



Soil & Water Conservation District

1330 N. County Rd 25A Ste. C  
Troy OH 45373

# Cooperator Newsletter

March/April 2026 ~ Vol. 75 No. 2

Published Bi-Monthly

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## STAFF – MIAMI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Miami SWCD)

Kreig Small - District Administrator | Kristin Lewber - Administrative Assistant | Linda Raterman - Information/PR Spec  
Jennifer Korte - District Technician | Grant Clawson - Urban Technician

## STAFF – USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Gunnar Young – Soil Conservationist | Renee Buck - Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

## Board of Supervisors

Don Hiegel  
Bill Hershberger  
Jeff Shoup  
Andy Shuman  
Diane Yingst

## REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR TREES/PERENNIALS!



Tuesday - 4/7, 2P-6P or Wednesday - 4/8, 8A-6P @ Duke Lundgard Building Miami Co Fairgrounds. EXTRA TREES & PERENNIALS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT PICKUP TIMES!

AND there's still time to submit your application for one of two \$1000 Scholarships available through the Larry Studebaker Memorial Miami SWCD Scholarships!



Go online to find out more about the Scholarship or to see the Tree & Perennial Sale order form at [www.miamiswcd.org](http://www.miamiswcd.org)!

You have until MARCH 13th to submit your tree order or scholarship application

## Upcoming Events

- MAR 7** Tipp City St Paddy's Beer Crawl 5-8PM  
[downtown Tipp City.org](http://downtown Tipp City.org)
- MAR 8** Daylight Saving Time
- MAR 9** RESCHEDULED TIME Miami SWCD District Board of Supervisors Meeting 9AM District office. Public Welcome
- MAR 13** Tree/Perennial ordering & Scholarship application deadlines
- MAR 14** 2nd Saturday Vendor Show 10AM-5PM  
Piqua Center 987 E. Ash St, Piqua
- MAR 14** The Oak Ridge Boys at APAC 500 S. Dorset Rd, Troy 7-9PM [www.arbogastpac.com/events](http://www.arbogastpac.com/events)
- MAR 15** UVCC Maple Sugaring Days @ Willowbrook 1-4 PM 8415 Looney Road, Piqua
- MAR 17** Happy St. Patrick Day!
- MAR 19** Book Swap & Sip at Crafted & Cured 6-9PM  
8 S. Market St | Troy 45373
- MAR 20** SPRING BEGINS
- MAR 20-22** Race Cars & Future Stars Expo @ the Piqua Center <https://piquacenter.com/Piqua Center> 987 E. Ash St, Piqua
- MAR 28** World Championship ICE Racing @ Hobart Arena 7:30PM [www.hobartarena.com](http://www.hobartarena.com)  
Hobart Arena, 255 Adams St, Troy
- MAR 29** Easter at the Exchange in PHill 1-2:30PM  
210 West High St, Pleasant Hill
- APR 5** Happy Easter!
- APR 7** 2PM-6PM Tree Pick up @ Duke Lundgard
- APR 8** 8AM-6PM Tree Pick up @ Duke Lundgard
- APR 11** Tipp City Library Goes to the Movies: Superman 2-4PM [tippcitylibrary.org](http://tippcitylibrary.org) 11 E. Main St., Tipp City
- APR 14** Miami SWCD District Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District office. Public Welcome
- APR 18** Brukner Nature Center's 5K Run Wild for Wildlife [www.bruknernaturecenter.com/](http://www.bruknernaturecenter.com/)
- APR 18** Hug The Earth Family Festival 12-5PM  
[www.miamicountyparks.com/hug-the-earth](http://www.miamicountyparks.com/hug-the-earth) 2385 OH-41, Troy
- APR 23** Mrs. Hayner's Birthday Tea 2-3:30PM  
[www.troyhayner.org](http://www.troyhayner.org) 301 W. Main Street, Troy
- APR 28** Area IV Envirothon Preble County Historical Cnt.
- MAY 8** Taste of the Arts in Downtown Piqua 5-9PM  
326 N Main St, Piqua
- MAY 9** Mother's Day at The Exchange in PHill 11AM-5PM 210 West High St, Pleasant Hill

### MIAMI COUNTY Tire Recycling Day

## MAY 13th, 2026

**IMPORTANT**

### REGISTRATION WINDOW: APRIL 13th-MAY 7th

SPONSORED BY: Miami SWCD, Miami County Commissioners, Miami County Solid Waste District, Miami East FFA, Miami County Ag Society, & Kelbley Transport FOR MIAMI COUNTY RESIDENTS, FARMERS, MUNICIPALITIES & TOWNSHIPS  
We CANNOT accept tires from junk yards, garages, auto repair shops, or dealerships.

### 4 STEPS to REGISTER:

1. From 4/13 to 5/7/26, stop by Miami SWCD, 1330 N. CR 25A
2. Relay number & size of tires
3. Set up your drop off time for MAY 13th
4. Make your Payment!

THEN at your assigned time on 5/13/26, ENTER MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 650 N. CR 25A, Troy via NORTH Gate & unload at semis.

PAY BY CHECK, CASH OR CREDIT CARD. CREDIT CARD STATEMENT WILL REFLECT 3% SURCHARGE TO YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE.

### RATES per TIRE TYPE:

- = \$2 PASSENGER TIRES 17 IN. OR LESS
- = \$5 SEMI & SPECIALTY TIRES
- = \$10 TRACTOR TIRES

- Miami East FFA students will be on hand to unload vehicles.
- 10 tires registrations per name
- REMOVE ALL RIMS
- ACCORDING TO THE OHIO REVISED CODE TIRES SHOULD BE SECURED, TARPED or ENCLOSED
- Right of Refusal may be used.
- First come first served
- NO PHONE or MAILED registrations

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 937/335-SOIL OR [WWW.MIAMISWCD.ORG](http://WWW.MIAMISWCD.ORG)



## USDA ANNOUNCES COMMODITY PAYMENT RATES FOR FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA announced the next phase in the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program (FBA), the eligible commodity per-acre payment rates. In 2026, \$12 billion will be paid to American farmers. Of that amount, \$11 billion consists of one-time FBA program payments.

### Eligible Row Crop Commodities and Payment Rates:

Below are the payment rates for the FBA eligible commodities that triggered a payment.

Commodity, Per Acre Payment Rates:

- Barley: \$20.51
- Corn: \$44.36
- Oats: \$81.75
- Sorghum: \$48.11
- Soybeans: \$30.88
- Wheat: \$39.35

### Eligibility, Program Applications, and Crop Insurance Linkage:

FBA payments are based on 2025 planted acres, Economic Research Service cost of production, and the World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate Report. Double crop acres, including all initial and subsequently planted crops, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible.

All intended row crop uses are eligible for FBA except grazing, volunteer stands, experimental, green manure, crops left standing and abandoned or cover crops.

Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) to best protect against future price risk and volatility. The OBBBA federal crop insurance improvements include expanding benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers, increasing coverage options, and making crop insurance more affordable.

### Specialty Crop Assistance:

Of the \$12 billion being provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, up to \$11 billion is being directed to eligible row crop producers and the remaining \$1 billion of the \$12 billion in assistance is reserved for specialty crops and sugar. Timelines for payments to producers of these crops are still under development and require additional understanding of market impacts and economic needs.

Producers, including specialty crop producers and stakeholder groups, can submit questions to [farmerbridge@usda.gov](mailto:farmerbridge@usda.gov)

More information on FBA is available online at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/fba> or you can contact the Miami County FSA office at 937-335-1918 ext. 2.

## OPPORTUNITIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AT ODNR-DIVISION OF WILDLIFE!

Did you know that the Ohio Division of Wildlife offer FREE events and classes to introduce and expand the public's knowledge and experiences to wildlife activities? Classes range from introductory archery courses, venison canning, field dressing your game, fly tying, mushroom identification, mentorship experiences for hunting and fishing, and MUCH, MUCH more!!! Scan the QR code to search for current classes that are available and follow the Ohio Division of Wildlife on social media to get alerts when new classes are available.



The 2026 Area IV Envirothon will take place TUESDAY, APRIL 28th, 2026 at the Preble County Historical Society & Nature Reserve in Preble County and teams from our 18-county area will take part, including students from Miami County!

The Area IV Envirothon is a competition that allows high school students to engage with the outside world and aids in developing environmental stewardship while providing experiences in natural resources-oriented activities. Students are fully engaged as they are tested in five areas: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and the current environmental issue (CEI)- NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: IT BEGINS AT HOME!

Last year, Miami SWCD was proud to be the host county and extended an invitation for businesses in the area to lend support with several outstanding supporters rising to the occasion. If you'd like to find more information about the Area IV event, check out [www.areaivenvirothon.org](http://www.areaivenvirothon.org) to see if it's an endeavor you'd wish to support.

Sponsorships for each of the areas, as well as tier level sponsorships to support this very worthwhile event is available. Sponsorship levels are:

- Bronze \$250
- Silver \$500
- Gold \$750
- Platinum \$1000 - for Areas of Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, or CEI

Each level of sponsorship will have their names displayed at the event and the Platinum Sponsors will also have their names displayed at the topic station. Teams winning those topics will be pictured with the sponsors signage.

On average, around 400 students from all walks of life gather together to participate in this worthwhile event. If you would like more information, please contact Linda at Miami SWCD, [lrateman@miamiswcd.org](mailto:lrateman@miamiswcd.org) or call 937/335-7645.

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"A Conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of the earth." Aldo Leopold

The Conservationist LLC      **Alex Kaiser**  
 4560 Buckneck Rd      Mobile: (937) 467-5327  
 Bradford, OH 45308      Email: [theconservationistalex@gmail.com](mailto:theconservationistalex@gmail.com)

MIAMI COUNTY

### We are the voice of agriculture

Farm Bureau is at the forefront of the top issues impacting agriculture in Ohio. We are committed to keeping our farm and food communities strong and successful.  
Farm Bureau continues to...

Become a member today by calling 937-335-1471 or by scanning the QR code below

  

Membership matters!

- Advocate for farmers at the local, state, and national levels
- Support our farmers in pursuing their passions
- Work with state and federal legislature to preserve our farmland

## FISH FINGERLING SALE UPDATE

For more years than anyone can recall, we've been offering pond owners the opportunity to purchase fish fingerlings during a yearly sale. Unfortunately, the vendor who's been providing those fish is no longer available to us.



We are trying something new, but don't yet have an order form ready. Once it's done, we'll post it on [www.miamiswcd.org](http://www.miamiswcd.org) and also send it to those who have provided us with an email. But we do have a pick up date-May 20th at 1pm in the District Parking Lot, 1330 N. County Road 25A, Troy.

Please call 937/335-7645 for more information.

## A REMINDER TO DEVELOPERS AND CONTRACTORS:

All construction sites with one or more acres of disturbed land in the MS4 urbanized areas are required to obtain permit coverage and develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as per Ohio EPA regulations. Please add BMP's to construction sites that have been identified in your SWPPP plans. This can be crucial to keeping sediment and silt from running off of the construction site.

**Grant Clawson**  
Urban Technician  
Miami SWCD



Another Great Flood?  
**Not on our watch.**

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- \*SYSTEMATIC DRAINAGE WORK
- \*LARGE DIAMETER MAIN INSTALLATION
- \*SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS
- \*BACKHOE AND EXCAVATION WORK

**Vision:** To be responsible leaders in promoting innovative stewardship of natural resources through the development of conservation partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202/720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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