



# Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

July 2019

## Welcome, Jordan!



Richland SWCD is growing! Dan Herrold, the Urban Technician who was hired in January 2019, has been reassigned to new job responsibilities as the newly created MS4/Urban Technician. An Ohio EPA inspection last fall of 2018 found 4 townships in Richland County to be out of compliance with the MS4/NPDES program, so bringing Richland County into compliance with the MS4 program has become a high priority for Richland SWCD and Dan will be responsible for making that happen! The townships are Madison, Mifflin, Springfield and Washington. The MS4 program is a mandated, unfunded EPA program. To find out more about the MS4 program and it's requirements please go [here](#) or contact [Dan](#).

Thanks to the generous support of the Richland County Commissioners and an increase for state matching funds from Ohio Department of Agriculture, Jordan Keller was hired and joined our Richland SWCD staff as a new Urban Technician at the end of June. He will primarily be responsible for managing the [stormwater permit program](#) for urban areas in Richland County. Jordan will also be coordinating watershed-based planning and is looking forward to collaborating with other groups in Richland County in his efforts. Richland Soil and Water Conservation District thanks the Commissioners and everyone involved in the decision process for their support.

Please stop in the office and introduce yourself to Jordan.

## Meet Us at the Fair!

While at the Richland County Fair stop and visit us, volunteers and USDA-NRCS personnel at the Nature Park Monday through Friday, August 5 to 9, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

- Learn about the importance of stormwater management
- Learn how trees tell time and record events.
- Enter the Fish Contest for a chance to win great prizes donated by Meijer. The Third Place prize is a soft-sided cooler with insulated mug and kitchen towel. The Second Place prize is 2 Camp Chairs. The First Place prize is 3 fishing rods.
- Watch a demonstration of the Rainfall Simulator to see how land use affects what happens to stormwater. The "formal presentation will be held Tuesday, August 5 at 3:00 p.m., but we'll be demonstrating throughout the Fair.
- Pick-up free milkweed seed with planting instructions and a Monarchs and Milkweed Guide (while supplies last)

While at the Nature Park, stop and see our partners from Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, Richland County Master Gardener Volunteers, Gorman Nature-Richland County Park District, Richland Area Beekeepers Association, City of Mansfield Engineering Department, and ODNR-Division of Wildlife.

Enjoy a wildlife, garden or conservation program, weekdays, at 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. and evening entertainment. All Nature Park programs are free with admission to the Fair.

The Nature Park is located near the "Big Red Barn." Stroll through the native gardens or relax on a bench under the shade of a tree. The Nature Park is an oasis of natural beauty! The building will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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## New H2OHIO State-wide Water Quality Initiative Announced

The Ohio 2020 two-year operating budget includes a new \$86 million H2Ohio program. The H2Ohio funds will be aimed at protecting Lake Erie, other state waterways, and community water projects and will be divided between the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources to support the water quality improvement projects. Richland SWCD is excited to be part of the new H2Ohio program and opportunity to take a comprehensive look at Ohio's water quality challenges in Lake Erie and statewide. Richland County sits on the Continental Divide and has headwaters to 8 different watersheds that end up in both Lake Erie and the Gulf of Mexico, so what we can do to address water quality locally in Richland County can have far reaching benefits nationwide. Thank you to Senator Larry Obhof and Representative Mark Romanchuk for all their hard work on the state budget! More on the H2Ohio program can be found at [h2.ohio.gov](http://h2.ohio.gov).

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## Manure & You Workshop

**Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Buckeye Community Center

79 Noble Road East

Shiloh, OH 44878



Topics:

- Comparison of manure vs. commercial fertilizer value
- How to properly take soil and manure samples to assure accurate test results and how to read test results
- Review current Tri-State Fertilizer recommendations and learn how to calculate the correct amount of nutrients to apply to fields
- What are the benefits of a Nutrient Management Plan and how producers can create a Nutrient Management Plan that works for their farms
- Review NRCS-590 Standard plus proper manure application and temporary storage of manure
- Local Producer Q & A Panel
- Earn Certified Crop Adviser & Certified Livestock Manager Continuing Ed Units

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person, includes pizza lunch

Register by **Tuesday, August 13.** [Click here](#) for a registration form.

**Speakers:** Jason Hartschuh, OSU Extension, Clark Hutson, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Terry Mescher, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Matt Wallace, Richland SWCD, Jason Ruhl, USDA-NRCS, Ashland and Richland Counties.

**Local Producer Q & A Panel:** Carl Ayers, Dairy/Grain Producer; John Adams, Beef/Grain Producer, Christopher Winslow, Ohio Sea Grant

**CCA and CLAM credits will be available**

**Partners:** [USDA-NRCS, Ashland and Richland Counties](#) and [Ashland, Crawford, Huron](#) and [Richland Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#) and [ODA](#).

**Sponsors:** [Centerra Co-Op](#), [Country Metals](#), [East of Chicago](#), [FCBank](#), [Fackler Kubota Tractor](#), [Farm Credit Mid-America](#), Ohio Farm Bureau - [Crawford](#) and [Richland](#) Counties, [OSU Extension-Crawford County](#), [Putt Farms](#)

If you are interested in being a sponsor or putting up an informational table at the Manure & You workshop, please contact [Theresa](#).

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## What is Causing the Persistent Standing Water in My Yard?



With the summer being so rainy, we have had a number of questions regarding standing water in backyards. Here is one of the questions that came to us through the website:

"I have standing water in my yard. I have had my drain cleared, but it keeps coming back. I'm unsure if I have an underground spring or what. Looking for more info or help with this issue. Thanks."

Matt Wallace, Technician's response: "In years where we have excessive rainfall, especially this year, we will see our soils behave in ways that will make us scratch our heads. I have included a report that will explain more of the physical properties in the types of soil in your yard and how they would normally react to rainfall. However, when soils become so saturated that it starts becoming a limiting factor you will see water move laterally in the soil profile along a weak point/layer where there is a restrictive layer in the soil. The water will move along that path of least resistance until it can continue to the aquifer or breach the surface. I believe that this is the case in your situation and there are a couple of options the first being subsurface drainage to help remove the excess water, this option can be costly but effective. Another option is a broad based swale in your yard, this can have a significant up front cost but you can design it so that you can maintain it with the equipment that you have. The last option is that you watch this area and see how it reacts in the coming months, this will allow you to weigh your option and the cost to benefit ratio so that you can make a better decision for you and your property. There are usually a multitude of factors that contribute to these types of issues and there is usually not a silver bullet solution to any situation when it comes to water. If your site needs further investigation please do not hesitate to contact our office and we can work it into our schedule."

Thanks, Matt! Now we know!

Do you have a question for us? [Contact us!](#)

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## Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio Agribusiness Association are announcing the expansion of the [Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development](#) to all 4R Certified Nutrient Dealers in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Started as a pilot program with two 4R certified Nutrient Retail providers, the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development Program is a partnership with the Ohio Agribusiness Association, in which producers are reimbursed for nutrient management plans. The Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans will help to ensure that the 4R principles are put into place.



"The pilot program was a great success and is one more way to encourage farmers to

practice the 4R principles on their farms," said Director Pelanda. "We are proud to expand this program that helps farmers implement Nutrient Management Plans that work towards our common goals of soil and water conservation."

"Our members understand how important our role is helping farmers practice proper nutrient stewardship and the 4R's," said Chris Henney, President and CEO of the Ohio Agribusiness Association. "We're excited to be part of these programs and stand ready to help Northwest Ohio farmers."

Producers located in the Western Lake Erie Basin are encouraged to contact their local 4R Nutrient Certified dealers to learn more and sign up for the program.

For more information, contact [Matt](#), Richland SWCD Agriculture Technician.

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## Lake Erie CREP Program

The [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) or CREP, is a federal and state conservation partnership designed to address agriculture-related environmental concerns. Participants receive financial incentives from USDA to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive cropland or pastureland in contracts for 15 years. In return

for annual rental payments that average about \$154 per acre and financial incentives, participants convert the land to native grasses, trees and other conservation vegetation. Enrollment is on a continuous basis, as funding permits. Eligible land must be in the portion of the Lake Erie Watershed and must meet basic eligibility criteria for USDA's Conservation Reserve Program.

### **BONUS!!!**

- An additional \$200 per acre incentive will be provided for all newly enrolled filter strip and riparian area practices through **August 23, 2019**.

### **Benefits of Conservation Buffers:**

- Buffers provide another line of defense to filter surface water before it enters streams and water sources that contribute to nutrient loading to Lake Erie
  - Streambanks without buffers tend to be less stable and have higher erosion rates
  - Conservation buffers are a visual demonstration of your commitment to land stewardship
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## Cost Share Program Available for Western Lake Erie Basin Farmers



The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced a new [Ohio Working Lands](#) program funded by SB 299 to assist Western Lake Erie Basin farmers with improving water quality. In Richland County, these programs apply to farmers located in the Upper Sandusky Watershed.

The [Small Grains program](#) is a voluntary program that encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to plant small grains such as wheat, barley, oats

or cereal rye on eligible cropland. This program promotes the planting of small grains not only for the conservation benefits, but to provide livestock producers with a longer time period to land apply manure and nutrients. As the "working lands" name implies participants can plant and harvest small grains, land apply manure, and plant a cover crop to receive a cost-share payment to help offset operating costs. Livestock producers are encouraged to work with neighboring grain farmers that are able to utilize manure as a source of nutrients for their crops.

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## What's Happening in Your Watershed?

The weather has delayed Lake and Stream Monitoring to a certain extent, but for the most part, volunteers have been able to get out to collect data. Precipitation Monitors have been kept very busy except for the brief reprieve we had in the last week. To find out what has been happening in your watershed, please check out the [Water Data Map](#).

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### Tips to Help Keep Only Rain Down the Drain?

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes and the Ohio River.

Here are things we can do to make sure that there is “Only Rain Down the Drain”.

#### **Sweep up driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them with water.**

- a. An outdoor hose can use up to 20 – 30 gallons of water per minute.
- b. You will not have as many chemicals (antifreeze and oil just to name a couple) getting into the storm drains.
- c. Antifreeze kills fish when it reaches streams or any body of water.
- d. You will reduce (potentially contaminated) stormwater runoff.
- e. Using less water allows it to stay underground or in reservoirs which helps preserve wildlife and saves water for future use.
- f. Using a broom will help to give you some good exercise.



Learn more about managing stormwater at [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

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### Upcoming Activities

**August 4 to 10:** [Richland County Fair Nature Park Events](#)

**August 3 & 4:** [Pollinator Festival at Gorman Nature Center](#)

**Until August 9:** Food for Feds Collection Drive. Drop off non-perishable items to USDA-NRCS. We share an office suite with them.

**August 20:** [Manure & You Workshop](#)

**August 21:** OSU/NCSC Involvement & Community Fair; 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

**October 4:** [Fish orders due](#)

**October 11:** Fish pick up

**November 7:** Annual Celebration

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### Other News

[Mansfield Shade Tree Commission Heritage Tree Program](#)

[Be aware of what you're putting in your well](#)

[USDA declares August tree care month](#)

[Naturalist on Duty series](#)

[Mansfield Micro-farm booms thanks to community support](#)

### **SWCD Staff**

**Erica Thomas, District Administrator**  
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**Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician**  
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**Jordan Keller, Urban Technician**  
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**Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator**  
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**Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician**  
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### **NRCS Staff**

**Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist**  
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**Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist**  
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### **Board Supervisors**

Brian Alt, Chairperson  
Fred Cooke, Treasurer  
Lanny Hopkins, At Large  
Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.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.

### **NEW!!!**

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.

