved talking to everyone I met. The day was beautiful, people were in a good mood, and I had a ton of fun with our activities! I made milkweed seed bombs with visitors as well as gave away the plush bees we had. I was also able to give a few of our visitors pollinator posters.. I enjoyed seeing all the smiles on the visitors faces and loved talking to everyone that came.

As the year goes on and I start college at Ohio State University in the fall, I hope to still be able to work as an intern and help with future events. If plans change, I hope to still help as a volunteer. I love the environment and staff of Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, and the impact made on the community has been such as amazing experience.

## Important Dates

**August 5:** [Black Fork Ditch Petition Meeting](#), 6:30 p.m., Longview Center

**August 8 to 15:** [Richland County Fair](#)

**August 12:** [H2Ohio Meeting for Farmers](#), 7:30 a.m., Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park

**August 17:** [H2Ohio Meeting for Agriculture Service Providers](#), 8:00 a.m., Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield

**August 20:** [Board Supervisor candidate nominations due](#)

**August 25:** OSU Involvement and Community Fair

**August 31:** [Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshop](#), 6:00 p.m., The Cove Coffee Company and Pizza Shop, 325 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario

**August 31:** [Last day to apply for H2Ohio](#)

**August 31:** [Last day for Board Supervisor petition candidates to submit their completed petition](#)

**September 15 - 18:** Bellville Street Fair

**September 22:** Bus trip to [Farm Science Review](#), \$20 per person

**October 5 to November 3:** [Board Supervisor Elections](#)

**Erica Thomas, District Administrator**

419-747-8684

[thomas.ERICA@richlandswcd.net](mailto:thomas.ERICA@richlandswcd.net)

**Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician**

419-747-8077

[herrold.dan@richlandswcd.net](mailto:herrold.dan@richlandswcd.net)

**Jordan Keller, Urban Technician**

419-747-8688

[keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net](mailto:keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net)

**Evan Stern**

**H2Ohio Stormwater Technician**

419-747-8367

[stern.evean@richlandswcd.net](mailto:stern.evean@richlandswcd.net)

**Theresa Sutter, Community**

**Relations Coordinator**

419-747-8685

[sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net](mailto:sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net)

**Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician**

419-747-8687

[wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net](mailto:wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net)

#### **NRCS Staff**

**Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist**

419-747-8691

[jason.ruhl@usda.gov](mailto:jason.ruhl@usda.gov)

**Noah Cable, Farm Bill Biologist**

419-707-2940

[ncable@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:ncable@pheasantsforever.org)

**Fred Cooke, Treasurer**

**Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large**

**Lanny Hopkins, Secretary**

**David Krichbaum, Vice Chair**

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

To be more efficient in answering and managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office. Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

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RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906  
419.747.8686 | [www.RichlandSWCD.net](http://www.RichlandSWCD.net)

See what's happening on our social sites:



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For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.

