



Conservation In Action

**Spring
2023**

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

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Mission: Providing leadership to educate and assist landowners in the wise management of our natural resources.

River View & Coshocton County Career Center Advance to State Envirothon

Congratulations to River View FFA Team 1 and the Coshocton County Career Center Natural Resources Big Oaks team for their second and third place finish yesterday at the Area 3 Envirothon. They competed against 29 other teams with the top 4 teams earning the opportunity to compete at the Ohio Envirothon June 11-13, at Defiance College.

The Area 3 Envirothon was held at Bluebird Farm Park in Carroll County. 31 teams competed from 16 south-eastern Ohio counties. Four teams represented Coshocton County with students from the Coshocton County Career Center Natural Resources Program and River View FFA. The top 4 teams from each of Ohio's five Area level competitions then move on to the Ohio Envirothon.

The Envirothon is an outdoor competition with teams consisting of 5 high school students who work together to answer questions at five different stations of soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and current environmental issues (CEI). The 2023 CEI theme is Adapting to a Changing Climate. Resource professionals write the tests for each of these stations with portions of the test being site specific questions. Soil and Water Conservation District employees coordinate five area Envirothon competitions around the State where the top 4 teams earn the honor to compete at the Ohio Envirothon.

Good luck to our students as they compete at state level competition!

*CCCC Natural Resources Big Oaks, l to r:
Mitchell Cramer, Damian Yoder, Carter Donley,
Nick Art, and Isaac Dickerson*

*River View FFA Team 1, l to r:
Cordell Besser, Aiden Berger, Drew Tumblin, Lexi
Slade, and Carter Russell*





Ag Day Celebration

Tuesday, March 21, was National Ag Day and agriculture was the center of attention at the Ag Day Celebration Luncheon at the Pavilion at Lake Park with 105 attendees. Schumaker Farms catered a delicious meal for the event. Special thanks to Farm Credit Mid-America for paying for meeting facilities and to the Coshocton SWCD for supplementing the cost of the meal for participants.

David Marrison from OSU Extension welcomed guests and served as emcee for the event and told the audience, "As an industry, we are caretakers of over \$1 billion in farmland and this day gives us a chance to pause and reflect on the importance of agriculture." Nathan Adams from River View FFA recited the FFA Creed for those attending.

Guest speakers for the event were Jenna Gregorich and Johnathan Woodward speaking to the theme, "How American Agriculture does it Every Day." Jenna and her family are first generation farmers and she works for the Ohio Poultry Association. Jenna shared that Ohio is second in egg production behind Iowa. Some of Jenna's responsibilities include tracking bird population and assisting with biosecurity and disease response plans. Johnathan is a member of Ridgewood FFA and started raising turkeys at the age of 9 in 2015. After several struggles with disease, Johnathan began raising Narragansett Turkeys. Today, he is known and respected in the poultry industry for breeding, raising, and selling quality birds across the country.

Marrison wrapped up the event asking the audience to join him in thanking those in the room for what they do for Coshocton County agriculture and being in attendance. The Ag Day Celebration is hosted by Farm Credit Mid-America, OSU Extension, and the Coshocton SWCD.

Cover Crop Demonstration to be Held

Have you ever wanted to watch someone plant "green" or into a standing cover crop? This means the producer plants into the cover crop from last fall instead of terminating it ahead of planting. Do you know there are producers doing this in Coshocton County? Coshocton SWCD is planning a Cover Crop demonstration event where landowners will be planting soybeans or corn into a standing cover crop both in the Plainfield and Bakersville area.



This will not be our typical field day where we can set a firm date and time. Weather and field conditions along with timing will determine when this field day demonstration takes place. Once we know the planting date, we will advertise the information on the Coshocton SWCD Facebook page. If you would like us to call or text you with this information, please call our office at 740-622-8087, extension 4 and ask to be put on the list for information. You are under no obligation to attend if it doesn't work into your schedule. We hope you can join us to see this planting method done in person.

Identifying and Control of Poison Hemlock

Coshocton SWCD, NRCS, and Farm Bureau recently held a Local Work Group/Policy meeting with 31 local officials and community members attending. One of the issues mentioned was Poison Hemlock control. This plant can be found most anywhere from roadside ditches, farm fields, and residential landscapes. The following paragraphs were taken from an article written by Joe Boggs in the Buckeye Yard and Garden Online. The entire article can be found here: <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/2111>

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum* L.) was imported into the U.S. as an ornamental in the late 1800s from Europe, West Asia, and North Africa. Rogue plants remained relatively rare until around 30 years ago. Since that time, poison hemlock has elevated its profile from an uncommon oddity to a common threat.

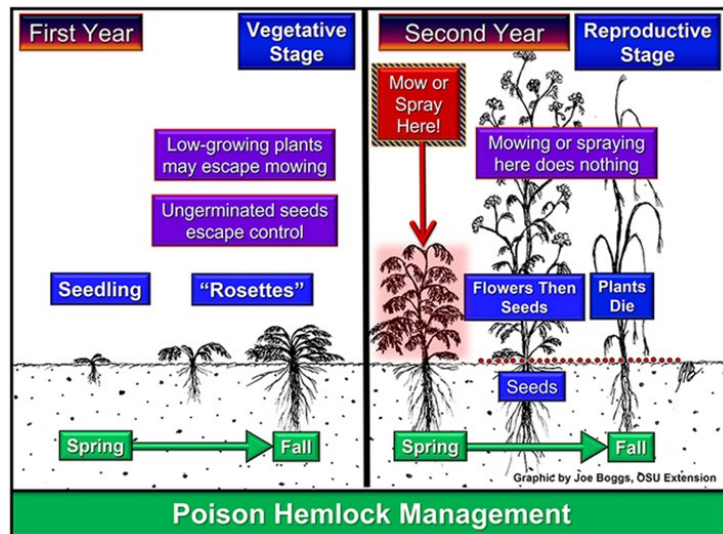
This dangerous non-native invasive plant is currently in the growth stages in southern Ohio which makes it susceptible to early-season management options. Eliminating these plants now can significantly reduce infestations. Poison hemlock is one of the deadliest plants found in North America. All parts of the plant are poisonous: the leaves, stems, seeds, and roots. However, the toxins must be ingested or enter our body

through our eyes, nasal passages, or cuts in our skin to induce poisoning. The toxins do not cause skin rashes or blistering. Unfortunately, poison hemlock has become too widespread for it to be eradicated from Ohio. However, infestations that present a clear and present danger to the public should be targeted for elimination. Timing is everything! The graphic shows the best and worst times to implement management tactics. However, it's important to note that regardless of management strategies, poison hemlock infestations are not likely to be eliminated in a single season.

Mowing poison hemlock just after plants begin to bolt but before they bloom can be highly effective although mowers may pass over the low-growing first-year rosettes. However, equipment operators should

approach mowing large poison hemlock infestations with caution. Equipment with unshrouded blades should not be used. PPE should be considered even if brush or flail mowers are shrouded. Hand-pulling poison hemlock plants just after they bolt can be effective on small infestations. It's strongly recommended that hands are protected with gloves, arms protected with long sleeves, and eyes protected with safety goggles. Plants should not be burned but disposed of using a method with limited exposure to animals and people.

Herbicides may be the safest option given the problematic nature of controlling poison hemlock by physical removal. Fortunately, the non-native weed is susceptible to a wide range of selective and non-selective postemergent herbicides. Non-selective herbicides with the active ingredients glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) or pelargonic acid (e.g., Scythe) are effective but can also eliminate plants that compete with poison hemlock. Herbicidal openings produced by non-selective herbicides provide perfect opportunities for poison hemlock to spring forth from previously deposited seed. Thus, it's important to have a plan for establishing competitive plants such as over-seeding with grasses (family Poaceae). Grasses are effective competitors against poison hemlock and a range of selective post-emergent herbicides can be used that will preserve grasses but kill the poison hemlock. These include clopyralid (e.g., Transline), metsulfuron (e.g., Escort XP), triclopyr (e.g., Triclopyr 4), and products that contain a combination of 2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop, and dichlorprop. Of course, as with using any pesticide, it's important to closely read and follow label directions. Some post-emergent herbicides can seriously damage trees if applied over the root zone.



2023 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Coshocton County Beacon
Coshocton Grain Company
Eastern Ohio Ag
Farm Credit Mid-America
Judge Tim & Daphne France

Platinum

Heritage Cooperative
McWane Ductile - Ohio
Millwood Lumber
Pony Field Farm LLC

Gold

Cosh. Co. Chamber of Commerce
Coshocton County Farm Bureau
Coshocton Foundation

Darr Farms LLC

Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout and Family
Endsley Insurance Agency
Harold's Equipment, Inc.
Hidden Spring Farm - Tim Rogers
Home Loan Savings Bank
Jim & Gail Piper
Larry A. Frye Farms
Lynn Wells - In Memory
of Ray Griffith

Owens & Manning, Attorneys
Peoples Bank
Seed Consultants - Lance Weaver
Sturtz Farm - Larry & Maureen Sturtz
The Garden Patch Greenhouse
Thousand Oaks Farms
TMK Bakersville
Tumblin Farms -
David Tumblin Family
William Albert, Inc.
Wills Transport & Excavating

Silver

Baird Concrete
Charlie & Ruby Helmick
Cosh. Clerk of Courts Camila Graham
Cosh. Co. Engineer Fred Wachtel
Cosh. Co. Recorder Susan Turner
Coshocton Co. Sportsmen Association
Dane & Amy Shryock
Garber Brothers Farms LLC
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Jacobs Vanaman Agency, Inc.
Knotty Nuff Acres
Scheetz Marketing
Sheriff James A. & Lisa Crawford
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Bronze

Alan Donaker Surveying
Cosh. Co. Treasurer Janette Donaker
Frontier Power Company
Saylor Wealth Strategies

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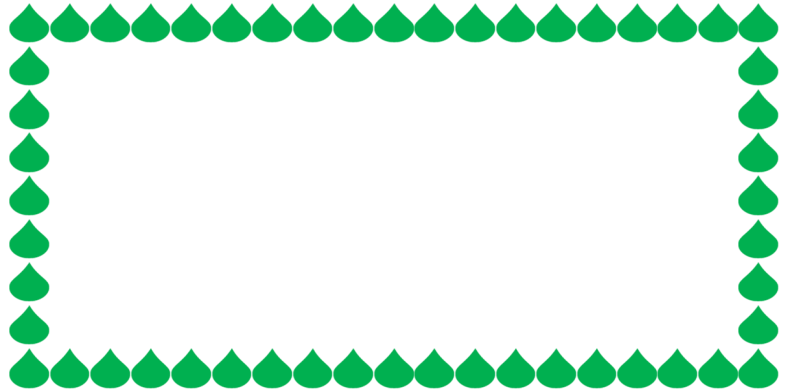
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Coshocton SWCD and USDA-NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers.

Pasture Walks Scheduled



There are two Pasture Walks planned for 2023. The first is on **Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Josh and Mary Thomas farm and the second is **Tuesday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Travis & Jenna Gregorich Farm.

The June Pasture Walk at the Thomas farm in White Eyes Township will feature grazing management practices specific to sheep. Bob Hendershot, ODA Grazing

Specialist will lead the evening's discussion. The address is 54893 Township Road 172, Fresno, Ohio 43812. The August Pasture Walk at the Travis and Jenna Gregorich farm will feature beef cattle management, intensive grazing, winter feeding management, and cropland conversion to pasture. The address is 17242 State Route 60, Dresden, Ohio 43821.

There will be a sign posted at the driveway to help you find the farm for both events. We hope you will join us for these events where you will hear directly from the landowners about their operations and get ideas to use on your farm. Reservations are not required. If you would like more information or to receive a postcard for pasture walks please call us at (740)622-8087, ext. 4.

**Save
the
Date**

**First Farm Friday
August 4**

**Fall Foliage Tour
October 21-22**

**SWCD's 81st Annual Meeting
October 19**

Calendar of Events

May 10
SWCD Board Mtg,
8:00 p.m.

May 29
Memorial Day,
Office Closed

June 14
SWCD Board Mtg,
8:00 p.m.

June 19
Juneteenth Holiday,
Office Closed

June 27
Pasture Walk,
6:30 p.m.

July 4
Independence Day,
Office Closed

July 12
SWCD Board Mtg,
8:00 p.m.