Miami
Soil & Water Conservation District

November/December 2026 ~ Vol. 75 No. 6

Cooperator Newsletter

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LOCAL PROPERTY WELCOMES MIAMI COUNTY SOILS TEAMS FOR PRACTICE & LOCAL STUDENTS COMPETE AT STATE!

On September 23rd, Dan & Tawni Batdorf graciously opened up their land as hosts for the Miami County Soils Practice in order for FFA students from Miami East, Covington, Newton and Milton Union to hone their skills for State competition. Wes Booth with Miami Ag Drainage generously donated his time and dug the three practice pits for the students in order for them to fully 'immerse' themselves into all things soil. Miami SWCD was happy to coordinate the event and we thank Dan, Tawni, Wes and SWCD Supervisor Bill Hershberger and employees Grant and Jenny for their efforts!

We'd like to think that it helped those who competed at the State FFA Soils Competition because a number of them did really, really, well!

On Saturday, October 10th, FFA members from two Miami County FFA Chapters competed in the Ohio FFA State Urban Soils Career Development Event. The State Contest was held at a farm in Ross County near the village of Frankfort, Ohio.

The state event required participants to evaluate four soil sites and take a written test and a soil survey test. To qualify for the state competition, participants had to place among the top five individuals or teams at the district event held in late September.

Representing Covington-UVCC FFA was Caiden Hollingsworth. He placed 10th out of 164 individuals and earned a plaque from the Ohio FFA Association. From Miami East-MVCTC FFA was Andrew Miller. He placed 98th in the contest. Congratulations!

Photo caption: Representing Miami County FFA Chapters in the Ohio FFA State Urban Soils Career Development Event were Andrew Miller from Miami East-MVCTC FFA (left) and Caiden Hollingsworth from Covington-UVCC

Upcoming Events

NOV 7 Holiday Craft & Vendor Show @ Miami County Fairgrounds 9AM - 3PM Support local makers, find one of a kind holiday items, and enjoy a fun day out as you kick off your holiday shopping season.
NOV 8 Comic Con presented by Are U Game 10AM - 4PM Piqua Center, 987 E. Ash St, Piqua
NOV 8 Bach Society of Dayton: America 250 At APAC 3 - 5PM https://arbogastpac.org/events
NOV 10 Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting 8AM District office. Public Welcome
NOV 11 Veterans Day. Office closed
NOV 13-15 Yuletide Winter's Gathering in DT Tipp City (CRAFT FAIR NOV 14 10-4 @ the Tipp Center downtowntippcity.org
NOV 14 Piqua's Holiday Horse Parade DT Piqua 7 - 9PM https://mainstreetpiqua.com/
NOV 21 Holiday Wreath Workshop at Johnston Farm 10AM - 1PM https://www.johnstonfarmohio.com/
NOV 21 Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 6 - 8PM downtowntippcity.org
NOV 26-27 Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed
NOV 27 Downtown Troy's Grand Illumination @ Prouty Plaza 5 - 8:30PM troymainstreet.org
DEC 4 Golden Glow at Troy-Hayner Cultural Center 7 - 9PM www.troyhayner.org
DEC 4-5 An 1815 Johnston Christmas @ Johnston Farm & Indian Agency RESERVATION EVENT. 937-773-2522, 800-752-2619, or sitemanager@johnstonfarmohio.com
DEC 5 Brukner Nature Center Arts & Crafts Show 9AM - 4PM https://www.bruknernaturecenter.com/
DEC 5 Tippecanoe & Christmas Too Historic Holiday Home Tour 12 - 5PM Website
DEC 5 Tree Lighting in West Milton 5:30 - 8PM
DEC 11 Little River Band at Hobart Arena 7 - 9PM www.hobartarena.com/events_hobart_arena.html
DEC 12 Luminare Christmas at APAC www.arbogastpac.org/events
DEC 25 Merry Christmas. Office Closed
JAN 1 Happy New Year! Office Closed

COMING IN JAN/FEB COOPERATOR!
2027 ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING ORDER FORM

The Cooperator Newsletter

ANNUAL MIAMI COUNTY PHEASANTS & QUAIL FOREVER YOUTH HUNT DECEMBER 12, 2026

~Written by Tom Finch, Treasurer, Miami County Chapter Pheasants & Quail Forever

Boy, I am extremely excited! For the last twenty-something years, Dale Stull has hosted our Annual Youth Pheasant Hunt at his hunting preserve at 7670 Widener Road, New Carlisle, Ohio. The Youth Hunt will be on Saturday, December 12, 2026.

The BIG Surprise is that Dale has also agreed for us to use his facility on Sunday, December 13, 2026, for a Women's hunt, Veterans hunt, and First Responders hunt. The hunt is limited to 20 women in the morning, 20 veterans and 20 first responders in the afternoon. As in the past, the hunts will be free, but a $20 deposit is required at registration, and will be refunded at sign in, on the day of the hunt. Miami County Pheasants & Quail Forever, in conjunction with "Women on the Wing," and "Camp Honor," are sponsoring these hunts.

Youth hunt is for youth, 17 years of age and younger. This hunt is limited to 50 youth on December 12, 2026, starting at 8 am and going until 4 pm.

Women's hunt is limited to 20 women on December 13, 2026, starting at 8 am and going until 11 am. Sponsored by Women on the Wing. Contact Keith Carter (937) 479-9162 with questions. Veteran's hunt is limited to 20 veterans on December 13, 2026, starting at 11 am and going until 4 pm. Sponsored by Camp Honor. Contact Matt Simon (937) 875-0337.

First Responders hunt is limited to 20 first responders on December 13, 2026, starting at 11 am and going until 4 pm. Contact Matt Simon (937) 875-0337. Sponsored by Camp Honor Please call Tom Finch (937) 287-1994 with questions. Sign Up EARLY! See you there!

2026 HIGHLIGHTS!

Another year almost behind us! The months have indeed flown by and much of it has been a blur. But looking back, there are a few things that stand out.

MIAMI SWCD
- H2Ohio Contracts (Nutrient Management): 20+15,712 acres
- Storm Water (SW) Management Maintenance (Bethel, Concord, & Monroe Townships)
- Pond Permit: 3 visits
- Grassed Waterways: 8 waterways totaling 11,944 ft.
- ODA-LAEPP (Farmland Preservation) Local Sponsor (LS) 2016–2026. Completed Easements: 18 (4 pending). Total Protected Acres: 1729
- Monthly urban construction BMP inspections: 16 sites
- Volunteer Drainage Project installation: 4,650 ft of 12 in. & 15in. pipe installed
- 1 wetland construction = 1.5 acres
- Outfall Structures Mapped Out: 91
- Urban site reviews: 31
  Outreach Education: Students: 3715 Adults: 1290
- Miami County Fair Kids Fun Day-300+
- Area IV Envirothon(300+)- Bethel HS 3rd @ Area, 5th @ State-Franciscan U.
- Miami East Project WILD workshop
- Covington Project WILD Earth Day Fun Day
- National Night Out Against Crime

NRCS/PHEASANTS FOREVER
- Highly erodible land/wetland (HEL/WL) conservation determinations-81
- Site visits/landowner meetings conducted (2026)-96

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- New Obligations (2026):13 contracts= $800,568
- Total contracts managed-43 contracts totaling $2,896,625

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- New Obligations (2026): 3 contracts=$539,767
- Total contracts managed:18 = $677,519.14

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wildlife CRP 9 New Contracts = 160.02 acres,
- 30 Re-enroll Contracts = 169.33 acres, Field Borders, Wetlands, Pheasant SAFE.
- Grassed Waterway CRP
- 16 Re-enroll Contracts = 19.94 acres
- 6 New Contracts = 12.04 acres

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FSA NEWS

~Submitted by Debi Clark, CED, Miami County

We hope you are all having a safe and plentiful harvest season so far. We understand this is an extremely busy time of year, so we want to make sure you're aware that 2026 ARCPLC enrollment is now open.
The 2026 ARCPLC signup deadline is December 11, 2026. This year, you'll need to elect which program best fits your operation: ARC-County, PLC or ARC-Individual. Once you've made your election, you'll need to sign your contracts.

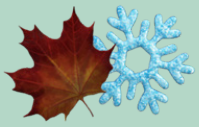
Because we know how busy harvest can be, please contact the office to let us know your election and to set up a time to pick up your contracts. This will ensure you have plenty of time to gather landowner signatures before the December 11th deadline.
Also make sure if you have planted wheat or any other fall seeded small grains to get those reported to our office before December 15, 2026.

Other news: Temporary Office Help Needed

FSA is looking for temporary office assistance. On our team you will work directly with local farmers and landowners and be responsible for office activities and functions pertaining to FSA programs. Position would be 3 to 4 days a week.

Resumes can be submitted to the Miami County office at:
1330 North County Road 25A, Suite B Troy, Ohio 45373
Or by email to debbie.clark@usda.gov

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR THIS FALL & WINTER



- Leave the leaves ~ leaves provide food, shelter and nesting to a variety of wildlife and insects such as moth and butterfly pupae.
- Build a brush shelter ~ branches, sticks and leaves can be used to make brush piles that shelter native wildlife.
- Leave the seeds ~ perennials and grasses should be left standing over winter (seed-bearing perennials such as purple coneflower, joe-pye weed, and sunflower provide valuable food for songbirds.
- Avoid chemical fertilizers ~ grass clippings and mulched leaf litter can provide plant nutrition; chemical fertilizers can reduce beneficial insects.
- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for de-icing chemicals like rock salt.
- Shovel snow onto non-paved surfaces such as landscaped and/or grassy areas. As the snow melts, it will soak into the ground rather than directly into nearby storm drains or streams.
- Sand and sawdust can be used as an environmentally friendly alternative to salt products. Cracked corn has been suggested as an option because animals can eat it before it gets washed away with snow melt.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains that flow directly to rivers and streams.

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The Cooperator Newsletter

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

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