

Conservation News

Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District | Spring 2023

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512 | Phone: 419.782.1794 | Fax: 419.782.1791 | defianceswcd.org
Office Hours Monday-Friday 7:30 am- 4:00 pm

Upcoming Events

- March 21
Ag Breakfast
- April 7
Good Friday
Office Closed at 12PM
- April 7
Fish Sale
Order Deadline
- April 12-14
Tree Seedling Sale
Tentative Order Pickup
- April 21
NACD Poster Contest
Posters Due
- April 25
3:30-4:00PM
Fish Sale
Order Pickup
- April 26
Area 1 Envirothon
- May 29
Memorial Day (Observed)
Office Closed
- June 11-13
State Envirothon
- June 19
Juneteenth
Office Closed
- June 20-22
Penney Nature Center Kids Camp
K-2nd Grade
- June 27-29
Penney Nature Center Kids Camp
3rd-5th Grade
- July 4
Independence Day
Office Closed

Defiance County Celebration of Ag Week!

Agriculture is the dominate land use and a leading industry for Defiance County. Centuries of farm production has developed and strengthened rural lives, family income, and community economic development. It begins at the farm and filters throughout our communities by supporting jobs, businesses, and families. Defiance County's #1 crop enterprise is soybeans at an annual value of over \$16 million.

The Ag industry has faced and will continue to face many challenges throughout our history. The people we feed and support through agriculture also face many challenges. As we celebrate National Ag week (March 21-27) let us be reminded that the solutions to these problems are in our people working together. The Defiance County agriculture industry has high impact value and equally high impact people. These individuals serve as leaders, role models, innovators, entrepreneurs, and conservationists. In 2012, an

Agriculture Hall of Fame for Defiance County was established to honor outstanding individuals. OSU Extension, Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District and the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce has organized guidelines and a selection committee. It is with great honor to announce the 2023 Defiance County Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees Samuel A. Bok and Lynn N. Davis (posthumously). The Hall of Fame will honor these individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture in Defiance County.

The 2023 Agriculture Hall of Fame awards will be presented at the Agriculture Appreciation Breakfast on March 21, 2023, at the Defiance Knights of Columbus Hall. The event will be from 8:00 am to 10:00 am and our keynote speaker is Eric Romich, Energy Education Field Specialist with OSU Extension. His topic will be on Ohio Utility-Scale Solar Energy Updates. A Farmers' Share Breakfast will be served for \$5 with pre-reservations being taken by Defiance County OSU Extension until March 14th, 2023. You may contact the OSU Extension throughout the registration link at <http://defiance.osu.edu> or call at 419-782-4771.



Keynote Speaker Eric Romich, Energy Education Specialist with OSU Extension



Find us on Facebook
@Defiance Soil and
Water Conservation

RECYCLING - *Composting*

Making Your Own Composting Pile

Starting a compost pile is as simple as following a recipe and the kitchen is from where most of the compost ingredients will come from. Below are a few composting basics, including what to use and what to avoid.

How to Get Started and What is Needed

1. Compost Bin - Make a container or buy a container to use for compost materials. The container or bin will 'store' your food scraps or smaller compostable items.
2. Pitch Fork - The best hand tool for turning your large, outside compost pile.
3. Location - Create your compost site at a level area, well drained and close enough to access.

Compost Recipe Ingredients

Composting components equal greens, browns, water, air and time. Organic materials are suitable and the pile should be made up of the proper ratio of carbon-rich materials (browns) such as dry leaves, straw, wood chips and paper sacks, nitrogen rich materials (greens) such as grass clippings, kitchen scraps; egg shells, orange rinds, vegetable parings, fruit parings and coffee grounds. The ideal ratio is 25 parts browns to 1 part greens.

Things to Avoid

Do not use any meat, fat, grease, oils, dairy, bones, animal droppings, lime or ashes. Do not use any part of a black Walnut tree as it contains a plant poison that survives composting. Eucalyptus leaves may also be toxic.

Other Composting Tips

- Keep the pile moist but not soggy. If it is too wet, it will smell. If it is too dry, decomposition will be very slow.
- An ammonia odor may indicate an imbalance mix of ingredients. Add sawdust to control odors.
- Grass clipping break down quickly and contain as much nitrogen as manure.
- Avoid meat and fish scraps, these may attract rodents and cause problems.
- When the pile is smaller and the color is dark brown, your compost is ready to use.



NACD Poster Contest - *One Water*

CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES:

THE POSTER CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL DEFIANCE COUNTY PUBLIC, PAROCHIAL AND HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12

POSTERS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

Contest Categories

K-1st Grade 2nd-3rd Grade 4th-6th Grade 7th-9th Grade 10th-12th Grade

- Posters can be dropped off at the Defiance SWCD or contact our office to pick them up from the front office of your school.
- Poster must be turned in on time for judging- **Posters due Friday, April 21st**
- Attach the poster entry form to the back of the poster
- Any media may be used to create a flat poster (paint, crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.)
- Do not put your name on the front side of the poster
- Must be drawn on provided 11"x17" paper
- The 2023 Stewardship theme "One Water" must be included on the front side of each poster

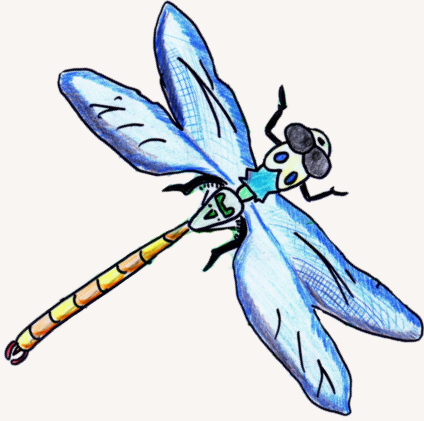


2022 POSTER CONTEST WINNER

County Level Winners - Defiance SWCD will select a 1st and 2nd place poster from each category. Copies of these will be displayed throughout the year as part of our display. One overall poster will be selected as the GRAND PRIZE for the county and will be displayed on a billboard close to the student's school for a one-month period.

State & National Level Winners - The 1st place county level winners from each category will be sent on to the state level for judging. State Winners will then be sent to the national level, where one overall winner will be selected and announced at the 2023 NACD Annual Meeting. Winners will be posted to the NACD website and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will receive a monetary prize.

2023
PENNEY NATURE CENTER
KIDS CAMP



Wetland Wanders

Who: Students finishing the following grade levels

When: June 20th, 21st, 22nd : K-2nd Grade

June 27th, 28th, 29th : 3rd-5th Grade

Time: 8:30am-12:00pm

Where: Penney Nature Center

08855 Ashpacher Road Defiance, OH 43512

Cost: \$20 per child



Registration can be found online at
<https://www.defianceswcd.org/penney-nature-center-kids-camp.html> or at Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District office. Registration opens March 31st and closes May 31st. Registration, release form, and payment can be dropped off or mailed to Defiance SWCD office, or emailed to wbaker@defiancecounty.oh.gov Payment for camp is due by May 31st. Questions please call Wendy Baker at 419-782-1794



Clete Vetter Scholarship

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) established a scholarship in memory of Cletus Vetter. This \$1,000 scholarship is meant to bring back into focus the vital necessity and passion for resource conservation by encouraging college-bound students to consider a career in conservation, natural resources, agriculture, or a related field. The recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student at a two-year or four-year accredited college, university, or technical school. The scholarship will be payable directly to the college or university. Contact Brenda Aschemeier at the Defiance SWCD at baschemeier@defiancecounty.oh.gov or Chris Yoder at the Defiance Area Foundation at chris@defianceareafoundation.org if you have questions. Application can be obtained online at defianceswcd.org/vetterscholarship.html or defianceareafoundation.org/grants/grant-guidelines. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023.



H2Ohio Updates

Defiance SWCD has been working on wrapping up the H2Ohio 2022 crop year. We are hoping to be sending out payments in April for the 2022 crop year practices which include small grains, manure incorporation, overwintering cover crops, and forages. If you are a producer in H2Ohio that planted wheat but decide to destroy the crop, after March 15th, be sure to contact our office. We should be able to change the small grains payment for 2023 into an overwintering cover crop payment instead for crop year 2022.

As the H2Ohio producers get ready for the 2023 planting season, be sure to have any updated crop rotations and modifications to your voluntary nutrient management plan into our office. This includes any new soil tests that were sampled in 2022 or the spring of 2023. After planting, turn in any VRT or placement fertilizer invoices for the 2023 crop. Our office will make 2023 implementation, VRT, and subsurface placement practice payments in the summer. Please try to be timely after planting on getting records turned in so that we can move forward with program payments. If you have any questions, contact Amy Birtcher at abirtcher@defiancecounty.oh.gov

This three-year program ends after March 15th 2024, but be looking for new H2Ohio program practice information coming out for crop year 2024 and following years in the late summer or fall of 2023. Thank-you for participating in the H2Ohio program and we wish you all a safe and successful planting season.

Envirothon Sponsorship Opportunity

Defiance SWCD is honored to be hosting the Ohio State Envirothon here in Defiance on June 11-13. Twenty student teams earning the title of Area Qualifiers will compete for the honor of best in state. The winning team from this contest will go on to represent Ohio at the National Envirothon in New Brunswick Canada in July. Competition is based on students' knowledge of forestry, soils, water, and wildlife along with their ability to address solutions of a current issue affecting those areas. The 2023 theme is "Adapting to a Changing Climate". More than 1,700 students participate in Ohio Area Envirothon competitions and 52 teams from across the U.S. and Canada.

Defiance Soil & Water asks that any businesses or groups who want to partner with us in providing for and supporting this learning experience for our Ohio youth please contact Defiance SWCD at 419-784-1794.

We feel this competition is extremely important in the education of our youth. We know that you also realize the importance of such events and how they influence our youth. It is our hope that you will consider making a monetary donation to offset the cost of sponsoring this event.

DITCH MAINTENANCE REPORT

2022

Administered by Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District in cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners & Defiance County Engineer

Kevin Hancock, Ditch Maintenance Administrator

The Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Department treats drainage improvements as vital infrastructure to Northwest Ohio. Currently the Maintenance Department is responsible for maintaining 375 miles of drainage improvements. As new conservation of improvement projects are completed they are placed on the schedule, adding miles of maintenance each year. Agricultural producers and rural landowners in Northwest Ohio have been concerned with the need to dispose of excess water.

For agricultural producers, excess water means delays in plantings, replanting, soil compaction, reduced yields and delay in harvesting. For homeowners, excess water can mean damage due to flooding of dwellings and property.

The cost of new construction or the reconstruction of drainage improvements greatly exceeds the cost of maintaining the improvement once construction is completed. That is why, once a project is constructed, the County Commissioners are required by law to place the improvement under the Defiance County Ditch Maintenance program.

Work Completed in 2022

- 88 tons of limestone applied
- 263 tons of riprap installed
- 430 feet of pipe installed
- 621 tons of broken up concrete installed
- 880 pounds of grass seed sowed
- 7 miles of ditch bottom cleaned
- 18 miles of leaning tree and logjam removal
- 140 miles of ditch sprayed - brush & broadleaf
- 5 miles ditch bottom sprayed

2022 Revenue

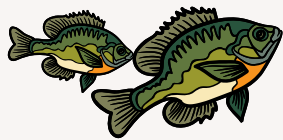
Local & Other County Taxes	\$432,410.91
Maintenance/Other	\$36,469.22
Total Revenues	\$468,880.13

2022 Expenses

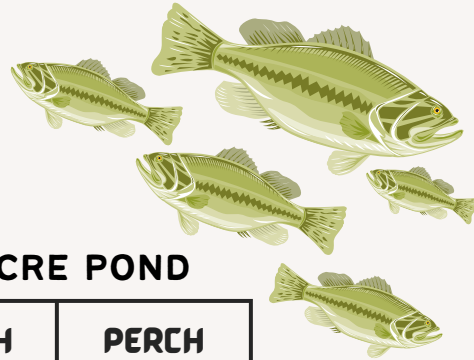
Salaries/Benefits	\$165,962.33
Materials/Supplies	\$55,257.22
Equipment	\$10,343.46
Fuel	\$17,483.56
Contracted Services & Repairs	\$15,519.72
Utilities	\$2,637.00
Advertising/Printing	\$0.00
Other Expenses (Jt. Projects)	\$8,588.98
Total Expenses	\$275,792.27

2022 Ditch Maintenance Steering Board

<i>Warren Schlatter</i>	<i>Tom Beck</i>
<i>Mick Pocratsky</i>	<i>Bill Moats</i>
<i>Dana Phipps</i>	<i>Roger Zeedyk IV</i>
<i>David Kern</i>	<i>Jeff Hange</i>
<i>Mike Zeedyk</i>	<i>Kyle Weber</i>
<i>Louis Shiningier</i>	<i>Jason Roehrig</i>
<i>Gary Mavis</i>	<i>Jeff Peter</i>
<i>Dan Vetter</i>	<i>Terry Behnfeldt</i>
<i>Keith Schroeder</i>	



2023 Fish SALE



RECOMMENDED STOCKING RATES PER 1- ACRE POND

BASS	BLUEGILL	RED EAR SHELLCRACKER	CATFISH	PERCH
100	500	250	0	0
100	250	0	0	0
100	500	0	100	0
100	0	0	0	100
100	500	0	0	100
100	500	0	100	100



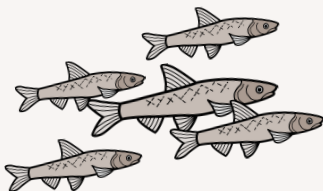
FISH SALE PREORDERED FINGERLINGS PICK-UP ON:

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH FROM 3:30PM TO 4:00PM AT DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS FILLED WITH POND WATER CLOSE TO TIME OF PICK-UP. LINE CONTAINER WITH UNSCENTED PLASTIC BAG. 5-10 GALLON CONTAINER IS ADEQUATE FOR 100 FISH EXCEPT FOR WHITE AMUR & KOI WHICH NEED 5-10 GALLON CONTAINER PER 2-3 FISH. FISH ARE GUARANTEED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY, BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE SURVIVAL AFTER STOCK IS IN YOUR POND.

ORDER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH. MAIL ORDER & PAYMENT TO:
DEFIANCE SWCD, 06879 EVANSPOUR ROAD, SUITE C, DEFIANCE, OH 43512

DETACH BOTTOM HALF AND DROP OFF OR MAIL ORDER FORM.



Species	Size	Price	Quantity	Total Price
FATHEAD MINNOWS	1" TO 3"	\$.08		
CHANNEL CATFISH	4" TO 5"	\$.90		
BLUEGILL	2" TO 4"	\$1.00		
HYBRID BLUEGILL	2" TO 4"	\$1.00		
RED EAR SHELLCRACKER	2" TO 4"	\$1.00		
PERCH	2" TO 3"	\$1.10		
LARGEMOUTH BASS	2" TO 3"	\$1.10		
BLACK CRAPPIES	2" TO 4"	\$1.10		
JAPANESE KOI	6" TO 8"	\$13.00		
WHITE AMUR	8" TO 10"	\$16.00		

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

SUBTOTAL	\$
TAX (6.75%)	\$
TOTAL	\$



Backyard Birds Word Search



Take just a few minutes to complete the word search below and return it to our office by April 28th. The randomly drawn winner will receive a bird feeder and bag of bird seed.

Good Luck!

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Q E H U L V C W T E L K P L G N N M S A
 U E U K Z R A S R V T I A N G V A V T I
 A H M A Z U R V P E G H I E L G P Q G K
 I W M J A F D I T E N W F M B N I B O R
 L O I O E L I L O K X V H G J S A Z S W
 D T N I F L N N K A W O N Y W U O V A A
 R W G U F G A O W E H I T Y O T N R K P
 I R B P H B L D G R T H T M R U G C G W
 B Z I P T Q P G K N E H C N R S E N O F
 G I R H C N I F U B A K G K A S U Q V X
 N A D L A H Z B R D T O C F P R X U H W
 I D N L R B O I C N T D T E S F Q T S A
 K A S E F G O H F I E Q P D P M U T Q R
 C N W L I R I N U T H A T C H D A X O B
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 E R E D W I N G E D B L A C K B I R D G

- BLUE JAY
- DOVE
- HUMMINGBIRD
- MOCKINGBIRD
- PIGEON
- ROBIN
- TITMOUSE
- WAXWING
- CARDINAL
- FINCH
- INDIGO BUNTING
- NUTHATCH
- QUAIL
- SPARROW
- TOWHEE
- WOODPECKER
- CHICKADEE
- GROSBEAK
- JUNCO
- ORIOLE
- REDWINGED BLACKBIRD
- STARLING
- WARBLER
- WREN

Name: _____

Phone #: _____



CONSERVATION NEWS

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone: 419.782.1794
Fax: 419.782.1791
defianceSWCD.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Roger Zeedyk IV
Jeff Hange
Kyle Weber
Luke Case
Mike Benecke

DISTRICT/DITCH MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Kevin Hancock, Administrator
Brenda Aschemeier
Tyler Miller
Jason Roehrig
Amy Birtcher
Madison Gray
Ryan Kiernan
Wendy Baker
Josh Limber
Ben Gerken

COUNTY OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

Auditor	419.782.1926
Board of Elections	419.782.2906
Clerk of Courts	419.782.1936
Commissioners	419.782.4761
Engineer	419.782.4751
Dog Warden	419.784.2335
Emergency Management	419.784.1130
Farm Service Agency	419.782.4781
Health Department	419.784.3818
Highway Department	419.658.2309
NRCS (Defiance)	419.782.8751
OSU Extension	419.782.4771
Recorder	419.782.4741
Sheriff	419.784.1155
Soil & Water	419.782.1794
Treasurer	419.782.8741

