

## Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News May 2021

### Black Fork Ditch Petition Area Viewed

On May 20 a public viewing was held of a portion of the Black Fork being considered for the Richland-Crawford Ditch Petition project. The following day there was a Virtual Viewing of the drone footage of the 18 mile stretch of the river. To learn more about the Ditch Petition process and see the drone footage of the proposed area, go to our [website](#).



### MWCD Cover Crop Program



nitrogen out of waterways.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District has teamed up again with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to offer a cost-share program to plant cover crops. Last year, the program assisted in getting cover crops on over 327 acres of Richland County farmland and resulted in 134 tons of soil from eroding into our streams, kept 211 pounds of phosphorous on the land and 420 pounds of

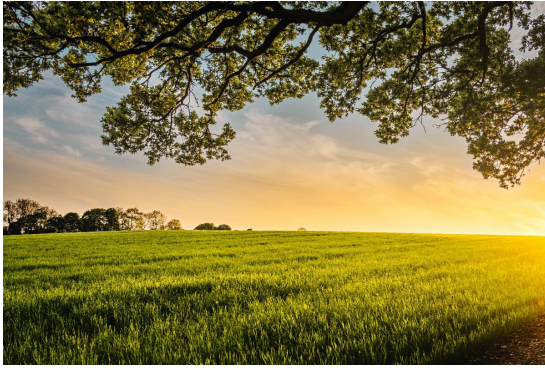
The 2021 cost-share rate is \$12.00 per acre for returning applicants and \$15.00 per acre for new applicants. Interested applicants may apply through Richland SWCD. Producers in the Rocky Fork, Black Fork, and Clear Fork watersheds who pay an assessment are eligible.

Applications will go through a scoring process to see which fields are the most eligible. The goal is to get winter cover on fields with low residue, such as corn silage and soybeans. Therefore, low residue fields will score higher.

Benefits of planting cover crops include reducing soil erosion and runoff, increasing rainfall and snow melt infiltration into the soil and increasing soil quality.

Click [here](#) for the application and agreement. Contact [Matt](#) with questions.

## ODA Announces USDA-NRCS Grant



The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced April 28 that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded ODA's Division of Soil and Water Conservation a five-year, \$8-million grant to assist in Ohio's work to improve water quality in Lake Erie.

Administered by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the grant funding will support Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative by assisting farmers in developing nutrient management plans and conservation practices in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, and Wyandot counties.

We are looking forward to working with Richland County farmers on this initiative which is part of the H2Ohio plan to expand the program into more counties. Updates will be provided as they are available.

## Only Rain Down the Drain: Sweep Debris

This month's [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) tip is about sweeping, not washing off, driveways and sidewalk debris.

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.



One way we can help is to sweep debris off driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off with water.

1. An outdoor hose can use up to 20 – 30 gallons of water per minute.
2. You will not have as many chemicals (antifreeze and oil just to name a couple) getting into the storm drains.
3. Antifreeze kills fish when it reaches streams or any body of water.
4. You will reduce (potentially contaminated) stormwater runoff.
5. Using less water allows it to stay underground or in reservoirs which helps preserve wildlife and saves water for future use.
6. Using a broom provides exercise, too!

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

## Pond Clinic for New and Established Pond Owners



and Water Conservation District will be hosting a [pond clinic](#) for new and established pond owners interested in pond management, aquatic vegetation control, fish stocking, and so much more. This event takes place on June 10th, 2021, 7pm at the Headwaters Outdoor Education Center in Mt. Gilead. For questions, please contact [Matt](#).

## Locally Grown and Produced Food List is Growing

The local food grower and producer list continues to grow. Make sure you [check it out](#)! Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, along with [Destination Mansfield](#), [North End Community Improvement Collaborative](#), [OSU Extension - Richland County](#), [Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development](#) and [Richland County Farm Bureau](#) are supporting the list to connect producers and growers to consumers. Contact [Theresa](#) with questions.



## Family Fun on the Farm Festival



**FAMILY FUN ON THE  
FARM FESTIVAL**

**July 3, 2021**

**Malabar Farm State Park**

**3 to 6 p.m.**

**7 p.m. Barn Dance**



**Free to Public and Fun for Whole Family!**

Archery, Imagination Stations, Fishing, Music,  
Farmers Market, Food Trucks and More!

Join Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, Malabar Farm State Park and our partners for the first Family Fun on the Farm Festival on Saturday, July 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be farm activities, free fishing for children, wagon rides, food trucks, make and take projects, agriculture and conservation trivia and a whole lot more! Call [Theresa](#) or get more details [here](#).

## Volunteer Update

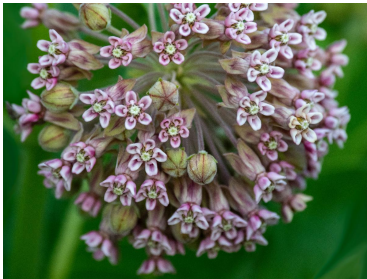
Precipitation Monitor Volunteers report year-round and Stream and Lake Monitors are beginning to monitor. Volunteers are helping with the MS4 program and office volunteers have returned and are helping with Stormwater permits, scanning and



archiving historical documents and photos and a variety of office projects. We are happy to have volunteer activities in full swing again! To see what Volunteers are reporting, visit the [Water Data Map](#). To learn more about volunteering with us, please visit [Volunteer Opportunities](#).



## Go Native at the Native Plant Sale



Native plants are more suited to our climate and soil and typically do better in our gardens than non-native species. They also provide excellent habitats and food for insects, pollinators, and wildlife. Because they have a strong root system, more soil is held in place which slows stormwater runoff, helps prevent soil erosion and filters pollutants before they enter rivers, lakes, and streams.

Richland SWCD is hosting a Native Plant Sale in conjunction with Natives in Harmony on Tuesday, June 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the front parking lot of the Richland County Longview Center located at 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield. Plants cost \$3.00 per plug, \$6.00 per quart and \$10.00 for gallon sizes. Species are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Garden gloves will be available to purchase at \$5.00 per pair.

Don't miss the table exhibits about container gardening and "greenhouse" cover to extend the growing season, ideas for plant markers, including how to use recycled materials like can lids and soil testing information.

For more information about the Native Plant Sale, please visit our [website](#) or contact [Theresa](#).

## Important Dates

**May 31:** Memorial Day, Office Closed

**June 10:** [Pond Clinic](#) in partnership with Morrow SWCD

**June 15:** [Native Plant Sale](#), no pre orders, 4-6pm

**June 16:** Board Supervisor Meeting, 9 a.m.

**July 3:** [Family Fun on the Farm Festival](#), Malabar Farm, 3 - 6 p.m.

**July 5:** Office closed in observance of July 4

### SWCD Staff

**Erica Thomas, District Administrator**

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### NRCS Staff

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### Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson

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.