

CONSERVATION NEWS

DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT | SUMMER 2021

*Celebrating 72 Years of
Serving Defiance County*

OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2021 | 3:00 - 7:00PM

CELEBRATE WITH US!

*Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District
06879 Evansport Rd., Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512*

Equipment Displays

FREE Ice-cream + toppings galore

FREE Brats & Hotdogs

Present 'Cooperator of the Year' Award (5:30-6 PM)

**Kids Activities: Virtual Reality Sandtable, Archery
trailer & more!**

**Paul Martin
& Sons**

**30
YEARS
IN THE
FIELD**

KFG
KENN-FELD GROUP



DEFIANCE
Soil & Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District 2020 Election for the Board of Supervisors

Election Legal Notice

The Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be holding an election for Supervisor Board members through the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Current Supervisors whose terms will be expiring December 31, 2021 are Roger Zeedyk IV and Kyle Weber. Defiance County landowners or residents who are 18 years of age or older may vote for the Supervisors. Two Supervisors will be elected this year to a three-year term, January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

As volunteers, the Board of Supervisors provide innovative leadership and guidance in assisting and educating the public to make the best choices for conserving and preserving our natural resources throughout Defiance County.

Nominees for the next term are:

Ryan Jacob, Kyle Weber, Roger Zeedyk IV

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1) In-person at the SWCD office from September 1st – 30th during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday)
- 2) Request absentee ballot from the SWCD office in-person, by phone, by mail or by e-mail from September 1st – 30th (ballot must be returned to SWCD office before 4:00 p.m. September 30th)
- 3) In-person at the SWCD's Open House on September 15th (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512 | Phone: 419.782.1794 |
Fax: 419.782.1791 | defianceswcd.org





Ryan Jacob

- Farmer and mechanical engineer
- Resides in Delaware Township with wife, Erin (parents of 3 daughters & expecting 4th child)
- 4-H Club Advisor and member of St. Isidore Catholic Church and Defiance County Farm Bureau
- Conservation practices – cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application and no-till/minimum tillage

Kyle Weber

- Farmer & loan officer with Farm Credit
- Resides in Noble Township with wife, Danielle (parents of 3 sons)
- Treasurer of Defiance Optimist Club, President of Maumee Valley Guidance Center and member of Defiance County Farm Bureau
- Completing first, 3-year term with Defiance SWCD – current Fiscal Agent
- Conservation practices – filter strips, cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application and no-till



Roger Zeedyk IV

- Full-time farmer & owner operator of custom manure application business
- Resides in Mark Township with wife, Tracy (parents of 2 sons)
- Member of St. John Lutheran Church, Fairview Young Farmers & Defiance County Farm Bureau
- Completing third, 3-year term with Defiance SWCD – current Vice Chairperson
- Conservation practices – filter strips, drainage water management structures, cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application and no-till



Welcome

MADISON GRAY



WLEB NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Join us in welcoming our new Western Lake Erie Basin Nutrient Management Specialist, Madison Gray. Madison grew-up in Archbold, Ohio. She now lives in Wauseon, Ohio with her husband, Caleb, and Corgi puppy, Ruby. Madison started at the District on June 28th and has been working with the manure guidance tools for producers and assisting with the H2Ohio program.

Previous to the Defiance SWCD, Madison attended the Ohio State University ATI earning a degree in Soil Conservation and then went on to the Ohio State University main campus to earn a bachelor's in Soil Science. Throughout her college career, Madison worked in the OSU's Soil Fertility lab as a research assistant. Although she really enjoyed it, she is looking forward to doing outreach and helping producers.

Madison is very excited for the opportunity to work for the Defiance SWCD and is looking forward to getting to know more about Defiance County. Madison can be reached at, mgray@defiancecounty.oh.gov

MANURE & FERTILIZER APPLICATION INFO.

Questions regarding the application of manure and fertilizer can be called in to your county Soil & Water Conservation District:
Monday- Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm

If there is an environmental emergency after business hours, contact the Defiance County Communications/Emergency Management Association (EMA) office or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Defiance SWCD:
419.782.1794

Defiance County
Communications/EMA:
419.782.1130

EPA Spill Hotline:
800.282.9378

JULY 2021

CONGRATS CASSIE MAVIS

2021 CLETUS VETTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Pursuing an agricultural career fits Cassie Mavis' values, passion and goals in life. She has been raised on a family farm and has come to love the agricultural lifestyle.

Ms. Mavis was selected as the 4th recipient of the CLETUS VETTER MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP.

Denny Vetter (son of Cletus) presented the \$1,000 scholarship to Cassie at the Fairview High School Senior Award Ceremony held in May.

The Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications and based their decision on the course of study and the desire for higher education along with academic achievements, extra-curriculum activities and determination.

Cassie's father is a 6th generation farmer ... she wants to continue this family tradition. Along with growing up helping on the farm she served in several leadership positions while attending Fairview High School. Her strong faith has helped guide her as an Elementary Faith Formation Leader at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Bryan. As a 4-year member of Fairview FFA, Cassie has held many officer positions, played varsity softball, basketball and ran cross country. She was 1st-chair clarinet with the Fairview Marching/Concert Band, assisted with 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance training program and showed dairy steers at the Defiance County Fair.

Cassie feels that by choosing an agricultural career she can use her talents of organization and leadership to assist farmers in advocating for agriculture and help provide innovative solutions in the agricultural industry. She has been accepted to The Ohio State University as an Agribusiness and Applied Economics major.

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) partnered to raise funds to establish the Cletus Vetter Memorial College Scholarship for a Defiance County student/resident.

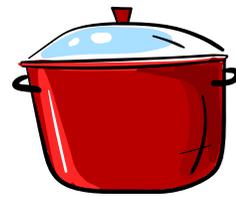
The SWCD was fortunate to have Clete as a very active Supervisor for over 20 years. He gave endless hours of volunteerism and was active in many other organizations also.

Throughout Clete's lifetime, he received numerous awards and distinctions along with having an impact on soil and water conservation through his farming practices and his leadership. The SWCD decided to "pay it forward" by establishing this scholarship in memory of Clete Vetter. This annual \$1,000 college 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.

Information for next year's scholarship will be posted on the District's website in January 2022. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at a 2-year or 4-year accredited college, university or technical school beginning in the fall of 2022.



Family Reunion WORD SEARCH



What are the best parts of gathering with family? Most would say enjoy food together. Take just a few minutes to complete the word search below and return it to our office by October 29th. The randomly drawn winner will receive a casserole dish. Good Luck!

THE SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TYPICALLY HOLDS IT'S REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING (OPEN TO PUBLIC) ON THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:30 A.M. ANY CHANGES TO THIS DATE/TIME WILL BE POSTED IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

B A R B E Q U E C S P S L N M J C P Y R A C
 Z R E K L S M Z E A T H D W H N U L L Y S X
 U U F S U J V W K Z S R O A Q C Q A I T Z C
 K J E M Z J Q D B C W S E T L L Q N M R Y R
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- ACTIVITIES
- ANNUAL
- AUNTS
- BACKYARD
- BARBEQUE
- CASSEROLES
- CHILDREN
- CONVERSATION
- COUSINS
- DESSERTS
- FAMILY
- FAMILY TREE
- GAMES
- GATHERING
- GENEALOGY
- GENERATIONS
- GRANDPARENTS
- HEIRLOOM
- LAUGHTER
- MEMORIES
- PARENTS
- PHOTOS
- PLANNING
- POTLUCK
- RELATIVES
- REUNION
- SALADS
- SHELTER HOUSE
- TIME CAPSULE
- TOGETHER
- UNCLES
- VIDEO

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

**SWCD HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:30AM-4:00PM**

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

2021 DEFIANCE SWCD
Photo Contest

What do you find beautiful about Defiance County? What do you feel best represents it? We'd love for you to show us! All ages are able to submit a photo for the competition. Photos will be judged by Defiance SWCD staff.

Email photo to dmwilson@defiancecounty.oh.gov

Entries are due November 30th, 2021

2021 PNC Camp

Defiance County students were invited to join Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District for Penney Nature Center Camp 2021: Habitat Heroes!

Camp took place at Penney Nature Center for two weeks in June. The first week, June 8th through the 10th, was for campers finishing grades Kindergarten through 2nd.

The next week, June 15th through the 17th, grades 3rd through 5th were invited. The staff were very happy to offer two camps for students this year! After camp wasn't available in June 2020, due to COVID-19, we were able to bring it back with a special theme, Habitat Heroes. Campers participated in activities all based around becoming a good steward to our environment. Groups were divided into teams such as: Turkey Titans, Fearless Fox Force, Deer Defenders, and Skunk Squad. The teams were led by a group leader to different stations where different natural resource professionals, from all over NorthWest Ohio, conducted an engaging educational activity!

We are beyond grateful for all those who volunteered their time to help make this happen! We can't wait for next year! If you have questions about PNC Kids Camp 2022 or upcoming activities, please contact us at 419.782.1794 or email, Dru Mark-Wilson, at dmwilson@defiancecounty.oh.gov

Dru Mark-Wilson
 Education & Outreach Coordinator



DEFIANCE SWCD
HABITAT HEROES
 PENNEY NATURE CENTER CAMP
 SUMMER 2021



DITCH MAINTENANCE REPORT

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

Kevin Hancock, Ditch Maintenance Administrator

In December of 1989, the Defiance County Commissioners and the Defiance County Engineer entered into an agreement with the Board of Supervisors to manage and operate the Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Program as required by the O.R.C. Since that time there have been **70** improvements added to the program. Currently, we have **204** improvements under maintenance, totaling 389 miles. The SWCD office also has **17** requests for new Conservation Works of Improvement projects.

The Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Department treats drainage improvements as vital infrastructure to Northwest Ohio. 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 2020

- 172 tons of stone used
- 598 tons of riprap placed
- 2,264 tons of broken up concrete placed
- 1,065 pounds of grass seed spread
- 9 improvements for 5.68 miles bottom cleaned
- 53 improvements repaired
- 183 miles of ditch sprayed for brush/ broadleaf control
- big log jam removed from Ditch 40
- 733 feet of tile pipe installed

2020 Revenue

Local & Other Counties' Taxes	\$521,693.93
Equipment Maintenance/Other	\$17,072.65
Total Revenues	\$538,766.58

2020 Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	\$139,764.92
Materials/Supplies	\$69,332.93
Equipment	\$40,612.54
Fuel	\$11,670.68
Contracted Services & Repairs	\$81,416.08
Utilities	\$2,426.19
Advertising/Printing	\$500.00
Other Expenses (Jt. Projects)	\$5,708.63
Workers' Compensation	\$1,237.70
Total Expenses	\$352,669.67

Ditch Maintenance Steering Board

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Warren Schlatter</i> | <i>Tom Beck</i> |
| <i>Mick Pocratsky</i> | <i>Bill Moats</i> |
| <i>Ryan Mack</i> | <i>Roger Zeedyk IV</i> |
| <i>Mike Zeedyk</i> | <i>Jeff Hange</i> |
| <i>Louis Shiningier</i> | <i>Kyle Weber</i> |
| <i>Gary Mavis</i> | <i>Jason Roehrig</i> |
| <i>Dan Vetter</i> | <i>Mike Boff</i> |
| <i>Keith Schroeder</i> | <i>Jeff Peter</i> |
| | <i>Terry Behnfeldt</i> |

CWI Project Update

9

by Mike Boff, District Technician

The following Conservation Works of Improvement Projects (CWI) have been completed in 2021, have been bid out for construction in 2021, or have had preliminary meetings held for them to be constructed later this year or next year:

- Parker Ditch - Mark Twp. - 256 acre watershed from 22 landowners.
- Nagel Ditch - Adams/Tiffin Twp. - 403 acre watershed from 37 landowners.
- DeGryse Ditch - Washington Twp. - 140 acre watershed from 11 landowners.
- DeSota Tile - Washington Twp. - 102 acre watershed from 8 landowners.
- Guilford Tile/Waterway - Washington Twp. - 264 acre watershed from 17 landowners.
- Bok Ditch - Delaware Twp. - 90 acre watershed from 2 landowners.
- Schuette Ditch - Noble Twp. - 98 acre watershed from 4 landowners.
- Hill Ditch - Highland Twp. - 76 acre watershed from 6 landowners.
- Verhoff Lateral Ditch - Washington Twp. - 130 acre watershed from 6 landowners.
- Colah Ditch - Hicksville Twp. - 587 acre watershed from 28 landowners.
- Stuckman Tile/Waterway - Farmer Twp. - 251 acre watershed from 8 landowners.
- Mack Tile/Waterway - Washington Twp. - 312 acre watershed from 12 landowners.

Keeping You Informed on H2Ohio in Defiance County

by Amy Birtcher, District Technician

H2Ohio continues to be a very busy program in the Defiance SWCD office. The producers in the program should be turning in for the 2021 crop year: VRT as-applied maps, all fertilizer invoices, and producer verification forms. It is not until after that information is received can our office make the first round of payments to those producers.

Simultaneously, as of July 8, 2021 the Defiance office received the H2Ohio 2022 and 2023 Program Extensions. These extensions are only for existing program contracts. There is not a new sign-up at this time. The program is fully funded for crop years '22 and '23, so this extension finishes out the program practices and payment amounts. If the producers in the program have not signed their extension and want to continue, the signing deadline is Friday August 30, 2021. Please make an appointment with Amy Birtcher to complete this step of the program. Before signing the contract, the certification for the OACI (Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative) must be completed. This certification is the second part of the online farmer profile. We can help the producer fill this out in the office at the extension signing meeting.

Looking forward into the fall, those producers continuing with the program that only have a VNMP (Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan) for crop year 2021, need a two-year VNMP turned into the office by September 15, 2021. The plan must be two years to finish out this three-year program. One-year plans will not be accepted. This is so the VNMP can be approved before any fertilizer application is made that would be covered in the plan, that the producers are expecting to get paid for.

The cover crop practice planting deadline date has not changed, it is still October 15th. Please remember that not all species have the October 15th deadline. Many species have earlier dates and the producer should consult the Defiance SWCD or H2Ohio documents to ensure payments. Also, if there is a mixture of cover crops species being used make sure at least 50% are overwintering. For this practice we will need seed tags and invoices turned into the office. If a producer is planting, for example rye they grew on their farm for an overwintering cover crop the producer plans to plant this fall, that rye seed needs to have a germination test. Those sample results need turned into the office before planting.

If producers have any questions on the H2Ohio program, please call the office at 419-782-1794 and ask for Amy or Tyler or email questions to abirtcher@defiancecounty.oh.gov

CONSERVATION NEWS

DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone: 419.782.1794
Fax: 419.782.1791
swcd@defiance-county.com
defianceSWCD.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Hange
Roger Zeedyk IV
Kyle Weber
Luke Case
Mike Benecke

DISTRICT/DITCH MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Kevin Hancock, Administrator
Mike Boff
Tyler Miller
Jason Roehrig
Amy Birtcher
Dru Mark-Wilson
Terri Agler
Josh Limber
Ben Gerken
Madison Gray

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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DEFIANCE, OH

IN THIS ISSUE

- 72nd Open House
 - Sept. 15th, 3-7pm
- Welcome Maddison Gray
- PNC Kid's Camps
- Photo Contest
- Vote for SWCD Board of Supervisors
- H2Ohio Update
- CWI Schedule
- Ditch Maintenance Report

DEFIANCE SWCD STAFF EMAIL CHANGES

- Kevin Hancock, Administrator
 - khancock@defiancecounty.oh.gov
- Mike Boff
 - mboff@defiancecounty.oh.gov
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 - tmiller@defiancecounty.oh.gov
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- Josh Limber
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- Ben Gerken
 - bgerken@defiancecounty.oh.gov
- Madison Gray
 - mgray@defiancecounty.oh.gov