



Conservation In Action

**Fall
2025**

Your
Soil & Water
Conservation
Specialists!

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

SWCD Supervisors

Beth Mullen - Chairperson
Greg Waters - Vice Chair
David Lapp - Secretary
Kristy Leindecker - Fiscal Agent
Jordan Olinger - Treasurer

SWCD Staff

Ryan Medley - District Administrator
Kelsey Saylor - Admin. Assistant
Zach Wallace - District Technician
Michaela Savage - District Technician

NRCS Staff

Josh Britton - District Conservationist
Mathew Hursey - Resource Conservationist
Derrick Hill - Natural Resources Specialist

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

A “Wild” Night for Conservation: Coshocton SWCD’s 83rd Annual Meeting

The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted its 83rd Annual Meeting and Banquet at Lake Park Pavilion on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Over 190 area residents and guests gathered to celebrate conservation, enjoy a delicious buffet from Theo’s Restaurant of Cambridge, and have a little fun while doing it.



The evening kicked off with a Supervisor of Board election for two candidates. Kristy Leindecker was re-elected, and Jordan Thompson was elected to a three-year term starting January 1, 2026.

Guests were treated to a live raptor demonstration by Raptor Hallow Sanctuary. Attendees got up close and personal with a snake, hawks, vultures, and falcons in the “Meet & Greet” and “What is a Raptor?” programs. The bird ambassador’s shared fascinating facts about each bird—sharp talons, curved beaks, and eyesight so good they’d probably spot your hidden snack from a mile away. The presentation combined awe, education, and a gentle reminder that if you ever hear a bird shriek, it’s probably just saying hello. The presentation captivated all ages and underscored the importance of wildlife conservation.

Bird Ambassador, Amy, and Turkey Vulture, Puke, shared a vultures critical role in the ecosystem

The 2025 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Haines Angus Farm of Monroe Township. The 161-acre farm supports 45 cow/calf pairs, 10 club calves, and two bulls grazing on 80 acres of pasture, in addition to 350 acres of hay production. With guidance from the SWCD and NRCS, Rick Haines implemented numerous conservation practices, including spring developments, access road, watering facilities, fencing, pipelines, waste storage structure, concrete heavy use pads, and an active Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. The Haines Farm hosted several education events such as pasture walks and Fall



Haines Family accepting the Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award in Rick’s Honor

Foliage & Farm Tour. Rick participated in First Farm Friday since its first inception in 2011 bringing a beef cow to the event. He served as a 4-H advisor for 12 years and was a Coshocton County Farm Bureau member. Rick is survived by his mother, Janet Haines Aronhalt, wife Billie Jo, Son Andrew, Daughter Ashley, and 4 grandkids. Honoring the memory of Rick Haines, congratulations to the 2025 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year, Haines Angus Farm.

Coshocton SWCD also recognized winners of the 2025 Coshocton County Junior Fair Hay Show. Sponsored by SWCD and judged by Cassie Putt of TMK Bakersville, winners included Julia Adams (Mohawk Valley 4-H, Alfalfa and Mixed Hay), Nathan Adams (RV FFA, Clover Hay), Coleston Hunter (This-N-That 4-H, Grass Hay), and Shiloh Kinzel (River View FFA, Light Mixed Hay). Each received a rosette and \$25 cash prize.



*Hay Show Winners:
Shiloh, Coleston,
Nathan and Julia.*



*County Big Tree Winner
Tama Drenski,
Giffen Family Farm*



*Coshocton Tree Commission
Presented the City Big Tree
Winner, Sam Trubee*

The district honored Giffen Family Farm for the County Big Tree Contest, with a sycamore tree measuring 180 inches in circumference, 76 feet in height, and a 77-foot average crown spread. The City Big Tree Contest award was presented by the Coshocton Tree Commission, went to an oak tree at the Sam Trubee residence, measuring 187 inches in circumference, 78 feet tall, with an 89-foot crown spread.

Kameron Blair was announced as the winner of the Mystery Photo Contest, held at the Coshocton County Fair. Kameron's name was drawn from 23 correct entries and the mystery photo depicted the Johnson Stock Farm in Perry Township.

The evening concluded by honoring two local legends. Greg Waters retired from the CSWCD Board of Supervisors after seven terms on the Board, starting in 2005. His service was described as "steadfast, loyal, and passionate about conservation." Darla Markley retired from Farm Service Agency after an extraordinary 41-year career with FSA, dedicating herself to the Coshocton agricultural community. Both were presented with gifts and well wishes, with the hope that their retirement includes fewer meetings and more relaxation.

From raptors to rosettes, the evening celebrated the people, animals, and trees that make Coshocton a truly remarkable place—proving once again that conservation doesn't have to be all work and no play.



*Greg Waters with wife, Jenny,
retires after 7 terms as Board
Supervisor*



*Over \$800 in Door Prizes
donated by SWCD and
several local business went
to attendees.*



*Supervisor Beth Mullen honoring
Darla Markley for her retirement
from FSA for 41 years*

Cover Crops in Coshocton County

Coshocton County producers received over 3,150 acres in cost share to apply cover crops to fields from Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Coshocton SWCD staff once again coordinated the aerial application of seed with Fisher Crop Care by Air in early September on over 750 acres. Seed for the fly on program was provided by TMK Bakersville and Eastern Ohio Ag. Producers also completed nearly 100% of drilled or broadcast approved acreage showing Coshocton County's commitment to soil conservation.



Pictured on the right is an example of cereal rye applied to standing soybeans on September 8th, this allows the cover crop to get a head start on growth so it can grow quickly after the Soybeans are harvested.

2025 Poster Contest Winners – “Have you Eaten Any Soil Lately”

Big thank you to all our awesome 5th grade teachers and students who jumped into this year's Annual Poster Contest, sponsored by the Coshocton SWCD! The theme - “Have You Eaten Any Soil Lately?” - got everyone thinking about how all our favorite foods can be traced right back to the soil. After learning about it in class, students put their creativity to work and came up with some amazing posters that were equal parts artistic and educational! Fourteen “Best of Class” posters were displayed at the Coshocton County Fair, and the public helped

1st Place: McKayla Bell 2nd Place: Burkley Wright 3rd Place: Maci Wright



pick the winners with an impressive 1,130 votes cast! 1st Place: McKayla Bell, CES - \$25 cash prize + a pizza party for her class. 2nd Place: Burkley Wright, RVIS - \$15 cash prize + an ice cream party for his class. 3rd Place: Maci Wright, RVIS — \$10 cash prize + an ice cream party for her class. Huge congratulations to our winners and a big thank-you to everyone who voted in the contest!

Tis the Season - Seeking 2026 Affiliate Members and Renewals are Due!

2025 Affiliate Members

Diamond

Coshocton County Beacon
Eastern Ohio Ag
Judge Tim & Daphne France

Platinum

Coshocton Grain Company
Gerber & Sons, Inc.
Heritage Cooperative
Hidden Spring Farms, Tim Rogers
Home Loan Savings Bank
McWane Ductile - Ohio
Pony Field Farm LLC

Gold

Charlie & Ruby Helmick
Cosh. Co. Chamber of Commerce
Coshocton County Farm Bureau

Coshocton Foundation
Dr. Rob & Sheri Stout and Family
Endsley Insurance Agency
Frontier Power Company
Gottlieb, Johnston, Beam & Dal Ponte
Harold's Equipment, Inc.
Hupp-Stiverson Company
Gail Piper, In Memory of Jim Piper
Larry A. Frye Farms
Lynn Wells - In Memory of Ray Griffith
McCoy Homestead, Keith & Denise McCoy
Owens & Manning, Attorneys
Peoples Bank
Rock Hill Farms, Stevens Family
Sturtz Farm, Larry & Maureen Sturtz
The Garden Patch Greenhouse
Thousand Oaks Farms
TMK Bakersville
Tumblin Farms, David Tumblin Family
WenMar Farms, Inc.

William Albert, Inc.
Wills Transport & Excavating

Silver

Baird Concrete
Cosh. Co. Engineer Fred Wachtel
Cosh Clerk of Courts Camila Graham
Dane & Amy Shryock
Daugherty Farms
Deb Bigelow
Garber Brothers Farms LLC
Gary & Michelle Fischer
Jacobs Vanaman Agency, Inc.
Knotty Nuff Acres
Lity Scrap Yard
Scheetz Marketing
Steven Oster

Bronze

Alan Donaker Surveying
Bob & Kathy Bigrigg
Cosh. Co. Treasurer Janette Donaker
Saylor Wealth Strategies

**Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District**
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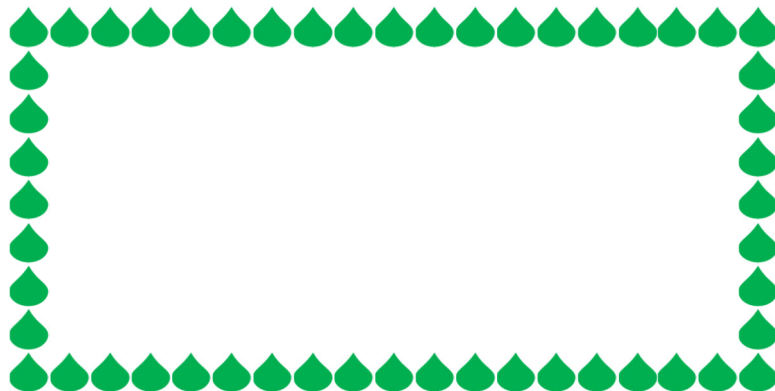
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**Tree sale information
will be in the next issue!**

The Coshocton SWCD Newsletter is a publication to keep county residents informed on our SWCD program.

Please phone the office at (740)622-8087, ext. 4 if your address needs corrected or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Did you know?? You can receive your newsletter via e-mail. Contact
kelseysaylor@coshoctoncounty.net



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

54th Fall Foliage & Farm Tour Well Attended Despite Rainy Sunday

A rainy Sunday couldn't put a damper on the 54th Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour. Over 1,500 people from 30 Ohio counties, 6 states, and 1 country enjoyed the tour which showcased Keene, White Eyes, Adams, Lafayette, and Tuscarawas townships.

The tour is sponsored by OSU Extension, Coshocton SWCD, and the USDA Farm Service Agency. These agencies would like to thank all of the tour hosts and volunteers



which made this tour a resounding success: Hopewell School, Richard Downing Airport, Darr Family Farms, Pearl Valley Cheese, Bakersville Community Park, Rocky Point Farms, JM Thomas Farm, and Brian Powell Farm. The 55th tour is tentatively scheduled for October 17-18, 2026 in the southeastern area of the county.

Calendar of Events

November 27-28
Thanksgiving Holiday,
Office Closed

December 10
SWCD Board Mtg,
12:00 p.m.

December 24-25
Christmas Holiday,
Office Closed

January 1
New Year's Day,
Office Closed

January 14
SWCD Board Mtg,
12:00 p.m.

January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
Office Closed

January-March
SWCD Tree Seedling Sale